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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 15 – NO. 37

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 29, 2017

Baystate Plays Hardball With Strikers

By MIKE JACKSON

GREENFIELD – “It’s a strange feeling,” said Robin Merritt. “It’s an uncomfortable feeling.... I walked out at 7 p.m. last night. There was a whole plan in place, and our badges stopped working.”

“The thing that’s kind of distasteful is, they’ve had this planned,” Sarah Leonard added. “That’s why they brought the temps in for months before – to get them prepared to lock us out.”

Merritt and Leonard are emergency room nurses at Baystate Franklin, and on Monday, they were on strike. Their union, the Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA), has been negotiating with the hospital for months over a contract.

The nurses, who say the hospital is systematically short-staffed, are bargaining for full staffing grids, as well as the restoration of recently eliminated health insurance options.

But after the MNA announced a 24-hour strike action, management responded by implementing a 72-hour lockout of the 230 union nurses, from Sunday to Wednesday



Striking nurses and their supporters rallied outside the hospital Monday afternoon.

evening. The facility was staffed by temporary nurses for three days, a period parent company Baystate Health of Springfield claims is the minimum contract length the temps were available for.

It is Merritt’s first strike action, but Leonard’s second. “The [2012] strike was a very organized, planned 24-hour strike,” she said. “There was no information about hiring

an agency that needed a required amount of days. We were quite surprised by this retaliation.”

“In the last three months, we’ve had an influx of travel nurses training into our ER,” Leonard said.

In retrospect, these workers may have been an advance squad for this week’s temporary workforce – “enough to hold down the fort,”

see NURSES page A5

GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

After Years of Overbilling, School District Could Owe \$700,000 to Medicaid

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – Following revelations that the regional school district has been routinely reimbursed by the state’s Medicaid administrator for providing care to students that does not qualify for the program, the schools have notified MassHealth that the overbilling between 2010 and 2015 could total over \$700,000.

At its Tuesday night meeting, the Gill-Montague school committee authorized superintendent Michael Sullivan to continue to work with a law firm specializing in healthcare to determine the district’s liability in the matter.

The district was required to notify the state of the overpayment, according to Bulkley, Richardson and Gelinas, the firm retained after an audit of Medicaid reimbursements uncovered the error, which also led to a spending freeze this spring and staffing cuts for FY’18.

The district’s claims for re-

imbursement under the program have been processed since 2009 by New England Medical Billing, Inc. (NEMB), a South Easton-based company that is paid a flat percentage of every reimbursement. Sullivan told the committee that Gill-Montague’s relationship with NEMB would be over “in three days,” at the end of the current fiscal year.

“Is there any responsibility, or liability, on their end?” asked committee member Heather Katsoulis.

“That’s hard to say at this time,” Sullivan answered. “Any pertinent documents we have, we’ve shared with our attorney.... Depending on what’s documented in our contract with them, and just how this field works, we’ll be looking to see what the fair and right thing is to do for all the parties.”

“We are the provider,” business director Joanne Blier added, “and so, if our billing company is doing something wrong, we’re still responsible for what they did.”

see GMRSD page A4

Area Ham Operators Have a “Field Day”

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

GREENFIELD – This past weekend, Poet’s Seat Tower was transformed into a radio antenna stand by Franklin County’s corps of ham radio operators.

The Franklin County Amateur Radio Club (FCARC)



Belle Dyer of Colrain, call sign KB1NOG, operated the group’s voice-mode station from a recreational vehicle all Saturday night.

was participating in Field Day, a 24-hour preparedness exercise organized by the American Radio Relay League, the national umbrella organization for amateur radio. “We set up radio stations and antennas away from the power grid to practice communication with the idea that we would step in in a disaster,” explained Al Mason of Deerfield.

Mason, a long distance tractor trailer truck driver, was in charge of the Morse code station, and planned on broadcasting for the full 24 hours. While many truck drivers communicate by citizens band while on the road, Mason would use Morse. “I used to strap a Morse code key to my leg,” he told me.

Morse code is a useful communication system for emergencies because “it’s one of the most efficient ways to communicate in bad conditions,” said Mason. When a voice would be unintelligible through background noise, Morse can be made out. “You can hear it through static,” he said.

Mason can understand Morse by ear. By listening to what to me sounded like an unintelligible series of beeps, Mason could comprehend the operator’s call

see AMATEUR RADIO page A7

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Board OKs Solar Lease at Landfill Site

By ANNE HARDING

At Monday’s Montague selectboard meeting, airport commissioner Peter Golrick introduced new Turners Falls Airport manager Brian Camden, who has been on board for nearly a month. Camden called the town-owned airport a “diamond in the rough,” and said he looks forward to making it a more user-friendly facility.

The room was crowded with members of Turners Falls High School girls’ softball team and their coaches who were presented with a proclamation declaring the day a “Special Day of Recognition” of their amazing 23-win, 2-loss season culminating in the third straight Division 3 MIAA State Championship. The victory brings them to nine wins of the title, a state record.

The proclamation was accepted

on behalf of the team by captains Melissa Hersey, Madelyn Johnson, and Jordyn Fiske, followed by a team picture with the Selectboard.

Solar Leasing

Town administrator Steve Ellis and planner Walter Ramsey reported on progress made on the Kearsarge Energy LP solar lease. Andrew Bernstein of Kearsarge was also present.

see MONTAGUE page A6

By JOHANNA BARTLETT

WENDELL – The Friends of the Wendell Free Library established an award this year for graduating high school seniors who have dedicated their time as volunteers at the library. The Theo Bennett Wendell Library Service Award is named after Theodora Bennett, an active member of the board who passed away this spring. Her family first came here in the 1930s, and her parents are buried here.

This year, the award, which comes with a scholarship, was presented to three seniors: Aria Leelyn, Victoria Reynolds, and Zamantha Valentine, all of Wendell.

Theodora Bennett spent her summers in Wendell when she was a child, at her parents’ summer camp on West Street, when it was still a dirt road. The family’s primary residence was in New York, and Theo earned a degree from Mount Holyoke, followed by graduate work at the Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations. She returned to live in Croton-on-Hudson, where one of her career accomplishments was the founding of the Croton Housing Network, which under her leadership built affordable housing in Croton.

Theo resided in Croton and raised three

see VOLUNTEERS page A7



Zamantha Valentine (above) and Aria Leelyn (below) are two of the winners of a new award in Theo Bennett’s honor.

The Week in Local Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

This week in sports, athletes from Leverett, Wendell, Montague and the village of Turners Falls completed the Mount Washington Road Race.

Also this week, we provide an analysis of the PVCIC realignment of winter high school sports.

Mountain Race

On Saturday, June 17, Kim Nedeau of Leverett, Kelsey Allen of Wendell, Bridget MacDonald of

Montague, and Jackie Lucchesi of Turners Falls all raced up Mount Washington on the Auto Road in Pinkham Notch, NH. The occasion was the 57th Northeast Delta Dental Mount Washington Road Race.

If you’ve ever climbed Mt. Washington or even seen the bumper sticker “This Car climbed Mt. Washington”, you can imagine how tough it would be to run up that famous Auto Road. It’s a 7.6 mile course – straight up.

Well, not only did these local

see SPORTS page A6



AMY JOHNSON PHOTO

Selectboard members and the town administrator were joined Monday by the state-champion Turners Falls High School softball team.

The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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Technical Administration

About Face Computing

Founded by
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August 2002

One Partisan's Take

Jon Weissman has been involved in the labor movement since 1970, when he happened to start a job as a postal worker in Springfield the very day the Great Postal Strike kicked off in New York City.

While his local of the National Association of Letter Carriers didn't vote to join that strike, Weissman would go on to become recording secretary and then president of Branch 46, and ultimately coordinator of both Western Mass Jobs with Justice (which the letter carriers helped start) and the Pioneer Valley Central Labor Council. He retired this winter.

We ran into him during Monday's lunchtime rally at Baystate Franklin, and were curious to hear his perspective on the strike and lockout at the hospital. This interview has been abridged.

MR: Have you ever seen a lock-out start before a strike?

JW: No! I've been asking – nobody's seen it. And it makes no sense, because employers usually claim they're locking people out to avoid sabotage. That's not, obviously, the case.

The hospital says it has something to do with the timing – they have to have a three-day contract with the travelers...

MR: Isn't the thing with travel nurses that you can get them for a day?

JW: The last time they replaced the nurses, they replaced them on a one-day basis. And it's what they told the papers – that "we're gonna staff with Springfield nurses," but we know now that's not the case. It's all these, what they call travelers, but they're from the deep South apparently, and they're scabbing.

One of the [MNA] nurses was working side by side with one of them – she found out where she was from...

[We run into someone on the MNA negotiating team.]

... So he has to deal with Skoler, Abbott & Presser. This is the pre-eminent union-busting law firm in western Mass. They got hired by Baystate after they fired the world-preeminent union buster, which is Jackson Lewis... They're union avoidance law firms, but then they offer themselves up to frustrate you at the bargaining table....

So Skoler, Abbott – we have picketed them in Springfield – they do a lot of training of employers on how to avoid unions, and they are part of this multi-million-dol-

lar union busting thing that started in the '90s. The failure of the labor movement to win labor law reform under Carter was the beginning of the beginning for this industry...

MR: Why is Baystate, from your perspective, fighting so hard here?

JW: They have done things over the years that indicate that they are deathly afraid of a union coming to the Springfield hospital. It's not just the biggest workplace for nurses – it's the biggest workplace for all the other allied jobs in a hospital.

And they're deathly afraid of anything that gives the nurses the ability to organize new members, and they have been taught – by people like Jackson Lewis, and Skoler, Abbott & Presser – that the best thing to do is to defeat the union where it exists, to send a message to the worker that wants a union: "You're not going to succeed. You'll never get anywhere."

So that's what they're doing, and I'm sure it's on legal advice.... You can see that what flips the situation here is what's happening in Springfield.

MR: Which is what?

JW: The rise of a managerial class that's entirely about the bottom line, and about their own income.... [Baystate Health CEO Mark] Kerouack's going to be driving to get that salary that he thinks the structure can afford, but it can't afford it if more money goes to the bargaining units, or to the workers in general.

So this attitude is not just, "protect my revenue by keeping this contract awful, and allowing me to work the nurses to death on call-ins and lousy schedules," but also to do something that sends the message to Springfield....

They've acquired these three Hampden County hospitals that are small, intimate community hospitals – like this used to be – and they want to reshape the empire so that all the high-tech work is done in Springfield and these are feeder hospitals. From their point of view, these things shouldn't even have nurses, these other hospitals. They should all be like intake workers, CNAs; do a little intake, do a little triage, and then send them someplace else for nursing.

So the nurses in Springfield become more important to the structure, and it would be the death – from these people's point of view – the death of the empire if the nurses in Springfield unionize.

Published weekly on Thursdays.
Every other week in July and August.
No paper last week of November, or the Thursday closest to 12/25.

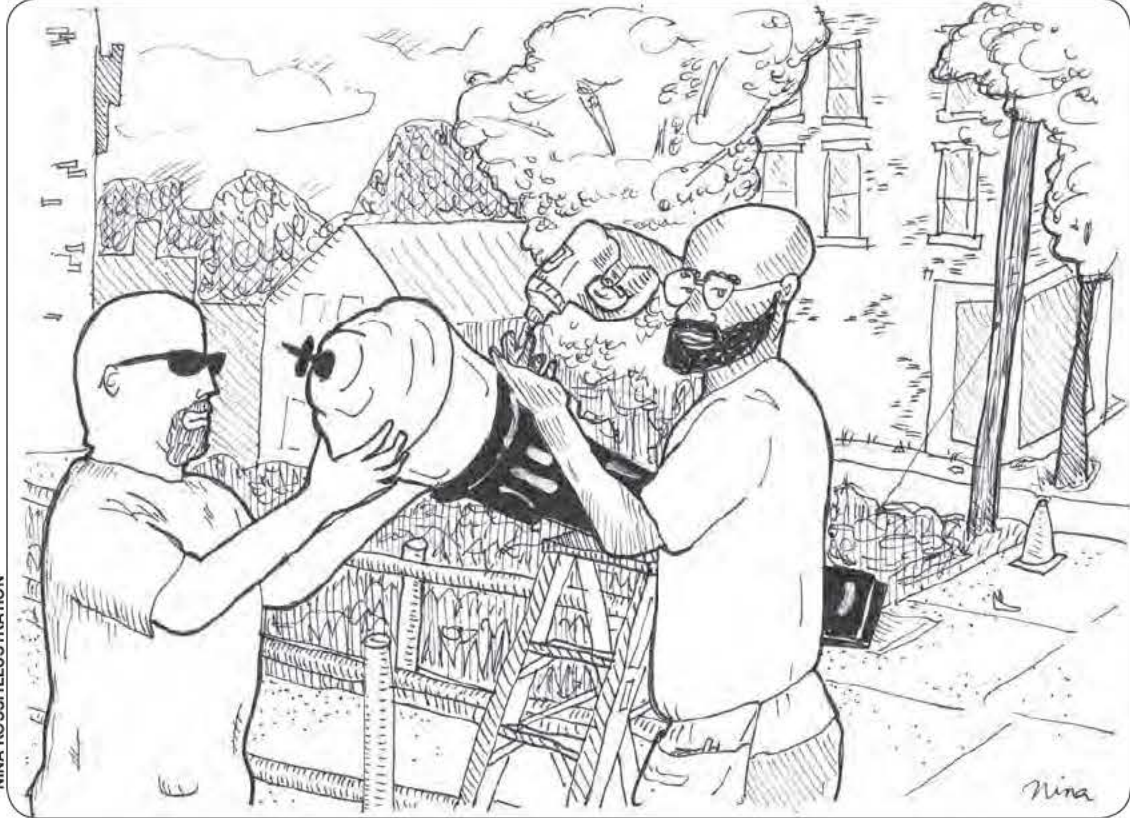
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Jay Ratelle of Chicopee and Cedrick Graham of Springfield install a new street lamp outside Greenfield Cooperative Bank on Avenue A in Turners Falls. They work for M.L. Schmitt electrical contractors.

Letters to the Editors

Likes Student Articles

I want to thank the staff and writers at the *Montague Reporter* for all you've done this school year to help your readers get to know young people who live in our community.

I am grateful that this newspaper consistently dedicates space to school-related news and also for the many other ways you recognize and celebrate young people's accomplishments in your pages.

I've particularly enjoyed reading articles written by Turners Falls High School students in the past few issues!

Jen Audley
Gill-Montague Community School Partnership

More Eagles

In the considerations for renaming the high school mascot, the name "BOLD EAGLES" continues to interest linguistically and to be of local value.

It is logical and teen supportive, to have students help choose the name. Students ascribe to Boldness and to the grandeur of our local largest bird.

Nina Keller
Millers Falls

MBI Buildout Leaves Gill Behind

As the rural build-out by the MBI and Comcast is getting praise for acting swiftly to bring the last mile solution to underserved and unserved towns in Franklin County and beyond, it has left the Town of Gill in its wake.

Gill had originally been included on the list of underserved towns slated to receive State funds, a \$5 million bond through which the MBI would help bring towns above the threshold of 96 percent served by high speed internet.

Gill's cable committee had been in negotiations with Comcast for over a year and half and came to a tentative agreement in July 2015. The Gill cable committee negotiated a compromise with Comcast to give up future Public/Education/Government (PEG) access funds by reducing its percentage from 4 to 2.5 percent of gross receipts. This reduction equated to an estimated future revenue loss of between \$90,000 and \$100,000.

For this reduction, Comcast would perform approximately \$220,000 in cable build-out in Gill. The committee was aware that the agreed upon build-out would not bring Gill over the 96% threshold, but they thought the MBI might be able to help the Town reach this goal through the State program.

In June 2015, the MBI began its RFQ process, with Comcast being one of the applicants. Gill's cable committee asked the MBI to keep

the Town on the list of underserved towns since Gill would not be above the 96% threshold.

The MBI finally responded in September, but it wasn't until after the RFQ process was over. MBI replied that Comcast had informed them Gill would in fact be above the 96% percent threshold. The Town of Gill asked the MBI to verify the data, since the Town's data did not agree. Gill's cable committee wondered why the MBI would accept Comcast's numbers without verifying those numbers with the Town.

Shortly after, Gill requested the MBI to put the town back on the list of underserved towns, and asked the MBI to find out how and from what source Comcast received its data. The answer did not come until November 2016. Comcast finally sent a letter to Gill, at the bequest of the MBI (now under new management), explaining that the original data was based on what was provided to them by the MBI, data that the Town of Gill had already informed the MBI was incorrect.

At the November 28, 2016 selectboard meeting, the MBI was asked how they could have accepted Comcast's data if Comcast was supplying them with data that the MBI had given to them? Being that it was new MBI management, they did not know.

The Town of Gill signed its 10-year cable license with Comcast in May 2016, a license that included

a 3-year period for the negotiated build-out. In what felt like salt rubbed in the broadband wound, in August 2016 the MBI negotiated a contract with Comcast to build out the underserved towns in 2 years, leaving Gill at the mercy of their contractual 3 year build-out.

Therefore, the underserved towns that are under the MBI agreement – towns that are not giving up any town revenue – are being put ahead of Gill in the rollout of cable and broadband.

We can only wonder if Governor Baker, someone who advocates for the limited role of government, realizes his State broadband initiative is actually punishing a small town like Gill that took charge of its own build-out with Comcast.

Lastly, we also hope that towns that are under MBI's agreement understand that the funds that potentially would have gone to Gill were reallocated to these towns.

Respectfully,

Greg Snedeker
Randy Crochier
John Ward
Gill Selectboard

Tom Hodak
Janet Masucci
Greg Snedeker
Charles Garbiel
Rick James
Gill Cable Access Committee

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

This edition of the *Montague Reporter* is the start to our summer **biweekly publication schedule**. Expect issues July 13 and 27, August 10 and 24, and then every week again starting in September.

Looking for some new adventures to keep you occupied, perhaps in front of a fan or if you are lucky, air conditioning? Don't have a pool? Find cool places to go and interesting people to meet!

Come to "Bring a Book, Get a Book" at Greenfield Savings Bank branch in Turners Falls this Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m. There will be a collection of gently used books perfect for children, teenagers and adults as well. Feel free to browse for that perfect book which will pique your interest.

Be sure to bring books in order to get books! Light refreshments will be provided, courtesy of the bank, in a cool, welcoming, comfy space. Come in early, as the doors will be closing promptly at 10:30 a.m.

The traditional **Independence Day fireworks** from Beacon Field in Greenfield will start Saturday, July 1, at 9:35 p.m.

There are great vantage points in Turners Falls to see the display. They included the canal area by Eleventh Street, the bike path, the Food City parking lot, the front lawn of the Carnegie Library, and Veterans Memorial Park.

Two Nolumbeka Project board members, Nur Tiven and David

Detmold will be participating in a long-distance bicycle tour, **Bike for Standing Rock**, this summer. Leaving from Mashpee, Cape Cod on July 1, the tour will continue to the Standing Rock Lakota reservation in North Dakota, 1,900 miles away, arriving sometime around the second week of August.

Nur and David will be cycling into Montague on Monday, July 3 at 5:30 p.m. Join them for a potluck that evening at Unity Park in Great Falls (across from Unity Skate Park on First Street) to hear more about their journey, which will focus on Native treaty rights, "from Plymouth Rock to Standing Rock." Donations will be accepted that evening, to help with the printing of leaflets on this topic for distribution *en route*, as well small and very lightweight gifts to be brought to Standing Rock, such as native seeds or prayer offerings.

Nur will be traveling as far as the Hudson River Valley. David, who served from 2002 to 2012 as the editor of the *Montague Reporter*, has pledged to cycle on to Standing Rock, and would appreciate any possible contacts along the way who might be supportive of this journey. (David turns 60 this week – happy birthday!)

View the developing itinerary on their website, and stay in touch for regular updates on the tour's progress via the Nolumbeka facebook page, or see bikeforstandingrock.org.

In addition to the Fourth of July, the **Gill Town Hall** will also be closed on Monday, July 3. The staff will be using vacation time and enjoying an extra-long holiday

weekend. The Town Hall will reopen on Wednesday, July 5.

All Leverett residents are invited to **Leverett's first Interdependence Day**, town-wide cooperative picnic, co-sponsored by the Leverett Select-board and the Leverett Alliance.

Folks will gather at the elementary school on Tuesday, July 4 between 4 and 7 p.m. for a do-it-yourself picnic and fun on the grounds of the school. If you have sports equipment you'd like to share, like Frisbees, soccer balls, softball equipment, please bring them. Tim Coppinger will help organize an Ultimate Frisbee game.

Bring whatever you'd like to eat and/or drink, and a blanket or chairs. A grill and watermelon will be provided. For more information or to help out, contact Pat at patfiero@yahoo.com or Paula at paula@karumacenter.org.

The **Community Summer Concert Series** at Montague Congregational Church kicks off on Wednesday, July 5. Dusti Dufresne will perform on the church lawn at 4 North Street, at 6:30 p.m.

Bring your lawn chair and enjoy a variety of toe-tapping vocal favorites. In case of rain, the event will be moved inside the church. This event is free and open to all.

Live Raptors are returning to the Great Falls Discovery Center on Thursday, July 13, from 1 to 2 p.m. Southern Vermont Natural History Museum brings live hawks, owls and falcons to the Center for a face-to-face exploration of the world of raptors.

The program is free and sponsored by Montague Catholic Social Ministries, Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center and Massachusetts DCR. Meet in the Great Hall and get your seat early.

Celebrate a traditional **New England Old Home Day** on the

New Salem Town Common on Saturday, July 15, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

New Salem's annual event is an old-fashioned fun-filled day for all ages, with an arts and crafts market, old-fashioned games, music, cake walk, pony rides, noontime parade of flags, cross saw contest, Quabbin tree walks, and much more. This year's theme, "Everybody's Welcome," will celebrate New Salem's and our nation's ethnic diversity.

The Barnes Gallery at Leverett Crafts & Arts is holding a **class in drawing and sketching** taught by artists Bill Rathbun and Walt Burnham on Saturday, July 15, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the classroom at LCA, 13 Montague Road, Leverett.

A small fee will cover supplies unless you bring your own. Otherwise, free to the public. Selected works to be displayed at the Barnes Gallery at the LCA 50th Anniversary Exhibit in September.

The LCA will also be holding an arts supply sale the week prior to the class on July 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Something to start thinking about: the *Montague Reporter* will be having a **tag sale** on Saturday, July 22, from 8 a.m. to noon. We are now reaching out to the community for donated items. So save your stuff!

The fundraiser, which will include a bake sale, *Montague Reporter* **coffee mugs** and raffle items, is sponsored by the Friends of the Montague Reporter. It is a bit early to call into the office but you can start looking in your closets, attic and garage for suitable items.

For information about what items can be accepted, drop off times and pick ups contact friendsqfmontaguereporter@gmail.com or call Lyn, 863-4779, or me, 863-5125.

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Grade 6
Ricky Hall

Grade 7
Asha Lewandowski

Grade 8
Kelli Schneider
Shelby Terounzo

GUEST EDITORIAL

Staffing Cuts: Breaking the Downward Spiral

By ANNA KOCHAN

In 2009, the average cost per student at a Massachusetts public school was \$13,080. Since then, increasing prices and the ever-changing economy have made it more difficult for schools to fund and provide necessary services for every student. This is especially true for rural school districts in low-income areas like western Massachusetts.

Most local school districts used to receive state and federal funding which accounted for 45% of the total school budget. In recent years, the federal funding only accounts for about 20% of the total budget, and school districts rely more heavily on local funding through taxes than ever. This poses an issue for school districts that are trying to provide an up-to-date and equal learning experience compared to high-income schools.

One of the most important factors for why school districts face so many cuts to their programs and staff is because of unanticipated costs. Over the last few years, increases in transportation and insurance costs have made it more difficult for schools to cover those expenses while still maintaining the same number of staff and programs without drastic action being taken.

For schools that can not keep up with rising costs, extreme actions are taken, typically in the form of staff cuts, which does more harm to the students attending low-income schools.

School choice and charter schools also play a crucial role in why schools do not have the resources or budgets they have had in years past. In some circumstances, school choice out of district can cost Massachusetts school districts up to \$5,000 per student. This number does not include any special education costs, and those types of costs are added on and paid by the sending school district.

The growth of charter schools over the past few years, and the opportunities other schools have that low-income districts do not, have especially increased the amount of students who school choice out.

School budgets and the downsizing of programs in schools have a direct relationship with each other. A school budget can reveal just how much a school can provide for an individual student through its programs and services. When a school budget leads to financial cuts, students are usually school choiced out of a district by their parents because of the small amount of opportunities available to the students and the

quality of education at the school. In rural areas, a diminishing student population can add to the financial problems school districts have.

This year alone, several school districts in Franklin County have faced budgetary complications, including Mohawk Trail, Greenfield, Pioneer Valley, and the Gill-Montague Regional school districts. All of these school districts will be eliminating positions in the upcoming year in order to comply with the new increased budgets.

These staffing cuts will ultimately lead to the restructuring of classes, such as the proposal to combine 5th and 6th grade classes at Gill Elementary for the upcoming school year. Other schools, like Pioneer, have discussed the possibility of an online based curriculum in light of staffing cuts. This, however, creates complications for districts that do not have the proper technology to support this because of budgetary issues.

The students who attend Franklin County schools are the ones who are suffering the most. As the economic problems continue to increase in schools, there will be more cutbacks on well-loved programs such as art or music. These cutbacks will limit the amount of opportunities students have for post-high school plans and the opportunities to grow

as individuals. Cuts of staff and resources are only the beginnings of these major issues to come.

In a few years time, beloved schools in this area will most likely be shut down from a combination of insufficient amount of students and a lack of resources which stem from the economic problems being created now. As a result of this, there will most likely be one large community school with multiple students from different towns attending.

We as a community need to re-evaluate the problems in schools before actions like closing down schools are taken.

The community needs to think about how important the programs and teachers within the school are, besides only caring when their high school growing up makes sufficient changes or closes down. Reevaluating this is the only way to preserve what is needed within schools and to keep students in local district schools for years to come.

Anna Kochan was a 10th grade student at Turners Falls High School this year. This editorial was originally written as an assignment in Mr. Smith's Current Events class. (After it was written, the proposal to combine grades at Gill Elementary was withdrawn.)

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GMRSD from page A1

Blier said that, since she and director of pupil services Nancy Parlakulas were hired, all they had done was provide NEMB with an updated list of the school's paraprofessionals who provide personal care to students on individual education plans.

"The vendor makes decisions and judgments on submitting that information, and what to submit and not to submit?" asked chair Timmie Smith.

"They may say, 'we don't make decisions, we process what you send us,'" Sullivan replied. "That's exactly where it's going to get interesting."

The committee voted unanimously to pay \$5,600 in legal fees already accrued, and authorized Sullivan to continue to work with the law firm to pursue the matter, though he said the district's strategy, including whether to litigate against NEMB, will need to be reached after MassHealth determines what the district owes, and what the typical responsibility of claims processors are in other districts. The situation is "not common," Sullivan said.

The Big Picture

In related news, Sullivan told the committee he had reached out to officials in Gill and Montague to set up a meeting this summer to discuss the district's long-term viability. The group is considering various dates, and Sullivan said it may be simplest to treat the session as a school committee meeting, for purposes of the state open meeting law.

Donna Fitzpatrick, the district's director of teaching and learning, was in attendance, and the committee thanked her for her service to the district. Fitzpatrick is leaving to become assistant superintendent of the Nashua, NH school district.

Sullivan outlined a plan to save the district money by not hiring a replacement for Fitzpatrick next year, but rather splitting up her duties between himself, Sheffield assistant principal Christine Limoges, executive assistant Sabrina Blanchard, and educational data services coordinator Tina Mahaney.

With some of the savings, he said, an instructional position could be created at the high school, which could take some of the workload off principal Annie Leonard. That position description would be developed collaboratively with the teachers' union.

Bullying – And Policing

During the meeting's public comment period, Charity Miller of the community group Franklin County Against Bullies introduced herself. "We have a lot of parents showing their frustration in our district," she said, adding that she herself withdrew a child from Great Falls Middle School after their unresolved bullying.

"Our children should feel safe

in our schools," she said, "but as of right now, they don't. We do not want to see what happened to Phoebe Prince in South Hadley happen here." (The 15-year-old's 2010 suicide led to criminal convictions of five of her fellow students.)

"What can our organization do to help the schools and our communities reduce bullying, and create a positive experience in the schools again?" Miller asked.

Already on the evening's agenda were reports from Sheffield Elementary and Turners Falls High School/Great Falls Middle School on the schools' anti-bullying initiatives.

Sheffield principal Melissa Pitrat and Limoges outlined both educational and disciplinary interventions at their school. Pitrat said that the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) prevents administrators from talking with victims' families about disciplinary intervention or counseling of perpetrators of bullying.

From the high school and middle school, principal Annie Leonard and assistant principal Ervin Santiago described an environment ranging from "student concern-driven organizations" such as the Upstanders Club, student mediators and the Gay Straight Alliance to disciplinary intervention.

Leonard said that on closer investigation, most experiences of bullying actually involve a "circle of conflict" involving a number of students.

Santiago said counselors and administrators often try to engage students directly in solving these problems. "Kids are very creative," he said. "They want to resolve conflict, for the most part."

When these strategies are insufficient, Santiago said, the administration sometimes seeks outside support. "I believe, and I think the staff here also believes, that we can fix the problem... Once we engage outside agencies – police, DCF, or the courts – they tend to take a more punitive approach, rather than resolving conflict and helping the kids and their parents."

Hubert asked them whether hiring a school police officer would "take the burden off your staff, and allow them to do their jobs."

Leonard said she felt police "have a particular set of skills and responsibilities," but that school administrators were empowered to approach situations in ways that were also accountable to students, parents and staff.

Later in the meeting, Sullivan provided answers to questions a public commenter had raised earlier in the month about school police.

The district is required to hire police "subject to appropriation," and neither Gill nor Montague has funded the position, he said.

During 2016, Montague police were called for school issues 19 times, but that included a number of instances in which new administrators were asking procedural advice.

Ultimately, there were three medical emergencies, and two calls "regarding handling a disruptive student" over the course of the year.

In recent years of budget cuts, the district has eliminated "a high school guidance counselor, a graduation/attendance counselor, a secondary level principal, a justice center teacher, and therapeutic program paraprofessionals," Sullivan pointed out.

"These are people with masters degrees in handling kids from tough circumstances, and kids that need people with judgment about consequences and resolving conflict," he said, adding that while a police officer would be "highly desirable as a complement to our staff," if the district had the money he would prioritize restoring those positions.

Extending the Dialogue?

During the public comment period, Rick Ducharme of Montague asked a number of questions, including details about the cost of district youth choosing and chartering out, when the high school yearbook had stopped being called *Peske-Tuk* ("which means in Indian, 'divided river'"), when the high school newspaper had stopped being called *Netop*, and when high school diplomas and class rings had stopped featuring the now-discontinued "Indian" head logo.

It is not school committee policy to answer questions posed during public comment at the same meeting, but Sullivan indicated Ducharme could expect answers.

The committee, which had held an executive session on collective bargaining before the meeting and hoped to re-enter it afterward, tabled a continuation of the process to select a new high school sports team name, citing time constraints.

Nevertheless, the controversial topic provoked an acrimonious debate during the section at the end of the meeting reserved for requesting future agenda items.

A member of the public had formally requested an invitation to discuss with the committee the results of last month's non-binding resolution in the town of Montague, in which a large majority of voters indicated they would have preferred the committee had not eliminated the "Indian" team name.

Chair Timmie Smith said that she did not want to spend time on that discussion, since the committee had since voted to adopt criteria for a team name that would rule out the "Indian" as a matter of policy. Nevertheless, she asked her colleagues to discuss the matter, and if they wanted, to instruct her to add the item to the next meeting's agenda. "I personally am going to pass the buck to you," she said.

A third of the committee – Christina Postera, Lesley Cogswell, and Cassie Damkoehler – was absent. (Erving's non-voting representative, Marisa Dalmaso-Rode, was in

attendance.)

"Any time that you're trying to mute anybody's voice is not a good thing," said Hubert. "Our community, and our kids, both felt like this committee did not listen to them, and I don't know why we would deny them the right to sit here and explain to us why we feel the way they do."

"I'm definitely with you there," said Montague's Mike Langknecht, "but we're talking about one person, who's going to be representing their own views, probably."

"One of the questions posed to us was, are you going to honor the non-binding referendum," Hubert said. "Can we get to the point where we can actually just say, 'No'?"

"Irregardless of who they are, or what we think they might have to say," said Dalmaso-Rode, "they are a taxpayer, they are a community member, they are a stakeholder. They're all of the things that we are charged with representing."

Oakes said that most of Montague's registered voters did not weigh in on the question at all, which led to a sharp argument that ended when chair Smith, who did not have a gavel within reach, banged her hand repeatedly on the table.

"I take personal offense at, giving up all the time that I did, saying that I didn't listen," said Heather Katsoulis. "Twelve hundred people voted 'Yes.' We have eight thousand people. That is 16% of our population. Most of it did not care enough to vote.... We've already voted on the policy aspect."

No vote was taken, and the committee decided to wait for absent members to return to decide on whether to invite the individual to meet.

Other Business

Hubert, recently elected representative from Gill, had tentatively volunteered at the previous meeting to serve as a liaison to his town's capital improvement planning committee, but he withdrew his offer.

That left chair Smith, who also serves on the Unit C negotiating subcommittee and as finance committee chair for Gill, and vice chair Jane Oakes, who also chairs the policy subcommittee. Oakes was nominated for the role.

No one has responded to months of attempts to contact alumni leadership of the Class of 2012, and so, in accordance with state policy, the \$1,699.41 left in the class's student activities account will be split evenly among the school's current classes and student government.

The board unanimously approved the transfer.

No one present was eager to serve on a budget subcommittee, so discussion of whether to form such a body was tabled until the absent members could rejoin the discussion.



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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Machinery Committee Formed

By GEORGE BRACE

The first order of business at Monday night's meeting of the Gill selectboard was a request for \$6,050 from the Quintus Allen Fund to be used for the purchase of 24 Chromebook computers, and a charging cart, for the Gill Elementary School.

Principal Conor Driscoll explained that the school has one Chromebook now, which receives heavy use in the upper grades. He affirmed the school believes getting more of them will provide the most bang for the buck, for both students and teachers, in a necessary upgrade to their computer and learning tools. The request was approved unanimously.

Highway Department

The board considered a purchase order request from the highway department for \$5,300 for the purchase of implements for their backhoe. Highway superintendent Mitchell LaClaire explained that the new implements would increase efficiency and provide additional flexibility and capabilities to the backhoe, particularly in digging and grading.

The discussion about the implement itself eventually became focused on budgetary considerations, having to do with the end of the fiscal year on June 30 and previous discussions about forming a Machinery Committee. The board made a

unanimous consensus decision that due to these factors, the backhoe implement purchase should instead be taken up by the Machinery Committee once it was formed.

The board and LaClaire also discussed the ongoing issue with the 2009 Sterling dump truck, and exhaust fumes in the cab. LaClaire said he was not finding fault with previous work that had been done, but just wanted the truck fixed. He reported that he had spoken with one of the vendors who had worked on it previously, who said he "wanted it back" because he may have an insight as to what might be causing the problem with the fumes.

It was decided to send the truck back to this vendor.

The board asked why the truck was being parked outside, and not in the garage. LaClaire explained that equipment gets moved around a lot, and that it would be back under cover in the garage soon.

LaClaire said he felt that some inaccurate information had been disseminated which reflected poorly on the highway department. There was unanimous agreement that no one wants inaccurate information.

Selectboard member Greg Snedeker expressed the opinion that a Machinery Committee would be helpful in avoiding such misunderstandings in the future, and that all sides would benefit from an opportunity to be

heard in open meetings.

The board heard of an offer to sell a tree-trimming truck to the town. Discussion focused on the operating cost of the truck, rather than its price, being an issue. Selectboard chair Randy Crochier said he felt the board did not have enough information to make a decision, and this seemed to be the consensus.

Later in the meeting, the board unanimously voted to form a three-member Machinery Advisory Committee. They considered two options regarding the members' term length. Amidst a joke or two, it was decided that one-year terms would be best, and that the members should be John Ward, Dan Trenholm, and Fred Chase II.

It was also noted that Ward, as a member of the selectboard, could not serve as a regular member of a committee they oversee, but would serve on it as a representative of the selectboard. This decision also passed, 2-0, with Ward abstaining.

Bumps, Poles, and Cameras

The board considered a request by the Mount Hermon School for some speed bumps on Mount Hermon Road. They decided that research was needed, and the matter would be re-addressed in the future once that research was done.

The board conducted a pole hearing to consider a petition for a util-



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ity pole to be erected on town land adjacent to Mountain Road. Rick Creigle appeared on behalf of Ever-source to address the board.

A nearby resident also appeared, in order to express concern over the placement of the pole. Upon being shown the plan he had no objection, and the petition was approved by unanimous vote.

The board took up the status of the surveillance cameras proposed for the French King Bridge. There was discussion on the benefits and desirability of the cameras in possibly helping prevent suicides, but also avoiding the expense, risk, and psychological issues involved

in searching for suspected victims, which the cameras would hopefully help to alleviate.

It was reported that the project is in the works, and there needs to be communication with Erving as to its implementation. Crochier noted, "It's time."

School District

The board read a memo from the superintendent of the Gill-Montague regional school district, Michael Sullivan, suggesting that ongoing discussions be held between himself, the school committee, and members of boards or committees in Gill and Montague. These meetings would function to exchange ideas and concerns of mutual interest.

Snedeker said he thought these meetings would be helpful and were worth doing, particularly in the area of financial planning. Crochier noted that such meetings should be transparent. The board was in favor of such meetings and turned their attention to scheduling issues. They are pursuing the matter.

Regarding the new water treatment system for the Gill Elementary school well, it was reported that an email was being sent to the engineer on the following day. Crochier said he wanted to see the system installed before the beginning of the new school year.

Other Business

The board rejected a sewer abatement request from Chris Peletier, due to its being over 30 days old, by a unanimous vote.

FY'18 appointments were discussed and adopted by unanimous vote, with one change: the inclusion of a selectboard representative on the cable access committee.

The board unanimously approved the renewal of an agreement to pool inspection services with other towns in the county.

The board discussed ongoing issues with Comcast's slow progress in upgrading Gill's cable service. It was noted that something does not seem right about the process, as Gill has done a lot of the necessary work and spent money on their end, while towns which have not done such things are receiving faster service (see letter, page A2).

The board took up a request to present Sergeant Chris Redmond with a certificate of recognition on his 25th anniversary of service on July 1. It was immediately approved and as the board began signing it a statement was made that he has been a "major asset to this town" in many areas, to which all nodded and added

NURSES from page A1

Merritt speculated.

"They're putting them up at the Red Roof Inn, and shuttling them back and forth for the last few months," said oncology nurse Missy Smith. "But, they 'don't have money'."

The women said they had spoken with travel nurses from Virginia and Florida, as well as temporary security workers from Georgia.

In-House Insurance

"It's relatively rare for a hospital employer to do a lockout," said Dana Simon, a campaign director with MNA who has been the union's negotiator during bargaining. "And I've been talking to friends all over the labor movement, all over the country — no one has ever heard of a lockout beginning before a strike."

"The only way to interpret that is, it's just retaliatory."

Baystate Health announced that the strike was "illegal" and appealed to the regional National Labor Relations Board for an injunction, but the NLRB did not agree.

"It's pretty apparent from their conduct that nothing they're doing has anything to do with this hospital," he said. "It's all about their attempts to lower benefits, and other standards, to the lower common denominator of what the non-union workers in the much larger Springfield facility have."

The nurses' contract includes health insurance provided by Health New England, a subsidiary of Baystate Health itself. Simon explained that three tiers of plans used to be available, but that two years ago, in the middle of a contract, the company eliminated the "gold" plan.

"Our position is, that was illegal," he said. That charge is currently in private arbitration.

"When we were in bargaining in January — demanding they bar-

gain over health insurance — they eliminated the 'silver plan,'" Simon continued. "They never made a contract proposal to eliminate the plan — they just did it. So, that was an unfair labor practice."

Simon said that the union has filed 13 separate unfair labor practice grievances against Baystate so far during the dispute.

Out of the Woodwork

"It's not just the nurses in Springfield," says Donna Stern, a psychiatric nurse who co-chairs her union's bargaining committee.

"I would say it's all the workers at Baystate that are watching this pretty closely. And also, it's our security officers who just voted yes for a union, and our skilled maintenance workers."

Both the maintenance and security units at BFMC have recently won union representation, and will be negotiating their first contracts in coming months.

"What Baystate doesn't realize is this is an old labor town," Stern said. "Maybe it's not as visual as it once was, when the industry was still here, but it's still a union town. I think with the nurses being so strong, it's revived some of the old union activists — they're coming out of the woodwork."

The union held a number of rallies this week, beginning Sunday evening, when over 200 community members gathered across from the hospital entrance to greet nurses as they were escorted out, mid-shift.

At a lunchtime rally Monday, numerous drivers honked their horns enthusiastically as they passed the High Street picket line.

The nurses and their supporters rallied on the town common on Tuesday afternoon, and on Wednesday, they gathered at Greenfield Community College. The college's president, Bob Pura, serves on Bay-

state Health's board of trustees.

A State of Exception

Stern told the *Reporter* Wednesday night that she and bargaining committee co-chair Jillian Sicard-Cycz were escorted out of the hospital by police, on the orders of hospital president Cindy Russo and chief nursing officer Leesa-Lee Keith, after they accompanied fellow nurses to work when the lockout expired.

"I said, 'it's right in our contract that we can be here,'" Stern said. "She said, 'Not during a Disaster D' She said, 'Our policy super-

sedes the contract.' I said, 'No, it does not!'"

"The policy says you're supposed to alert every employee if there's a Disaster D. I'd like to know what's the disaster. Usually that means there's a multi-vehicle accident or a major snowstorm — some sort of actual disaster," Stern continued.

"They should be absolutely ashamed of themselves, to treat their nurses with such disrespect. They're going to have more unfair labor charges coming their way for that kind of behavior."



A Press Lockout?

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS — The above article covers only one side of a labor dispute, though not for lack of trying.

Baystate Health's website directs journalists to contact an email address "[d]uring normal business hours." I sent a request for an interview to that address at 3:24 p.m. Tuesday, and never received any response.

Around 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, I called a dispatch phone number indicated for use "after business hours," and received a call back from Shelly Hazlett, Baystate's manager of public affairs. Hazlett was uninterested in letting me ask any questions, saying an official statement would be issued soon.

I received the press release at 9:07 p.m. It said the hospital's "emergency preparedness plan" had been "extremely effective" and would remain in effect until noon Thursday. It also reported MNA representatives had been escorted from the hospital by police, "[s]ince they were not scheduled to work."

I replied to Hazlett with follow-up questions at 9:50 p.m., but had received no response by 3:58 a.m. Thursday, the time this page was finalized for print.

These were my unanswered questions:

- *What agencies did Baystate contract with to staff the facility with travel nurses?*
- *How many travel nurses were employed this week?*
- *For how long were travel nurses training at BFMC in anticipation of the potential strike and lockout?*
- *When is the next session of contract negotiations expected to be held?*
- *What was the rationale for invoking the disaster plan?*
- *Does the language of the Baystate-MNA contract indicate that its terms are suspended while a disaster plan is in effect? (I'm just trying to understand the contours of the politics here — MNA reps have indicated to the Reporter that they believe their contract entitles them to be present at the facility when their members are working, etc.)*

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MONTAGUE from page A1

The company plans to install arrays on the capped landfill site, and the site west of the former gravel pit. Bernstein said survey results detailing roadway access are expected this week, and that the company hopes to start construction of the 6-MW arrays in the next two months.

Bernstein expressed frustration over the length of time it has taken to complete an interconnection agreement with Eversource, which was filed more than 14 months ago. State incentives drop by 5% next January, so Kearsarge is eager to begin construction.

On another note, Eversource has been working with substation and distribution line upgrades which should support a possible 1.4-MW array at the site of the old burn dump.

Ellis noted the agreement includes lease payments, power purchase agreements for the town, and a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) agreement, currently being negotiated with the assessors. Once the PILOT agreement is finalized, it will be presented at a future meeting.

The board approved a motion to execute the agreement, contingent on the roadway access being fully defined.

Annex Developing

Town planner Walter Ramsey and developer Robert Obear were on hand to request a change in the real estate agreement over the Railroad Salvage Annex building, scheduled to close in August.

Obear’s proposal was accepted last summer, but he requested a reduction in price from \$10,000 to \$1,000, after estimates for water and sewer upgrades, including a tie-in to the G Street sewer with a pumping system, came in around \$150,000. A viable septic system alternative does not appear feasible, although Ramsey said he continues to explore other options. The request was approved.

The town was approved for state funding to do a feasibility study on the nearby Sixth Street Bridge for possible biking and walking use as well as a mechanism to expand utility, sewer and water lines. If a project proves feasible, Ramsey believes the work could pave the way for future development sites.

The board approved letters of support for two local applications to the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency’s “Collaborative Workspace” grant program. The “fit-out” grants can be up to \$250,000.

Obear is applying for funds for the Annex project, and Richard Widmer is applying for funds to continue his work on the former St. John’s Church in Millers Falls. Applicants must provide the matching funds for any grants awarded.

Millers Falls resident Jeanne Golrick reported on several recorded real estate transactions and claimed the public record shows the town does not own the Map 3, Lot 89 – on which the Railroad Salvage Annex building stands – but rather owns

the actual former mill building itself, which others believe she owns, and which is in worse shape.

Ellis and Ramsey said they would investigate her claim with legal counsel.

Cider Tasting

Lisa Davol of the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce petitioned the selectboard with an opportunity for Montague to participate in the 23rd annual Franklin County Cider Days the first weekend in November. Davol had previously met with recreation director Jon Dobosz to discuss logistics of holding the festival’s “salon” in Unity Park.

More than 90 cider makers from North America and Europe are expected to participate in the salon event, which is the world’s longest-running hard cider tasting. With two afternoon seatings, the salon usually sells out, and Davol anticipates the event will draw about 350 people to downtown Turners Falls.

The board gave the go-ahead. The recreation commission has already approved the event, and the Chamber will work with Ellis and assistant Wendy Bogusz to make sure the necessary permits and insurance are in place.

Waste Spending?

The board approved the FY’18 memorandum of understanding with the Franklin County Solid Waste District for hauling services, effective July 1, as well as a transfer of \$2,000 from “health insurance benefits” line in the wastewater budget to cover a temporary FY’17 deficit in the “short term interest” line for the same department. The request, from town accountant Carolyn Olson, was related to the timing of certain fund receipts.

The board also approved a request to transfer \$28,000 from the reserve fund to cover anticipated legal costs, bringing the total to \$98,000. Ellis reported that legal expenses can be difficult to budget, as they vary widely from year to year.

Jeanne Golrick requested that a breakdown of legal expenses be included in the annual town meeting Reports. Ellis and the selectboard agreed that some details could be added to the report, assuming no violations of confidentiality, and noted the finance committee was also looking for this type of information.

Ellis noted that not all the town’s legal expenses would be covered in the \$98,000 line item, as some departments, such as the assessors, have their own legal budget lines.

Peter Golrick said he would like to know how much the new records request law is costing the town, and Ellis replied that records requests usually involve staff time rather than legal costs, though there have been some expenses in that area.

Idea Exchanging

There was a brief discussion surrounding a letter sent by Gill-Montague superintendent Sullivan to the town administrators, finance

committee chairs and selectboard chairs of Gill and Montague, as well as the chair of the Erving school committee.

Sullivan has proposed a series of talks to “exchange ideas and concerns of mutual interest” – in particular, regarding feedback for the district’s development of a three-year strategic plan and fiscal sustainability. Ellis said he planned to meet with the superintendent on Wednesday to learn more.

Other Business

Brian McHugh of the Franklin County Regional Housing Authority requested and was approved for a request to move \$3,900 in repaid funds to the FY’16 loan fund.

Ramsey reported an award of \$168,610 from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources for six projects included in a Green Communities grant application.

The awards include \$66,860 for several projects at the Sheffield Elementary School: recommissioning hot water pumps, lighting sensors, replacement of rooftop HVAC units for the library and cafeteria; \$69,750 to complete HVAC ductwork at the Shea Theater; and \$32,000 for the conversion from oil to propane for the Carnegie Library furnace and air conditioning system.

Ramsey said he was concerned about the adequacy of the library grant, as he had applied for \$78,000, and the awards have very specific usage restrictions. The town will also receive technical assistance funding from FRCOG.

A multitude of appointments were approved by the selectboard, ranging from one to five years. A new tracking document has been established which should help track term lengths, appointments, and contact information more easily than in the past.

Two requests for use of public property were granted. The Turners Falls softball team will hold a helmet drive July 1 or 2, weather dependent, on Avenue A at Third and Seventh streets, with the restriction that minors cannot be in the road.

The Northampton Cycling Club and USA Cycling Inc. will hold their annual cycling events on Industrial Boulevard July 5, 12, and 19 and August 2 from 5 to 8 p.m.

Ellis requested some flexibility in moving to the biweekly summer schedule to accommodate time sensitive issues, or over-packed agendas. Board members were in favor of keeping to the published schedule, but willing to meet if needed.

Jeanne Golrick reminded the board of a time when the selectboard rotated meetings throughout the villages during the summers. There was discussion of possibly implementing quarterly public forums in the villages, or perhaps open “office hours,” where members of the public could drop in for informal discussions.

Ellis requested this topic be on the agenda for the next meeting, which will be held July 10 at the town hall.



SPORTS from page A1

ladies finish the grueling race, but they also did pretty well for themselves. 1,049 runners from all over the United States, Canada and from as far away as Africa competed in the road race. And out of the thousand-plus athletes, Nedeau finished an amazing 48th place, completing the course in just 1:23:02.

She was also the seventh-fastest female on the course, and third for females ages 35-39.

Ms. Nedeau also helped her team, Acidotic Racing, capture second place for Female Open Teams.

Allen finished three minutes behind her, with a time of 1:26:06. She was the seventh fastest female, and finished 63 overall. Amongst females 30 to 34, Ms. Allen placed fourth. Her team, the Western Mass Distance Project, finished third in

the Open Team Female Category.

MacDonald, who ran for the Sugarloaf Mountain Athletics Team, ran the mountain in 1:50:37, finishing 345th overall and 21st for females between 30 and 34.

Lucchesi was the second-fastest female in the 65-69 age category, and beat almost half of the field, finishing 564th. She completed the course in just 2:03:56, which was good for 155th place among all the ladies.

PVIAC Realignments

The Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference announced their 2017-2020 fall alignments for fall sports. These changes directly affect a team’s chance to make the playoffs while creating new rivalries and renewing some old ones.

see **SPORTS** next page

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Outside Assessor Decision Likely

By KATE LINDROOS

On Tuesday night, the Leverett selectboard came closer to finalizing a decision on replacing retiring administrative assessor Steve Schmidt. An in-depth interview was conducted with Harald Scheid, founder of the assessing firm Regional Resource Group Inc. (RRG).

Scheid presented a detailed contract of services for the selectboard to review. Although hiring a contracted assessor would be a major change for Leverett, there are certain benefits to doing so. RRG, which is based in Leominster, is currently working for 24 municipalities in the area.

An outside assessing firm would provide a specific type of continuity. RRG offers a collection of professionals who work in concert, and therefore projects would continue uninterrupted regardless of staff changes. In addition, RRG has, on file, property values from surrounding communities and, therefore, any future major tax abatement cases would be easier to handle.

Logistically, there are different options to consider moving forward. According to Scheid, RRG is a “soup to nuts” type company, though Leverett could decide to pick any or all of the services offered. The current proposal covers almost all of the town’s needs, and has a person in town hall for two half-days a week.

The selectboard will carefully review the proposal, and plans to continue this discussion as soon as possible. Stay tuned.

Appointments, New and Old

The board moved to appoint George Drake to the Municipal Light Plant board. Drake previously served on the broadband advisory committee. Peter d’Errico will be stepping down, but will continue to help out

on an as-needed basis.

Upon d’Errico’s departing, he was presented with a “non-compete agreement” that took the form of a humorous poem entitled “The Engineer’s Dilemma.” The attendees enjoyed the recitation of the poem.

Afterwards, the selectboard approved the reappointment of a number of three-year terms on a variety of town boards and committees that are each integral to town operations.

Grants and Other Business

The board approved and signed an awarded Green Communities Grant. \$68,000 was provided through the program for lighting at the school, library, and public safety buildings.

At the previous meeting, there had been hope that a grant from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program could help bring a water line from Amherst to the five properties near the capped landfill.

Apparently, the program is for loans only, and not grants. In addition, the town of Amherst would need to apply for said loan. In response to this, Amherst has said they could find better deals elsewhere.

In other water news, a follow-up water system meeting will be held at the school in August. The meeting is in response to a previous inspection, which requested that an abandoned well be shut down although, apparently, the well on the property is not abandoned.

The night ended with a requested clarification on how to register a complaint against a town employee. This was prompted by an attendee at the meeting, a highway department employee, who spoke about his various concerns.

The selectboard clarified the proper procedure, and expressed hope that the disagreements can be settled amicably.

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SPORTS from previous page

The Turners Falls golf team saw the greatest shift in their league, while the volleyball team’s conference remained untouched. The top three field hockey teams from the old West Division were moved to the Bi-County Division, and the Intercounty North Football League welcomes an old nemesis of Powertown.

Volleyball: The Northern Volleyball Class remains unchanged. The Blue Ladies will play 15 regular-season games, which includes two games against the other teams in their class – Athol, Greenfield, Mahar, Mohawk, and Pioneer – and one game against foes from the Southern Class (Belchertown, Easthampton, Sabnis, South Hadley, Chicopee).

Golf: Both Turners Falls and Greenfield were moved from Bi-County North to the newly created Bi-County East Class. Each team in the class – again, Athol, Greenfield, Mahar, Mohawk, and Pioneer – will play each other twice for 12 total matches.

Ware will be the biggest challenge for Turners, as they beat Powertown 21.5 to 2.5 last year and finished with a record of 13–3. Turners also played Saint Mary last season, swinging to an 8-8 tie.

Field Hockey: The top three teams from last year’s West Conference (Holyoke, Turners, Southwick) are moving to the Bi-county Conference to join Mohawk, Mahar and Palmer.

Turners is scheduled to play each Bi-County team twice, and Athol, Central, Franklin Tech, Amherst, Belchertown, and Palmer once, for a total of 16 games.

Football: Do you remember Easthampton? They’re the team that beat the Tribe Back in 2013, when Turners was 5–0. Then in ’14, they came to town sporting a 5–1 record and the Tribe beat them in a knock-down drag-out fight. Two years ago, Easthampton handed Turners a loss in the season opener.

Well, welcome back, Eagles. The Intercounty North League has expanded by one team this year. Now Easthampton joins Athol, Frontier, Franklin Tech, Greenfield, Mahar, and of course, Turners Falls.



VOLUNTEERS from page A1

children, spending summers in the house in Wendell. Upon retirement, she winterized the Wendell house, and came to live full time, maintaining a place for her grandchildren to visit in the summertime.

As a resident of the town, she became a dedicated volunteer at the Wendell Free Library, as a member of the board of the Friends of the Wendell Free Library. The library was her passion, and she spent many long hours helping to raise money to support the library. Among her other contributions, every year she and her husband Charlie opened their beautifully restored colonial home for the annual holiday library party for volunteers.

Not Just For Books

One of the award recipients is Zamantha Valentine, a graduate of Amherst Regional High School, who describes her time at the Wendell Free Library very positively. She had always loved books, but says she especially liked this library – she liked the building, which became the home of the library a short ten years ago, and which is spacious, with high windows and comfortable places to “hang out”.

Zamantha describes it as “not an exclusive place just for people who read books,” but as a center of community, with people coming in and out, checking out videos, or working in the Herrick Room. She says that she’s basically an introvert, and that working at the circulation desk could at times be a challenge, but that she loved being there.

Zamantha is an artist who especially enjoys sculpture, because it is hands-on work, and she sees herself as “at home

in the physical world.” This includes the natural world, evidenced by her love of hiking and being outdoors in general. She attended Leverett Elementary School as a child, which she says she loved because there were lots of hands-on activities. She says her teachers were great, cared about kids, and that she liked the smaller class sizes.

Zamantha sees college in her future, but is not ready to begin just yet, hoping to work for a time and then perhaps to go abroad, to “gain some life experience.”

The Community Hub

Aria Leelyn recently graduated from Mahar Regional High School, and has been accepted to the University of North Carolina in Asheville, NC, where she intends to major in anthropology and minor in wildlife biology. Right now she is considering a career as a primatologist.

While waiting to begin college, she is working this summer at the Greenfield Big Y. She lives at home in Wendell with her very supportive two moms, one cat, two dogs, and three chickens.

Aria’s involvement at the library goes back a long way, from the time when her family first moved to Wendell from Greenfield. She had always been an enthusiastic reader, often reading two books a day.

She went to the library that summer in hopes of “making some friends before she started middle school” at Mahar. There she not only made her first contacts in town, but working at the circulation desk, she also discovered the hub of the Wendell community, where she greeted many of the town’s community members.

Aria says that the “sense of commu-

nity” she found there has helped her to hone her people skills, and to appreciate the importance of being a part of a community and contributing to it. Now she is embarking on another fresh start, and like most college freshmen, knows that she will be starting all over in making a connection to a new community. She is already planning to work at her college library, and expects to meet lots of new people that way.

She attributes her own open-mindedness to time she has spent at the circulation desk listening to stories told by patrons. For example, she says, she has “enjoyed the stories that elderly patrons have told her about times past,” and discovered by talking to them how much she has in common with them.

When asked if she knew who Theo Bennett was, Aria remembered talking to her on a couple of occasions, and that Theo seemed to know “how to talk to teenagers, and how to be approachable to them.” In fact, at the memorial service for Theo in Wendell last month, people spoke of her talent for engaging young people in conversation.

The third recipient of the Theo Bennett award is Victoria Reynolds, who was unavailable to be interviewed. She also volunteered at the library when she arrived here from out of state, starting middle school.

Victoria just graduated from Franklin County Technical School, and will attend Greenfield Community College in the fall. As with the other two recipients, library director Rosie Heidkamp spoke very highly of her dedication to the library.



AMATEUR RADIO from A1

beeps, Mason could comprehend the operator’s call sign, that they were using four transmitters, that they were operating on auxiliary power (meaning off-grid), and the abbreviation *CQCQ*, which means “Seek You.” There are many abbreviations like this in Morse Code. 73 stands for “best regards,” 88 means “hugs and kisses,” GB is “God bless,” and YL means “girlfriend”, as in “young lady.”

Morse, until recently, was especially important in the maritime world. During Thor Heyerdahl’s 1947 crossing of the Pacific in the balsawood raft Kon-Tiki, Morse was the only line of communication he and his crew had with the rest of humanity. Heyerdahl writes about the uncanny joy felt when, after weeks in a radio dead zone created by the Andes Mountains, they finally made contact with a ham:

“It was a strange thought for us that evening that a total stranger called Hal, a chance moving-picture operator far away among the swarming population of Los Angeles, was the only person in the world but ourselves who knew where we were and that we were well.”

Morse was finally abandoned by the Navy and Coast Guard in the 1990s. The French Navy’s last Morse communication, on July 12, 1999, was: “Calling all. This is our last cry before our eternal silence.” Morse is most popular today among ham radio hobbyists, and the FCC still issues Radiotelegraph Operator’s Licenses for Morse operators.

A Special Niche

The FCARC, while preparing for big disasters, frequently lend their communication skills in more minor situations. Phil Grant explained that “Ham radio has always been a big deal. Especially Desert Storm.” During wartime, family members who are curious about what the situation



Al Mason of Deerfield, WG1H, operates a Morse code station overnight in a mosquito-net tent at Poet’s Seat last Saturday night.

is really like in Basra, for example, can tune in a ham operator there.

Grant made contacts with hams during Tropical Storm Irene, and after the earthquake in Haiti.

Amateur Radio Clubs fill a special niche in the emergency management ecosystem as organizing points for hobbyist citizens. Some groups of amateur radio operators have formal arrangements to provide services for FEMA, DHS, the Red Cross, and other response organizations.

“Police, fire, and rescue need a lot of eyes and ears,” explained Grant. “Sometimes we’re overzealous – we’re volunteers.” FCARC also provides radio support for many of the road races that happen around here, such as the Sawmill River 10K and the Deerfield Dirt-Road Randonnée.

Understanding radio requires knowledge not just of particle physics, but also of more worldly phenomena, like weather and space weather. According to Al Woodhull, president of the FCARC, by aiming one’s antenna properly, a ham can bounce a signal off the moon or the tail of a meteor. However, this does not serve a special purpose or change the effectiveness of the communication.

The Northern Lights also affect radio. “Hams love the Aurora Borealis,” Woodhull told me. “You don’t know what you’re gonna get.”

Amateur radio is also the only way one can talk to an astronaut in space. “You have to make a schedule to talk to ISS [International Space Station],” he said. “They have a lot to do.”

Electrical Energy

Radio, light, and electricity are all the same thing: electromagnetic radiation. Electromagnetic radiation is the force at work in microwaves, radar, x-rays, television, and radio. Possibly because of amateur radio’s potential to play with this animating force of the universe, some ham operators approach the hobby with a spiritual attitude. Bruce Cowle, who was operating Field Day’s unofficial fifth station out of his white Crown Victoria, shares this perspective.

Cowle, a FCARC member, was lying in the driver’s seat as I ap-

proached his car. He was happy to show me around his vehicle, which he had heavily modified. Cowle had doctored his engine by installing an HHO system, a system that uses hydrogen from water to increase the efficiency of the engine.

He explained how it works: “Water is a liquid, all right? By applying electricity to water it turns to gas. But not just any gas. You only need a couple volts. It goes into the carburetor as gas, and explodes and comes out the tailpipe as water. It’s difficult to explain but the science has been around for 200 years. There’s hundreds of thousands of people doing it.”

The water for his HHO system was stored in two glass jars that plugged into the air intake in the front of the Crown Vic. He operated it from a wooden control panel, studded with light switches. The HHO system has a tendency to overheat the engine, and so Cowle installed a temperature gauge that rises out of the hood like a blower on a hot rod. Inside the cab he’d installed a rotating rod to regulate the amount of electricity going into the water.

Cowle has, in fact, measured the effectiveness of his HHO system. He demonstrated by holding his fingers close to my face, a tenth of an inch apart, the width of a coin, like he was squashing someone’s head in the distance: “This dime of water got me 33% more. I drove to Shaw’s in New Hampshire and then came back and refilled. I got 31 miles per gallon. It’s not even a shot, if you drink whiskey.”

Cowle also builds antennas. In addition to two large monopole antennas on the roof of his car, he had set up his own homemade antenna on the edge of the cliff. It was made of a thick, six-foot-tall metal rod, sheathed in plastic, then wrapped in copper. He had wired it to his car.

“It took me four or five days to build,” he explained. At first he’d

said that it was a Tesla coil, but later said it was just an antenna. He invited me to his home, where he is “harvesting electrical energy from the atmosphere,” using a long-wire antenna he constructed.

Obsolescence-Proof

Most of the 40 members of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club have their own transceivers, antennae, and power source. Many, like Cowle, even have the skills to build their own.

“We can always go back to building our own radios,” says Grant. “Al and I, we know how to build ‘em.” Grant did, in fact build the aluminum Yagi antenna that rose skyward from the top of Poet’s Seat Tower. Yagi antennas look like an old TV antenna: a central rod with multiple, shorter, perpendicular elements. Grant’s had four of these. “Every element has to be a certain length, a certain distance between ‘em,” he said.

During the Kon-Tiki crew’s epic navigation of the Pacific Ocean, their only lifeline to humanity was a shortwave radio and a Morse key. While it’s unlikely that most of us will find ourselves adrift on a raft, many of us have found ourselves gone astray in the woods – or metaphorically stranded. In America, one way of becoming lost is being without our infrastructural systems that we rely on so heavily.

Amateur radio operators are cognizant of the danger that this situation creates. “When things shut down, people tend to panic,” says Grant.

Because it works independently and without the vastly complex infrastructural systems that we’ve built, amateur radio is obsolescence-proof. It’s easy to imagine a world in which the internet is no more, and it is heartening to remember that ham radio, and the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club, will be there.



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This Fourth of July: Welcome Fifty New Citizens

NORTHAMPTON – On the morning of July 4, Center for New Americans will welcome about 50 immigrants who will take their oath of allegiance to the United States, to the applause of families, friends, and community members.

The naturalization ceremony will take place on the grounds of the Hampshire County Courthouse at 11 a.m., weather permitting. In the event of rain, the ceremony will be held in Courtroom #1.

US Magistrate Katherine Robertson will preside, congratulating the new citizens who have worked hard to learn American history and civics to achieve their citizenship goal. Northampton Mayor David Narkewicz will welcome the new citizens, as well as many community members who will attend the event to bear witness.

Center for New Americans' staff, board members, and volunteers will be present. Several of those who naturalize on July 4 are Center for New Americans students and clients, who have been supported through their journey to citizenship by Center for New Americans staff, who helped them to fill out the N-400 application and matched them with volunteer tutors.

Well-known vocal artist Evelyn Harris will sing the National Anthem and other patriotic songs.

The color guard will be provided by Girl Scout Troop 12926 from Greenfield. WTCC-FM, the radio station of Springfield Community College, will broadcast the ceremony live and provide music.

Thanks to Northampton's League of Women Voters, the new citizens will have the opportunity to register to vote immediately after the ceremony.

Center for New Americans thanks the many local businesses that are helping to sponsor the event, including Bueno y Sano, River Valley Co-op, Health New England, Florence Bank, Architect Siegfried Porth, Greenfield Cooperative Bank, Borawski Insurance, and Congressman McGovern, Congressman Neal, Senate President Rosenberg, and Representative Kulik.

Center for New Americans has been welcoming and serving immigrants in western Massachusetts for 25 years. The organization teaches English, computer, and literacy classes; supports students in preparing for living wage jobs; and offers citizenship and immigration legal services.

Center for New Americans has program sites in Amherst, Northampton, Greenfield, and Turners Falls.

Light refreshments will be served before and after the ceremony. The event is free and open to the public.

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JUNE 29, 2017

A TRULY EXCELLENT, PERFECT FAIRE



Dancing, music, and revelry at the end of the Mutton and Mead Festival. Attendees paraded to the gates with giant trolls and music from Cu Dubh.

By GEORGE BRACE

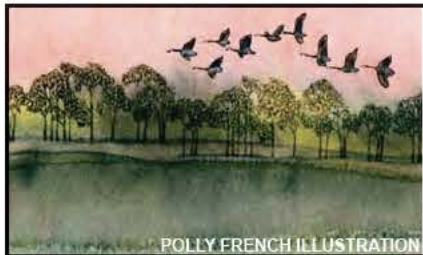
MONTAGUE – The seventh annual Mutton and Mead Festival last weekend was a lively, fun event filled with a perfect balance of interesting and enjoyable things to do, see, learn, eat, listen to, and take home as souvenirs.

Perfect is also a good word to describe the size and location of the fair, held at the Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club on Turners Falls Road. The idyllic location in a large field surrounded by woods contributed greatly to the experience. It is large enough to provide plenty of fun mystery as to what might be around the corner, but small enough that it wasn't overwhelming like a theme park. The size, in combination with the attitude and spirit of the participants, made for an event that felt relaxed even amidst an immense amount of cool stuff going on everywhere.

After walking from the parking area or taking a shuttle cart through the woods and down a road, which was lined with signs describing historical events leading backwards to the Middle Ages, a large field appears out of nowhere, filled with tents, brightly colored banners and costumed people. A few more steps through the gate and you see a jousting field (about one jousting field in length), more tents farther away, and the entrance to the Enchanted Forest on your right.

The Enchanted Forest was a series of paths through the woods which were filled with actors playing the parts of Trolls, Faeries, Skeletons, Bards, Muses and other creatures. These performers wandered around engaging visitors, but also inhabited a great many small interactive installations with fun thematic activities for kids.

There was also a slightly larger
see MEAD page B5



WEST ALONG THE RIVER

A Running Record of This Particular June

By DAVID BRULE

ERVINGSIDE –
*It is late June, a breezy
and sun-riddled day
that would quickly be forgotten
were it not for my
writing these few things down...*

This running record picks up on June 18, a gray Sunday, muggy and close. It's my first morning out on the old lawn in a weather-beaten Adirondack chair, made by a Carlisle Avenue neighbor long dead. I make things last, like this chair. I get attached to objects, feel a certain spirit inherent in them, even though some would call them inanimate. Year in year out, I can't throw them away, once they've served well and even taken on a certain personality. I feel responsible for them.

On decent weather days, this chair could be a prayer seat on the edge of the yard and garden, a place for a vision fueled by dark coffee. I've got a whole summer ahead of me for sitting, watching and visioning.

This backyard, hewed out of the river terrace woods by my great-grandfather, seems to be sinking

back into the encroaching green. A wet season so far has raised up shrub and bush to new heights, native or invasive, crowding onto the lawn, as nearby neighbors' houses sink into all this new green. Wild grape vines that installed themselves somehow along the picket fence send out tendrils reaching for the side of the shingled house. Like octopus arms, seeming eerily intelligent, they are sensing out into the air, feeling their way to the house, twining around the garden gate. I'm in the mood to just let them do what they want, just to see what happens. Disorder doesn't bother me these days.

The ancient apple tree on the edge of the lawn has seen better days, it's now barely a bush yet it still sends up vigorous multiple trunks, whose branches are covered with tiny hard crabapples, coveted by cedar waxwings in the winter.

That tree has been there for more than a hundred years. My mother and her sisters played in its shade in the 1930s. Later, the same girls turned up in old black and white photographs posing with their boyfriends, with the tree as a backdrop, in the 1940s.

Boys in uniforms, off to the War, one or two never to come back. Those photos are upstairs in an album, full of friends from a generation ago, now all gone dust to dust, not a single one still living. But the old tree is there, still thriving.

Chimney swifts chatter, winging through the soupy air. The melodic thrush keeps up his nightingale song just over there in the green ocean that the woods beyond the glade have become. My own private wilderness, almost impenetrable this wet June, it's guarded by
see WEST ALONG page B6



Wood Thrush

SUMMER READING LIST

Reviewers share recent offerings from Franklin County authors.

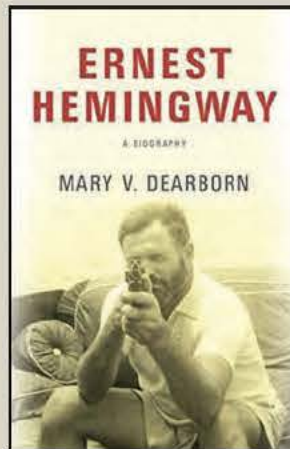
By CANDACE R. CURRAN

Amy LaPrade's recent novel, *So Nice to Finally Meet You*, from Human Error Press (2016), is definitely a great beach read. A fast-paced coming of age novel, characters are tough, sassy and eggshell frail. Be prepared to laugh out loud, but be sure to have a kleenex handy.

Fifteen-year-old Gina Laramie, tired of sharing the trailer with her moody, unstable Aunt Elaine, heads out to New York City in search of fame, fortune and her real mother. Aunt Elaine pursues while both women search desperately for answers. It's unsettling and wonderful.

You can hear Amy read her jaunty, smart dialogue from excerpts herself in local venues such as Third Tuesday Word in Greenfield. LaPrade resides in Greenfield. She has been published in numerous journals and facilitates writing groups, including *Voices from the Inside*, an outreach for women who have been incarcerated.

Her new book, appearing this July, is titled *Beating Writer's Block*.



Mary V. Dearborn, who resides in Buckland, is the first woman author and the first full biographer in fifteen years to write of the Pulitzer and Nobel Prize winner, the "greatest living American novelist and short-story writer of his time," Ernest Hemingway. So what's different with Dearborn's book?

I'm going out on a limb here, not having an advance copy of *The Nutting Girl* by Fred DeVecca of Shelburne Falls, due to be released August 1 of this year by Coffetown Press, but
see CURRAN page B4

By NINA ROSSI

Longtime Leverett resident Sharon Dunn has written a memoir, *Under a Dark Eye* (Texas Tech University Press, 2017), retracing the lives of her parents.

Why was her father a harshly critical loner whose shadow depressed their household? Why did her successful and hardworking mother tolerate this man as a partner in marriage for so long?

Dunn examines correspondence and researches events that intersected the lives of her parents, who did not verbalize their stories and their feelings to the children while they were growing up, leaving her to rummage through attic artifacts in search of clues when she was alone in the family home as a youngster.

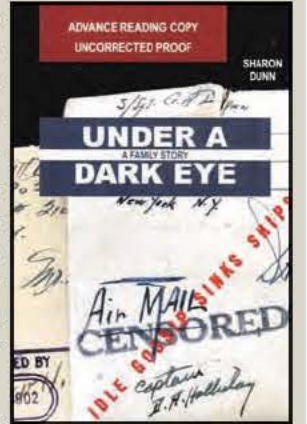
Her mother was a psychiatrist at a time when few women attained such a degree, and the family lived on the grounds of a New Hampshire treatment facility where she was the clinical director. Her father had been in World War II prior to marriage and came home to an uncertain career. Eventually he owned his own business, although subsidized by his wife's salary. The curious couple did not socialize with others or even appear to have much in common with each other.

In the long run, Dunn and her brother succeed in the bird feeder business their father started, and adjust to life and love despite the stunted beginning with Gilbert Dunn's cold and inadequate fathering.

Dunn does not harbor self-pity in this memoir. Instead, she moves along a path of intense curiosity about the lives and times of her parents. Despite the grim nature of the relationships here, I found *Under a Dark Eye* an absorbing read, with redemption at its core.

Throughout the book, I very much enjoyed Dunn's poetry, which echoes and expands on the themes and artifacts she unearths in her search. I also loved the combination of historical research, personal history, and poetry that she deftly weaves together.

Lauret Savoy's *Trace: Memory, History, and Race*
see ROSSI page B5



THEATER REVIEW

Stupid – and Outstanding – Bird

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

GREENFIELD – The Silverthorne Theater Company has outdone itself with its latest production, *Stupid F***ing Bird* by Aaron Posner, now at the Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center in Greenfield.

This modern take on the Anton Chekov play, *The Seagull: A Comedy* (1895) is a mix of comedy, tragedy, and creative jealousy, with characters full of self-doubt, narcissistic self absorption and so much more. It is a fascinating play that entertains and makes you think: the characters explore the worth of creative efforts and what it can do to bring change to a society. Or not.

Director Toby Vera Bercovici offers us a rare opportunity to see a terrific cast of exceptional actors. She succeeds in presenting this complex play with excellent timing and energy that keeps the audience's attention by using many quick changes, surprises, dramatic moments interspersed with music, dance, and comedy that lightens the mood.

While keeping the fundamental concepts of the Chekov, this original play by Posner is very modern, reflecting the issues of our time and using language, sometimes coarse, to make characters come alive, fully formed, and very real.

The actors are all impressive. Serious-minded, intense, they are devoted to believing what they say. This is an ensemble play with the characters interacting and changing relation-



Conrad (Michael Greehan) plays with a squirt gun and flirts with ideas of suicide as Dev (Julian Findlay) tries to change his attitude during a performance of "Stupid F***ing Bird" at Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center.

ships and sometimes mates and yet, much like family, still regrouping and coming together again.

Michael Greehan gives a performance that is riveting. His character, Conrad, is a tortured young writer living under the shadow of his mother and her lover, a famous author. Greehan graduated from the theater program at UMass, and is now a New York-based equity actor.

Conrad's mother is a famous actress named Emma Arkadina and played by Lisa Abend, an equity actor with extensive theater credits. Emma is often harsh and uncaring in the way she treats her son, and yet often softens and tries to be kind.

This complicated character requires much of an actress. Abend moves seamlessly from anger to

regret: cruel one moment, then sorry and assuring Conrad she loves him the next. These two in their scenes together are powerfully intense as they display a complicated mother-son relationship.

Emma's lover is a great writer named Doyle Trigorin. He is played by Michael Schurter, another experienced actor with many impressive credits, who lives in Northampton. His portrayal of Trigorin offers a glimpse into the life of a writer, a man who has great success but doubts his talent and questions the value of fame.

While Conrad rages against Trigorin's talent he also envies him, feels the need to compete and lives in despair of being able to accomplish
see BIRD page B6

Pets of the Week

Warning: You are about to be overloaded with cuteness. Not only are we adorable little baby Mini Lop/Rex bunnies, but we also have very precious personalities. We're the friendliest! We make friends with people, dogs, and cats.

We're looking for a cozy home together that is filled with love to share. If you have one to offer and you'd love to spend your fun time with a soft bundle of cute in your lap, come over and meet us!

We're so excited to greet you!

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



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Senior Center Activities JULY 3 TO 14

GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at Noon.

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 7/3

1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday 7/4 CLOSED
Wednesday 7/5

9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach
12:30 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 7/6

NO Tai Chi or Mindful Mvmnt.
10:30 a.m.–noon Brown Bag
1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday 7/7

1 p.m. Writing Group

Monday 7/10

8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic Appts.
1p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 7/11

9:30 a.m. Tech Support Appts.

Wednesday 7/12

9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach

12:30 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 7/13

9 a.m. Tai Chi
10:15 a.m. Mindful Movement

1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday 7/14

1 p.m. Writing Group

LEVERETT

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

Flexibility and Balance Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free).

Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

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.

Monday 7/3 & Tues 4 CLOSED
Wednesday 7/5

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 7/6

8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

10 a.m. Healthy Bones

11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Pick Up

12:30 p.m. Crafty Seniors

Friday 7/7

9 a.m. Quilting

9:30 a.m. Bowling

11:15 a.m. Music/Magic /Mvmnt.

12:30 Healthy Lunch

Monday 7/10

9:30 a.m. Healthy Bones

10:30 a.m. Tai Chi

Tuesday 7/11

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

10 a.m. Stretching & Balance

9:30 a.m. COA Meeting

11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch

Wednesday 7/12

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

12:15 p.m. Elvis Trip

Thursday 7/13

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

10 a.m. Healthy Bones

12:15 p.m. Bingo, Snacks, Laughs

Friday 7/14

9 a.m. Quilting

10 a.m. Walmart

11:15 a.m. Music/Magic /Mvmnt.

12:30 Healthy Lunch

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.

ELEVEN CDS FOR ELEVEN BUCKS

2. Kronos Quartet & Asha Bhosle, *You've Stolen My Heart: Scenes from R.D Burman's Bollywood* (2005)

By IVAN USSACH

A little knowledge can be dangerous.

As a classical music fan I was drawn to Kronos Quartet's trademark adventurousness, extending the traditional string quartet repertoire. As for Bollywood, I fondly recall lying around a New Delhi hostel's TV room with friends, way back when, watching pieces of Indian films entirely forgettable save for the captivating hi-energy music and dance numbers. (Think the outro to *Shumdog Millionaire*, where cast and crew let it all hang out as the credits roll.) How Kronos was going to rock out Bengali-style was beyond me.

For starters, spirited drums propel the opening number, *Take Another Toke (Dum Maro Dum)*, announcing this record is not to be a work of chamber music – as does the strident, Eno-like guitar riff intro and electronica of the next song. Yet the tunes are unmistakably Indian in their rhythmical and melodic fluency and their fruity organic tightness. The essence of my little Bollywood universe is Asha Bhosle's delightfully ardent yet plaintive voice, sounding to me like a cross between auntie and sexy.

Bhosle recorded the vocals for over 13,000 “playback” songs heard during the obligatory cabaret-spirited song and dance sequence of countless movies produced by Bollywood – the Bombay (now Mum-



bai)-based center of Hindi-Urdu films and powerhouse of the enormous Indian film industry. She sold more records than Elvis and Beatles combined, if the CD booklet's notes don't lie. She was also Rahul Dev Burman's wife and muse.

R.D. Burman's father and grandfather were both successful in music. Father S.D. was a musical director who injected Bengali cinema with the classical and folk elements of Bengal culture, found in the modern-day Indian state of West Bengal and Bangladesh (formerly the Indian state of East Bengal and then East Pakistan).

R.D. (1938-94) grew up in a home with a revolving door of musicians, actors, composers, and artists, and became a serious student of music himself, eventually adding recording engineer and special effects to his music director tasks and pioneering the use of new sounds in film. He was known for his unpredictable use of exotic musical idi-

oms, including mariachi, flamenco, Swing jazz, can-can, psychedelia, gypsy and circus tent music.

The dozen selections here are all imaginative remakes of songs from the 1970s and '80s. Aside from a few instrumentals, they share a common romantic focus: mostly love unrequited, sometimes love ignited.

I was psyched to find all the lyrics translated in the booklet, though the songs' emotional qualities seep through the music like they do in opera. Kronos employed Wu Man on *pipa*, a Chinese fretless pear-shaped lute, to replace traditional Indian sarod and sandoor; and premier percussionist Zakir Hussein to supply “the essential rhythmicality of R.D.'s music.”

Hussein's hypnotic tabla work especially shines on *Smoke Rises Across the River (Nodir Pare Utchhe Dhnoa)*, jabbing the air with soft hot metallic thrusts. The song's instrumental passages reminded me of *Help!*, the Beatles' hysterical '65 film romp and soundtrack, whose hit songs were interspersed with stirring passages of Indian music. The song also features an elephantine yowl and bird chirps.

If *People Come (Koi Aaya Aane Bhi De)* offers up a few of the lush string swooshes that, along with Bhosle's gyrating vocals, define my Bollywood – I would have liked more of them, but perhaps Kronos knew better than to lay it on too thick.

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was June 28, 2007: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Tens Years After Fire at Crocker Building

When a building burns in the night in Turners Falls, everyone in town knows it by the time they wake up. Smoke fills the streets, and fills houses in the summer; smoke alarms go off blocks away, and residents wake up wondering whether their own building is on fire.

So it was when the Strathmore Mill Building #10 went up in flames May 26, and so it was when the Crocker Bank Building burned the morning of June 26, 1997.

Gripping, never-before-seen raw footage of the fire, filmed by one who lived through it, former MCTV cameraman Bob Gentry, was shown on Channel 17 in Montague this week on the tenth anniversary of the blaze. It showed a hellish scene of mayhem and confusion, as ladder trucks jockeyed for position to pluck men off upper window ledges where they hung for dear life, in some cases arriving minutes too late.

A Tibetan-American man, Palden Sangpo, died that night falling from his fourth-story window, several were injured, and a total of 17 tenants were left homeless, in what was soon to be determined to be an arson fire set by a runaway 15-year-old girl intending to settle a drug dealing score.

State DOE: “Schools Are Underperforming”

The Massachusetts Board of Education voted 4 to 1, with two abstentions, on Tuesday to place Gill-Montague Regional School District on “underperforming” status. Recently hired interim G-M superintendent Ken Rocke, who attended the meeting with the board in Waltham, along with former G-M superintendent Sue Gee, said, “My response was, I acknowledged the district is struggling, particularly on the fiscal side. We'd removed a number of positions before we even presented a budget this year.”

Rocke said he told the state education board he traced the district's woes to 2003, when a 20% cut in state aid resulted in the loss of nearly two dozen teachers and staff, and the subsequent loss of 140 students to school choice, coupled with the loss of an additional \$700,000 in state aid that went with them. “I pointed out, sometimes the process creates a self-fulfilling prophecy.”

In reporting the news locally, Rocke was careful to say, “I hope people realize the underperforming label is about our fiscal situation, not about our educational capacity.”

Teen Badly Injured Swimming

A Turners Falls teen was seriously injured on Tuesday in a swimming accident in the Connecticut River. On a day when humid-


ity made the 93 degree temperature seem even hotter, Donovan Murphy, 15, of 67 Fourth Street went to a section of the Connecticut River known locally as the Rock Dam with friends and family members to get some relief from the heat, fishing and swimming.

According to Donovan's aunt, Sarah Belair, Donovan jumped into the river from the rocks, and then floated to the surface face down and unmoving. When his stepfather leaped into the water and turned him over, Donovan had a large gash in his head that was spilling blood into the river. His mother called the Montague police from her cell phone. Officers and emergency personnel later arrived.

Donovan quickly regained consciousness and was taken by ambulance to Franklin Medical Center and then helicopter to Baystate in Springfield where he received 15 staples to close the head wound and could feel nothing from his chest down. “Thank God there is no sign of brain damage,” said Donovan's mother, Judy Metcalf. “They should put signs up that say No Swimming, and a camera to make sure.”

This is the second accident in recent history at Rock Dam. In 1998, two Turners Falls teens, Chris Gallager and Winter Orion Clark, drowned in the same spot. After that accident, a committee formed to explore possible safe swimming spots for town residents, but no sites were found.

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MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

The Turners Falls Division III Softball team has dazzled us once again taking the state championship. Watch a replay on MCTV!

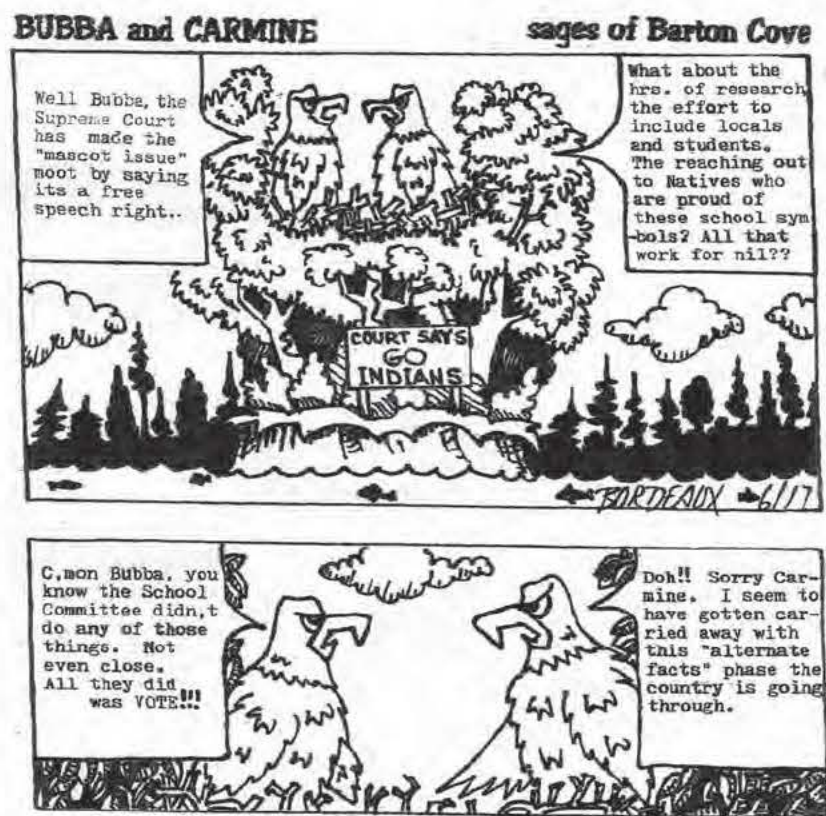
Turners Falls vs. Austin Prep State Finals 2017 will air on Channel 17 on Thursday, June 29 at 2 p.m. and 9 p.m. You can also catch it online at vimeo.com/222859474.

Plus, keep up to date with the world's happenings by watching national news programming on our TV

station weekdays at 8 a.m., 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. (Democracy Now), 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (David Pakman Show). Just power on a TV near you!

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. We'd love to work with you.



HOLIDAY PREVIEW

Independence Day at Beacon Field

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

The Independence Day celebration in Greenfield consists of fireworks at Beacon Field on July 1. A band called Greenfield Military Band will be part of the fireworks, along with vendors at the field.

The fireworks have “been consistent since 1980s” in Greenfield, according to Maddy Benjamin, program director of the Greenfield Recreation Department. “We are looking at 35 years at this point.” Their “approximate cost of total production has been \$18,000 dollars,” she added.

For this year’s celebration, Benjamin told me they have Dino’s convenience, Ken’s Roadside Diner, and a company called Local Brewery Donuts. They do cider made donuts on site. They also have various novelty vendors from across New England. The vendors have been a part of this “since the fireworks have been going on.”

The Greenfield Military Band has been around since 1904 according to their official website. As of this year, they are celebrating 113 seasons.

Al Benjamin has been director of the band since 1983. He has been a member of the band for 47 years. When it comes to how long they have been a part of the fireworks display, his words are: “I would say at least 40 years, because I can remember doing it with the former director Stan Kopec.”

As for members of the band at

the moment, he says “around 35 – sometimes we have additional players.” You will be hearing various horns like the trombone, a few clarinets, a saxophone, one or two flutes, and an electric bass if you are at Beacon Field for the fireworks.

The band has been continually getting gigs around Greenfield, including other places like the Arbors and the Poet’s Seat Health Care Center. Their music consists of playing jazz tunes, showtunes, and other popular music genres, which you could be hearing if you’re at the field this Saturday.

As for how many people are at the field each year, I can’t really tell you, because it’s been a while since I celebrated Independence Day there. Each year, my parents and I go down to a baseball field that is near our house. We can see the fireworks from there. The view from the baseball field is reasonably decent. It’s not something I would complain about.

I believe quite a large number of people from Greenfield would agree with the thought as well, because every year, there are several cars parked all over on the field. A couple of people who live near the place are even sitting on their lawns in order to watch the fireworks.

I don’t know about the view of the fireworks from Beacon Field, but if they are decent, like from where I watch, then you should go see them. Because it makes for an okay celebration of July 4th to see them.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Sedan Of The Dead; Gaping Manholes; Replay Noise; Canal Dumper; Shopping Cart Assault; Brush Fire

Monday, 6/19

6:45 a.m. Caller wants it on record that last night when she left the Rendezvous she found that her vehicle’s windshield had been smashed in. She did not think to report it when she found it, but wants it on record in case anyone else had a similar problem. 10:04 a.m. Caller from Park Street reporting ongoing harassment from neighbor’s children. Advised of options.

5:40 p.m. Caller reporting a black sedan that has been parked in a rest area near the cemetery for two days and hasn’t moved. Vehicle has note in the window advising that there is a tow truck coming for it.

5:52 p.m. Several 911 callers reporting that a manhole cover has popped off on Avenue A near Food City. Cover replaced.

7:04 p.m. Caller reporting that a manhole cover has come off on Seventh Street near High Street. Cover replaced by officers. 9:05 p.m. Caller from Second Street reporting loud yelling and banging coming from a neighboring apartment. All quiet upon arrival.

Tuesday, 6/20

10:37 a.m. Caller states that while walking her dog in the area of Vladish and Coolidge avenues, two loose dogs came running out from behind a brick house on the corner and “came after her.” They did not bite her. Animal control officer on scene investigating.

10:56 a.m. Caller from Fifth Street reporting that her mail keeps coming up missing. Advised to contact postmaster.

1:03 p.m. 911 caller from Avenue A reporting that he was just told there was a fire on the backside of a building. Fire department notified and responding. Small fire on back porch caused by cigarette. Fire now out. PD clear; FD staying to wet it down some more.

7:32 p.m. Caller reporting extremely loud outdoor music coming from Replay. Officer spoke to manager, who is going to turn the music down and

states that they should be finished by 8:30 p.m. Officer called back a second time; music shut down for the night.

11:19 p.m. Caller reporting that she can hear a male and female arguing and yelling at each other in the area of Third Street and Avenue A. Nothing can be seen from caller’s apartment. Unable to locate anyone; no disturbance; no yelling.

Wednesday, 6/21

12 p.m. Caller from Old Northfield Road states that while his truck was parked along the side of the road, someone smashed his driver’s side window out. Report taken.

2:29 p.m. Walk-in reporting that this morning around 1:20 on K Street, a woman who appeared around the influence started yelling at some of his friends. They were in their car and she was hitting the hood screaming to get the money they owed her back. They had no idea who she was. They left the scene without further incident.

Thursday, 6/22

8:41 a.m. Detail officer requesting removal of a disabled vehicle that is impeding work on a detail on Federal Street. Tow requested. Vehicle has been there for approximately one week. Note on vehicle states that vehicle overheated and would be towed within 24 hours of 6/16/17. Called number on note and spoke with male, who advised that the vehicle belongs to his boss. Male advised of tow and will relay the info.

12:16 p.m. Report of suspicious vehicle that was parked on the Gill-Montague Bridge just off Avenue A this morning. Vehicle was a hazard, so operator backed vehicle off bridge against traffic and parked on Gatehouse Drive, blocking the gate. Operator is on her cell phone. Vehicle is out of gas. Operator has someone en route to assist her. Officers helped push the vehicle into a parking space behind Town Hall.

6:18 p.m. Caller from Turnpike Road reporting that four sets of tires were stolen from her backyard.

Caller later figured out that her grandson took the tires. Unit clear.

11:05 p.m. Caller reporting that he was woken up by people playing basketball at Unity Park. Officer en route; parties moved along. Friday, 6/23

12:56 a.m. Second-hand report of injured deer in road on Federal Street. Officers clear; fawn was deceased upon arrival. Same was moved to side of road. Message left for DPW.

8 a.m. Report from Court Square of injured sparrow. ACO advised.

8:12 a.m. Caller reporting trespass order violation that occurred last night at the Millers Falls library. Advised of options.

8:58 a.m. Seventh Street resident observed an orange cat wandering around the area. Tag says “P. Welcome” and cat appears well cared for. Attempted contact with possible owner; number did not ring. ACO advised.

12:19 p.m. Caller observed a subject throw a trash bag into the canal. Subject came out of a G Street residence before dumping the bag and walked back into the residence afterward. Unknown gender, dressed in gray clothing, smoking a cigarette. Subject matching description spoken with and advised of appropriate places to dispose of such items.

2:12 p.m. Report of solicitor claiming to be from the electric company going door to door at Keith Apartments. Caller asked male if he had a permit to solicit; male evaded the question. Later report advising same on Avenue A. Area checked; unable to locate.

2:59 p.m. 911 call reporting that a flatbed truck with a backhoe on the back ripped down a wire on North Leverett Road and continued on its way. Wires are down across road. Officers and MCFD en route. Eversource contacted and en route. Officer off with construction truck by bridge abutment; checking to see if anyone from truck team would like to respond. Line determined to be a Verizon line; Verizon contacted and will

take care of the issue.

5:29 p.m. Two reports of Eversource soliciting on G, H, and J streets. Unable to locate.

6:26 p.m. Following a report of a disturbance on Fourth Street, a male party was arrested as a fugitive from justice on a court warrant.

Saturday, 6/24

5:04 a.m. Caller from Fourth Street states that an intoxicated male has been banging on her door all night. Caller just went on porch to see what he wanted, and he threw a shopping cart at her. Officer spoke to females, who did not want to press charges but just do not want the male party to return. Area checked; unable to locate male party.

Sunday, 6/25

10:14 a.m. Caller advising of fox running around area; wasn’t sure if it should be out this time of day. Caller advises that fox did not appear to be stumbling and ran away when it noticed her. Officer advised; area search negative.

2:05 p.m. Caller from New Street advising of a motorcyclist that dumped his bike; appears to have no injuries. Officer clear; occurred at very low speed; no damage.

6:05 p.m. Caller reporting that she struck a cat on Lake Pleasant Road. Animal has expired. Owner notified and will be taking care of it.

8:03 p.m. 911 caller reporting that he can see a brush fire off in the distance behind his home. Fire is on border to Montague Plains. MCFD en route. Road to access location of brush fire blocked by locked gate; officer able to get combination to lock from an Eversource employee. All PD units clear; MCFD remaining on scene extinguishing fire.

10:08 p.m. Following reports of an assault on Fourth Street, [REDACTED] was arrested and charged with assault and battery with a deadly weapon and disturbing the peace.

MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

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CURRAN from page B1

I have to say I, for one, will be on the waiting list.

DeVecca writes a detective novel taking place in his hometown of Shelburne Falls in the time of Hurricane Irene and coinciding with the visit of a Hollywood film crew – all true-to-life experiences for this sleepy little 1950s village.

In its own natural setting – the Deerfield River, the Glacial Pot-holes, restaurants and coffee shops named – this first time author stages an absorbing, offbeat mystery that delivers, according to reviewers

and critics, the ultimate “ah-ha” moment at the end of a book you can’t put down.

Look for DeVecca’s book signing at Boswell’s Books and Under-dog’s Lounge in Shelburne Falls in early August. See you there!

All three books are or will be available at your local bookstores and online.

Candace Curran lives in Shelburne Falls, and recently retired from the Wheeler Memorial Library in Orange.



New Works from Patricia Pruitt and Christopher Sawyer-Laumann



Turners Falls authors Christopher Sawyer-Laumann and Patricia Pruitt.

By RICHARD ANDERSEN

MONTAGUE – Where do poets find inspiration?

The short answer is everywhere. Think of John Milton’s Garden of Eden in *Paradise Lost*. Compare it with the tempting plums William Carlos Williams’ wife had probably been saving for breakfast. Imagine the number of walks Robert Frost made in the New England woods or the journeys made by Emily Dickinson through what she once called her “funeral of the mind.”

In his latest collection of poems, *Dix meditations sur quelques mots d’Antonin Artaud (Ten Meditations on Some Words of Antonin Artaud)* local resident, *Reporter* contributor, internationally acclaimed poet, world-renowned scholar, and all-around *bon vivant* Christopher Sawyer-Laumann finds his latest inspiration in ten phrases by fellow poet and kindred spirit Antonin Artaud.

Think about this. We all have our favorite lines from books and movies and the like that we recall and repeat when appropriate occasions arise, but how many of us meditate on these lines and then turn them into poems of our own? Christopher has done those who have one turn better. His ten meditations are from one book by a poet many people thought was insane.

Antonin Artaud died in 1948, having spent most of his previous ten years in French mental institutions where he spat, swore, hallucinated, suffered from dysentery, lost most of his teeth, spent three weeks in a straightjacket, and survived fifty-eight electroshock treatments without any anesthesia. He died believing “every madman is a misunderstood genius.”

Others have recognized Artaud’s genius before Christopher, but none has examined his work

in so remarkably a creative way. Christopher calls his poems “meditations” and, because of their serious subject matter, they are not likely to bring many smiles to any reader’s face.

In fact, every meditation seems to be a struggle of some kind: trying to write with nothing to say, losing clarity, being left with no hope, doubting the reality of existence, living in the darkness of absence, and believing one’s own fictions to be true “As if the pear on the table can make us wise.”

These poems do not spend much time skimming along a surface, but they reap deep pleasures for those who know the magic of trying to make sense of the absurd. In doing so, Christopher – like his and Artaud’s forerunner with the shaving basin on his head – achieves the seemingly impossible.

Dix meditations sur quelques mots d’Antonin Artaud was written in French and translated into English by Christopher’s brilliant wife and Turners Falls best-known poet, Patricia Pruitt. While the French and corresponding English pages face each other, Christopher’s meditations are followed with a thought-provoking biography of Artaud that includes photographs of the mad wiseman as well as drawings he made while being institutionalized.

Read in light of Christopher’s poems, the drawings give fuller meaning, resonance, and understanding to Artaud’s contention that “a madman is a man that society wants to prevent from speaking intolerable truths.”

“Intolerable” might be one of the first words to come to mind when launching into Patricia Pruitt’s *Drawing Point*. Originally included in a larger collection in 1991, the poems now stand on their own in a 2016 edition published by Alyscamps Press of Paris (also the publisher of *Dix meditations*). And like Christopher’s ten poems, *Drawing Point* includes illustrations that provide contexts for Patricia’s chapbook.

Intolerable? Yes, but only to those who resist new ways of looking at the familiar. For readers willing to trust Patricia in the direction she takes them, the reward is an experience that is as close to unforgettable as literature can provide.

What makes *Drawing Point* so amazingly different is the achievement of its relentless creativity.

To begin with, the book can be read in two ways: the first is to read each line horizontally from the be-

Middle School Summer Fiction Picks

By JESSICA MULLINS

If you are a parent, summer reading can bring up many different images. It could be fond memories of you sitting under a shade tree on a hot summer day reading your favorite childhood book that took you away to a new world...

Or it can make you remember last summer, when your child’s teacher said they needed to read more over the summer, and your kid just didn’t want to because “there is nothing good to read.”

Here are two series that – for very different reasons – are great summer picks for your middle-grade reader. Both are trilogies by local authors that are not only great writers, but good people as well, and that is what makes World Eye Bookshop proud to support these two choices.

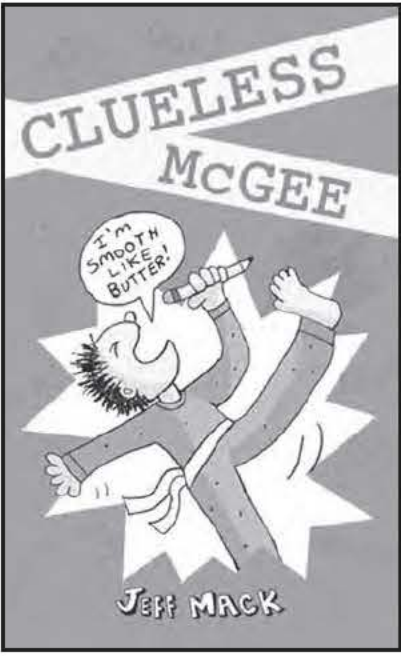
The first series, written by Natasha Lowe of Deerfield, are magical novels set in Potts Bottom. The first book, called *The Power of Poppy Pendle*, is about a young girl born with the family tradition of magic but she wants nothing to do with it. I call this book a pre-teen angst book without all the “trauma-drama.”

The second book, *The Courage of Cat Campbell*, is the next generation featuring Poppy’s daughter, who wants magic powers but does not find them right away. I call this book the “Good things come to those who wait” book.

The third book goes back to the grandmother with *The Marvelous Magic of Miss Mabel* and I believe readers can learn that “Families are not always chosen, but a true family is made up of those that take care of each other.”



All three of these books have magnificent characters full of oomph, trials and triumphs, and fun. Although the characters are mostly girls and



women, boys have also taken to this series due to the universal themes.

The second series is Jeff Mack’s *Clueless McGee*, *Clueless McGee and the Inflatable Pants*, and *Clueless McGee Gets Famous*. Written and illustrated by Jeff in the style of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, these books are pure fun with good content. Jeff lives in Easthampton.

As the back of the book says, “He’s got an important mystery to solve... He’s got awesome ninja moves... but he doesn’t have a clue!”

The absolutely best reason I can recommend these books is because my now 11-year-old read them when she was 9 and was laughing out loud. My daughter is very serious and reads history and forensics books for fun, but when she picked up the first book she read it cover to cover and was giggling the entire time. She then went through the second and third book with random bouts of laughter, followed by “Where is the fourth book?”

This summer don’t let summer reading be a “have-to”: pick some new local favorites that will inspire – not force – your kids to read!

Jessica Mullins is the owner of World Eye Books in Greenfield.

Co-op Day in Leverett!

On Saturday, July 1, Leverett Village Co-op will join co-ops around the world in celebrating International Co-op Day, joining the United Nations and the International Co-operative Alliance in a commemoration held annually since 1923. This year, at a time of increasing economic inequality, co-ops and credit unions are highlighting how their businesses can offer a solution by contributing to economic inclusion and building community wealth.

“Co-op Day is an opportunity for co-ops and their members to look at how we contribute to international efforts to address economic inequality,” said Bonnie Hudspeth, member programs manager of the Neighboring Food Co-op Association (NFCA), a federation of more than 35 food co-ops across the Northeast, locally owned by more than 120,000 people from all walks of life. “When our needs are not being met – whether it’s for things like food, credit, jobs, or insurance – co-ops offer a way for people to meet those needs, together.”

In our region, food co-ops have been at the forefront of efforts to build a fair, just and sustainable economy. NFCA member co-ops have been working together to share strategies for ensuring healthy food and co-op member-ownership is available to everyone.

The Leverett Village Co-op has

supported the development of a forest garden on its property.

“With a diversity of food plants, the forest garden will eventually provide co-op members and neighbors with fruit, nuts, herbs, flowers, and a beautiful place to be,” said Jono Neiger, co-op member-owner and designer of the forest garden, now in its tenth year.

Observed internationally on the first Saturday in July, Co-op Day coincides with Independence Day celebrations here in the United States. Based on the principle of one member one vote, co-ops reflect American ideals of democracy, mutual self-help, and equality.

“The co-operative model is unique in that it empowers people to work together to meet their needs though jointly owned, democratically governed businesses,” said NFCA executive director Erbin Crowell. “It should come as no surprise that co-ops have been part of American history from our beginnings and continue to play a key role in building vibrant local communities, creating good, sustainable jobs, and contributing to a stronger, more resilient economy.”

Franklin County is home to numerous co-operatives, including four co-op food stores, artist co-ops, farmer, worker co-ops, and credit unions. For more information, visit www.nfca.coop.

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ROSSI from page B1

in the *American Landscape* (Counterpoint Press, 2015) also looks back in time, attempting to piece together a fragmented history from artifacts and from landscape.

From California to South Carolina, Savoy, a Leverett resident who teaches environmental studies at Mount Holyoke, listens deeply to history's forgotten voices. As an Earth historian and woman of mixed heritage, she traces colonial, indigenous, and African paths across the continent, and how those paths lead to her personal history.

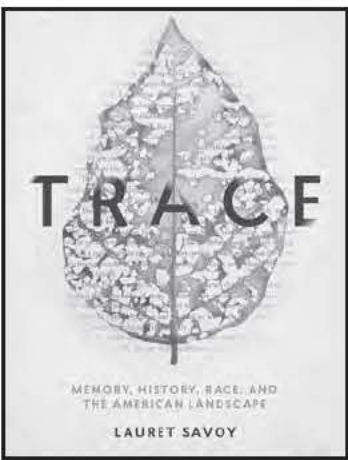
The names we give places, the stories we tell ourselves about place, shape our land and experience of it. She seeks to uncover and hear the silenced voices of slavery and the muffled lives of all women, to trace the commodification of place in the re-naming of Native American landmarks, and other narratives that have been fragmented and buried over time and which alienate and separate us.

The author's website explains that "*Trace* invites you to cultivate broader, deeper perspectives that acknowledge enduring injustices of our society, and realize the contexts

of racism on the American land in a deliberate way."

I was reminded of one of my favorite authors, Howard Mansfield, when reading her work, since both authors are engaged in debunking the romanticized landscape and pulling back the gaze of myth from American's collective past.

For instance, Savoy looks deep into the past to count the founding of the capitol in the tidewaters of the Potomac, to reveal the social, economic, and political context of its placement, and traces her family roots as they intertwine with the founding of the city. A



MEAD from page B1

performance area, one of many tucked away at various locations throughout the fair, in which performers read stories, played music, sang, and acted out all manner of entertainment.

While many of these things were directed towards kids, they were certainly great for adults too. Put on by the Rooted Realms collaborative, the whole thing was stunningly well done. In particular, the performers were all just plain awesome, especially in engaging with children, who sure seemed to be enjoying themselves.

At the far end of the Enchanted Forest was the Gypsy Glen, which featured Belly Dancing – including free lessons – and a bunch of vendors with wares such as jewelry, period clothing, and face-painting. The vendors at the fair were an attraction in themselves, offering a whole lot of stuff you are not going to find at Walmart. There were approximately 80 tent-shops located throughout the event, offering everything from real swords to pixie wings. Some of these shops were staffed by artisans such as blacksmiths, wood carvers and painters, whom you could watch work at their craft.

As for food, there was indeed both mutton and mead available, and a large variety of other things which did not look like they came from 13th-century England – but no complaints; and who knows? Maybe they had pizza, french fries, smoothies, quesadillas and fried dough back then. There were also vegetarian and vegan dishes available, and beer as well as mead.

The events, demonstrations, attractions and performances were too many to list and covered a wide range of historical and topical subjects. They really were all great, but just to note a few:

Birds of Prey – Birds in History: These folks had a live hawk, kestrel, owl and raven in their tent. The

birds were gorgeous and this was another time when the location of the fair added to the experience. The tent was situated in a sort of cul de sac area surrounded by trees, which felt like it should have made the birds more comfortable. It certainly helped to show off how nice looking they were. The staff was extremely knowledgeable and provided a lot of interesting information about these beautiful creatures.

Live steel sword fighting: Located right next to the birds were a couple of armorers, and a crew putting on medieval fighting demonstrations in real armor and with steel weapons. They do their best to avoid hurting each other, but it was serious business.

Another bit of serious business was the *Wheel of Death*, a 30-foot-tall mechanical contraption which spun as a whole, but included a smaller spinning wheel at one end. This wheel was smaller than the contraption itself, but large enough so that "Master of Momentum" Ichabod Wainwright could stand inside it and juggle flaming axes while both parts of the machine spun around.

This looked scary, but not as scary as when he stood on top of the smaller wheel as it continued to spin along with the larger 30-foot fulcrum, round and round, arcing through the air with Ichabod running atop the

smaller wheel so as to remain alive. He was a great, old school showman and acrobat and performed a bunch of other cool feats as well.

Jousting: Probably the largest crowds gathered for the jousting. DeBracey Productions put on a highly entertaining show, which featured comedy, drama, a chariot and some good old fashioned jousting. Their performances were great, their costumes and armor were great, and the jousting itself was spectacular.

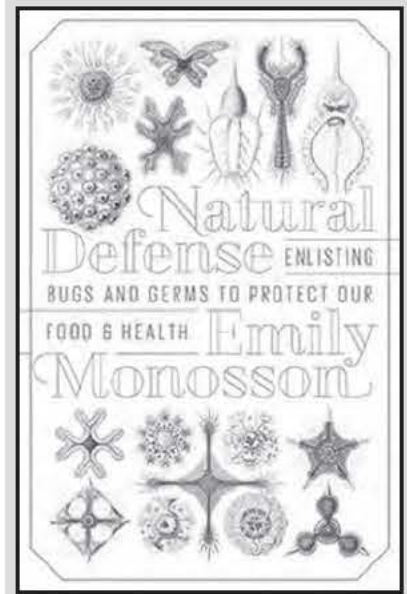
One last mention: *Cu Dubh*, a band which featured thunderous drumming, bag pipes and belly dancing. They played throughout the fair but also during the closing ceremony both days, following the giant trolls – yes, there were giant trolls – in a parade from a main performance pavilion to the gates, continuing to pound out some extremely rousing, fun and energetic music during the parade, then stopping with everyone else in front of the gates for a last bit of dancing, music and revelry. On the second day, as if on cue, a sun shower appeared out of nowhere to cool everyone off as they danced to the final tunes.

It was a fantastic event. Hats off to everyone involved. It's hard to imagine it could get any better, and it doesn't need to, but next year?



Exciting fighting demonstrations were played out by these three "Knights of Gore."

Emily Monosson, *Natural Defense: Enlisting Bugs and Germs to Protect Our Food and Health* (Island Press, 2017)



By **DAVID DETMOLD**

Montague's neighborhood toxicologist Emily Monosson, when she isn't teaching Environmental Conservation at UMass, has been busy turning out accessible-to-the-layperson books on complex but imperative topics at the cutting edge of science: such as her previous *Evolution in a Toxic World: How Life Responds to Chemical Threats* and *Unnatural Selection: How We are Changing Life, Gene by Gene*.

Monosson has a new book out on Island Press called *Natural Defense* – and she read a few selections from its pages and engaged in a lively back and forth with a crowd of friends and colleagues at Amherst Books on June 14. Her book flew off the shelf.

The reading started with strawberries and ended with phages.

Phages?

Those are a class of viruses that have been used in Eastern European hospitals for decades to pinpoint certain bacteria – and destroy them. A natural, selective defense yet to be approved by the FDA for use in this country.

And strawberries?

Better known in America, these were available in two distinct varieties for her audience – one quart contained first of the season beauties from the Red Fire farm stand. The other – fat, luscious fungicide

grown berries flown in FrigidAire from California.

Like most of the strawberries consumed in the US, these were grown using methyl bromide to control the tendency of this soft fruit to rot before transport to our tables. That fumigant is finally being phased out this year in California because it has proven toxic to those who apply it or live near the farms that use it.

What chemical can replace it? Growers are getting desperate. Their investments in the California growing fields are on the line.

But just as the best defense against infection in our bodies may be a health biome in our guts rather than a full spectrum antibiotic that wipes out all our beneficial bacteria along with the few offenders, Monosson's work postulates the best defense against plant diseases may be a rich and healthy organic soil, rather than new classes of pesticides or fungicides.

Turning the pages to the story of Suzanna, a 43-year-old Chicago mother who has suffered from incessant sinus and bronchial infections for which broad spectrum antibiotics provided no relief, Monosson told us how pathogenic bacteria began to win the microbial battle, as Suzanna developed an illness called MRSA (methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*), along with allergies to many foods and medicines.

Relief came after a flight to Tbilisi and a ten-day course of treatment with bacteriophage therapy, where specific viruses are introduced into a patient's system to attack specific bacteria. The phages persist in the body only as long as their host bacteria persist; once the offending bacteria are gone, so too are the phages.

Monosson makes difficult, demanding topics accessible to the average reader. She is delving into science that matters greatly to our society in the present day, as we confront a new host of anthropogenic ills. The pages of her books lead the way to a brighter and more hopeful future for us all.

ERVING LIBRARY NEWS

Library Summer Programming Starts Building a Better World

"Build a Better World," the statewide Summer Reading Program theme, is inspiring the Erving Library to offer weekly programs for all ages. Information is also posted on the Erving Public Library Facebook site. All Library programs are open to the public. Register by calling (413) 423-3348 or emailing library@erving-ma.org.

Reading logs are available during regular open hours, Sunday through Thursday, 1 to 7 p.m. The Friends of the Erving Library offer weekly drawings for readers who participate in the Summer Reading Program.

Thursday, June 29 at 5:30 p.m. *Hack the Library!* (Not really.) Learn how to create an entire world using Minecraft. Then learn how to destroy it! Presented by Thi Sarkis of Rhode Island Computer Museum.

Registration required. Held at the Erving Public Library, 17 Moore Street, Erving.

Thursday, July 6 at 6 p.m. *3-D Printing!* Join Arthur and Peter Evans for a STEM-based workshop all about 3-D printing. Participants will even create a 3-D project they can take home after printing.

Registration required. Held at the Erving Public Library, 17 Moore Street, Erving.

Wednesday, July 12 at 1 p.m. *Learn to Code with Makey-Makey and Little Bits*. Learn how to build and program small robots during this interactive session, led by Jean Daley.

Registration required. Held at the Erving Public Library, 17 Moore Street, Erving.

Monday, July 17 at 5 p.m. *Minecraft Madness!* Join balloon artist, comedian, and magician Jungle Jim as he leads children through the magical world of Minecraft.

Held at the Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving.

MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

July Weekly Programs

Carnegie Library. Tuesdays, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Craft Time. Drop-in crafts for children of all ages, with Angela.

Carnegie Library. Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m. Story Time. Thematic stories, projects and snacks for young children and their caregivers, with Karen Wartel. (Doors open at 9:45 a.m.)

Montague Center Library. May through August - Thursdays, 10 a.m. Music and Movement, for children, with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson.

July Reading Programs

Honeybee Series for Children and Teens, with local beekeeper and educator Angela Roell. Part 1: Friday, July 7, 10:30 a.m. Honeybee Hive Anatomy. Part 2: Honeybees as Builders. These programs are supported by a grant from the Montague Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Board Cultural Council.

Makerspace Mondays, 2 to 4 p.m. July 10, K'NEX Ball Run Challenge; July 24, MaKey circuit kits; and July 31, try out various tech tools at three different stations. These programs are made possible with federal funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

The Power of Geometry: Three-part series with Brian Hydefrost will be held on Wednesdays from 1 to 2 p.m. on July 12, 26, and August 2.

Lego Club. Friday, July 28, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Children of all ages and their families are invited to come build and play with library Legos.

For more information, call the Carnegie Library, 201 Avenue A, Turners Falls, at (413)-863-3214.

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MISS STEMPLE RECALLS THE PAST

Part XVI (September 17, 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.



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.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY BOOK-COURTESY HENRI'S MILLER

From the stories and incidents related to me by Mr. Bagnall I think it must have been great fun to live in Turners Falls in its colorful early days. That is, provided one had a sense of humor.

My own memory goes back far enough to corroborate this impression for I can recall some scenes, characters and customs of the dear yesteryear now almost forgotten.

Turners Falls always had a large German population. They were the old time, good, solid sort, industrious and thrifty to the last degree and usually first class and thorough and painstaking workmen.

In the beginning they had little civic spirit and kept mostly to themselves, their chief interest being in their own affairs. These Germans constituted in Turners Falls a little cross section of peasant Germany as it was in its best days before a fantastic iconoclast named Hitler had ever even been dreamed of.

Second and Third streets were almost wholly monopolized by the Teutons, most of whom had been attracted to the embryo city by the John Russell Cutlery Co., where many were employed.

They promptly built plain, sim-

ple dwellings, with a small patch of green grass in front, a big vegetable garden in the rear with a sizable section dedicated to a lush flower garden. They raised the earliest and finest lettuces, leeks, radishes and other vegetables to supply the family larder and usually there was sufficient to make neighborly gifts to friends.

They raised amazingly large numbers of cabbages for in the fall each family would "put down" several barrels of the odorous and healthful sauerkraut, in which form the humble cabbages furnished the majority of the family dinners during the winter months.

The virtues of sauerkraut were not recognized then as now and "the Yankees" and other non-German residents turned up their noses, literally and figuratively, and made disparaging remarks about the aliens who lived on such plebian and outlandish fare. But the stolid German families with clear

consciences and their native unspoiled appetites and tastes, went placidly on making sauerkraut and eating it with spare ribs and mashed potatoes several times a week.

Anyone walking down Second or Third street at noon any fall or winter day would have his nostrils assailed by an overpowering, insistent and "can't get away from it" smell of fermenting cabbage cooking which made anyone not to the manner born hasten to make his escape as though from a barrage of poison gas.

It must be admitted that the real old-fashioned Simon-Pure sauerkraut as made by these Germans was a food that could stand up against all odds and all comers. It advertised its nature, both before and after cooking in no uncertain terms and it was not at all like the emasculated, anemic, lady-like stuff put up in cans today and foisted off on the present day public as sauerkraut.

(Continued next week.)

WEST ALONG from page B1

squadrons of mosquitoes and no-see-ums, armies of woodticks.

The dog presses his head heavily on my knee and

watches my fingers drumming out a running record of this particular June...

On June 20, in the aftermath of the heavy rain, all is dripping in the rainforest beyond the garden. Dusk is all clearing sky, sun streaking low under the clouds from the west, air fresh and light, the evening full of wood thrush song. More than one somewhere out there in the damp dense riverbottom groves, they answer each other in the gathering closeness of the dripping woods, wet and shining. All virtuoso tremolo and lingering vibrato, their songs rise and crescendo in the green depths.

Ornithologists tell us these particular thrushes have two voice boxes, and that part of their song is not even audible to the human ear. They hold forth deep in birch and maple, invisible, the spirit voices of the trees.

June 21 is the first day of summer, greeted by a very *matinal* robin, warbling and rambling through his repertoire at 4:15 outside the upstairs bedroom window. He too is a musical thrush in reddish vest.

He's no wood thrush, however, but he is persistent.

Clear skies, dew heavy on the grass, the dog comes into the kitchen, paws cleansed by the dense drops in the clover-filled lawn, self-satisfied.

Leaf shadows dapple the deck and this notebook, fluttering shadows of robins' wings and waxwings criss-cross this page as they test the hundreds and hundreds of ripening cherries overhead. We have a good crop this year, protected by the young and energetic Siberian guarding the fruit and chasing the marauding squirrels away.

The Old World family recipe of cherries cured and preserved in vodka will provide us with a winter's worth of devilishly delicious and inebriating dessert for our December celebrations. That is, if we can salvage enough fruit, even a jar full, given the winged hordes of robins, catbirds, orioles, veery and wood thrushes, waxwings and grosbeaks, all of them coveting our cherries as much as we.

The only cherry tree for miles around, of Montmorency variety, it is renowned throughout the bird world down here on the Flat, and it'll take vigilance plus Nicky the Siberian to guarantee our harvest. But we don't mind sharing.

I feel like the secretary to the

morning whose only responsibility is to take down its bright, airy dictation until it's time to go to lunch

June 23 is a quiet Friday, overcast with the radio calling for showers, heavy in the afternoon. House sparrows chirp from their birdhouse. They've started a second brood already. Imported from Mother England more than a century ago to break up horse biscuits and droppings on city streets, seeking undigested oats and grains, now they help us keep the yard free of Japanese beetles, out here in the country. The multitudes of June roses are thankful for that.

An occasional vireo calls, the dog calmly selects a choice blade of grass to munch on thoughtfully in the flower garden. He comes back onto the porch, smelling faintly of mint and crushed bee balm, to sit and survey his domain.

On June 24, we find ourselves again perched on the front porch, the old piazza, built in the 1880s where great-grandparents spent quiet evenings sipping lemonade before retiring.

Frequent afternoon rains, with intervals of sunny mornings and evenings have been the hallmark of this particular June. Now we listen to the rain ending, dropping slower



ELLEN BLANCHETTE PHOTO

Doyle Trigorin (Michael Schurter) tries to make up to his lover (Lisa Abend) after his hurtful flirtation with a younger woman.

BIRD from page B1

what he wishes. Trigorin struggles as many men do with the challenges of age and fear of missing all that is valuable in life. And so he is tempted by the lovely Nina, who is loved by Conrad, making the relationship even more complicated.

While this theme could be found in other kinds of comedies where the fun is in the errors of misunderstanding, that is not this play. To have his mother's lover flirting with the woman he loves drives Conrad quite close to madness.

Nina is played by the lovely Myka Plunkett with sweetness and heart. Living in Northampton, Plunkett is making her debut with Silverthorne. She has extensive acting experience and brings to the performance kindness and light, which shines from her gentle being.

In the play, Nina moves from innocence and longing into a dark time but continues to have pride and the ability to stand up for herself. We see this in her interaction with Conrad in the second act of the play, when he tries to trick her into having a conversation about their relationship. For all her personal despair she refuses his cruel overtures and walks away.

Plunkett plays this character with a kind of strength that holds fast in spite of the obstacles facing her. She is the most appealing character in many ways, in spite of her obvious transgressions with Trigorin, as her flirtation is surely inspired by infatuation of a famous man, something to which many young women are inclined to fall victim.

Thom Griffin plays doctor Eugene Som, Emma's brother, a medical doctor whose sixtieth birthday they have gathered to celebrate. Griffin has a long varied impressive career performing everything from Broadway to opera and musical theater.

Sorn is the one character not overwhelmed with emotions. He is the calm center in the storm of passion. Griffin plays him to perfection, the one logical, undisturbed person who often wonders if those

around him really feel so much. "Do you really feel those feelings?" he asks at his birthday party. Those around him rarely let him finish a sentence, so whatever he's feeling is hard to know.

Linda Tardif as Mash and Julian Findlay as Dev complete this cast of characters. Dev is a schoolteacher and friend of Conrad's, and Mash is a cook whose job seems to be to provide lots of cake, cookies and pie which do get eaten onstage quite a lot. Mash is in love with Conrad and Dev is in love with Mash, closing the circle of confusion of who belongs with whom in this story of unrequited love, jealousy and loss.

Tardif has acted locally and in New York, graduated with a B.A. from UMass-Amherst. She has performed in several Silverthorne productions. Findlay has worked as both actor and director in previous Silverthorne productions. He is founder and artistic director of Shakespeare Stage, is theater director at Stoneleigh-Burnham School, and performs frequently in many regional theater productions.

Silverthorne Theater Company's second season of productions is being held at the company's new space on the fourth floor of the Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center, formerly the Arts Block, in downtown Greenfield. The show will be performed one more weekend, June 29, 30 and July 1, with performances at 7:30 p.m. and a Saturday matinee at 2 p.m.

There will be a post-show talk-back conversation with the cast and dramaturge Josh Platt after the June 29 performance.

Hawks & Reed is located at 289 Main Street. It is air-conditioned and handicapped accessible.

Tickets are \$20 general admission, \$18 for students or seniors (65+), and may be purchased online at eventbrite.com. Full information and tickets available at silverthornetheater.org. Note: the production contains strong language.



and less noisily on the advancing rainforest of deep green just yonder where the street ends and the dark woods begin.

The wood thrush, so dependable this year, melodically sings of his pleasures in the humid wet evening. A dove flutes, and even the song sparrow, our permanent and modest gardener, pipes forth as he has since February. The first chimney swift chatters and streaks through the skies, signaling the end of the rain and the rising feast of insects for his clan, and for the swallows.

So convinced am I that I have found my vocation, Tomorrow I will begin my chronicling earlier, at dawn... Dawn will come the way I picture her, She will look at me with her thin arms extended, Offering a handful of birdsong and a small cup of light.

— Excerpted from Billy Collins, "Tuesday, June 4, 1991"



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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 mcbass@vermontel.net for location and details.

2ND AND 4TH MONDAYS

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Scotty K's Open Mic*. 8 p.m.

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.

1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAYS

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.

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.

ings by Louise Minks and her students. Through June.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Imperfect People*. Theo Fadel presents small carvings and prints celebrating heroic acts of vulnerability and the ownership of imperfection. Through August 8. Reception Saturday, July 8, 4-7 p.m.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Trina Sternstein: Imagined Landscapes*, Oil Paintings; and *Tom Wyatt: Reflection and Illusion*, Photographs on metal. June 30 through August 27, Sawmill River Arts Gallery, Montague: Ongoing art offerings by gallery member artists.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Along the River*, Member artists explore local landscapes. Reception July 8, 2 to 5 p.m. Through July 31.

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



*Showing at Nina's Nook, July 1 through August 8:
Theo Fadel's Imperfect People; prints and small carvings
celebrating heroic vulnerability and the ownership of imperfection.
Artist reception Saturday, July 8, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Theo Fadel illustration.*

EVERY FOURTH FRIDAY

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

SUBMISSIONS:

Nina's Nook 4th Annual *Triple S* (sensual, sexual, smut) Show scheduled for September is inviting artists to submit entries on the theme "from mild to wild"; limit size to 20" x 30". Send three jpgs to nalerossi@gmail.com. Info (413) 834-8800. Deadline 9/1.

EXHIBITS:

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Bees and Butterflies* Montague Parks & Rec Summer Camps present work on bees and butterflies. Reception 7/6 2:30 p.m. Through July 30.

Leverett Crafts & Arts: *Crafted Cloth*. Woven, felted and surface designed textiles by Leonore Alaniz. through July 30.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Paint-*

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, JUNE 29

Energy Park, Greenfield: Coop Concerts Presents: *Charlie Conant, She Said* (double set) 6 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Wildcat O'Halloran*, blues. 7:30 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rear Defrosters*. Honky-tonk with Kate Lorenz of Rusty Belle. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center, Greenfield: *Impulse Ensemble*: Tony Vacca 8:30 p.m. \$

FRIDAY, JUNE 30

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Teen Open Mic*, 6 p.m.

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne: *And The Neighbors* 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center, Greenfield: *Giraffes, Hot Dirt, Vishnu Basement* 9 p.m. \$

SATURDAY, JULY 1

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Reggae*

Fest Multiple performers, bonfire, food, special surprise, 3 p.m. \$

Mohawk Trail Concert Series, Federated Church, Charlemont: *The Adaskin String Trio* with Sally Pinkas, piano. 7:30 p.m. \$

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *The Twangtown Paramours Folk/Americana* 7:30 p.m. \$

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne: *Robin Lane*, 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The Eagles Experience* Eagles tribute band, 8 p.m. \$

Mocha Mayas, Shelburne: *Lines West*, pop rock, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 2

Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center, Greenfield: *Carl Clements with Freddie Bryant and Wayne Roberts* 5 p.m. \$

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne: *Zack Danzinger*, 6 p.m.

TUESDAY, JULY 4

Mohawk Trail Concert Series, Federated Church, Charlemont: *The John Clark Jazz Quartet* Free Jazz Concert, 4 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 6

Energy Park, Greenfield: Coop Concerts Presents: *Daniel Hales, Orlen & Gabriel*, Devlin Miles 6 p.m.

Mocha Mayas, Shelburne: *Collected Poets Series: Laura Foley and Joshua Michael Stewart*. Poetry readings, 7 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Fire Pond Swing* 7:30 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center, Greenfield: *Rift*. Phish Tribute 9 p.m. \$

FRIDAY, JULY 7

Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center, Greenfield: *Patty & the Cakes* 7:30 p.m. \$

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne: *The Blackbird Effect*, 7:30 p.m.

Mohawk Trail Concert Series, Federated Church, Charlemont: *The Chiara String Quartet* Works of Mendelssohn, Kernis, and Brahms 7:30 p.m. \$

Mocha Mayas, Shelburne: *Ray Mason*, Indie rock, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 8

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *Art and Art Supply Sale* 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Deals galore!

Northfield Mountain RARE, *Creatures of the Photo Ark* Movie at 2 and 4 p.m. with birds of prey at 3 p.m.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: Reception for Theo Fadel exhibit (See exhibit listings) 4 to 7 p.m.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne: Reception for Tom Wyatt exhibit, (see exhibit listings) 4 to 6 p.m.

Antennae Cloud Farm, Gili Ayan: *Kozasa and Paul Wiancko*, a viola/cello duo. 7:30 p.m. \$

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *The O-Tones Jazz*, Motown, R&B, Swing 7:30 p.m. \$

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne: *The Joe Belmont Experience* 7:30 p.m.

Mocha Mayas, Shelburne: *Mark Nomad* blues, 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center, Greenfield: *Jimmy Just Quit*, 9 p.m. \$

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

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FACES & PLACES

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AT RIGHT: Cheyla LaFountain (left) and Thalia Garcia (right) teamed up earlier this school year to win the Bridal competition at the annual Beauty School Battle. Ten Massachusetts high schools with cosmetology programs participated in this year's Battle, held at Pathfinder Regional in Palmer. LaFountain, of Attol, and Garcia, of Greenfield, were both Franklin County Technical School juniors. FCTS senior Katie Sheperd of Greenfield (not pictured) also won, in the Fantasy division.



PHOTO COURTESY FCTS

PHOTO COURTESY FCTS

ABOVE: Linda Emond displays an auction pie at the Lake Pleasant Tag Sale and Pie Auction last Sunday. The highest bid for a pie was \$45, and according to sources, the Lake Pleasant Village Association brought in over \$600 on pies alone, and a total of about \$1,200 between pies, tag sale and raffle. The event was a fundraiser for upkeep of the village's memorial bell tower and Bridge of Names, and holiday parties for village children.

We always welcome pictures from readers! Send them to editor@montaguereporter.org.



A troupe of dignitaries, including the town selectboard, Usher Mill Re-Use Committee, and state senate president Stan Rosenberg cut the official ribbon at the grand opening of Erving Riverfront Park last Saturday afternoon.

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