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The Montague Reporter

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 1, 2017

SNEAK PREVIEW

Pinball on the Ave!

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

TURNERS FALLS – Within the next month, a pinball parlor will open on Avenue A. Mystic Pinball will feature 22 token-operated games chosen from the collection of collector, proprietor, and geological entrepreneur Mark Hankowski.

Hankowski did not play pinball as a kid, but did spend a lot of time at the Dream Machine at the Hampshire Mall. “I gravitated to the early arcade games, I think, because of the video screens,” he remembers. Then, after having a mind-blowing pinball experience at Quarters in Hadley, he bought a pinball machine on eBay, and was hooked.

“This is way cooler than an arcade machine,” he says, “because every game is different. You have to build skills. It’s like gaming with-

out the screen; it’s physical.”

Hankowski cites a new problem – screen fatigue – as one reason for renewed interest in pinball. “I think people are tired of looking at a computer screen,” he says. “They want mechanical entertainment. As a kid, it was novel. Now, how novel is using a screen?”

Nostalgia is a powerful component of the will to collect. “When I started collecting pinball machines, it brought me back to my youth,” Hankowski says. The parlor is named for one of the machines in his collection, 1979’s *Mystic*. “When I started collecting pinball machines I had a focus on magic: games like *Wizard*, *Sorcerer*, *Mystic*.”

The games in the room are organized by era and manufacturer. There are electromechanical

see PINBALL page A3



Mystic Pinball owner Mark Hankowski is excited to share his collection of games, spanning 45 years, with the public.

The Week In TFHS Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

The Turners Falls sports teams ended their regular seasons this week, and prepared for the playoffs by competing against top-ranked teams.

The boys’ tennis team battled one of the best teams in the west, the baseball team hosted the number-one team in their division, the softball team beat two of the best teams in the state, and Owen Ortiz jumped his way to first place in the regional track meet.

Track and Field

On Saturday, May 27, Westfield State hosted the Central-West Boys Division II Track and Field

Championship Meet.

Owen Ortiz competed in three events, representing Franklin Tech. He scored 4 in the long jump, 7 in the 100m, and in the triple jump, he took first place with a distance of 43’ 2.5”.

Along with other athletes from central and western Mass., Ortiz will compete in the Massachusetts State Track Meet later this month.

Baseball

South Hadley 5 – TFHS 0

On May 24, the school’s Senior Night, Turners hosted the South Hadley Tigers. Six days later, the MIAA ranked the Tigers as the best D-III team in the west. This was a

see TFHS SPORTS page A7



Newton North’s Caroline Bass can’t beat the throw to Turners’ Aly Murphy at first base. Turners tamed the Division I Tigers, 2-1.

GILL SELECTBOARD

Gill Joins Montague, Leverett In Leaving Immigration Enforcement To Feds

By MIKE JACKSON

On Tuesday, Gill’s selectboard approved a policy directing the town’s police force to ignore requests from the federal government to hold non-criminal detainees for violations of immigration law. The policy was modeled after one adopted in Holyoke, and follows similar actions taken by the Leverett selectboard and Montague town meeting members this spring.

Tuesday’s meeting was the fourth session in which the board discussed the policy, first proposed February 6 by Seth Montgomery and Rachael Abernethy, two town residents who work as teaching fellows at the Northfield Mount Hermon School.

Over the course of the debate, John Ward had said he supported the measure and chair Randy Crochier said he opposed it, while Greg Snedeker had asked for more time to research the issue.

“These are real fears that are impacting us in real ways,” Snedeker concluded on Tuesday. “That is the point I wanted to extend to those that disagree... It actually is having negative impacts on the community.”

Snedeker said that police chief David Hastings had told him the ordinance would be acceptable to his department, and that a representative from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) indicated that a pending grant application to buy new air packs for the town’s fire department stood no chance of being rejected in political retaliation.

He also reported that Claude Anderson, dean of enrollment at Northfield Mount Hermon, had told him the private school has “felt the negative impacts of the rhetoric that has been implied in these executive orders” aimed at restricting international travel and enlisting



Greg Snedeker (left), previously the swing vote on the issue, said he had come to the conclusion that fear of police targeting immigrants was having a negative impact on the town.

local jurisdictions in the enforcement of federal immigration law.

Snedeker read a quote Anderson had relayed to him, from a prospective parent in Mexico, that due to “deep concerns about the constant anti-Mexican statements of the current US administration, we feel it is not the right timing to send our daughter to the US.” The parent also expressed concern over access to travel visas that would permit the family to visit the student in Gill.

“There are people in this town that I’ve lived with for 25 years, and they have valid reasons on the other

see GILL page A8

The Reporter Interviews... Montague Town Planner Walter Ramsey

By MIKE JACKSON

After receiving a tip that two salmon had recently passed through the Turners Falls Fishway, I headed over there to ask a few easy questions. The Fishway workers, though, while charming and always eager to share their knowledge with the general public, were under strict orders to refer reporters to the offices of their employer, the power company.

I didn’t really feel like talking on the phone, so I wandered across the bike path, into the town hall, and up the stairs to pay a visit to the man who has, in seven short years, thumbed through every last three-ringed binder in Montague: Walter Ramsey, the town planner.

Ramsey was going over a deck of slides for a public forum that evening on the town’s new Open Space Plan, but he tolerated the surprise interview very well. We checked in about many of the current or proposed development projects the town of Montague has a hand in.

MR: Thank you for taking time out of your busy Wednesday afternoon to meet with the Reporter!

So, what’s the Open Space thing you’ve got planned for tonight?

WR: It’s a recap of our Open Space Plan – something we’ve got to update, per state law, every seven years; the last one was done in 2010. We’ve accomplished a lot of the goals in that plan: things like building the skatepark, finishing up Unity Park.

We put a couple of pieces of farmland into protection: two fifth-generation family farms, off of Millers Falls – part of the Mormon Hol-



Ramsey reflects on his first seven years at the helm of Montague’s planning department.

low Landscape Partnership.

MR: And they’re going to be having a big event on Sunday for that corridor project...

WR: They are. A big celebration to cap the project. It was a partnership between both Montague and Wendell, a total of 700 acres into protection. Most of that was in Wendell, but two farms are in Montague. And a lot of smaller projects that were visions in that plan: things like rehabbing the pedestrian footbridge in the North Street Wildlife Management Area –

MR: That’s the Meadows?

WR: Yep. And reforming an agricultural commission, and passing a right-to-farm bylaw. These are just examples of things that were identified in the plan and then carried out over the last seven years.

So, this plan is looking forward to

the next seven. It’s got a pretty ambitious list of projects. We’ve been working on this plan since September of last year; there was a big community survey that was done, and the conservation commission has taken the lead on this, meeting every month and developing the plan...

One of the new goals is to develop a comprehensive trail network for walking and cycling, that connects the villages to each other, and to open space networks.

MR: So a townwide trail system, like some other towns have?

WR: Yeah. We’re looking at planning for, and building out, a more comprehensive trail network.

MR: I know that last summer, some of the trailhead kiosks went in over on Dry Hill. This would be building out from there?

see RAMSEY page A4

The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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August 2002



Patrons at Hubie's Tavern in downtown Turners Falls watch a recent Celtics game.

Reporters Wanted!

Astute readers may notice symptoms of a seasonal strain in the pages of the *Montague Reporter*. Back on March 16, there were eleven separate bylines on our A1 and B1 pages. This week, there are five.

It's an odd week, granted – the Monday holiday meant people were out of town, and meetings were canceled. But three times in the last month, our managing editor has penned three cover articles in a single issue. That's not a pattern the newspaper can sustain.

One by one, regular writers go: one is on hiatus due to a broken home computer; another is addressing major health concerns, juggling doctors' appointments and surgeries. A once-regular features writer has been too busy teaching a class. A volunteer who was always game to jump in and tackle a last-minute story has gone out West to fight forest fires, serving on an engine crew.

Shifting work schedules, and demands of family and partners, have stolen others from us. In other cases, the civic fervor of our reporters has inspired them to get involved in the issues they were covering in ways that meant they needed to step off their beat.

In other words, life intervenes, in all the normal ways it does.

But it's hard for us to quickly replace writers. First of all, it's a labor of love – which is to say, the pay we can offer here is paltry, best thought of as "gas money" to help defray the cost of coverage.

And second, in our small towns and villages, it's hard to find individuals who know the parties and issues well enough without having a stake in newsworthy matters – or more often, a stake in staying out of them.

It's a hard time for news, and a crucial one. But we believe anyone can learn to report on their communities. We'll provide guidance if you're up for the challenge.

We are especially looking for writers who can cover Leverett selectboard meetings (Tuesday nights), Gill selectboard meetings (Monday nights, usually), and Gill-Montague school committee meetings (Tuesday nights).

Oh, and we're looking for paper carriers in Gill, too.

If you or anyone you know is interested, get in touch with us at (413) 863-8666 or at editor@montaguereporter.org.

GUEST EDITORIAL

The Leverett Alliance at Six Months

By SHARON DUNN

LEVERETT – The Leverett Alliance, in existence less than six months, has taken many strides toward its goal of fostering a caring, engaged and compassionate community, a community responsive to concerns within and beyond the town. The Alliance has engaged in efforts to protect the environment, to support justice for immigrants and to build ties between diverse communities.

At its May 22 meeting before summer hiatus, the group summarized its specific accomplishments:

- The Alliance approached the Leverett selectboard about the state "sanctuary bill." The board unanimously approved supporting Massachusetts as a sanctuary state, and is passing that information on to state senator Rosenberg and representative Kulik.
- The Alliance worked with the selectboard to pass a new law enforcement policy directing the police to "not honor or enforce any detainer request from ICE that is non-criminal and not subject to a judicially issued warrant."
- Meeting with the Leverett police department, the Alliance created, with department input, a postcard for officers to carry and offer to any community member in need of assistance from the Alliance's Sanctuary Group – the contact is Deb Roth Howe at (413) 256-1096.
- The Alliance, in cooperation with the town energy committee, introduced a resolution at the April town meeting, committing Leverett to 100% renewable energy, which was passed.
- At the Leverett Elementary School, the Alliance gave presentations on sustainability and preserving our environment.
- The Alliance facilitated a discussion between Leverett residents and a group of area Muslims to promote greater understanding of each.
- Leverett residents were invited to create a square page of drawing and/or text about their own immigrant experience or origin. The panels, celebrating Leverett's diversity, were constructed into banners that hang in the Leverett Library.
- The Alliance banner was carried in the Climate March in Springfield, April 29, and the group has gathered letters to legislators in support of pending environmental legislation.
- The organization conducts "pop up" coffees (the first was on May 13 at the transfer station) to introduce the Alliance to all of Leverett, and collect names for a community listserv.
- The Alliance conducts a monthly book discussion group, open to all, that focuses on vulnerable American communities. At its third meeting, at 7 p.m. on June 1 at Dixon House in Leverett Center, the gathering will discuss Ta-Nehisi Coates's *Between the World and Me*.

The Leverett Alliance began in December 2016 out of concern for the divisiveness of the country and is a project of the Leverett Peace Commission. The group welcomes all Leverett residents to participate.

For more information about joining the Alliance, contact patfiero@yahoo.com.

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Letter to the Editors

Pet Of The Week Of The Year

I adopted the *Montague Reporter* Pet of the Week. And it wasn't because I saw the amazing collage of her in last week's *Reporter* – though it is now framed and hanging above her food bowl. It's just that something happened that I never thought would happen to me: I fell in love with an animal that I had never met, based solely on the photos of her that I saw on the Dakin website late Wednesday evening.

Her shelter name was "Tinkerbell," and she was a nine-year-old, small, short haired tortoise-shell cat, with a black and brown face split perfectly down the middle like a moon. I was so in love. And naturally, like any fool in love, I immediately panicked.

How early would Dakin be open on a Thursday? Could I get there in time before someone else adopted her? I ran through every possible scenario in my mind that could prevent me from taking the cat home. Well, at least I hope she's not the pet of the week in tomorrow's paper, I thought to myself.

But apparently Christopher Carmody, who compiles the "Pet of the Week" feature in the *MoRe* section of the paper, was just as taken with "Tinkerbell" as I was. When I checked my Facebook early Thursday morning, I saw an amazing collage of "Tinkerbell" that Christopher had set as his profile picture. It was captioned: "Tinkerbell lives at Dakin animal shelter in Leverett, but wants to live with you instead."

My panic to get to the shelter grew. I knew it must mean that "Tinkerbell" was the pet of the week. Could I get to Dakin before the papers hit the streets?

I dashed off a comment on Christopher's profile picture, partially to mark my territory, and partially to congratulate him on what I felt was perhaps his best Pet of the Week collage yet. "Ugh I'm trying to adopt her!" I wrote. I told Christopher that I loved the collage. Before the paper was delivered to my door on Second Street, I headed down to Hadley to pick up supplies, hedging my bets on being the first person to get to Dakin.

I didn't know at the time, but the statistics on animal adoption in the US were drastically skewed in my favor. Of the approximately 3.2 million cats that enter the country's animal shelters every year, only 1.6 million are adopted. The adoption statistics of Dakin Humane Society are no exception. Out of the 2,351 cats that entered the shelter in 2015, only 1,779 were adopted, leaving 572 cats with uncertain futures. The fact that "Tinkerbell" was nine years old, a distinguished middle aged lady cat, also meant I had a higher chance of adopting her.

In a recent survey done by the pet adoption site Petfinder, 28% of members said that finding a home for an older pet is the hardest adoption to broker. Many potential adopters are worried about the health problems that can come with age, or are worried that they won't have enough time to spend with their new pet. But to me, adopting a 'senior' pet made perfect sense. I knew it would mean that my new cat would come in to my home already house trained, socialized, and secure in herself.

And so far, though it has only been a week, my new cat seems to be a perfect fit for her new home. I write this partially to gloat over my success, but also to thank the *Montague Reporter*, and Christopher Carmody, for putting a great weekly spotlight on the wonderful pets up for adoption at Dakin Humane Society.

And if you, like me, are a frequent visitor of the "Adoptable Pets" page on Dakin's website, I write to encourage you to consider adopting one of those pets that you scroll past every so often, or, if you don't have the time for a new animal in your life, to support Dakin by donating, volunteering, or simply by checking out the Pet of the Week in the *Montague Reporter*.

And if you do choose to adopt, why not choose an older pet? You might not be able to teach them any new tricks, but chances are they might know some already.

Anna F. Gyorgy
Happy New Cat Mom
Turners Falls

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Ed Hines is back in concert at the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls this Saturday, June 3, from 10 a.m. to noon. Hines' musical instrumental ability has been a huge hit with the captive audience that he has had the three times he was featured at the bank. Ed will be playing his "one of a kind Middle Eastern lute." This will be a relaxing morning for all who come to enjoy. Light refreshments provided courtesy of GSB.

Greenfield Community College's 2017 Commencement will take place Saturday, June 3, at noon. The celebration is held on the east lawn at the main Campus.

Don't forget to check out the **"Party in the Hollow" – A Festival to Save our Local Farms** at the Diemand Farm on the Millers Falls/Wendell town line on Sunday, June 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Mount

Grace Land Conservation Trust has been working with farmers, land-owners, and community partners to conserve 700+ acres of farmland and forestland in Wendell and Montague, and the Party is a celebration of that effort.

A road race kicks off the event, with all other festivities starting at 11 a.m. There will be live music featuring The Equalites, Shokazoba, and the Gaslight Tinkers, as well as vendors, local food, stories celebrating farmers and the land, and family-friendly kids' activities. Tickets are \$15; children under 12 get in free. Contact mountgrace.org or call (978) 258-2055 x15.

Enjoy spelling? Join the Friends of the Greenfield Public Library for an evening of fun at their **2nd Annual Spelling Bee**, part of Greenfield's Bee Week celebration. The Spelling Bee will take place at 6:30 p.m. on June 9 at the Second Congregational Church on Court Square.

New this year is a costume com-

petition with prizes awarded in various categories. Prizes will be awarded to the first, second, and third place spelling team winners, and there will be food, refreshments, and raffles. Everyone is bound to increase their vocabulary at this event, and even if you are an abecedarian, come along and cheer on your friends.

Grab some logophiles from your hive and form a team of three "bees" to compete with the swarm! Teams can preregister at the library, or via email to rothkid@comcast.net. Entry fee for each team is \$15. Registration is by June 7.

On Sunday, June 11, **Diemand Farm** in Wendell will host their second annual BBQ to benefit the **Arredondo Family Foundation**. The proceeds will go toward supporting military families who have lost a loved one.

Join in from 1 to 4 p.m. for food, fun, guest speakers, music and raffles. The meal includes a combo of BBQ chicken, baked potatoes, BBQ turkey ribs, black bean quinoa salad, and more. Suggested donation is \$30 for adults, and \$10 for children 2 to 10 years. A family package—for two adults and two children under 10—is also available for \$60.

The mission of the Arredondo Family Foundation (www.arredondofoundation.org) is to empower

military families in the prevention of military related suicides and to provide support through education, financial relief and support services. Carlos and Melida Arredondo are Gold Star parents. Their son Alex was a US Marine in Iraq, and they lost their younger son Brian to suicide. You may recognize Carlos as being one of the first spectators to rush to the aid of injured spectators and runners at the Boston Marathon bombings.

Tickets are available at Diemand Farm at (978) 544-3806, or online at EventBrite.com. For more information, contact Anne Diemand Bucci at (978) 544-3806 or Melida Arredondo at (857) 719-4569.

We're still looking! Gill subscribers to the *Montague Reporter* are currently receiving the newspaper in the mail. The *Reporter* is looking for someone—or even a small team of folks—to take on the task of delivering the paper around Gill, including the Riverside section of town.

If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact Mike or Don at (413) 863-8666. The newspaper can customize your route, and your efforts will be compensated.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.



Hankowski inspects the crude electromechanical computer in 1965's Hula Hula.

PINBALL from page A1

machines from the '60s and '70s, Bally and Williams machines from the '70s and early '80s, and finally '90s and modern dot-matrix display machines. The oldest, *Hula Hula*, was produced in 1965.

A Mystical Vibe

Filling empty Avenue A storefronts has long been a goal of the town of Montague. The 2013 Downtown Turners Falls Livability Plan identified filling the spaces at 104 Avenue A building as a high priority for the community.

The possibility began to take shape when Oliver Miller bought the building a year ago. Part of the reason the stores were empty was that they had no utilities. "None of them had electricity or running water," explains Miller. "We had to redo everything from the bottom up."

Miller wanted to make sure that the ground floor storefronts would be open to the public. "A lot of people wanted art space. I wanted to stay away from services and offices, closed spaces. I wanted retail that would bring people to town." Miller says that Rodney Madison, former proprietor of Madison on the Ave, did not approach him about moving back into the building.

Mystic Pinball has a neo-minimalist interior that features vintage

leather chairs and strange plants. Hankowski explains that the vacant space originally "had an Art Deco vibe that we wanted to continue." He describes the interior now as "Art Deco with a mystical vibe."

The light fixtures are modernistic chrome spheres, essentially giant shiny pinballs that hover over the room. He is having Deco-inspired benches built for the windows. The walls have been painted black and are decorated sparsely with posters that feature Art Deco and Art Nouveau imagery. The door handle is a tiny dragon, arching its back and holding a silver orb, as if it were the setting for a mid-'80s American ninja movie.

Against the minimalism of the room, the machines in their electric extravagance shine like mating tropical birds. Each game, with its flashy, luminescent backglass, like a peacock's plumage, beckons players to insert a quarter into its slot. (Perhaps it is no coincidence that many of the backglasses feature nearly naked women.)

As pinball has tried to compete with video-based games, designers have added more of a narrative element to the gameplay. The story is moved forward by accomplishing certain goals, like hitting a target.

"Modern games have ridiculously complicated rule sets," explains

Hankowski. "To accomplish the entire rule set you have to be an incredibly good player." 1988's *Secret Service* is about a KGB plot to take over the Reagan White House. "It's also pertinent to modern times," says Hankowski.

Many of the most popular pinball machines are licensed. The first licensed pinball game was Bally's 1975 *Wizard*, which was tied to the movie *Tommy*. Mystic has several licensed machines including *Star Wars*, *Indiana Jones*, and *AC/DC*. The gameplay of *AC/DC* involves unlocking various AC/DC songs that then play through speakers built into the machine. "There's a trend in pinball where they're tying them to bands," Hankowski says.

In the *Star Wars* machine, one progresses through events from the original trilogy, until finally a tiny door opens in the Death Star and the player wins by shooting the ball inside.

The Focus is the Games

Hankowski grew up in Shutesbury, and graduated from Amherst High. After receiving an MBA at Columbia, he wound up in San Francisco, where he joined a Silicon Valley startup called Potter Drilling. The company, founded by Manhattan Project researcher Bob Potter and his son, was doing research in alternative geothermal power, and was primarily funded by Google.

"When Google had their IPO, they used 1% of the money to create an organization called Google.org," Hankinson says. "One of their mandates was renewable energy—specifically, funding renewable energy projects that had a low probability of success, but if successful would change everything."

When Potter Drilling failed to secure another round of funding, Hankowski returned to western Mass. in 2013. He now has his own startup doing research in materials science, but declined to elaborate on the nature of the project. "It's a very specific type of material that has very unique properties," he says. "It's fundamental research."

Publicly accessible pinball has

certainly enjoyed a resurgence of interest since the opening of Barcade in Brooklyn in 2004. Barcade is now a chain, with seven establishments in four northeastern states. The model, combining pinball and arcade games with drinking alcohol, has been reproduced nationwide. Quarters, which opened in Hadley in 2014, is western Mass.'s incarnation of this formula. Quarters originally had pinball machines, but removed them.

According to Hankowski, Mystic Pinball will feature "the most machines you can play in the Valley." The venue will not have a bar: "That's not what the focus of the space is. The focus is the games," Hankowski explains. He is, however, looking into the possibility of a club license that would allow for the limited sale of alcohol.

Mystic Pinball has in its collection the 1978 *Playboy* machine (the first and most collectible of *Playboy* machines). It has *Stars*, one of the first solid-state pinball machines which debuted in the late 1970s. *Pinball Magic* has a unique magnetic magic wand that lifts the ball from the playfield. *Black Hole* includes a second, sunken playing field, ostensibly inside the Black Hole.

Collectibility is possibly being designed into new machines. *AC/DC*, Hankowski's newest machine, was produced in 2010 in a run of only 100 machines. *AC/DC* machines have already appreciated in value to around \$10,000.

While pinball is an individual sport, it does not need to be a lonely one. It is best enjoyed as a shared experience, as that is the only way one can display mastery. This performance is one that Hankowski hopes will bring people to Turners Falls. "I'm happy to share a hobby," he says. "I'm hoping to positively impact traffic coming into this town."

Hankowski wants Mystic Pinball to be a space for people to be together, to mutually enjoy his great collection of games.

"The point of pinball is social. I have all these great machines," he says. "The point is to share them."



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RAMSEY from page A1

WR: Yeah. Dry Hill was one of our first areas, but we also want to formalize some of the great trail networks that are on the Montague Plains, and connect those two systems to each other.

So this calls for, essentially, seeking out volunteers, maybe setting up a trails committee, and doing a trails plan and implementing some of it.

MR: I covered Leverett town meeting this year, and it looks like they have a very successful and vibrant trail committee that does this kind of work. People seemed to appreciate what they were doing.

WR: They do really good work. I was the Leverett conservation agent for a few years – it was my Friday job – and I got to work on their trails a lot. Leverett has great trails, Amherst has great trails, and it only benefits everybody if they all connect to each other in a meaningful way.

MR: Do those guys report to the con com, in Leverett? And would you be looking at a similar model here?

WR: In Leverett, it's a loosely organized subcommittee of the conservation commission. And similar, yeah, to be determined. But if there's anybody who's really interested in trails who wants to step up, this would be a good chance.

MR: I've heard that you and Alex Peterkin from the conservation commission have been putting in some work on that.

WR: Yes. Alex has been putting in volunteer hours, and building out those trails. It's good to get something on the ground, and then build some support.

Improving our access to our rivers is another central goal in this plan that was identified by residents. Montague enjoys a lot of riverfront, but very limited access points. Obviously, we're in the midst of a hydro relicensing project that's really changed the town's relationship with the Connecticut River – specifically, from the dam to the confluence of the Deerfield River. Right now there's very limited flows in the summer.

We don't know exactly what the flows will be, but we're looking at more flows than there are now. It's going to improve opportunity for habitat, but also open up recreation opportunities, and public access points to the river.

MR: In terms of public access, I know that swimming is a perennial concern...

WR: Of course. That still shows up as, probably, the number-one desire of residents: public swimming access. I know that the parks and recreation committee has revived a subcommittee to look into that issue – it's something that's still high up on the priority list for 2017.

It's very difficult to find a suitable location in Montague, but it's recognized as a priority.

So we want to improve river access – there are some very specific points: one is below the Turners



Falls Dam; one is at Poplar Street, we want to figure out a good solution for that –

MR: It's a very steep embankment, there.

WR: It's steep, it's unsafe, it's in a residential neighborhood. Those are two points we're working on specifically through the FERC [relicensing] process, but it's in the Open Space Plan as well. Possibly to the Rock Dam as well; there used to be a stairway there at one point, but it was removed. We want to see that repaired and formalized.

And then in Millers Falls, we want to see improved access to the Millers River on a tax-titled piece of property across from the old IP Mill....

MR: That's a really neat spot. I ride my bike down there sometimes.

WR: There's a gravel roadway right below the bridge that goes down to the water. It wouldn't take much to formalize it as conservation, or public access to the river for fishing or cartop boat access.

As far as the recreation aspect, one of the big goals is to provide access to high-quality parks in each village. The focus right now is Rutters Park in Lake Pleasant. We're in the process of doing design work right now, hopefully we'll be looking for block grant or other funding down the line.

Parks and Rec is looking at doing some rehab work in Montague Center, and at Highland Park [in Millers Falls] as well.

MR: This is an ongoing process and you're still seeking input from residents on these ideas?

WR: Yeah. There'll be informational posters I'll put up at town hall, where people weigh in on the goals and help us prioritize them. They can stop in at town hall anytime this week, until June 8. The plan is posted online as well, on the "Planning Documents" page on the town website [montague.net]. If anyone has any comments, they can reach out directly to me.

It's worth mentioning that the plan makes us eligible for certain state funding resources. Having a plan was critical for getting the PARCC Grant, which built the skatepark. It also helped get the Mormon Hollow Partnership Grant that protected the family farms.

MR: Different state departments all require having this in place as a

prerequisite for different grant programs that they run?

WR: Yeah. It depends on the program...

MR: And they check and make sure it actually fits in with your plan?

WR: Yeah. They do.

MR: What a strange and complicated industry planning is.

WR: Yeah. It is. [Laughs] I'll go into it off the record sometime.

MR: While I've got you sitting down and talking, I think our readers are interested in knowing where a lot of the major projects that your department works on are right now. We've seen construction has started on the pedestrian bridge linking Old and New Greenfield roads?

WR: The bridge was installed in the fall – they're putting some finishing touches on it. It should be open later this summer for use.

MR: That's for walking, bicycle access... Could a motorcycle make it through, past the ballasts, do you think?

WR: It's not intended for motorized use.

MR: What's the status of the former Montague Center School property?

WR: It's largely built out, and in the process of being leased up, as I understand – planned for occupancy later this summer. 22 residential units, all rentals, and all market rate. They're doing the site work as we speak – the parking, the lawn, and the landscaping.

They're going to hold an open house, probably in June or July.

MR: A little further north: We've been hearing a lot about the projects proposed for the town land on Sandy Lane: solar arrays, the new highway garage, and now FRTA's new bus barn. Where does all that stand right now?

WR: The planning board has permitted construction of a 6-megawatt solar array that is going to be constructed and owned by a private developer, Kearsarge Energy, on town-owned land, separated into two different sub-arrays within the 163 acres that the town owns. One is on the landfill, and one is on the bank of an old gravel pit.

The town is in the process of finalizing the lease, and it's on

track for construction in the fall.... That's going to be a substantial revenue source for the town over the next 25 years.

FRTA is interested in purchasing about five acres behind the Judd Wire parking lot, looking to build their bus maintenance facility. They employ about 30 people. A condition of the sale is the ability to subdivide that five acres.

They're going to be improving Sandy Lane from Turnpike Road to the dog shelter, installing proper utilities and reconstructing the roadway to support the traffic.

That would allow for future build-out of further industrial use in some of the remaining acreage that's in the park: up to three light industrial lots.

MR: What had the original plans for that, as the "second industrial park," been, in terms of the number of lots envisioned?

WR: It's been significantly reduced from what was originally proposed five or six years ago, but there's still potential for a very small park that's, in my opinion, more compatible with the residential character of the area. A few more lots, some more job opportunities for the community. And the nice thing it's in walking distance from town, and close to a bus route.

MR: Is the first industrial park close to capacity now?

WR: Yeah. All the prime lots have been built out; we're left with a few scrappy lots. Triangles, odd shapes, narrow lots. We're actively marketing those right now, and we're in some discussions on one or two of the lots.

MR: How are things looking out in Millers Falls?

WR: Millers Falls is doing great. The Powers Block homesteading program is just wrapping up right now. Three of the buildings have been completed; the largest one, the Powers Block itself, is almost complete and is being advertised for lease. Right now it's all sheetrocked.

I walked through it the other day and it's looking beautiful: they're doing really nice living units on the second floors, and a commercial buildout on the first floor, which is being marketed right now.

MR: And that was made available to Obear Construction through the commercial homesteading program...

WR: Yes. It was a tax title that the town took, and we cleared up the title.... It was seven years of work to get to this point!

MR: And Obear, through the same program, is looking to work on the Railroad Salvage Annex.

WR: Yep. The town accepted [Bob Obear's] proposal around this time last year, and that project's starting to move to a head now. We'll be bringing a land development agreement to the [selectboard] later in June, which will set out his plans, which are to make it into a mixed-use building with two residential units in the second floor and then commercial office and studio space on the first floor and portions of the second floor.

He's doing a collaborative work-space grant with MassDevelopment right now to help fund the buildout, and we're looking at constructing that this fall, if all goes well.

That's really a critical point to prove that redevelopment can happen in what we call the Mill District. We recently did a kind of a "vision" for the Mill District, and it called for finding small successful projects like this to get off the ground to spur further reuse of buildings. I consider the district from the dam, the Indeck property, down to Railroad Salvage Annex.

MR: There's been renewed discussion about the fate of the Strathmore, and town meeting, again, this year put a significant amount of money into maintenance and cleanup at the site. What are its prospects?

WR: Well, we're actively pursuing a strategy of triage: reducing the amount of square footage that we have to manage. There are portions of the property that are beyond rehabilitation. We're looking at significantly reducing the square footage of the property.

Right now it's 230,000 square feet. We have an active grant application that would do the demolition, design, and permitting to reduce that by about half. So, getting rid of the worst portions in order to save some of the better ones, and make the scale of the redevelopment more feasible.

There's just too much space, and it's too far gone. There is some flexibility in deciding which portions will go. If we get the funding, we'll go through a whole design process where we hash out the details of what goes.

see RAMSEY page A5

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RAMSEY from previous page

MR: Is the Cumby's building in the Mill District?

WR: That's a good question. I guess not technically – but the river access point is.

MR: Was an agreement for that building ever reached with Crab Apple Whitewater?

WR: Their proposal was accepted last summer, and I was actually just meeting with them today to put the fine points on the purchase and sale agreement. That's expected to be approved later in June – the EDIC meets on the 27th.

That's not the sale, that's just a development agreement where they agree to do "x, y and z"...

MR: Has that changed since last year? I remember there was a Phase I, to rebuild a façade and the roof.

WR: Yeah. We're looking at folding Phase I and II together, given the time that's elapsed. They would just go straight into a full buildout, which is the addition.

However, they're not looking at having commercial rafting operations start until Spring of 2019 at the soonest – and that's dictated by the FERC relicensing process. People can't expect construction to happen until next fall at the soonest.

MR: Does Crab Apple still seem as optimistic about there being enough water added to the river for them?

WR: They do. So does the town.

So that is definitely, absolutely in the works, but people need to understand that it's not until Spring 2019 that it's going to happen. But that's good, because it gives us time to prepare for whitewater and recreational use of that section of the river, because that's going to be a big change.

MR: It'll be good news for the Shady Glen!

WR: Yeah...

MR: Moving southward on the Avenue, I've heard that a section of Turners has been designated by the state as "cultural"?

WR: Mmm-hmm.

MR: ... and that comes with \$5,000 for signs saying so, and then the bigger news is it opens up grant opportunities in the future?

Correct. And the signage is not just to say "cultural district" – it's to improve the wayfinding in the village. We're going to fix up the signs on Route 2 –

MR: "Block party, third weekend in August," and so on?

WR: Yeah, we're going to reconfigure those a little bit, and make 'em work a little bit better...

MR: Is there still a sign out on the highway for the Hailmark Gallery?

WR: I finally got that changed! That was one of the things that started in 2010, I think, and they finally just fixed that sign a couple months ago. They put up signs that

direct people to the Canalside Rail Trail. They won't send people to Turners Falls, but I did get them to say to the Canalside Rail Trail, because that's DCR property...

MR: You didn't end up having to go out there with a bolt driver yourself?

WR: No. And I am optimistic [the designation] will help bring more cultural funding to the downtown area, in light of the fact that the Adams Grant program, the primary funding source for RiverCulture, is being eliminated.

MR: The town has to figure out what the future of RiverCulture is.

WR: Yep, we're actively in that process. Part of it's waiting to see what the new funding source is going to look like, coming from [the Massachusetts Cultural Council] – we have a very strong feeling it's going to be something to do with cultural districts, hence the designation.

And the designation is an affirmation of all the effort, and investment, that the town and businesses have made over many years – to show that hey, we're doing it right, we've done a lot; let's at least meet the state standards, and be able to keep doing what we're doing.

MR: I've been seeing them saw through the sidewalks to install the rest of the lights down to Peske Park?

WR: All of the lightpole bases have been installed, and the poles are on order, expected to be delivered the first week of July. The lights will be up and operational the second week of July. You're going to see cones out there for a few weeks. That's being funded by a block grant program.

We also are looking at improvements to Spinner Park on Avenue A, because the lighting project came in under budget.... We're going to put in new retaining walls. The whole thing was installed in the '80s; the electric is in drastic need of rehab. New plantings, as well.

MR: June 17 is going to be the day to unveil the new sculpture at Third Street and Avenue A.

WR: It'll be a nice celebration of Turners Falls' next public art piece, reflecting portions of our history, done by a local artist who lives in town [Tim DeChristopher]. It'll be an exciting and unique event, and I hope people come out for it.

MR: How many years have you been on the job?

WR: Seven. Seven and a half.

MR: How would you say it's going?

WR: I think it's going great. I'm right where I hoped I'd be seven years after starting.

A big project like the Strathmore, sure, I would love to have started redevelopment right now, but I think things are slowly falling into place for town as a whole.

I'm proud of the projects that I've helped work on, and I think things are going well.



LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was May 31, 2007: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Fire at Strathmore Mill

On Saturday, May 26, residents of Turners Falls awoke to the thick pall of smoke filling downtown streets, the smell of fire and a rain of ash. The first clue to the fire's origin came from an examination of the falling ash: curled and charred bits of newsprint and paper. A page from an encyclopedia of ancient Rome lay in the middle of Third Street.

Sometime in the early morning hours, Building 10 of the Strathmore Paper mill, lately a warehouse for recycled paper under the ownership of Jerry Jones and his shell holding corporation, Western Properties LLC, caught fire and burned to the ground.

At dawn, flames were still shooting from the building, which stood beside a central courtyard to the southwest of the canal side pedestrian bridge entrance to the 244,482-square-foot mill complex, built in 1871. Quick work by the Turners Falls fire department, supported by the Northfield, Greenfield, Erving, and dozens of other area depart-

ments, contained the damage largely to that one building and spared most of the surrounding complex, as well as the Southworth Paper Mill, an operating mill that abuts the Strathmore immediately to the southwest, on a narrow peninsula of land reachable by a single access road.

The fire was first reported at 2:49 a.m. by a walk-in to the Montague police station. According to chief Ray Zukowski, the reporting party was a "motorist coming down the hill from Greenfield," who saw the flames coming out of the back windows" of the mill building.

Captain James Bartus of Turners Falls fire department and firefighter Kyle Cogswell drove down the access road to the best position for fighting the fire mere minutes before a truck next to the building exploded, causing the three-story wall on that side of the building to collapse across the road.

Bartus and Captain David Dion both report seeing the building's owner, Jerry Jones, leaving the building with a female companion around 3:30 a.m., less than an hour after the motorist reported seeing flames. Bartus said he talked with Jones, but citing the state fire marshal's ongoing investigation of the fire, declined

to characterize their conversation.

Building 1, between the collapsed building and the river, had caught fire too, but that fire was contained. Sprinklers and metal fire doors helped protect Building 11.

Jones purchased the Strathmore mill in December 2002 for \$40,000. On Saturday Montague building inspector David Jensen said Jones had been living in the mill for some time. "Was he authorized to live there?" Jensen chose his words carefully. "It was acknowledged that having a person in the building was not a bad thing, as a sort of 'night watchman.'" Jones was apparently living on the fourth floor of Building #2, which lies parallel to the canal to the northeast of the pedestrian footbridge.

Questions remain about whether the fire alarm system that should have automatically notified the Turners Falls fire department was working.

John Anctil, of the Swift River Group, reportedly was in the process of negotiating the purchase of the Strathmore in the week before the fire for a figure of \$350,000. But a May 6 accident which caused severe burns to an employee of Jones, who then filed a lawsuit against Jones, were delaying the negotiations.



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Get Ready for the *Total Solar Eclipse!*

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

A rare total solar eclipse visible from the United States will happen August 21 of this year. The total eclipse will be visible from Oregon to South Carolina, whereas in our area we will be able to see a partial eclipse. Here, it will start around 1:25 p.m. and end at about 4 p.m., with the maximum eclipse obscuring about 66% of the sun at about 2:45 p.m.

A total solar eclipse happens only at the new moon, when the moon passes between the earth and sun, blocking our view of the sun. It doesn't happen every month because the moon's trajectory around the earth is on a tilt (5 degrees) to the earth's trajectory around the sun. So they don't always line up.

In addition, the moon's orbit is slightly elliptical, and so the moon seems larger in the sky when it's closer to us than when it's farther away. For a total eclipse to happen, the moon has to appear larger in the sky than the sun, and cross directly in front of it.

When the moon is between the sun and earth, it has two shadows:

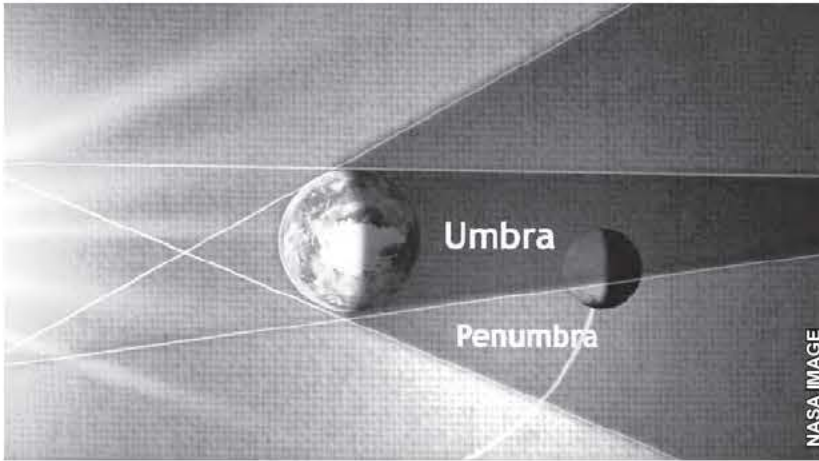


Diagram of umbra and penumbra.

the *penumbra*, which isn't completely dark, and the *umbra*, which is narrower and completely dark. The two shadows occur because the sun is so much bigger than the moon and sends light toward it from behind – some light gets into the penumbral shadow from the outer edges of the sun, while all the light is blocked just at the center, forming the umbral shadow.

When the moon's umbral shadow falls on the earth, people under it can't see the sun itself and experience a total eclipse. People in

the larger, penumbral shadow see a partial eclipse, and people outside these areas don't see any eclipse (see diagram).

Total eclipses happen once a year or so, but they can happen all over the globe, so you have to be in the right place at the right time to view them. Even if you are, the time the sun is fully blocked from view is usually only a few minutes. During that period you can see the corona – the outermost layer of the sun – and scientists are ready to study it from earth during the eclipse.

But Don't Look At The Sun!

Article by NASA

The only safe way to look directly at the un-eclipsed or partially-eclipsed sun is through special-purpose solar filters, such as "eclipse glasses," or handheld solar viewers. Homemade filters or ordinary sunglasses, even very dark ones, are not safe for looking at the sun.

To date, three manufacturers have certified that their eclipse glasses and hand-held solar viewers meet the ISO 12312-2 international standard for such products: Rainbow Symphony, American Paper Optics, and Thousand Oaks Optical.

Welder's glass #14 or darker is safe to use, but note this is not commonly used by welders – be certain you can ascertain the darkness is #14 or more, and if you can see the landscape through the glass you can be sure it's not safe.

Looking through a telescope with a solar filter that attaches to the large end (not the small end as older scopes used) can also be safe, but NASA suggests consulting with an astronomer to be sure you're using the safety equipment correctly.

They also remind people not to look at the sun through a camera.

An alternative method for safe viewing of the partially eclipsed sun is pinhole projection. You can use this technique without any equipment "if you cross the outstretched, slightly open fingers of one hand over the outstretched, slightly open fingers of the other. With your back to the sun, look at your hands' shadow on the ground.

"The little spaces between your fingers will project a grid of small images on the ground, showing the sun as a crescent during the partial phases of the eclipse."

Source: eclipse2017.nasa.gov/safety

IMAGES COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



The Sun rising over Stonehenge on the morning of the Solstice, June 21, 2005.

FEATURED ORGANIZATION

The American Association for the Advancement of Science

Speaking out for science

According to their website (aaas.org), the American Association for the Advancement of Science is "an international non-profit organization dedicated to advancing science for the benefit of all people." This 150-year-old organization writes policy statements in support of science, including public engagement and scientific literacy, and federal funding of scientific research.

They have recently led the campaign asking scientists to speak out in defense of science in our current political climate. See forceforscience.org for more details on that particular effort including advocacy toolkits, webinars, trainings, and resources.

AAAS has a long history of speaking up for science in more traditional ways. Based in Washington DC, AAAS testifies before congress and advocates for a role for science in public policy. They publish peer-reviewed journals in general science, robotics, immunology, medicine, and others.

Exploring scientific careers

AAAS also lists jobs, visiting scholarships, fellowships, and in-

ternships, as well as advice on crafting a career in science. Visit sciencecareers.org for further career information and articles discussing science as a career.

For example, in her January 13 article "Choosing the hard road," reprinted on the website from *Science*, Katharina Henke describes getting through introductory classes and learning enough to find what she really loved – studying both psychological and physiological effects within the brain. Even though her path was more difficult in terms of employment, she works on unique problems that interest her.

These kinds of discussions can help students and scientists think through what aspect of their work is important, and how to chart a course toward what they, personally, consider success. The forum addresses common questions like jealousy and networking, how to get your colleagues to read your manuscripts, and how to best present yourself in your CV.

This website is an excellent resource for anyone exploring the many different types of careers available in science, at any point in their career.

June 21: Summer Solstice

Summer Solstice, which will take place on June 21, is when the sun travels its longest path across the sky in our Northern hemisphere. This is because the earth's tilt has the north leaning most directly toward the sun on this day.

After summer solstice, days will shorten. Solstice means "sun stand still" and that's because the sun, which rises and sets in a slightly different position each day, seems stuck in the same rising/setting positions for a few days.

Humans can observe this without equipment – although you should

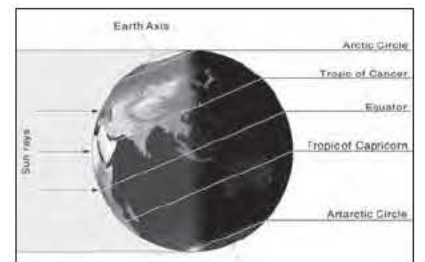


Diagram showing the earth's position during summer solstice.

never ever look at the sun directly with the naked eye, this leads to blindness; use your special solar viewing glasses.

It is one of the major holidays in many nature-based religions. Many Pagans descend upon Stonehenge (and other lesser-known observatories) to view the alignments that were built into stone there.

Sources: britannica.com/topic/summer-solstice-astronomy
earthsky.org/earth/everything-you-need-to-know-june-solstice

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It's D-D-D-Diaper Time: Diaper Taskforce Launches Diaper Drive

GREENFIELD – Diapers cost an average of \$100 per month. One out of every three families in Franklin County struggle to afford diapers. Easy access to diapers makes a huge difference in the lives of low-income families and children.

The Franklin County Diaper Taskforce launched its fourth annual diaper drive on Mother's Day. The drive calls attention to the "diaper gap" in Franklin County and the North Quabbin.

The Diaper Task Force invites businesses, organizations and families to participate in the drive, which will run through Father's Day.

Access to diapers is necessary

to building a strong foundation for healthy families. The Franklin County Diaper Drive helps close the diaper gap and increase the well-being of children and families in our community. 70% of mothers in Massachusetts are in the workforce; most working parents rely on childcare. Lack of diapers can have severe repercussions for health, economic and emotional wellbeing of the child, parent and household.

Thankfully, the diaper drive is a concrete way for community members to support children in Franklin County!

Community Action, the leading anti-poverty agency in Franklin

County, has housed the taskforce since its inception. Together with providers, service agencies, volunteers and donors, the taskforce has distributed diapers continuously to families for the past four years.

This year, the Diaper Task Force distributed over 6,000 diapers to more than 300 children each month. Diapers are distributed throughout Franklin County and the North Quabbin.

Diapers can be picked up or dropped off on June 15 at our diaper collection event. If you are interested in taking part in the drive, or have a family in need, please contact Marianne Bullock at (413) 475-1544.

TFHS SPORTS from page A1

good challenge for Powertown, because they'll soon have to go up against playoff-caliber teams in D-IV.

Hadley scored two runs in the top of the first inning and added another in the third to make the score 3-0. Blue kept the margin at 3, shutting out the Cats until the seventh inning when they scored two insurance runs to go up 5-0.

Tionne Brown, Kyle Dodge, and Kyle Bergmann shared duties on the mound allowing only 5 combined hits, but four errors hurt them on the scoreboard. Offensively, Jon Fritz and Dom Carne had hits for Turners.

During the game, something interesting happened. Carne reached first, and Will Roberge pitch-ran for him. While on base, Roberge kept taking leads and the pitcher kept throwing it to first while Roberge dove back on base. After Roberge was safely back on base, the first baseman hit him really hard with the gloved ball.

This kept happening. Finally, the ump stopped the game, walked up the baseline, and warned the fielder that he would be thrown out if he did it again – much to the delight of the True Blue Faithful. Turners is currently ranked number 7 in Division IV, and will host the Pathfinder Pioneers on June 1 in the first round of the playoffs.

Softball

TFHS 10 – Pioneer Valley 2

TFHS 2 – Newton North 1

TFHS 3 – Hampshire Regional 1

On Wednesday, May 24, Turners Falls overcame four errors to defeat the Pioneer Panthers 10-2.

The Blue Ladies got on the scoreboard early as leadoff batter Cassidhe Wozniak reached first on a throwing error, advanced on a wild pitch, and was batted in by Gabby Arzuaga. Courtesy runner Lexi Lacey took base for Arzuaga. She was moved along by a fielder's choice and scored on another wild pitch, giving the Tribe a 2-0 cushion after one full.

In the Blue second, Abby Loynd was hit by a pitch and Hailey Bogosz took a base on balls, while Loynd alertly stole third on the walk. Taylor Murphy batted in Loynd but was later called out at second. Wozniak then slapped a hit and beat the throw to first. But she kept running and as she reached second, Bogosz scored.

Woz eventually scored too, and after two innings, Powertown led 5-2. Pioneer put a run across in the third off an error, two steals and a RBI line drive. Turners got the run back in the fourth when Aly Murphy hit a sac RBI, sending Taylor Murphy home. In the fifth, Maddy Johnson was hit by a pitch and later scored to put the score at 7-1.

The Pioneers got a run back in the sixth, but Blue piled on three more in their half of the inning to make the score 10-2. With one out to play, pitcher Peyton Emery was cracked by a hard hit and had to leave the game. Eighth grader Jade Tyler came off the bench and struck out the last batter.

Then on Friday, Turners hosted Newton North. Newton North is a great softball program that consistently beats other Division I city schools. Both the *Boston Globe* and *Herald* rank them as one of the best D-I teams in the state, and after



Turners slugger Quinn Doyle made solid contact at the plate, but Blue ultimately fell to Frontier, 9-1.

the Turners Falls loss, the MIAA ranked them third in D-I North.

The big news last week was that their 13-game winning streak had finally been broken, but they won their next game, and when Newton came to town, they boasted a 17-2 record.

Because they have so many students to choose from, North's JV team is made up of sophomores and juniors who hope to make varsity next year. But Turners does not have that luxury. Blue's JVs are mostly younger girls who may be called up to varsity at any time. And to deplete their numbers further, there was a school trip on Friday, and skipper George Emery had to be creative to fill the holes. Eliza Johnson (10th grade) and Katie Garcia (9th grade) filled in, while Mackenzie Martel was given a mitt and took her place behind the plate.

Those city ladies from Newton are great athletes. They hit hard and run fast. But that didn't stop Jade Tyler and the Powertown Kids. Jade pitched a perfect game, allowing no hits or walks, and her fielders gave no errors.

The Blue Girls made some terrific stops, chased down some sky flies, and made accurate throws to keep every Northerner off base. At the plate, Powertown piled on the runs, and the biggest question became, "Would Turners score 12 runs to mercy Newton?"

After four innings of catching, Martel took off her mitt and showed her swollen fingers. Then she smiled when one of the dads called out, "Throw harder, Jade!" and took her place back behind the plate.

The JVs had their chance to mercy Newton in the fifth, but hesitant base running limited the score to 10-0. In the end, it was probably better that Tyler pitched a complete game instead a mercy shorted one. It means so much more that her perfect game went the distance.

On the Varsity diamond, Turners got men to second or third base in every inning, but the Newton Defense held them to two runs. In the third inning, Turners got their first run as Wozniak hit a nice shot to center field, Arzuaga and Aly Murphy were hit by pitches and Jordyn Fiske batted in Woz on a fielder's choice sacrifice. In the fourth, Turners put up an insurance run when Maddy Johnson reached on an error, Melissa Hersey bunted her to second, Taylor Murphy hit a fielder's choice to get her to third, and Wozniak batted her in.

Newton scored their run in the sixth when their leadoff batter just beat the throw to first. She stole second on a very close call and scored

on a 2-out base hit.

"It never stops for Turners," one of the Hampshire fans said on Saturday before the Varsity game. "An 8th grader?" he marveled. He was speaking about Tyler, who had just pitched an 8-0 shutout against Hampshire's JV team. As a Hampshire fan, he knows about Turners Falls softball, and in some way, I think he was glad that Hampshire was playing such a good team to prepare them for the D-II playoffs. After all, Hampshire is the state champion and the top seed in D-II West.

The Varsity game was much closer than the JV game was. Both teams were psyched up for the game, and showed their enthusiasm with constant cheering. It was a double shutout until the third when Wozniak cracked a 2-out double to center and Arzuaga knocked her in on a right field high pop. Turners scored two more runs in the fifth when Aly Murphy hit a standup triple, scoring Wozniak and courtesy runner Lacey.

Hamp got a run back in the last inning, after the leadoff batter hit a line drive into left and the next girl hit a skipper over third base to send her in. Turners orchestrated a wonderful double play to get two outs, and a 5-3 grounder ended the game.

The Blue Tribe begins their second season with a bye, and will host the winner of the Putnam/McCann Tech game this Sunday, June 4.

Boys Tennis

West Springfield 4 – TFHS 1

"They're 14 and 2," coach Steven Toulountzis told me on May 24 while we were watching the first sets of the match against West Springfield.

It looked pretty good to me as Jimmy Vaughn and Ricky Craver were battling it out on the first and second courts, and Brian Porier was going back and forth from ad-in to deuce to ad-out. "But they're 14-2," Coach T. reminded me.

And West Springfield is as good as their record. They're two divisions above Turners, and are seeded fourth in Western Mass. And they're stacked, from first singles to second doubles. Ricky's opponent was 10-3, Brian's was 7-1 and undefeated in doubles, while West's two doubles teams had a combined record of 22-2.

Turners dropped all five opening sets as the city boys outlasted each of their Powertown foes. On the third singles court, losing the first game after forcing deuce seemed to take the wind out of Porier's sails, as he dropped the next five games. He did have a second set surge, taking two games, but in the end, he lost in straight sets.

In first doubles, Jovanni Ruggiano and Nick Morin managed to take one game in the first set, but West took the second, 6-0. In second doubles, Will Turn and Brody Trott lost the first set 6-love, but fought back in the second set, winning two games.

As always, Craver fought for every point, but only won five games in his two sets. Jimmy Vaughn, who lost his first set 4-6, took the second set by the same score, and forced a third set which he won 10-5.

Turners earned a bye in the first round of the playoffs, and will travel to South Hadley to play the Tigers on June 1.

Next week: The post-season!



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GILL from page A1

side,” Snedeker said. “I felt like I needed to go the extra yard to give them a reason that they can understand – an impact on our town.”

The board voted, 2-0, in favor of the ordinance, with Crochier abstaining. Last month, Crochier had objected to language terming unauthorized migrants “undocumented” rather than “illegal,” and pointed out that the town turns anyone it detains over to the county sheriff’s office, arguing that the effort would be better directed there.

“As Gill residents first and foremost,” Abernethy told the selectboard, “speaking for myself, I’m very proud to be a part of this community throughout this process. Thank you for welcoming us.”

“I had a level of skepticism [March 16] when we said ‘let’s wait,’” Montgomery added. “I think my generation gets skeptical of government.... I had no idea that you were actually thinking and doing research, and being proactive. I’m really grateful for that.”

“The speed of government sometimes can be very frustrat-

ing,” Crochier said.

Ben Levy of Boyle Road asked whether town police had been trained not to inquire as to residents’ immigration status.

“From what our police chief said at our first meeting,” Crochier responded, “it really would violate his policy.”

“As one who doesn’t necessarily agree with signing off on this [ordinance],” he continued, “I would be absolutely offended – and we’d be having a whole different conversation – if I found out our police officers were asking anybody what their immigration status is, or ‘what are you doing here?’”

“It’s a touchy issue,” said Sue Kramer. “It’s a trigger issue. We really need to be careful.... We get a lot of traffic going through Gill to other towns.” She suggested the selectboard discuss the issue with the town’s two full-time and several part-time officers.

“I’ve had that conversation with our police chief,” Snedeker told her. “He’s not going out of his way to go after immigration status... It’s not their job.”

Machinery Maintenance

The board met with Fred Chase II of the capital improvement planning committee, who has been campaigning for better oversight of decisions to make repairs on town-owned vehicles.

Chase has suggested the town constitute a machinery committee to inspect the town’s major machinery and track the cumulative cost of repairs. In 1994, town meeting approved the formation of such a committee, but it never got off the ground. The capital improvement planning committee, formed since then, is tasked with scheduling the replacement, though not the repair, of vehicles.

Snedeker said that the capital improvement planning committee is tasked with reviewing purchases over \$10,000. He wondered what an appropriate threshold would be for a repair to need approval from a machinery committee. Chase suggested “anything you’re spending tax dollars on, over 1,000 bucks, say.”

Administrative assistant Ray Purington pointed out the difficulties of decision-making in such an

appointed committee, which would be subject to the state open meeting law, another innovation made after the 1994 vote.

The selectboard and Chase brainstormed ways to keep such a committee’s meetings to a minimum. “I think we need to flesh this out a little,” Crochier said.

Snedeker said that while he was confident in the record-keeping in the police and fire departments, “highway is not clear, in my mind.”

No decision was taken.

Chase also reported that he had checked out a spare, unused sander at the highway department, and confirmed it could be installed on the town’s 2000 Sterling ten-wheeler. The town had initially stopped using the sander because the conveyor had lost a bearing, and it was never repaired.

“The value of that sander, sitting there rotting on the ground – it’s just a shame,” Chase said, adding that highway boss Mickey LaClaire had said it was unsafe to install it on the Sterling, but that he did not believe that to be true. “Makes no sense to me,” he said.

Crochier said he thought the truck hadn’t originally been mounted with a sander in an effort to extend its life, “but it’s now a 16-year-old truck.”

Other Business

The selectboard agreed to lock in the purchase of 5,300 gallons of diesel for FY’18, at a price negotiated by the Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative. Purington said the group’s representative anticipated getting a price around \$1.90 per gallon.

Town treasurer Ronnie Chance said she had sought bids from three banks for a three-year loan for the purchase of a new police cruiser, and that the lowest of them, from Greenfield Cooperative Bank, had come in at 2.15%. The board approved the bid.

They also unanimously approved the appointment of Cameron Tucker as a firefighter.

“I can’t believe I’m reading this,” Crochier said. “I was the best man at Cameron’s parents’ wedding.”

Crochier indicated that he felt old.



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JUNE 1, 2017

Meeting the Crank Sturgeon



The Williamstown artist and musician, at home in his shop.

By NINA ROSSI

WILLIAMSTOWN – I was looking for a heartbeat, and a river, and a way to put them together, but first, I had to dance around in a squid costume, playing a bass.

I was in the cranny of my shop on Avenue A, giving a slightly compressed demonstration of this squidgy squid performance to *Reporter* managing editor Mike Jackson during our content meeting for the upcoming issue one Friday afternoon. It was a bit of a side trip on the content discussion, but I wandered much further afield after he mentioned a guy named Crank Sturgeon.

Crank Sturgeon? A steam punk dinosaur creaked its leathery gills open and shut in my mind, but, huh? What connection does the Crank Sturgeon have for me?

Mike explained he is a sonic artist who performs in a sturgeon mask, and makes and sells weird

equipment for noise-making.

I was on it. Googling yielded the Etsy store of the Crank Sturgeon, who makes a few dozen different gizmos for noise artists and, well, for anyone who wants to amplify something through vibration. One of the cool things about these little contact microphones he makes and sells is that they can clip right onto the end of a regular instrument cable, of which I had plenty.

Crank even makes a submersible one, plus one sensitive enough to pick up someone’s heartbeat when held against their chest. That was what I was interested in, for a future performance beyond the squid thing: mic-ing the river and combining it with someone’s heartbeat for an interactive component.

I not only ordered some products, but my curiosity also sent me out to Williamstown to visit Crank.

Crank’s mic workshop is in a little barn in back of his house. There,

he solders the leads on piezoelectric transducers to make various forms of contact microphones, including some that are attached to ratty springy contraptions that are fun to play with, like the Depth Charge Gamelan, described thusly:

Wanna shake it? The Depth Charge Gamelan is an electric maraca with a twist! Loaded with rattles, a spring wobbler, and topped off with a big red button kill switch, this little unit blasts it up a notch by adding ricocheting reverb and on/off switching to all your trembling mayhem! \$30.

Or the Barky Box Loud Mouth vocal microphone:

... perfect for crooning and swooning crowds of doting fans. Additionally, there’s a snazzy on/off switch, allowing one to

see **STURGEON** page B4



Crank Sturgeon performs a live set last year at the Brick House in Turners Falls.



WEST ALONG THE RIVER

HEADLONG INTO JUNE



A parula warbler (Setophaga americana).

By DAVID BRULE

MILLERS RIVER

The fleeting days in May have seemed as ephemeral as the short lives of the mayflies rising up over the river’s pools. In spite of her thirty-one days, May has seemed a blur, maybe because of calendar-crowding human events, the breaking news cycle, or the endless string of gray days all resembling one another.

It seems that we can barely tolerate the cold teasing months of March and April, then along comes May, capricious, babbling and strewing flowers, full of promises, raising our hopes.

Yet now we’re plunging into June, and most of those promises are still unfulfilled, this gray and cloudy day. Just the same, the month outdoors had its moments, where nature and her reasons rule. No calendar counts and no clock keeps time, just the angle of the sun, an uncertain increase in warmth, a certain way the stars line up to guide night migrants, to inform plants and creatures that something is changing.

Sure enough, through the night of April 30 to May 1, birds on their pilgrimage north arrived and flooded the yard and woods by daybreak. Oriole, rose-breasted grosbeak, catbird, towhee, thrasher, swallow arrived overnight. Wood thrush and four kinds of warblers filled the outdoors with spring’s song. They were welcomed by a simultaneous and mass flowering of crabapple, dogwood, shadbush, quince, apple, cherry, lilac, all at once!

But the very next morning, we went through three seasons of weather: drenching rain, then bright sun, and by nightfall, the threat of a next morning frost! Back in came the houseplants to escape the ice crystals that would surely form.

By May 9 and 10, we’ve suffered through days of drenching rains, but at least the meteorologists tell us that the drought index shows decreased danger. The water tables are replenished, the river roars by, and the threat of fires in the Montague Plains fades.

A racket of crows and scolding

grackles starts up in the island of towering white pines just the other side of the brimming frogpond. Jays and robins join forces against the threesome of crows set on cannibalizing nests, gobbling eggs and fledglings. They’re eventually driven off by the combined forces of the bird neighborhood.

Later, however, a single stealthy crow wings quietly through the yard with some prey in his beak, pursued by red-wings. That crow likely succeeded in threading his way undetected through the branches and raiding a nest. It’s the quiet ones you have to watch out for.

On May 13, the skirl of a bagpipe echoed through the mist, and drew us to a gravesite in Springdale Cemetery. About seventy of us from all corners of Turners Falls society and beyond gathered to say good-bye and honor our neighbor Walter Carlisle. That mist and the gray day seemed strangely appropriate as the piper played forth *Over the Sea to Skye*... One had to bite a lip and look away to keep a tear from forming.

Like all the others there, I had my stories of Walter and his wife Peggy. They had been my next door neighbors for most of my life: my parents bought a Carlisle-built house on Carlisle Avenue, right after the War, in 1946. The street wasn’t even paved then, just a dirt road looping above the Narrows, lined by lofty jack pines. We settled there for life when I was just six months old. Walter would have been sixteen then.

All the Carlisle siblings and extended family regularly came and went at the homestead, and since our houses were separated only by a driveway, I blended right in with the Carlisle ebb and flow.

Life drew me away from town after college, but 1972 marked a renewal of sorts for us when Walter visited our home away from home in a quiet suburb of Paris. He was one of the chaperones of a high school French trip, and spent a Sunday with us.

My wife’s mother, Maria, cooked up a Sunday dinner that Walter savored and remembered right up to see **WEST ALONG** page B6

MISS STEMPLE RECALLS THE PAST

Part XII (August 6, 1941)

In browsing the archives of the Turners Falls Herald (1940-1942) we were delighted to find the paper had tracked down Antonia J. Stemple, who had worked in various escalating capacities at the Turners Falls Reporter (1872-1922), and encouraged her to submit a regular column of her recollections.

We are reprinting that column, which ran irregularly in the Herald over an eight-month period under the title “Looking Backward,” in our own pages.

— Montague Reporter eds.

Every small town has its Poo-bah and Lord High dictator and Turners Falls was no exception.

The gentleman in question held about a score of offices in politics and in the business and financial life of the county. The one position he had not attained was the presidency of one of the banks. What he didn’t have he wanted most, naturally. He put forth every effort to gain the honor.

He was given to good living and



One of at least three buildings occupied by the Turners Falls Reporter office, above the “N.B. Hall Dining Room,” now the Between the Uprights sports bar.

was subject to occasional fits of illness. On this particular occasion the *Reporter* innocently said in its local columns that Mr. Blank, our distinguished townsman, is confined to his home with a severe attack of gout.”

A day or two after publication day our distinguished townsman

stumbled and groaned into the office and demanded to see “The Boss.” That long suffering but witty gentleman was at his desk and cordially welcomed the caller, who immediately launched into a tirade.

“Young man,” he shouted, brandishing his cane, “I want you

see **STEMPLE** page B3

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GILL and MONTAGUE

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Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 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 not open.

Tues–Thurs Noon Lunch
M, W, F 10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Monday 6/5
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday 6/6
9:30 a.m. Tech Tutoring
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
12:45 p.m. COA Meeting
Wednesday 6/7
9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach
12:30 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 6/8
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10:15 a.m. Mindful Movement
1 p.m. Cards & Games
Friday 6/9
1 p.m. Writing Group

LEVERETT

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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.

ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for activities and congregate meals.

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 2 days in advance. Call (413)-423-3649 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.

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10:30 a.m. Tai Chi
Tuesday 6/6
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch
Wednesday 6/7
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure Clinic
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
12:15 p.m. Bingo, Snacks, Laughs
Thursday 6/8
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
Noon Movie & Popcorn
Friday 6/9
9 a.m. Walking; Quilting
10 a.m. Walmart Shopping
11:30 a.m. Pizza Lunch
12:30 p.m. Painting Workshop

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.

JUNE LIBRARY LISTINGS

Weather, etc., sometimes causes changes in library events; you may want to call ahead to confirm.

Montague Public Libraries

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

ONGOING EVENTS

Every Tuesday

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Craft Time w/Angela*. Children, all ages. 3:30 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Qigong with Dvora Eisenstein*. 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.

Every Wednesday

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Story Time w/Karen*. Story, project, snacks. Young children w/ caregivers. 10:15 a.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Sylvia's Awesome Play Group*. A sand table and lots of activities for newborn to 5 years old and their guardians. 10 to 11:30 a.m. (does not meet during school vacations or snow days).

Leverett Public Library: *Tales and Tunes Story Hour w/Heleen Cardinaux*. Developed for children newborn through preschool ages, but all families welcome. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Every Thursday

Montague Center Library, Montague: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson* for children. 10 a.m.

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Knit With Us*. All skill levels welcome; facilitated by Kathy O'Shea, graduate of WEBS expert knitting program. 6 to 8 p.m.

2nd Thursday Each Month

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Knit for Charity*. Some supplies provided. 6:30 to 8 p.m.

4th Thursday Each Month

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Monthly Book Discussion*. 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Last Thursday Each Month

Leverett Library: *Lego Club*. New building challenge each week, and snack.

3:15 to 4:15 p.m.

Every Friday

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Story Hour*. Stories, crafts, music and movement with Dana Lee. Pre-schoolers and their caregivers. Through June 16. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Explore Yoga with Shay Cooper*. Mixed levels. 10 a.m. \$ or barter.

Every Saturday

Leverett Library: *Tai Chi*. 10 a.m.

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

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Tech Help*. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: *AA Open Meeting*. 6 to 7 p.m.
10 to 1:45 p.m.

2nd and 4th Saturdays

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Food Pantry*. 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Every Sunday

Wendell Free Library: *Mostly Yoga*. 10 to 11:15 a.m. Donation.

Wendell Free Library: *AA Open Meeting*. 6 to 7 p.m.

EXHIBITS

Several local libraries have monthly or bimonthly art shows. In order to apply for a show at these venues, find application forms on library websites.

Leverett Library: *Birds and Butterflies*, paintings by Louis Minks and her students. Through June.

Wendell Free Library: *Artworks by Michael J. Wing*. Paintings, drawings, two metal sculptures and wooden toys. Through June.

EVENTS

Thursday, June 1

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Adult Coloring*. 10 to 11 a.m.

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Genealogy Gathering*. 6 to 7:45 p.m.

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Environmental Awareness Group*. Read the book or watch the selected movie and meet to discuss environmental issues. Facilitated by Emily Koester. This month's selection is *Moral Ground: Ethical Action for a Planet in Peril*. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Friday, June 2

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Kids' Friday Movie is Goonies*. 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 3

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Pop-Up Adventure Playground 2017!* Old fashioned, child-directed creative play. Please bring a lunch. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Monday, June 5

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Creature Teachers@Carnegie*.

"Creature Teachers will read this wonderful book and introduce their live animals as they are presented in the story." Designed for children and their caregivers. 4 to 5 p.m.

Tuesday, June 6

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Tuesday at the Movies* is suspended for the summer and will return in the Fall.

Wednesday, June 7

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Readers' Choice*. Monthly book discussion. This month is *Homecoming* by Yaa Gyasi. 10 to 11 a.m.

New Salem Library, New Salem: *Neurofitness Class with Emily Hodos*. Exploring movement and sensory exercises. Pre-register. 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 8

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Reading in Fiction, Poetry, Non-fiction*. Monthly discussions led by Nick Fleck. 7 to 8 p.m.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Ukelele Play-Along*. Bring one or borrow one of ours. 7 to 8 p.m.

Thursday, June 15

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Rep. Paul Mark: District Office Hours*. 1 to 4 p.m.

Tuesday, June 20

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Genealogy Night*. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Friday, June 23

Dickinson Library, Northfield: Sign up for *Summer Reading Program*. This year's theme: *Building A Better World*. Runs through August 12.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Movie Night: Little Red Riding Hood*, this time set in medieval times. Part of the monthly Science Fiction and Horror Movie Series. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 29

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Summer Reading Kick Off! Building: Tall Ships & Pirate Tales*. "Ahoy! People don't just build on land. They build on water, too! Set sail with the Sciencetellers on a thrilling, action-packed adventure, at the Carnegie Library!" Designed for children grades K-5 and their caregivers. 3:30 to 4:30.

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

June is here at last – school's out soon – and we hope you're enjoying the beautiful green outside. Here's an update about local meetings you can catch scheduled regularly in our TV schedule:

- Montague selectboard meeting: Mondays at 7 p.m.
- School district meeting: Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m., and Wednesdays at 2 p.m.


Montague Community Television is looking for new board members! The board's goals for 2017 include finding a new facility for MCTV and expanding free services and outreach to local organizations. As a part of the board, members meet for one hour ten times a year, with pizza.

You can learn more on our website at montaguetelevision.org/n/135/MCTV-Looking-for-New-Board-Members, and calling (413) 863-9200 to set up

an appointment with any of our current board members: Michael Langknecht, Veronica Phaneuf, Dana Faldasz, or Mik Muller.

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, infomontaguetelevision@gmail.com, or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays.

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STEMPLE from page B1

to know I never had the gout. It was only rheumatism. What the devil do you mean by telling I had the gout?"

"The Boss" endeavored to pacify him, explaining that Mr. Blank's doctor had given him the information and he had no reason to suppose it was incorrect.

But the wrathly gentleman refused to be mollified and his face grew redder and redder as he spluttered some more. Before he hobbled out of the door he delivered an ultimatum:

"Let me tell you, young man, to keep my name out of your paper hereafter," he roared. "If my name ever appears in the Reporter again I'll shoot you! Remember that."

A month or two after this episode Mr. Blank attained his pet ambition and was elected president of the bank. In reporting the results of the annual meeting the Reporter printed the list of newly elected officers, starting off this way: President, - - - - ". Within an hour after publication our Poo-Bah burst into the office, his face purple with rage.

"What do you mean by that insult?" he demanded, thrusting the *Reporter* with the offending report marked, under the nose of "The Boss." "You've made me the laughing stock of the whole town. Why didn't you print that right and give my name? Everybody knows who's meant."

"The Boss" was the picture of

outraged innocence. "What else could I do?" he inquired without flinching. "Didn't you threaten to shoot me if your name ever appeared in the Reporter again? I didn't want to lose my life and I had to print the news, so - "

Mr. Blank threw up his hands in surrender. "You served me right," he grunted, with a sheepish grin. "I've been an old fool but if you'll just forget all my foolishness I'll apologize and behave myself hereafter."

A queer thing happened one day. A well known citizen in town, a handsome bachelor, came in and handed me an item concerning his marriage, written in the past tense. He was rather agitated and explained that he was leaving that afternoon for a neighboring city where he was to be married.

"If you don't get a telegram from me to the contrary you may publish that item, in the next issue," he said apologetically. "to tell you the truth, in confidence," he stammered, "I'm trying to get out of this marriage and I may succeed. But if you don't get the telegram you will know the wedding's gone through and it will be O.K. to publish, just as I've written."

We didn't get any telegram.

A week or so later the man and his bride returned to town. He never referred to the incident again. I wonder what the lady in the case would say if she knew what I knew.



TV REVIEW

Dirty Dancing... the Musical (ABC, 2017)

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

It seems these days, a lot of TV networks have been doing musicals. Some TV shows have even done musical episodes as part of their seasons.

I know for a fact that NBC has six of them to their name, four of them being *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Sound of Music*, *Grease*, and *Peter Pan*. *The Sound of Music* had Carrie Underwood in one of the parts. As for TV shows that have featured musical episodes, *Once Upon a Time* and the remake of the TV series *The Flash* have each done one. (The *Once Upon a Time* episode was also a wedding episode.)

Now ABC has taken a crack at it, with a musical version of *Dirty Dancing* that aired May 24.

This remake features several stars I am familiar with, including Bruce Greenwood and Debra Messing. It introduces an actor named Colt Prattles as Johnny Castle, the character played by Patrick Swayze in the 1987 original movie.

The story starts out a little differently than the original movie, which began during the summer of 1963.

Jennifer Grey's character is reminded of her first love, Johnny, and her summer with him in 1975, due to seeing a poster with the words "dirty dancing" on it and we are taken back to the summer of 1965. In the movie, we see Johnny and his dance partner at the club do a type of dance that teenagers' parents would be doing at that time. Then later, like in the film, we see Johnny and his friends do dirty dancing (the scene where Baby sees them dancing).

The remake keeps mostly on

track with the original after that, and still has the "Hungry Eyes" song in the scene where Baby learns to dance with Johnny. They are learning the dance that involves that signature lift which is known to be an iconic part of the classic.

However, it is a musical version of the movie, so it features a few songs that I believe weren't in the first picture. In fact, Johnny at one point sings a song himself. A couple of the songs are rock music songs that you would expect to hear in the 1960s.

Colt Prattles has a nice singing voice. He also is a good actor, and that, to me, means there is a good chance of his being in more musicals and films in the future. He did the famous dance scene well, and I liked hearing him say "nobody puts Baby in a corner."

The remake was a little more updated with the times by featuring black cast members. The first one wasn't like that when it came to the cast.

Patrick Swayze's song, "She Like the Wind," which he wrote himself, got put in the remake and it sounded good. Surprisingly, I also learned that Bruce Greenwood can sing as well.

Instead of just dancing in the famous "nobody puts Baby in a corner" scene, they also had those two characters singing "Time of My Life." We also get to see what happened with Johnny and Baby since that summer in 1965, which made the whole remake feel more well-rounded.

ABC wanted to do a musical and their effort paid off – I found this to be a nice film.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Treed Bear; Slow Driver; Water Bottle Party; Canalled Phone; Lady With Wheelbarrow

Monday, 5/22

7:16 a.m. Caller reporting opossum walking around in circles in middle of X Street. Animal dispatched; officer will stand by with it until DPW can come up and grab it.

5:34 p.m. [REDACTED] was arrested on a default warrant.

9:40 p.m. Caller from Vladish Avenue reporting a mama bear and three cubs in area.

Tuesday, 5/23

10:43 a.m. Report of suspicious packages at end of one of the airport runways; two backpacks and two coolers. Officers and TFFD responding. Items determined to belong to surveyors for airport.

12:42 p.m. Caller from Bulkley Street requesting to have on record that last night a mama bear and two cubs walked through his yard.

9:17 p.m. Five parties moved along from Unity Park.

Wednesday, 5/24

6:23 a.m. Caller from Burnett Street reporting mother bear and two cubs in a tree in her backyard. Caller concerned that she is so close to the elementary schools. Bus company advised. Officer on scene monitoring area while kids walk to school. Bears later moved on from area.

10 a.m. Officer stopped vehicle traveling at 30 mph in a 50 mph zone on Turners Falls Road. After several minutes conversing with operator, officer explained why he stopped her and asked if she was okay medically. She assured officer that she was and realized that going 20 mph under the speed limit was a cause for concern.

10:54 a.m. Report of bear up a tree in Dell Street area. Officer advised.

3:46 p.m. Report of drug activity at Fifth and T streets as well as at an L Street house. Caller recounted one subject who appeared to be high and nodding off near house on Fifth Street. Copy of call left for detective.

6:46 p.m. Report of two youths skateboarding in middle of Fairway Avenue. Officer spoke to parties.

9:03 p.m. Report of approximately five subjects throwing what appears to be a water bottle at windows and lights attached to Carroll's Market. Officer spoke with subjects; one female was throwing a water bottle up to her sister, who was in an apartment above the market. Other subjects were flipping water bottles on sidewalk. Crushed bottles and water visible on sidewalk. Subjects advised to

pick up bottles.

9:13 p.m. Two complaints re: dog barking for past few hours on Second Street; both callers advise this is an ongoing issue. Officer spoke with owner; dog was barking upon arrival but is not barking anymore.

Thursday, 5/25

12:46 a.m. Officer checking on a mobile home parked on Eleventh Street with door open. Motor home appears to be used primarily for storage.

1:50 a.m. One party arrested following traffic stop on Avenue A.

11:16 a.m. Report of TFHS seniors driving through Sheffield Elementary School parking lot honking their horns and being generally disruptive. Students moved along by officers. TFHS will be notified.

11:23 a.m. Report of several farm stand signs obstructing view for motorists on Ferry Road turning right onto Turners Falls Road. Officer spoke with farm owner, who agreed to move signs.

9:28 p.m. Caller from G Street reporting that a neighbor's car alarm keeps going off. When caller went over to see if female in car needed help, female became very aggressive, yelling at caller to get the f*** out of here. Officer checked area; no car alarms sounding.

Saturday, 5/27

4:05 a.m. Caller from Sunrise Terrace reports that she can see approximately five people in the rear parking lot "messing" with vehicles in lot. Area checked; negative findings.

1:03 p.m. Caller from Industrial Boulevard reporting that she and her husband just saw a man riding a bicycle with some pieces of metal strapped to the back. That metal belongs to a business. Involved male located on Turnpike Road. Caller came to scene and property was returned to them. Subject who took metal was advised that they are no longer wanted on the property.

4:54 p.m. Car into bridge on Swamp Road. Airbag deployment reported; no injuries. Car towed; MCFD en route for fluids. Report taken.

5:27 p.m. Caller reporting brown pitbull with black snout off leash in area behind baseball fields on Hillside Road. Caller states that a year ago, the same dog "charged" her while she was walking her dog. According to old records, there was an actual attack between the reported dog and the caller's small dog in March. Negative contact with anyone at the home.

7:34 p.m. Caller reporting dog barking for over an hour on Swamp Road. Officer advised owners of complaint. Officer later headed back to location due to continued barking.

7:54 p.m. Unwanted male in liquor store on Avenue A. Male advised that store does not want him back on premises. Store advised of options and proper steps to take if they do not want party back in store.

8:16 p.m. Officer reporting open side door to Shea Theater. Upon entry, a play rehearsal was in progress; officer did not interfere but did secure side door upon exit.

9:06 p.m. Caller reporting that the iPhone of one of his students was stolen during her graduation last night; phone is mapping in our town. Officer en route to station to see where it is mapping. Officer advised caller that we can attempt to locate phone; however, it appears that phone may have been tossed into canal.

10:32 p.m. Caller from McCarthy Funeral Home advising that alarm activation was from her cooking food. Fire department has received two alarm activations and is en route as precaution.

10:48 p.m. Caller from Grand Avenue stating that she and her sister just arrived home and found a lady standing in their front yard with a wheelbarrow. When they pulled into the driveway, female ran into wooded area. Unable to locate anyone in area matching description.

Sunday, 5/28

8:48 a.m. Caller from Goddard Avenue advising that he has a bat in his residence; looking to capture bat in a box and have it removed. Advised caller that all officers are currently tied up and that they do not have equipment to safely transport the bat; once out of the house it would be allowed to return into nature. Officer called back; caller was able to remove bat himself.

9:19 a.m. Caller watched fox steal chicken from neighbor's yard and run off with it; inquiring if he can legally shoot the fox with a pellet gun in order to defend the chicken. By end of call, caller no longer wanted to shoot the fox and was not looking to speak with an officer.

10:31 a.m. Caller reporting that she struck a utility pole with her vehicle on Grove Street about 10 minutes ago; states she was adjusting air conditioning in her car when she struck the pole. Officer checking on pole. Ever-source advised. Officer requests to have logged that caller was argumentative throughout encounter, making it difficult to get much information from her; caller will receive citations for accident and for having an out-of-state license and registration despite residing in MA for past several years.

2:05 p.m. Gill resident into station seeking number for environmental police dispatch re: various forms of wildlife getting into his chicken coop and harming/killing his animals.

7:57 p.m. Multiple 911 calls reporting vehicle operating erratically on Turners Falls Road before swerving off road and hitting a storm drain. One caller was directly behind vehicle, whose operator exited, began to yell at caller, and punched caller's car. Vehicle and aggressor located. No damage reported to caller's vehicle.

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STURGEON from page B1

release their vocal torrents with equal parts delirium and discretion. Use it with heavy FX to create glitchy cut-up verbal walls, or run it clean through a cheap guitar amp to get a circus-barker effect. Sing, slobber, and scream: the Barky Box can handle it!

This is Crank! I later saw videos of his performances, and he is able to improvise amazing streams of poetry fragments and hollering madness while setting off loops and other noise effects from his table full of gadgets and gizmos, all while wearing weird and wonderful costumery—mainly, triangular headpieces that are sort of sturgeon-like, though there also seems to be a testicle theme evident in some of the costumes hung up around the workshop.

A Primordial Soup

How did Crank get Crank-ed? “I was really into sturgeon, for some reason,” he explains. “As a kid I was into creatures. I knew the name of every dinosaur. It went away when I was trying to be a cool teenager, then it came back in art school when I had my disavowal of cool culture.

“I got into Dada, and Futurism – it’s way cooler than being in a punk band. I started doing my own weirdo poetry, and sturgeon came in there. For me it was like, ‘this fish looks prehistoric,’ and I was creating my own art project band, and I autographed my first tape that way. It came out of my weird cutup poetry, and I didn’t know the name would stick after 25 years. But it’s easy to be Crank: I can just be Crank! I can be my own anti-hero, give my own bad lecture on burning dog biscuits.”

Art school is at the root of this stuff. “Art school – it stirs something in the brain! I was into multi-media,” he remembers. “It was the late ‘80s. I was doing video art, and got into performance. We had a sound studio as well, it was this amalgamation: a hybrid art-and-sound was always the glue. I didn’t want to look at it in terms of sheet music. I went to art school because I didn’t want to go to music school; I wanted to make noise, but I was a terrible musician.

“The contact mic came into being simultaneously with when I decided to create projects and realized control over what I was doing was crucial.”

Crank was tired of being in “bad bands,” so he created his own thing, his “weirdo multi-media thing: it can be a video piece, a nude performance piece, a sound-noisy piece, whatever. All of that sort of converged at age 21.”

A lot of his inspiration comes from Wile E. Coyote cartoon sounds, and the concept of the mistrial: “My performances are so riddled with accidents, the idea is the technical difficulties. All the sounds I am really interested in are all these Foley sounds from Warner Bros cartoons, but depicting that visually is a different sort of thing. A lot of it is sort of like a sea cucumber: it is turning my brain – my whole body! – inside out when I do an installation.”



Crank Sturgeon's homemade contact microphones have won him a loyal following among musicians and sound artists. “I could build these and have a little scratch,” he says, “and not go into debt on tour.”

For his first job after art school, Crank worked setting up audio visuals at trade shows. It was his one and only job requiring a suit; he still wears the jacket, which he has never washed, during some of his performances. He also used business suits in one of his installations, making human-like forms inside of them and hanging them in an aerial display that dances a semi-autonomous jig.

“I love the idea of the business man suspended from the ceiling,” he explains. “It was my sort of *Take that, capitalist pig!*”

Crank has lived in the underground economy of an artist for much of his life, working odd jobs and weird gigs in order to have the freedom to take off on tour when he needs to. I watched a recent video piece of his online wherein he clearly ripped up the “american dream” with a bunch of grapes and a bathtub, using sans-pants gobbling and plopping and dunking and dripping, interspersed with proclamations of “Living the dream!” There’s a decline-of-the-Roman-empire decadence to grapes and baths and mouth over-stuffing; this piece makes an effective anti-consumer culture statement.

His installations take several days, and are made on the spot to include local detritus. For a while, he was making what he called Portable Inflatable Limbaugh Deriders: big bags of air, fused together from drop cloths and puffed up by fans. “This goes back to childhood, too,” he says. “When I was a little boy looking at old war books, I was fascinated by the turn of the century technology, these surveillance blimps. Why the hell? – they could be shot down, and they were so ugly! –and so I translated and transposed that into my own weird anarcho idea.”

Mics and Tapes

Back when “RadioShack was accessible,” Crank used to buy piezo discs by the handful and wind guitar strings around them, but found his antics killed them pretty quickly. He took a job soldering with an audio company one year (“miserable!”) and grew his skills from there, until it got to the point where people were

saying “you should sell these!”

And, well, they were right. Selling the equipment was the way to make the tour pay, to make the play pay. “God knows you can’t sell a CD of noise stuff to save your life,” he says. “But I could build these and have a little scratch, and not go into debt on tour.”

He also rigs up custom microphone applications for other performers, such as a marimba player who wanted contact mics on all his keys. He has worked with visual artists, putting speakers in paintings and suitcases. For the suitcase project, he made breath-y noises emitting from the mildewed innards of old luggage at erratic intervals, gusts of noise that he said carried the mustiness outward to the viewer.

Tape loops are a favorite device of his, and he has several players with speed controls he can mess with, but he also employs an iPad as his *doppelgänger*, performing with an image of himself performing. “I just like the tactile quality of tape, and it can partner with digital, too,” he says. “My recording stuff tends to be very collage-y.”

Crank takes field recordings: “When I go out, I always carry something to capture sounds. It’s like inhaling or keeping a sketchbook, which I always do as well. You never know when something comes along, like the rattle at the back of a Greyhound bus... it’s funny!”

One recent limited-edition Crank Sturgeon tape release is also a work of art, a hard shell completely sealing the tape inside it. He wrapped the cassette in paper, then dipped it in wood glue and then into all the crap inside his shop vac: there’s little bits of plastic and wire and sawdust stuck all over it. (There are only seven of these, because it’s not something he wants to spend a lot of time doing.)

After visiting Crank, I watched some of his live performances on YouTube. The Crank Sturgeon is a master of lightly controlled chaos. Things are looping and fuzzing and popping and he’s interacting with the equipment in dramatic ways, using his body within the art installation. The effect really is like he is



OUT OF THE PARK

By JON DOBOSZ

UNITY PARK – Hello again, everyone! We hope that you’re all enjoying your spring, despite the not-so spring-like weather we’ve been having. Nevertheless, warm weather is most certainly on its way, and soon you’ll be applying sunscreen by the gallon.

Speaking of warmer weather, we’ve come out with our slate of summer programs. We’re sure that we have something for a member of your family that will fit in with their interests.

Let’s start out with our **Summer Camp Program**. Camps are scheduled to begin Monday, July 3 and go until Friday, August 18. We have theme weeks, special events, field trips, weekly trips to Laurel Lake, and a whole bunch of other great stuff.

Some of our special events and field trips include Interskate 91, Bounce in Springfield, Look Park, and Tom Ricardi’s Birds of Prey show! Kids do not have to be registered for the entire summer, so you can pick and choose which weeks are of most interest. Our camp is also pretty friendly on your wallet, as we’re one of the more affordable summer camps you’ll see in the area.

Our friends at the food service department from the Gill-Montague School District are serving free breakfast and lunch for children under 18 over the summer, as well. Be sure to stop by Unity Park, Sheffield Elementary, Turners Falls High School, or Highland Park and get your kids a nutritious meal! Menus and location times will be published in the next few weeks.

We’ll also be offering **Skateboarding Lessons** with our friends at Let It Ride Skate Shop! These

group clinics will be offered to kids ages 6 and up in two, four week sessions. Session I begins June 27, with Session II starting July 25, and classes will be held in the morning.

Our skate park is a unique community resource, so get your kids riding now! We also wanted to note that we’ll be planning some really unique events at the Unity Skate Park this summer. Not all the pieces have been put together just yet, so be sure to keep your eyes and ears open.

Making sure that families have the opportunity to have some fun in our parks, we’ll be hosting **Tuesdays In The Park in July!** Activities will be held from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on July 11 at Highland Park in Millers Falls, July 18 in Rutters Park in Lake Pleasant, and July 25 in Montague Center Park. We’ll bring the fun, you bring the energy.

MPRD is not just for kids either. This summer we’ll be providing an **Adult Lap Swim Program** at the Turners Falls High School swimming pool on Mondays and Thursdays starting June 1. The sessions are held from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and go until Thursday, August 17. We may not have a river to swim in, but we do have a great community pool... so dive in!

That about wraps it up from here for this month. For more information on all Montague Parks & Recreation programs and services, log onto *montague.net*, check out our Facebook page, or feel free to give us a call at 863-3216. Otherwise, enjoy the remainder of your spring, get outside, and recreate!

Jon Dobosz is the director of parks & recreation for the town of Montague.

turned inside-out.

From his own descriptions of past performances on *cranksturgeon.com*:

“Anti-Pant-Hut” an unconscionable duet w/ Gaylord. Wandering out to the stage naked, the twosome proceeding to tape each other butt to butt and wrap-up in giant tigerstriped undies to the tune of amplified hand saws and a loop stating, “I know two gentlemen who in five months made five million dollars advertising products on tv...” Result? Haunting. With the amplified handsaws, many an old magazine & record met their maker. One keepsake was a particular Pat Boone LP – one side covered in nasty serrations, the other with dried bloodied fingerprints. Take that, Portland! St.Lawrence Church, Portland, ME 8.22.02

Or, more recently:

“Trianglehead Cedes to Rectangle Oracle” Rather n’ do a deep concept, Crank packed the bag with seventeen itches and pileups with a few new loops in toe. Result? While the balloons gave out, those post-it notes went up, and all gone-gets became a sin-ewy milk of texture & schlorp. A fine living room too! My Life in the Bush of Ghosts, New Paltz, NY 04.27.17

With time, derring-do, and imagination, we can become our own alien creature, something I always suspected, but never aspired to. With Crank’s equipment and inspiration, perhaps I might align to the triangular and don squid more often.

Or maybe it is enough to enjoy vicarious thrills as Crank does his thing on stage: I hope he comes out this way again soon, so I can see this unique, multidimensional art form live and in person.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

ONGOING EVENTS

EVERY SUNDAY

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

Underdog Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Jazz Night*. 6 p.m.

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

FIRST SUNDAY MONTHLY

Green Fields Market, Greenfield: *Co-op Straight-Ahead Jazz*. Balcony. Afternoons.

EVERY MONDAY

Greenfield Harmony Spring Session. No auditions. 6:45 p.m. Contact mcbrass@vermontel.net for location and details.

EVERY TUESDAY

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Story Time*: Stories, projects, and snacks for young children and their caretakers. 10:15 a.m.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Tales and Tunes Story Hour*. Ages 0 to 5 and caregivers. 10:30 a.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Jazz Series with Ted Wirt and his Hammond B3*. 7 p.m.

1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAY

The Perch (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.

2ND AND 4TH WEDNESDAYS

The Wheelhouse, Greenfield: *TNT Karaoke*. 9 p.m.

EVERY THURSDAY

Montague Center Branch Library, Montague: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers. 10 to 11 a.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Franklin County Pool League*. 6 to 11 p.m.

FIRST THURSDAYS

Underdog Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Open Mic*. 7 p.m.

EVERY THIRD THURSDAY

Tilton Library, S. Deerfield: *Book Discussion*. 6:30 p.m.

2ND AND 4TH THURSDAY

Rendezvous Turners Falls: *Scotty K's Open Mic*,

EVERY FRIDAY

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

EVERY THIRD FRIDAY

Free Arms Library, Shelburne Falls: *Open Prose and Poetry Reading*. Arrive before 7 p.m. to sign up for 5 or 10 minute slots. 7 p.m.

Element Brewing Company, Millers Falls: *Brule's Irish Band*. 6 p.m.

EVERY FOURTH FRIDAY

Community Yoga and Wellness Center, Greenfield: *Greenfield Circle Dance*. 6 to 8 p.m. \$

FIRST SATURDAY MONTHLY

Montague Common Hall: Montague Center. Montague Square Dance. Family fun, October through May. 7 p.m. \$

EXHIBITS:

Artspace, Greenfield: *Photography by Trish Crapo*. Exhibit through June 2.

VonAuersperg Gallery, Deerfield Academy: *Peter Kemble*, digital prints. Through June 12.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Pioneer Valley Perspectives by Susan Dion*, who draws her inspiration from local buildings and landscapes. Through June 26.

Hawks and Reed Performing Art Center, Greenfield: *Emerging Forms by Eric Grab*. Artist reception Friday, June 3, 4 to 7 p.m. Through June.

Leverett Crafts and Arts: *Keeping Our Heads Above Water: Oil Paintings - Images of Leverett Pond*, and a series of tiny paintings entitled *Teetering by Susan Valentine*. Artist reception Sunday, June 11, 4 to 6 p.m. Through July 2.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Paintings by Louise Minks and her students*. Through June.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *The Time Tunnel*. Installation by Adrian Montagano. Over 200 clocks! Through June 24.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *The Nearest Faraway Place* by Christin Couture. Encaustic landscape paintings. Reception Saturday, June 10, 4 p.m. Also: *Winter's Bone*, digital

photography by Carl Nardiello. Through June 25.

Sawmill River Arts Gallery, Montague: Ongoing art offerings by gallery member artists.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Portals and Passages*, a collection of platinum/palladium and gum bichromate prints by Amanda Quinby. Thru June 26.

Wendell Free Library: *Michael Wing*. Drawings, paintings, wooden toys and metal sculptures. Through June.

SUBMISSIONS:

Conway's Sestercentennial (250th birthday). Request for Proposals for one-act plays to be performed on Friday, June 9, and Saturday, June 10, 2017 at the Sportsman's Club Pavillion. Send all proposals and questions to Mike at verybratty@aol.com.

Slate Roof Press announces the 2017 Elyse Wolf Prize for their annual poetry chapbook contest. Deadline June 15. Details at: slateroofpresscontest.submittable.com.

Springfield Central Cultural District: Artists Needed for Springfield Pop-Up Galleries. Contact Morgan@SpringfieldCulture.org for details.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, JUNE 1

Energy Park, Greenfield: Coop Concerts presents: *Daniel Hales, Austin & Elliot, Boys of the Landfill*. 6 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Collected Poets featuring Jayne Benjulian, and Jim Cullen*. Poetry Reading. 7 p.m.

Hawks and Reed Performing Art Center, Greenfield: *Newpoli, It's a 4Gong Confucius, Jim Matus*. 8 p.m. \$

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Jim-Joe's 61 Ramblers, Ray Mason and Dez Roy*. 8 p.m. \$

FRIDAY, JUNE 2

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Charlemont Academy Student Art Reception*. 6 p.m.

Ashfield Town Hall, Ashfield: *Ashfield Community Theater* presents the comedy *A Delightful Quarantine by Mark Dunn*. 7 p.m. \$

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *You Don't Know Jack -- Yet*. Evening of story-telling, juggling, etc. with Jack Gordon. Portion of the proceeds to benefit Franklin County Community Meals Program. 7:30 p.m. \$

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Bok Choy*. Jazz trio. 7:30 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Big Bad Bollocks, Rev Dan, and the Dirty Catechism*. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*. Reggae Fantastico. 9 p.m. \$

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *12th Annual Family Fishing Day*. Full day of events at Barton's Cove, the Great Hall, and the Turners Falls Fishway where you can make fish paintings sponsored by Northfield Mountain Recreation & Environmental Center. 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *You Don't Know Jack -- Yet*. Evening of story-telling, juggling, etc. with Jack Gordon. Portion of the proceeds to benefit Franklin County Community Meals Program. 7:30 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Kristen Hoffman*, singer/songwriter. 8 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Jimmy Just Quit*. 9 p.m. \$

SUNDAY, JUNE 4

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Soar Your Way to Eagle Day!* Full day of activities for all ages, including projects, scavenger hunt, locally produced musical *Great to be an Eagle by Deer Paths Nature School in Wendell* (1 p.m.), and other great stuff. Programming support provided by the Wendell Arts Council, DCR, and the Connecticut River Conservancy. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Trashologist, Dr. T, in "Garbage is My Bag"*. 2 p.m. \$ (children free when accompanied by parent or guardian).

First Congregational Church, Montague Center Common: *Fourth Annual Montague Jazz Festival*. *Bad News Jazz* at 3 p.m.; *Blues Orchestra* at 4:45 p.m.; *the Doug Hewitt Group* at 6:30 p.m., and a Jazz Jam Session at 7:45 p.m., open to all.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Anybody But The Cops, Space Camp, Relentress, and Alyssa Kai*. All ages, substance free space. 8 p.m. \$

TUESDAY, JUNE 6

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Horse Lords, Old Pam, Brompteb, and Dust Witch*. Prog, noise, and polyrythm. All ages, substance free space. 8 p.m. \$

THURSDAY, JUNE 8

Energy Park, Greenfield: Coop Concerts presents: *Sheryl Stanton, Rolan LaPierre, Pat & Tex LaMountain*. 6 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Four Rivers Charter School Presents: Speak Truth to Power: Voices From Beyond the Dark*. 7 p.m. Donations.

FRIDAY, JUNE 9

Northfield Mountain Recreation & Environmental Center, Northfield: *Full Moon Kayaking & Hors d'Oeuvres*. Age 14+, at Barton's Cove. Can rent kayak if don't have one. Pre-register.

6:30 to 9 p.m.

Second Congregational Church, Greenfield: *Greenfield Public Library presents 2nd Annual Spelling Bee*. Also costume competition with prizes. 6:30 p.m. \$

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *eileen ruby & friends*, namely *Michael Nix, Malgorzata Lach, Niko Stathis, and Gregory Eichler*, with *Judith Bruneau* on percussion. Mezzo-soprano ruby "steps out of the box" for an evening of folk, jazz, and jam-band tunes. Sliding-scale donations help the Friends of the Discovery Center provide free nature programming for the public. 7 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Upstate Rubdown*. 8 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Caroline Cotter, Clara Baker*. Singer/songwriters. 8 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Mega Bog, Ruth Garbus, and Hollow Deck*. Chamber pop with jazz and psychedelic elements. All ages, substance free space. 8 p.m. \$

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutebury: *Random Sighting w/Larry Dulong*. 9 p.m.

Hawks and Reed Performing Art Center, Greenfield: *Leftöver Crack, O.F.C., Showhorses, Clitorium, All Torn Up!* 9 p.m. \$



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WEST ALONG from page B1
the last, always reminding me to “Say hello to Maria!” He remembered that day each time our paths crossed at the Second Street Bakery, Equi’s store, or at his wood pile on Carlisle Avenue.

I always figured Walter would go the way his old wood-cutter helper Monsieur Vincent had gone: like Vincent, maybe his life would end while working on that wood-pile. I thought Walter would likely put the chainsaw away for one last time, and topple over like one of the aged trees he was always wrestling with, but no. He faded away, moving slower, but never too far from his cigar.

So that May day out of time, we bid him goodbye, and remembered his later days as an Avenue A fixture, holding forth with his stories to a bevy of young women, an old *roué* and charmer, as David D. likes to call him.

A few words and remembrances, a volley of gunfire and then taps, and we drifted off like the mist, later to meet and tell a few more stories.

So it was all month, mostly under rain with a few breaks of sunshine. The rivers ran high, the sound of the Millers rushing over stones day and night, mingling with the songs of new birds that continue to arrive while others move on.

A lovely parula warbler stopped in the cherry tree over my writing

table long enough to whistle good morning and warble a quick note indicating that he had neither time nor intention to linger.

These last evenings of May have been filled with nighthawks on the wing. They knife through the skies, twenty or thirty at a time, erratic and angling in the dusk, their boomerang-shaped wings lined with a white wingbar. Just like their cousins the whippoorwill, they are under stress, their numbers dropping as habitat declines.

It is a fleeting privilege to see them passing through each May, and then again in early September. They used to nest every summer on the flat gravel roofs of Turners Falls in our youth, to be heard buzzing in the hot July nights over Avenue A. But no more.

So May ends the way it started this year, cool and gray.


But just as every dog has his day, we will have our bright sunny days of summer. Those days are just around the corner, just under the May leaf of the calendar. The sooner the better!

*When June comes – clear my throat
With wild honey! – Rench my hair
In the dew! And hold my coat!
Whoop out loud! And throw my hat!
June wants me, and I’m to spare!”*

James Whitcomb Riley
(1849-1916)



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