

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 16 – NO. 26

also serving Irving, Gill, Everett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

APRIL 19, 2018

THE BIG PICTURE

Nothing Like Enthusiasm



David Jensen retired on April 1 after three decades as Montague's building inspector.

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – As of April Fools' Day, Montague's building inspector of three decades, David Jensen, is a public citizen again. He was kind enough to stop by the *Reporter* office this week to grant us an interview, even though he complained of feeling bleary after staying up late to file his taxes.

This transcript has been abridged, reordered, and edited slightly for clarity. It was the first interview I had ever conducted that began with a question from its subject.

DJ: Why am I here?

MR: Well, the primary reason was Patriot's Day was on Monday, and we can get pretty slow news weeks when there are holidays, unless some other event happens...

DJ: I'm a filler for your slow news day?

MR: Exactly. And I really want to thank you for coming in.... So, are you still on as a part-time employee of the town?

DJ: That's supposed to be settled next Monday, whether they want to keep me on as an alternate of some sort. Right now, my ties are severed. My last full day, on the books, was April First.

MR: Has it sunk in yet?

DJ: You know, it still feels like a weekend to me. My ability to conceive of time has changed – it was never good, but I'm getting to the "what day is it?"

MR: But you still have responsibilities.

DJ: Oh god. Well, I spent all morning with that estate I'm dealing with.

MR: This is the multi-unit apartment building that fell to your stewardship, over on L Street?

DJ: That's coming to a head. Hopefully it will be sold to an interested and motivated buyer.

MR: And then you've got a home of your own in Lake Pleasant – are you able to put work in there?

DJ: Well, I did a bunch of yard work that I had put off for too long. And part of my retirement plan is finish that house....

MR: Did you move to Lake Pleasant when you moved to town?

DJ: No. I lived on Unity Street for quite a while.

MR: How'd you end up here?

DJ: I was going to UMass. My ex-wife had just graduated from there, and she got a job in Brattleboro, and Turners Falls was halfway in between. That was '81...

In '88, I bought that laundromat building where Riff's is now, and next door was the Fireside, which was the strip joint. It's the parking lot now. The roof had caved in, and things... The sidewalks were heaved, and things looked bad.

MR: What was it like in the daytime, on the street?

DJ: Abandoned. You'd notice somebody wandering around downtown. Unused storefronts all up and down the Avenue, only a couple of anchor businesses.

MR: Frank Abbondanzio always used to use this "24 bars downtown" figure to describe it.

DJ: At that point, the selectmen were on a mission to get rid of the bars. The Hibernian had a bar in it, and the Fireside was a bar, and American House, and then the Turners Falls Inn, next door here. Apparently prior to my arrival here this was quite the place to go after hours and drink yourself silly.... It was a destination.

MR: You've seen the arc of a lot of change, and specifically change in the form of more money being available to fix buildings up.

DJ: Well, availability of money's a funny thing. Banks are hesitant unless they see the arc moving forward. The town's strategy at the time was to close up a bunch of the bars, and then start doing something to turn around the downtown. That took the Streetscape project, I think that was '85. That was a big deal.

MR: At that point, even if you bought a building, it was hard to get a loan to fix it up?

DJ: It was hard to get the money to fix it up, and because of the symbiosis of it all, a critical mass, didn't exist. If you couldn't survive on your own without depending on a network of other businesses to keep people here, you were pretty much dead meat.

Getting Turners Falls off the ground from being just a dead-end, obsolete place was pretty hard. That took the most time.

MR: What felt like the first tipping point?

see **BIG PICTURE** page A5

Downtown Housing Projects Come Under New Management

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS –Residents of the Power Town Apartments in Turners Falls have probably noticed that there has been a change in the management team that oversees their housing. At the end of March, HallKeen Management was replaced by a company Housing Management Resources, Inc., or HMR. Based in Quincy, Massachusetts, HMR is closely affiliated with Silver Street Development Corporation of Portland, Maine, which purchased Power Town in 2015.

Power Town consists of 82 apartments in ten buildings on Av-

enue A and Fourth Street. All but one of the apartments are subsidized for low-income residents under the federal Section 8 program. According to Silver Street, 34 of the apartments are designated for elderly residents, while 47 "are not restricted as to tenancy."

Power Town saw major renovations, financed in part by a \$6.93 million mortgage from the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency, after Silver Street bought the buildings in 2015. Elizabeth Leonard, the new onsite manager of Power Town, told the *Reporter* that the apartments currently "look really

see **POWER TOWN** page A7



The management company's office is on the first floor of the Hibernian Block.

Nurses Accuse Baystate Of Labor Act Violations



Left to right: Cathy Mysliwiec and Wendy McGill, MNA nurses from Worcester, walk the picket line last Wednesday with Patrick Boyd-Owens and Polly Fiveash.

By SHEA FERAL

GREENFIELD – The nurses at Baystate Franklin Medical Center (BFMC) held a 24-hour strike from 7 a.m. April 11 to 7 a.m. April 12. Baystate Health hired temporary nurses to replace them and, citing the contractual obligation of the temps, barred the nurses from the facility from 7 p.m. April 10 to 7 p.m. April 13.

Extra security, including members of the Greenfield police department, were also hired, but no

arrests were made.

Baystate did not offer comment on the recent strike or lockout in response to a request from the *Reporter*. According to a brief email, the company stated only that there were no updates on the contract negotiations, and had scheduled "no upcoming dates for bargaining."

During the lockout, BFMC nurses and supporters from Greenfield and surrounding towns took part in day-long picket lines and several rallies. The nurses also organized

see **NURSES** page A8

WiredWest Is Town's Cheaper Operator For Broadband, Say Consultants

By KATIE NOLAN

WENDELL – On Tuesday night, Jim Crowley of Holyoke Gas and Electric (HG&E) and Brian Richards of PineRidge Consulting presented a joint Wendell broadband committee and selectboard meeting with a comparison of costs for the town to operate a broadband network as an independent operator, or as a member of the WiredWest regional cooperative.

The consultants considered administrative costs such as insurance, electrical power for the network electronic equipment, pole licensing, accounting, audits, legal fees, maintenance of the cables and other outdoor equipment, internet service provider (ISP) subscriber fees, and network backhaul (high bandwidth connection from the town's electronic operation location to their wholesale ISP).

The consultants' report concluded that "Over time, as operator of a

see **WENDELL** page A8

TFHS Sports: The Week In Review

By MATT ROBINSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – In the second week of spring season, Turners Falls High School teams were able to squeeze in some games, but snow and rain continued to force cancellations. The softball team was finally able to lace up their cleats, and came out swinging – and hurling – their way to a 44-1 score in their first three games.

The baseball and girls' tennis teams are finding their ground, both with records of 1 and 2, and the boys' tennis team is showing strong improvement over last year, winning both their contests this week, even with their number-one singles player absent for the second.

Softball

TFHS 14 – Amherst 0

TFHS 12 – Easthampton 0

TFHS 18 – Belchertown 1

The state champions, ranked top in Western Mass by MassLive in any division, got back on the diamond this week with plenty of holes to fill. Since 2017, they lost their entire outfield and their star catcher. To make matters worse, 10th-grade pitching phenom Peyton Emery is out with an ankle injury.

So what's a coach to do? With over half of last year's



Homeward Bound: Aly Murphy reaches the plate following her home run as Powertown defeats the Belchertown Orioles 18-1.

starting lineup out, Gary Mullins had to shuffle. And it worked.

Last Wednesday, April 11, 9th grader Jade Tyler became the starting pitcher. She was almost perfect on the

see **SPORTS** page A7

The Montague Reporter

“The Voice of the Villages”

Editorial Group

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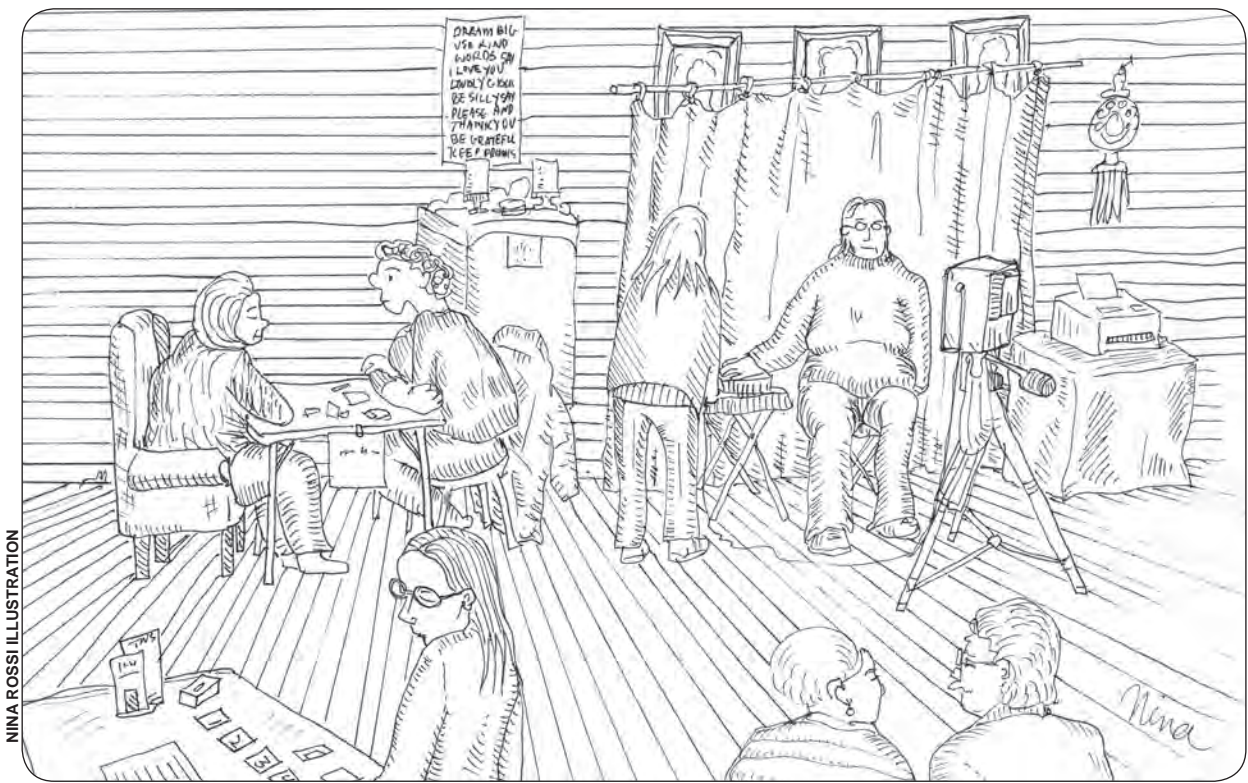
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Technical Administration

About Face Computing

Founded by
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August 2002



At a recent National Spiritual Alliance psychic fair, clients wait for readings and to have their auras photographed. Psychic fairs are held on the last Saturday of each month at the Thompson Temple in Lake Pleasant.

Ebbs and Flows

When the *Montague Reporter* started in 2002, it was a side project of Montague Community Cable, Inc., during a time when Montague’s cable assignment was granted to a Greenfield station.

Up to that time, MCCI had covered the towns of Montague, Gill, and Erving, and so this newspaper set out to “serve” those three communities, despite being headquartered in and named after the most populated one.

The *Wendell Post*, another grassroots paper, had recently published the last edition of its 24-year run – first as a monthly and then as a quarterly-or-so. A number of *Post* volunteers were recruited to cover Wendell for the *Reporter*, making us a four-town paper within our first year.

It wasn’t until the fall of 2009 that the newspaper expanded its reach into a fifth town, Leverett. “The towns that border Montague share a long history of economic and social relations, and the lack of coverage in this community has been a gap in our ability to present a cohesive weekly summary of events that affect each,” the first Leverett-serving edition explained.

That is certainly true, but in specific ways. Millers Falls was historically located in Montague and Erving, and encompassed a corner of Wendell; various groups have been entangled in the region of Montague Center and North Leverett; Gill’s Riverside was long linked to the development of Turners Falls across the bridges.

The broader area presents challenges, though. It has meant an aspiration to deliver our weekly papers over a territory of up to 113 square miles, rather than just 30; to cover the arcana of five town governments rather than one; and to offer news and features of possible interest to dozens of disparate and shifting local subcultures.

The *Reporter* was always intended as a participatory, ground-level newspaper. The biggest reward we are able to offer is the potential of strengthening one’s community by providing a tool for transparency, an impetus for accountability, and a platform for debate. A local paper can help shine a light on a place and map out its contours, but it can’t imbue that place with any more meaning than its residents actively create.

A major hurdle we face every week is that, though dozens upon dozens of people do their part to bring each edition together and get it to readers, none of them are from Leverett, and only a small handful are from each of Gill, Erving, and Wendell (and Greenfield!).

It’s a pernicious problem, and a puzzling one, given that we have many subscribers spread through the towns. Once in a while, someone with an axe to grind will try to use us, and there’s no shortage of events we are asked to advertise. But there are very few people living in what we’ve shamefully come to call around the newsroom “the outlying towns” who seem to have the time to pitch in and build a culture of local journalism.

We know that most people are simply buried by commitments, and our stipends are measly, so this isn’t intended to shame anyone for laziness or apathy.

But we put the problem to our “outlying” readers: What would it take for you, or one of your neighbors, to write two articles a year about the things you see as important in your town? What would it take to make the *Reporter* a more useful part of civic life where you live?

There are many different possibilities: perhaps businesses in these towns could be convinced to underwrite better beat reporting. We could have a “Gill editor,” “Erving editor,” etc., responsible for once-monthly pages of content along the lines of our science, children’s, Spanish and poetry pages. We could make once-quarterly special editions in which the entire B section is curated by an editorial team from a different town.

Or maybe we should just try to seed sister publications – the *New Wendell Post*, the *Gillbilly Gazette*, etc., and share resources and content as a group of papers. It would surely relieve the editors of town newsletters of some pressure.

Until then, we’re at the mercy of those “outliers” whose ears are already turned toward Turners Falls. Our year-in, year-out focus on the machinery of town governance – or five parallel machineries – distracts us from growing into a publication capable of the kinds of deeper and broader investigation that could be of interest to the whole county or region.

Is this the paper you want, the paper you need?

We’re encouraged by our loyal readers, their kind words of feedback (and helpful criticism), the donations we receive to sustain our work, and by our many supportive and constant advertisers.

But these towns – this country, this world – needs more reporters. If you’re interested, get in touch!

Letters to the Editors

Overlooked By “Informal Survey”

We are responding to an article in the *Montague Reporter* (published April 12) regarding a meeting of the Wendell Selectboard on April 4, in which one of the Selectboard members reported that he had conducted “an informal survey of business owners” and found that four Wendell business owners were against Wendell borrowing funds for a broadband network to one in favor.

As Wendell business owners and/or Wendell residents who use the internet from home for some portion of our work, we would like to express our strong support for building a municipally-owned broadband network in Wendell.

We rely on the internet for our work, and the future of Wendell depends on having a broadband network in town.

Respectfully,

Robbie Leppzer Turning Tide Productions	Mark Kemsley Kemsley Academy	Patti Scutari Wendell Country Store, Deja Brew Café & Pub	Adam Porter <i>Professor,</i> UMass-Amherst
Sara Schley <i>President and Founder,</i> Seed Systems	Amy Palmer Wylde Green Bed & Biscuit	Elizabeth M. Jakob <i>Professor of Biology,</i> UMass-Amherst	Matthew Dzedzic <i>Property Inspector</i>
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Doug Tanner <i>Musician, Consultant</i>	Nan Riebschlaeger <i>Business Manager, Quabbin Mediation</i>	Kari D. Loomis, PhD <i>Biology lecturer, UMass-Amherst</i>	Ken Parks Mountain Motor Works
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Sharon Wachslar <i>Owner and Sole Manager, At Your Service Dog Training</i>	Donald Pugh <i>Fisheries Biologist</i>		Doug Dawson
			Laurie DiDonato
			Gay Roberts
			Susan McCaffrey

Opinion, Mathematics, Insult

I know putting out the *Reporter* is a labor of love, and getting writers hard, so I’ve been hesitant to criticize. I do appreciate the paper, and it’s been consistently improving.

But a little tighter editorial control would be appreciated.

Rob Skelton’s occasional articles bounce between reportage and editorial opinion.

Jeanne Golrick’s guest editorial [April 5, *Stop Outrageous Spending*, page A4] misstates the cost to her of the public works garage by a factor of 12; the \$150 in increased taxes for her \$200,000 assessment is per year, not per month, \$3,750 over 25 years, not \$45,000.

A bit more fact checking is in order.

Thanks, and best regards,

Robert Steinberg
Montague Center

A recent cartoon in the *Montague Reporter* equates actresses with porn stars.

As actors rebel against the exploitative history of the casting couch, the *Montague Reporter* insults these artists by suggesting to your readers that the terms “actress” and “porn star” are interchangeable.

Mary Thomas
Wendell

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No paper last week of November,
or the Thursday closest to 12/25.*

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Compiled by DON CLEGG

Witness the transformation of **old, abandoned tree logs** into “things of beauty” created by local entrepreneur Spencer Peterman and his woodworkers at the Turners Falls branch of Greenfield Savings Bank on Saturday, April 21.

There will be a display of various stages of works in progress, as well as finished products. Feel free to drop in between the hours of 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. to appreciate this amazing skill. Light refreshments will be provided courtesy of the bank, and craftsmanship provided by Spencer Peterman and Andree Clearwater.

RiverCulture is compiling a **spring cultural event calendar** for events happening in Montague between May 1 and June 21. The calendar will be posted on the RiverCulture website, in social media, and included in the April 26 edition of the *Montague Reporter*.

To list your exhibition, talk, musical performance, theater performance, craft show, workshop, etc., submit event details to Suzanne at riverculture@montague-ma.gov by Monday, April 23. For any questions, call (413) 835-1390.

The Montague Public Works Facility Planning Committee is holding their **last informative meeting** prior to the annual town meeting at the Gill/Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls on Tuesday, April 24, starting at 1 p.m.

There will be presentations and discussion on **Creating “Tiny Homes” and Alternative Septic Systems** in the upstairs meeting room at Green Fields Market, 144 Main Street, Greenfield on Wednesday, April 25, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The event will include presentations by local friends with experience researching, designing, and/or building “tiny homes” and alternative, environmentally-friendly septic systems. Presenters include Susanne Hale, Emi Link, Sarah Hastings, Jonathan and Susan von Ranson. Discussion will follow.

Sponsored by Valley Community Land Trust and the Franklin Community Coop. For further information, see www.vclt.org.

The **Friends of Hillcrest** is hosting a fundraiser for the students of Hillcrest Elementary School to raise money for the kindergartners’ annual field trip to the Shea Theater, and

to raise funds for the kindergarten and first grade playground which is in desperate need of an update.

This event is themed “Mardi Gras Madness,” and is being held at the Montague Elks Lodge, 1 Elks Avenue, Turners Falls on Friday, April 27, from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 per person or \$25 per couple, and all attendees must be 21 and older. Take \$2 off your total if you donate a school supply. Tickets are limited and may be purchased at the door, by emailing friendsofhillcrest2015@gmail.com, or by calling or texting Julie at (413) 658-4012.

The **Giant Western Massachusetts Remote Control Flea Market** will be held Saturday, April 28, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Franklin County Technical School, 82 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls.

Browse, sell, or swap at the largest remote control flea market in western Mass. Anything remote control, including boats, planes, or cars, can be sold. For more information or to table, contact David Korpiewski at (413) 695-2191

Erving is also holding its **town-wide tag sale** on Saturday, April 28. Maps for participating households are available at town hall, library, and various businesses.

The *Montague Reporter* will be set up at 84 Old State Road selling mugs, subscriptions, and baked goods. If you wish to donate to the bake sale, contact volunteers at friendsofmontaguereporter@gmail.com or call me at 863-5125. The rain date is Sunday, April 29.

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation invites you to the Great Falls Discovery Center on Saturday, April 28, from 10 a.m. to noon for **Park Serve Day**. Lend a hand during this day of volunteer service to our state parks – “give a day and make a difference!”

To register, visit www.mass.gov/dcr or call (413) 863-3221.

A celebration of the life and many gifts of **Anne M. Kretzenger**, who died November 27, 2017, will be held Sunday, April 29 at her home “on the farm” at Hunting Hills, 448 Federal Street (Rte. 63) in Montague Center from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

This is an informal gathering to share memories and reflections of Anne’s life with her family and with one another. Casual attire is encouraged.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the McCarthy Funeral Homes. For information, visit www.mccarthyfuneralhomes.com.

The Gill/Montague Senior Center is now offering **mat yoga classes** for seniors and almost-seniors, 55 and up, starting on May 3 at 4 p.m. and continuing for eight weeks. You do not have to live in Gill or Montague, and there is no fee, though donations will be gratefully accepted.

The class is funded by a grant from the state Executive Office of Elder Affairs and the Gill-Montague Council on Aging. To register, please call the Senior Center at (413) 863-9357.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

GUEST EDITORIAL

By CHRIS MASON

MONTAGUE – Climate change is happening, and here in Massachusetts we are already feeling its effects from increased frequency of severe storms, danger from flooding, more days over 90° F, and growing threats to tree species, maple sugaring, and agriculture from extreme weather.

During town meeting on May 5, 2018, Montague has the chance to support passage of a Massachusetts law aimed at driving down state-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions while strengthening our economy. By passing this legislation, known as a greenhouse gas fee and rebate system, Massachusetts will lower our GHG emissions while supporting our local economy.

I ask that you encourage town meeting members to vote for the fee and rebate resolution.

What is a greenhouse gas fee and rebate system?

Economists have long agreed that adding a charge to an unwanted item – in this case GHG pollution – will reduce the use of that item. The “fee” part of a GHG fee and rebate system adds a pollution price to fossil fuels. This added cost motivates energy suppliers and users to lower their consumption of fossil fuels through increased energy efficiency, or by choosing a non-fossil fuel replacement.

Examples of this may be adding insulation to your home, buying a car with a high MPG rating, or switching to wood heat, an air-source heat pump (for high-efficiency heating

and cooling), or solar to heat your home and domestic hot water.

On a regular basis (the details are to be worked out by legislators), these fees would be returned to Massachusetts’s households, businesses and institutions. Each state resident would get an equitable share of fees collected – an even split per individual, plus additional rebates for individuals in areas where people drive more than average, such as western Massachusetts.

Businesses and institutions would get rebates based on the number of people they employ, plus added rebates for energy-intensive companies, or for those that face stiff out-of-state competition.

How will a carbon fee and rebate bill benefit our economy?

A fee and rebate system will motivate consumers to keep as much of the rebates as they can by lowering their use of fossil fuels through investments in energy efficiency or by choosing a non-fossil fuel replacement. This will reduce money spent on fossil fuels, which largely leaves the state, and instead will result in the employment of local contractors working in the fields of home energy efficiency, solar, and high efficiency heating systems, thereby strengthening our local economy.

Lower-income individuals are likely to benefit right from the beginning, because they tend to use less energy than people with higher incomes. Since the base rebates will be distributed evenly, low-income individuals will likely receive more in rebates than they spend in fees.

Why do we need a carbon fee and rebate bill?

Outside of the benefits it will provide to our economy and low-income residents, and its ability to slow down global warming, Massachusetts has a legal obligation to reduce its GHG emissions. In 2008, with passage of the Global Warming Solution Act, Massachusetts legally bound the state to reducing GHG emissions 25% below 1990 levels by 2020, and 80% by 2050. So far, state and local actions driven by this commitment are having an impact – in 2014, GHG emissions in the state were 21% below the 1990 baseline level – but the trend seems to be leveling off.

For this reason, the Montague Energy Committee is asking the Town to support a state-level GHG fee and rebate system to help accelerate Massachusetts’s progress toward meeting its GHG targets.

What are the details of the legislation?

There are currently two bills working through the state legislature that would enact a GHG fee and rebate. In one, Senate bill 1821, 100% of the fees collected would be returned to individuals, businesses and institutions.

In the second, House bill 1726, 20% of the fees collected would go to a new green infrastructure fund that would direct money to city and town governments for clean energy projects and to protect communities from the effects of climate change. At least a third of that would go to communities with low household incomes. Franklin County towns

would likely benefit from that stipulation.

An omnibus energy bill, Senate bill 2302, includes a broad framework for a market-based pricing system to lower GHG emissions.

While legislative negotiation will determine the exact makeup of a final fee and rebate bill, any law will likely start with a low dollar-per-ton of pollution fee and increase it over time. For example, the House bill would start at \$20/ton of carbon dioxide emissions and increase over time until it reached \$40/ton. To put that into more familiar terms, a \$20/ton fee would result in gasoline prices going up 20 cents per gallon.

Neither bill would affect electricity prices because those already have an added GHG pollution price attached through the Northeast Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). RGGI, which has been instrumental in lowering the state’s GHG emissions, supports millions of dollars in grants to local communities to implement clean energy projects.

You can find out more about these bills at climate-xchange.org/massachusetts-campaign/about-the-bill/.

In early May, in a second article, I will discuss in more detail why Massachusetts needs this type of legislation, the size of the opportunity available to reduce GHG emissions, and how such action will slow the warming of our planet’s ecosystems as well as improve our health and comfort.

Chris Mason is the chair of the Montague energy committee. He lives in Montague Center.



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Week ending April 14:

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Grade 7
Lindsay Davenport

Grade 8
Dylan Burnett
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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

More Homework for Library and Town Hall Grants; School Well

By GEORGE BRACE

At their April 17 meeting the Gill selectboard examined a grant proposal addressing energy conservation in the town hall and library, deliberated on two more potential warrant articles for town meeting on May 7, and took care of a number other town business items.

Energy commission chair Vicky Jenkins presented a response letter from the state Department of Energy Resources (DOER) to a recently-submitted group of Green Communities competitive grant proposals for aid in improving energy efficiency in the town hall and library. The proposals were for funding insulation in the library and town hall, lighting in the library, and air source heat pump (ASHP) heating and air-conditioning

systems for both buildings.

The response from the DOER provided a projection of potential results for several of the proposals, and asked for more information on others before considering the applications. Jenkins, the board, and administrative assistant Ray Purington had a lengthy discussion about the best ways to address the state’s questions and requests, the two buildings’ energy use, more general budget issues, and timelines for potential improvements.

All of the projections provided by the DOER included the need for town contributions to the projects. Some of the projections looked promising to the board, others did not. It appeared they could be decided on individually once the state formally reviews the applications.

Jenkins left with a smile, and plenty of work to do in formulating the town’s response.

should be part of the response, with Purington suggesting it probably shouldn’t be.

Ed Ambo To Retire

The board regretfully accepted the retirement notice of Edward Ambo Jr. after 37 years in the highway department. There were some brief humorous asides about whether it was possible to reject the notice – “we’ll let him know when he can retire” – and Crochier observed that “a lot of institutional knowledge is going away”.

All three board members thanked Ambo for his service, and John Ward added that he wants the board to review the job descriptions and positions in the highway department. Crochier and Snedeker agreed, noting that after 37 years, a review of the job description was in order.


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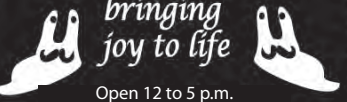
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Lower Quorums?

Ray Steele of the agricultural commission sought the board’s approval for a town meeting warrant article to change the rules governing town committees, to allow for more flexibility in meeting quorum requirements. Steele cited the ag commission’s difficulties in reaching quorum as the need for the article. Presently, if a committee is designated to have seven appointed members, but has three vacancies, a quorum of four would still be necessary for a meeting.

Steele spoke with Purington on the matter, who did some research and found that it was possible to create a rule designating a range of appointed members, with quorum requirements being adjusted to whatever was appropriate for the number serving.

The selectboard was in favor of the article.

The board was also in favor of a potential article for creating a “Safety Zone” on Mount Hermon Road, in front of Northfield Mount Hermon Day Care. Due to the way current laws are written, a school zone with a lower speed limit cannot be created, but a law adopted in 2016 allows for the town to create “Safety Zones” with less paperwork and overhead than other types of traffic laws.

Chair Randy Crochier suggested it may be possible to post traffic signs which say “Safety Zone,” rather than “Speed Limit,” to encourage people to take the limits more seriously.

Well Blame

Purington reported he has been putting together the information supporting the revised well water treatment system plan requested by the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and should be ready to submit it by their deadline. He said in talking with the DEP, the recent consent order is essentially a draft, and feedback could be provided.

A brief discussion took place about whether the town should protest the \$500 penalty included in the document. Questions were raised by both Crochier and Greg Snedeker about some of the delay being due to the DEP, and whether that

Other Business

Danielle West of the MedCare ambulance service appeared, to say it had come to her company’s attention that Gill was considering changing their service to Northfield Ambulance as their primary 911 provider, and wanted to respond to any concerns the selectboard may have that prompted the decision to look at another provider. She said she had heard there were rumors MedCare wanted to get out of the 911 business and only cared about doing transfers, and wanted to assure the board that they were unfounded.

Crochier informed her that the selectboard was not looking into the matter at this time. He said the fire department had been contacted by Northfield Ambulance with the idea, and the fire department board of engineers was looking into it, and would be reporting to the selectboard in the future. He provided West with the engineers’ next meeting date.

The board approved a sewer commitment of \$25,890.70. Purington said there was nothing noteworthy in the matter.

Crochier pointed out the pictures posted by the historical commission in the meeting room on the second floor of the town hall, commenting on what a great job the commission did in creating the exhibit, and recommending that people should come take a look.

The board approved a change in the timing of payments to off-duty police in order to speed them up. Snedeker asked if the change could have been made earlier, and Purington responded yes, “It’s a matter of asking the right questions, at the right time, to the right people.”

Bulky waste recycling day will be held Saturday, May 5 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Northfield highway garage. No pre-registration necessary; cash only.

Annual town meeting will be held in town hall on Monday, May 7 at 6:30 p.m.

A calendar of Gill’s 225th anniversary events will be included in the next town newsletter.

A housing assistance program called Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) is newly available through Franklin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority. Those interested can call (413) 223-5228.

GUEST EDITORIAL

By The People: S.O.S. (Stop Outrageous Spending), Part 2

By JEANNE GOLRICK

Welcome to the Hotel California... It's a lovely place, yes a lovely place... You can check out any time you want, but you can never leave.

– The Eagles in the ‘70s.

Well, as regards the Montague Public Works Facility, is Montague building Hotel California?

In fact, you will likely hear and read, in a fear-mongering presentation from the supporter folks who are bringing you the new \$11 million public highway facility, that (a) *if* you do *not* vote for it as presented, then you will have to pay more at a later date, *OR* (b) that OSHA will arrive and then tell the town we have to do it!

You have a choice in hotel accommodations (as I stated in my last writing they will tell you too!).

...What a lovely place, what a lovely place... Plenty of room at the Hotel California... Any time of year you can find it here...

This is not such a lovely place to be. The proposed \$11 million facility is the product of many years of ignored or inept planning – or, more simply, a clear lack of prioritized attention for many years, and outright omission of appropriate forward municipal thinking.

The continual rubber-stamping by town meeting *re-pre-sent-atives* of this proposed warrant from Winken, Blinken and Nod (which was based upon deficient planning, or lack of any prioritized planning) was pushed through town floor by means of committee-lobbied rationalization for this luxurious hotel, levied against the emotion of the rate-paying earners-taxpayers, whose *re-pre-sent-atives* likely did not even canvass the people whom they *re-pre-sent* before voting this exclusive issue at town meeting.

In future writings in this series, I will detail out specific issues around money and size (the two major concerns which are blatantly ignored by the hotel builders); but for the moment, it is paramount for people to know that the real power is held *by the people*, who exclusively ultimately authorize this project.

Our elected *re-pre-sent-atives* are charged to conduct business on our behalf, for our benefit, protection, safety, and happiness. Do you live in a part of town that has had precinct meetings hosted by your *re-pre-sent-ative* at which your opinions on Hotel California at Montague were heard, so that at town meeting *your re-pre-sent-atives* would vote as you desire them to do on your behalf?

You can check the town clerk to see a list of the town meeting members (TMM) who were present to form a quorum in order to vote this article. Was your TMM on this list? Do you know how they voted?

Although it may be too late now to affect the outcome of that meeting, it is important to know how your *re-pre-sent-ative* voted; sup-

porting your interest or not.

The ballot question will *not* be a Proposition 2.5 override, but rather a “debt exclusion” vote, for which the people finally get to have their say at the ballot box on Monday, May 21.

It seems noteworthy that this political system is a bit backwards. First a small, hand-picked committee – none of whom are TMMs, but who were selected by Winken, Blinken, and Nod (with sincere apologies to Eugene Field – has managed to facilitate a positive vote at town meeting *through re-pre-sent-atives*, and only *then* a vote *by the people* at the ballot box).

The wishes of the people were perhaps *not* reflected by the TMM at the “special” meeting held with primarily this one issue at hand.

If the \$11 million proposal is voted down at the ballot box, well, the words of the Eagles’ song ring even truer. The Committee has failed to fully answer the concerns at their public information sessions, only to hear at the special town meeting that those questions should have been raised earlier. The Committee has provided incomplete or non-answers (they checked out); but never actually and factually answered the questions (they left).

Here in the People’s Republic of Montague, those who publicly challenge the in-crowd are marginalized. The Ruling Party does not want to acknowledge that the corporate fiction of town of Montague has no way to make money, like an individual human being does (i.e. working for a living) because the only method of town “making” money is to take it from the living working people either by taxation or seizure or with permission.

The cost of government never goes down, and is the single largest factor driving up the cost of living.

Remember, you can “check out any time you like, but you can never leave.” How long can you afford to stay at the Hotel California at Montague?

There are only negative reasons to vote yes, but there are many positive reasons to VOTE NO on this proposal.

A NO vote will send a positive message to your elected officials that we cannot afford this.

A NO vote will send a positive message that there is at least one lower-cost option for them to request.

A NO vote will require a new, lower initial cost and long-term operational cost project to be put forward.

A NO vote respects the DPW workers by not letting them be blamed for this overly expensive city solution to a small-town problem.

Your vote will determine your future. Is Hotel California in Montague your ultimate destination vacation place?

Jeanne Golrick is a longstanding property-owning inhabitant in the Village of Millers Falls in Montague.

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THE
SPIRIT SHOPPE

BIG PICTURE from page A1

DJ: There was what was called the Judd Project at the time, [it became] the Power Town project. That took five, seven buildings all at once, and made them presentable. It was sort of a residential anchor. But the downside is, they gave up a fair amount of street commercial space to do it.... There’s a need for commercial space now. People can’t find it.

MR: *I think only the former Jay K’s Liquors is the only storefront up for rent right now.*

DJ: Yeah. I think so....

MR: *Did you train on the job?*

DJ: I guess so. Did I go to school to inspect buildings? Not specifically. I had a degree in physics, and I’d been working in carpentry since I was in high school.

MR: *Had you seen those as unified interests before?*

DJ: [Laughs] No. I’m in Turners Falls, halfway between Brattleboro and Amherst, with no particular purpose in mind, and looking around, finishing up my college [expletive]. What’s next? Do you keep going to college? And I had kind of had enough.

And then it was like, “holy [expletive], I’m in a place where there *are* no jobs.” So it was a little bit of a “looks like I’ve gotta make my own.” So, I opened a laundromat, and actually Frank Abbondanzio used to come in and do his clothes, and somewhere along the line, I heard the building inspector job was opening.

MR: *Did the job change over time?*

DJ: I’ve always looked at Montague, at least back then – it needed so many warm bodies to make it happen.

If you just stuck to your single discipline, eyes focused, “I only do building stuff,” then first of all it’d get boring as hell, and second of all, that networking contribution of a group of people doing something can’t happen.

I liked it because – I wouldn’t say it was recreational work, but your “have to” work and your interesting work were in balance.

MR: *Our features editor wanted me to ask if there’s one building downtown that you think of as the one that got away.*

DJ: That’s the Grand Trunk building. That was a tragedy to lose.

MR: *When did that come down? I’ve seen pictures of it.*

DJ: I wanna say the ‘60s, but I’m not sure – it was quite the building. Town Hall used to be in there, I’ve heard. It was by far the nicest building in town, the most ornate. It was massive, it was antiquated, but it wasn’t coming apart – it probably had roof problems, which usually is the beginning of the end, but stories have it that it was incredibly difficult to take down because it was so well-built.

Then the Renaissance commune owned the Colle and the Shea. Frank managed to get the Shea project going.

The other milestone was the Streetscape project. If that had not been done, probably none of the other stuff would have happened.

So then, the Shea/Colle was in my era.

MR: *A lot of my neighbors in downtown Turners are newer to town, and if I’m not mistaken, it feels like a fairly substantial part of the town’s overall population moved here.*

DJ: Well, Turners Falls has always been – when I came here, Second Street was almost all homeowners. Fifth Street had a spattering.

And I think it was ‘87 where there was a flurry of landlord investors, so a lot of the homes turned over, and it became much more of a rental area, which means it’s more transitory, at that point. There was a homeowner flight from Turners, and I think it was driven by a real estate market that was unusually exuberant at the time. ‘87-ish.

Some of them moved to the Hill, some of them were older. And the sale wasn’t to another family, but to an absentee landlord. You had a lot of people from the surrounding towns buying up property here, because, quite frankly, it was cheap.

A lot of disappointed landlords – people that would buy buildings, and assume that all they had to do was buy buildings and collect money

for the rest of their lives. And, you know, “fix stuff? Oh my god, I didn’t realize!”

So, Turners has been very transient for a long time. Not to say there are not a lot of long-term tenants here.

And I see, to some extent in the last ten years, a creeping back in of homeownership – people actually owning what they live in. Maybe a multi-family building or a duplex or something, but more and more people are interested in that.

MR: *Are you seeing generally new people doing that?*

DJ: Generally, new people.

MR: *So, we’re in rural America...*

DJ: Are we?

MR: *That’s actually a good question! Are we in rural America?*

DJ: It feels urban where I’m sitting. Makes you wonder why cities work.

MR: *It’s a town that has urban, suburban, and rural areas.*

DJ: Montague’s got a little of everything.

MR: *And that carries over, I imagine, to the buildings you’ve had to look at.*

DJ: It’s one of the things that made Montague interesting. I knew building inspectors that never inspected a commercial building, just single-family homes. They probably had a town hall to inspect once a year.

MR: *When I drive east on Route 2, I sometimes feel amazed to actually see construction in the eastern part of the state.*

DJ: Apparently the eastern part of the state’s one of the most active parts of the country... I marvel at the traffic, too.

MR: *It’s serious quantities of money, circulating. But they just don’t tend to circulate through this region.*

DJ: Nobody wants to put money into the hard – as a society, even as a country, if you will. They squander money on all sorts of stuff. But money follows easy money – the investment in the other stuff, interest.

The United States has not had serious infrastructure funding for ten years, 15, 20? That’s why the Streetscape project here – government had to do it, because nobody private’s going to do stuff like that. If it had not been done, Turners Falls would look, probably, like some burnt-out neighborhood in some other country, or even some in this country.

MR: *In terms of these various tipping points, what’s your perception of where the town is at right now, and its prospects?*

DJ: I would caution anybody: This is still a project that needs TLC to maintain it.

I’ve always felt that Turners Falls commercial space wasn’t at critical mass, and I still feel that possibility. I think right now the feeling is, more business in Turners is good, but where do you put ‘em? We’ve run out of space.

MR: *And without a lot of associated employment.*

DJ: Well, people are making do. I don’t look at the downtown retail – it’s tough business running a storefront, running a restaurant or bar even. You tell me who’s making money hand over fist on the Avenue. They’re making do, and they’re here because there’s an element of viability to it, and element of building, and of excitement. And people can sense and feel that it could get better. Nothing like enthusiasm to keep something going.

But, that’s a psychological place to be.... That’s why I’ve always worried that the Strathmore was going to get bulldozed. It’s like, where do you expand if you are successful? And we have the appearance of being successful. So the reaction of “let’s rip down an equivalent amount of commercial space to the entire downtown, in one fell swoop” seems crazy....

MR: *Right when the town is finally getting all this hype, regionally.*

DJ: Right. The timing is ironic. We’re feeling successful, so now we can spend 6 mil and pull down...

There’s no lack of interest in doing some-



Mr. Jensen, the morning after Tax Day.

thing with those buildings. It’s the scale, and the scope, and the fact that they can’t pry money loose to do it, because, first of all, it’s hard to get a commercial loan, probably in Massachusetts but certainly in Turners Falls.... We’ve got some banks that are certainly sympathetic to it, but commercial loans are just... scrutinized.

MR: *So there’s zones of profitability, and that becomes a self-fulfilling thing.*

DJ: Yeah. I don’t know about “self-fulfilling,” but yeah, climbing out of the hole is the hard part. And that’s not easy. You’ve gotta spend a lot of time, energy, and money.

And that Strathmore especially – you know, the hump to get something viable there is pretty big. Selective demolition and removing any one of those buildings would be a better potential, because the scope of the project would be so reduced that somebody could viably do something. They’d still have the same hurdles. But if you’ve gotta spend \$10 million just for the basic safety and roofing and weather-tighting, what pays back \$10 million off the bat?

MR: *And now Southworth’s in play?*

DJ: If they’re out of bankruptcy, they can run it! My understanding is that Southworth, the company, had a lot of proprietary plans for specialized paper: mulch paper, and a few others that they didn’t reveal. They were having difficulties with the bankruptcy because the intellectual property didn’t go with the building, but that intellectual property was geared around what could be produced in Turners Falls.

I gather the paper machine here is very flexible in what they could produce, so they had a bunch of niche markets they were looking at. So you’ve got a mill with no ideas, and ideas without a mill.

I’m suspecting – I have no proof of this whatsoever – that Turners Falls was probably Southworth’s most viable mill, and they were working on coming out of their hole in debt when they were sandbagged by predators....

The town met with them any number of times – every couple years, there’d be some question coming up. The bridge over the canal was one, the condition of the Strathmore was another, the condition of access to Strathmore was a third.

Prior to the bankruptcy, they were looking to ramp up the use of this mill, which tells you something. But I think they could smell the wolves at their door, and their claim was that, had the debt either been restructured or extended, they could have kept a viable company going.

MR: *So they could take people back on? I see the lights are on in there...*

DJ: Well, you’ve got your human capital, too – it takes skill to run those machines. Even if you’re down for half an hour, that’s big money lost. So they were trying to hire and train when their debt got called. What does that mean? It certainly bodes well for the possibility that it’s not going to be another dead mill.

I hope. One more dead mill, and your notion of the Canal District really gets complicated....

MR: *Partial demolition of the Strathmore would be a difficult prospect...*

DJ: Partial demolition, yeah. Well, total demolition is probably strategically the easiest – take it all down! – but fortunately or unfortunately, somebody owns a piece right in the

middle, with certain rights to the portion the town has taken.

If you take any of the buildings around the powerhouse, it’s going to destabilize the powerhouse, so in order to accommodate that by any rational code way, it would probably be almost like rebuilding the powerhouse. In fact, it would be cheaper to take the powerhouse down and give them a tin shed to cover the generators than to try to preserve the existing.

If they left all the buildings around it, which can be done, then you’ve got a feasible plan. It would mean taking down Buildings 1, 2 and 3 – the whole back, river side down.

They’re proposing to take Building 7 out of there, which is almost one of the better ones. Buildings 4 and 5 hold up the powerhouse, Building 6 holds up Building 5. 8 you could get rid of. 1, 2, 3, and 8. And there is no rational reason to get rid of 7, unless you’re just on a demo kick.

MR: *They’re doing a study of it, but that’s not committing to do it.*

DJ: They unfortunately have made the scope of the study very improbable for success. It’s “give us a plan to demolish the buildings,” not “give us an assessment of what could, or should, be done, or where the downsides are.”

There was some sort of back-office, major change, and I’m not even sure if the selectmen participated in that change. If they did, well, that’s interesting. But I’m curious, where did the idea come from?

MR: *I recently had someone who was appointed as a member of the Community Development Advisory Committee ask me if I knew anything about how the decision was made.*

DJ: I am intensely curious about how that came to be – was there some sort of consensus, or did somebody have a flash-of-the-moment idea and say “oh, this will be simpler?” Or, “oh gee, the funding can only do this, so we’re going to rip ‘em all down, ‘cause it gives us a better chance of funding this thing.”

Which may have been factored in, but you don’t plan your community around just what you can get more money for!

MR: *Those are tough buildings, though.*

DJ: Nobody’s ever said it’s going to be easy. Do you want to spend more money, take ‘em all down, or spend half the money and still have something left over afterwards? You can always spend the money later. You’re not obligated to stop your plan. What’s the hurry?

.... Strathmore has also been sort of hampered by the fact that there’s no gas line.

MR: *I thought there was a line coming across from Greenfield!*

DJ: There is – it goes to Southworth. It’s a big one, but it doesn’t get to Strathmore.

MR: *And now there’s a gas moratorium.*

DJ: Right. And the other question is, where is Southworth’s, or Turners Falls Paper’s, gas allocation going to go? They were one of the biggest gas users around.

MR: *The idea with the moratorium is that there’s no reallocation, right?*

DJ: That’s the way they’ve been playing it. If someone gets shut off, it’s not like they can go pick up another customer somewhere else.

I think it’s a very big public concern: what’s going to happen with their gas? If the gas company decides that the paper mill is under a moratorium too, that’ll kill a major business in that town. Kill it. Dead. It’ll be over, right that day.

MR: *They could fill the silo up with coal, build another railroad up the side of the canal –*

DJ: Coal burning in a valley, hmm...

There was a plan for that once, but it fell through. Right before I came.

Frank had worked it out with the railroad to reinvigorate the spur coming across the Connecticut River, down through the golf course, across the canal, and to the paper mills.

MR: *Whoa.*

DJ: It was all ready to go, and I wish I could remember the exact reason it fell apart.

I knew the story at one time....



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ArtsNight 2018!

By Christine Copeland

Join us for an evening humming with excitement on Thursday, April 19 beginning at 5 pm. One of GCC's most successful annual events, Arts Night is a chance for people from across the community to celebrate and support the arts at GCC. Leo Hwang, Dean of Humanities puts it this way: "It is a fantastic opportunity for the community to see what's happening at the college. It shows the best of what we do in music, dance, theater, and art."

ArtsNight grew out of the successful and long-standing Annual Student Art Exhibit as a way to showcase all of the arts at the college and to recognize the creative spirit and energy of our students.

Here's what you can expect: in addition to the comprehensive exhibit of visual art, you can now attend a dance performance at 5pm followed by student-directed *One Acts* in Sloan Theater. At 6:45pm, the GCC Chorus performs in the South Gallery, the lyrical sounds of voices leadings you up the stairs as you enter the South Gallery and surrounding hallways filled with drawings, paintings, prints, photographs and video. At 7pm, in the Music room, an ensemble performs jazz and contemporary music. Dinner is provided by the GCC Student Senate and art students.

The GCC Art faculty carefully chooses work that represents the

diverse range of the student artists from the different levels of courses. Paul Lindale, Chair of the Art Department explains, "This is a collective celebratory event and enables prospective students, community members, and even gallery owners an opportunity to come and see what we do." The Art Department hangs as much work as the space allows accommodating as many students as possible. Faculty Emeritus Budge Hyde, (who helped curate the very first show in 1972), says, "Our student shows have been noted throughout the region as being really qualified, beautiful shows... They demonstrate the best of the work."



Take a class with us!

Two 7-week sessions to jump-start your Fall!

Summer I – May 21-July 11

Summer II – July 12-August 29

Register today!

For complete details view schedule
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ArtsNight Schedule – April 19



5:00-5:15pm Dance performance, Sloan Theater

The Performance Project will present three new works to include contemporary works, *River and Roots*, choreographed by GCC Alum Sara Sheppard and Jess Fredrick, as well as a modern dance piece to spoken word and music choreographed by dance instructor Kathy Steinem and peer tutoring coordinator, Cindy Snow. Dancers will present a visual interpretation of Cindy's 2017 Poet's Seat Award-winning poem, *For Leonard*. Join us for the entire Spring Dance Concert, *Think*, Friday, May 11, at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls at 7 p.m.



5:15-6:45pm *Locally Grown 2*, One-act theatrical production, Sloan Theater

Tom Geha, Theater Department Chair says, "Besides opening a play, it's my favorite event at GCC. I think it is a great platform to showcase all of the arts at GCC." Join us for even more theater performances on April 26-28 at 7:30 p.m.



6:45-7:00pm Chorus

Chorus conductor Margery Heins, accompanist Marilyn Berthelette, and soloists from the GCC Chorus will be performing highlights from their "THINK SPRING!" concert series.



7:00-8:30pm Contemporary Music Ensemble

"Our students have been performing as part of the art opening since 2003, and it's been a highlight of every year for them" says Matthew Shippee, Music Department Chair. "Evolving the event into ArtsNight now ties our campus arts community together in an even more fun way that people can experience in one evening."



7:00-9:00pm Annual Student Art Exhibit Opening

The exhibit represents the culmination of student artwork created in the 2017-18 academic year and includes painting, drawing, photography, computer arts, video, and more. Everyone is welcome! The Annual Art Student Exhibit opens April 19 and runs thru May 10 and is open to the general public.

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Information Session

Thursday, April 26

10:30am-12:00pm

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Art on Campus

The Art Department at GCC is dedicated to sharing the vision and voices of our students, alumni and faculty. An initiative for the distribution and display of representative artworks throughout the campus has been made possible by the generous support of Mike and Joan Haley resulting in the creation of the Mike and Joan Haley Collection.

The Mike and Joan Haley Collection consists of artworks created by GCC students, alumni and faculty. As a collection, this work reflects the recent history of the Art Department at GCC and is designed to evoke the diversity and shared vision of students and faculty alike and to promote a critical dialog around the nature of art making within our community.

Student/staff work is selected for purchase once a year during the annual Art Student Exhibit.



POWER TOWN from page A1 great,” and that the new company would only be making “smaller updates,” including “landscape work.” Leonard also emphasized that HMR would be promoting more “community events” for residents. She mentioned a barbeque planned for May, and weekly Thursday coffee hours in the community room.

The transition from HallKeen has produced two new office personnel, including Leonard and an office assistant. One “maintenance technician” will remain in place, while HMR plans to hire a new full-time employee for cleaning.

The Judd Project

The buildings which comprise Power Town were built between the 1880s and 1920s when Turners Falls was a factory town. Power-town, a longtime nickname for the village, refers to the production of hydro-electric power which began in Turners in the first decades of the 20th century.

Former Power Town manager Sharon Cottrell said the original properties were purchased in the early 1980s by Tom Judd, of the family that created the Turners-based Judd Wire Company. The financing and “substantial rehabilitation” of the



The 82 apartments are scattered among these ten (or so) downtown buildings.

buildings were carried out by a Boston firm called Myerson/Allen and Company, which specialized in developing historic “downtown” properties for affordable housing.

Morton Myerson and John Allen formed an entity called Power Town Limited Partnership to purchase three buildings from Judd, and eight more properties from other owners, during one week in late September 1982 for a total of

\$428,900. Loans for rehabilitation came from the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency. Power Town LP sold the collection of buildings in May 2015 for \$3,450,000 to a Spring Street-affiliated entity called Power Turner Falls LP.

According to its website, the company that recently took over the management of Power Town, HMR, was created in 2001 to manage properties owned by Silver Street. HMR now manages over 8,000 “apartment homes” in eleven states.

There is currently a waiting list for apartments in Turners Falls, which are funded under so-called “Project Based” Section 8. This means that the subsidy stays with the apartment when the residents moves. This contrasts with tenant-based Section 8, also known as the Housing Choice Voucher Program, in which the subsidy stays with the tenant.

The Trump administration’s proposed FY’19 federal budget calls for substantial cuts in housing subsidies, including the Section 8 program. The proposal would also hike rent for many voucher holders, “to shoulder more of their housing costs and provide an incentive to increase their earnings.”



SPORTS from page A1

mound, tossing a five-inning no-hitter. The only batter who reached did so on an error, and was subsequently thrown out. So Tyler only faced the minimum 15 batters before the game was called by the mercy rule.

She had plenty of help at the plate. In fact, Turners had batted the lineup twice before Amherst had their seventh batter.

Two days later, the Blue Ladies traveled to Easthampton to face the Eagles. Tyler again pitched a shutout, though a couple of Eastie batters managed to reach base. Offensively, Turners again hit double figures with 12 runs.

Then on Wednesday, April 18, Turners hosted Belchertown. As with the previous two games, Blue rotated through its full batting order first inning. Tyler pitched another remarkable three innings, striking out six and allowing no hits, before being replaced by Peyton Emery. Peyton struck out five, but did let in one run on two singles and a walk before retiring the side.

Despite 26 runs in its first two games, Turners was the only team in the lead not to hit a home run going into Wednesday’s game, but that all changed in the first inning when Aly Murphy clocked one over the center-left fence. Then in the third, pitcher Jade Tyler, batting for Hailey Bogusz, hit Turners’ second home run of the year.

Coach Mullins’ liberal substitutions allowed 17 different players to bat in Turners’ four innings. Again the mercy rule was invoked halfway through the fifth, with the score standing at 18-1.

Thursday’s game against Ludlow has been postponed due to anticipated snow and rain, so the team’s next games will be this Friday, April 20 at Athol and Tuesday, April 24 at Greenfield. The Green Wave is ranked fourth in Western Mass and is responsible for Turners’ lone 2017 loss, so wear blue!

Girls Tennis

Lee 5 – TFHS 0

Last Friday, the Turners Falls girls’ tennis team traveled to the Berkshires to face the Lee Wildcats. The Cats swept all three singles matches 2 sets to 0. Rachel Tucker and Izzy Farrick stole a game in the

first doubles match, but Blue was shut out in the second doubles.

The loss gives Powertown a 1–2 record, 0–1 in Tri-County North.

Boys Tennis

TFHS 5 – Greenfield 0
TFHS 3 – Chicopee Comp 2

After dropping their first match against Pioneer Valley Christian, the boys’ tennis team went 2–0. According to coach Steven Touloumtzis, Turners was ahead in most of their matches against PVC, but faltered in the second sets.

On April 9, the boys crossed the river and swept Greenfield 5-0. “Tennis is different than basketball,” observed Jimmy Vaughn’s father. “They shake hands before the game, they shake hands after the game, and they encourage each other during the game.” Yes, tennis is truly a gentleman’s game.

Against Greenfield, Vaughn (6-3, 6-0), Brian Porier (6-1, 6-4), and Will Turn (6-0, 6-1) all swept their matches, while Brian Trott and Josh Gaulin took the first doubles match 6-3, 7-5. Turners completed the sweep with a forfeit in the second doubles match.

Then last Friday, they hosted Chicopee Comp, winning the contest 3-2. The big question for that match was how Turners do without their number-one singles player.

The initial thought that Coach T. would forfeit the first singles match – but against Comp, while Vaughn was away? But the question became moot, as Porier moved up to first singles. He did eventually drop the rubber set in a 10-6 tie breaker.

Second singles player Will Turn won in straight sets, and both Trott and Gaulin and J. Joe Kochan and Michael Boyle won their doubles matches, while Corin Wisniewski stepped up to third singles and dropped his match 6-0, 6-0.

every inning except the fourth.

On the mound, Hayden Patenaude, James Robinson, and Brian Murphy shared pitching duties, while in the field, Turners committed four costly errors. Blue also had three hits at the plate.

The next evening, Turners traveled north to face the Pioneer Panthers. In this game, Blue was able to get eight hits, but only managed to put one run across while committing more costly errors to put the game out of reach. The game was decided in the first inning, as the Panthers scored 5 runs; they outpaced Powertown 3-1 over the next six innings to take the game 8-1.

Kyle Dodge and reliever Trevor Lapinski pitched for the Tribe. Currently, Turners sits at 1–2 overall, and has not played any Hampshire West opponents.



Next week: Spring?

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was April 10 and 17, 2008: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Airport Commission Denies Racial Slur Used

Narragansett Tribal Historic Preservation Officer John Brown says he is outraged at racial slurs about “tree hugging” and “rock hugging” Native Americans made by the executive director of the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission, Robert Welch, and Mark Fairbrother, a commissioner of the Turners Falls Municipal Airport, at a meeting at the airport office on April 4.

At that meeting, Welch brought up the delay in the \$5 million state and federally funded runway extension project at the airport caused by a dispute over Native claims about a stone formation on a nearby hill, which would be excavated under current runway extension plans.

Two federally recognized Native American tribes, the Narragansetts and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gayhead (Aquinnah), claim the

stone formation on the hilltop is an ancient ceremonial site of cultural significance to their peoples.

According to some people at the meeting, Welch stated to the assembled airport commissioners that the runway project was being held up by “tree hugging Indians.” Mark Fairbrother retorted, “They aren’t tree-hugging Indians. They already hugged the trees, right onto the logging truck.”

Fairbrother denies making this statement, and several commissioners present remember the statement, but were unable to recall who said it.

The two tribes are given consultative authority under federal law for any construction project that uses federal dollars where culturally significant artifacts to their tribes are determined to be located.

The next Friday, Brown responded to Welch’s and Fairbrother’s remarks by saying, “The comments are racist and bigoted. It’s clear they do not understand the responsibility they have under federal law. For public officials to make these type of comments about any

race of people shows a failure to appreciate their role as duly elected or appointed officials.”

Wendell Selectboard Recommends Raising Pay

On Wednesday, the finance committee met with the selectboard and distributed a sheet showing the pay rate for various jobs in Wendell and comparing them to other Franklin County towns.

Wendell fits with the other towns in most jobs, with the exception of the road boss, the police chief, and the fire chief. The comparison is not even, because some of the chiefs are full time, but Keller suggested bringing both of their salaries up from \$1,500 to \$5,000 because of the amount of time they both spend on the job, and bringing the road boss salary up to the level that New Salem pays, in yearly increments of \$2,000.

Other board members agreed with his recommendation, along with a 3% cost of living increase for other town workers.

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GOOD USED USABLES

WENDELL from page A1

regional cooperative network, WiredWest could offer a better value to all member towns, as opposed to operating their network independently.”

Because the consultants’ presentation and committee and citizen questions continued from 7 p.m. until after 9 p.m., the joint meeting tabled all of its other agenda items, including item #9, “Possibility of revoting Town authorization of Broadband Project,” until Tuesday,

April 24 at 7 p.m..

Approximately a dozen citizens attended the meeting, including Robbie Leppzer, author of an open letter to the selectboard affirming “strong support for building a municipally-owned broadband network in Wendell,” and other signers of his letter. (See Letters, page A2.)

Copies of the detailed HG&E report are available from selectboard and broadband committee members.



ANNE BAKER PHOTO

Common around the ocean, this pair of long-tailed ducks was seen at Migratory Way in the Patch area of Turners Falls earlier this month. They stopped here overnight on their migration path. The male is still in its winter plumage with white on his head. Thanks to our reader Anne Baker for sharing this photograph with us!

NURSES from page A1

a “Community Day” on April 12, picking up garbage along the streets and parks that surround the hospital.

The lockout began on a confrontational note, when Baystate barred Donna Stern, an RN and co-chair of the bargaining committee for the Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA), the union that represents the nurses at BFMC, from entering the hospital.

In a video available on YouTube, Stern is shown attempting to enter the hospital before the scheduled lockout of her fellow nurses begins on April 10. The head of Baystate’s security informed Stern that she has been prohibited from entering the building. As she moved forward, four officers from the Greenfield police department, hired by the hospital as a security detail, linked arms and pushed her back, and physically blocked her entry.

In a phone interview this week, Stern described that encounter as “hostile,” and said it set the mood for lockout. “This is not an organi-

zation that cares about its employees,” she stated in regards to Baystate. “Their words and their behaviors don’t match up... They really think it’s OK to let police lay hands on one of their nurses.”

Stern added that the MNA will file charges about the hospital’s actions with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

According to the union, the day before the lockout began, the NLRB announced that it had “found merit” in a number of charges the MNA filed following a similar strike and lockout in June 2017, accusing the hospital of violating the National Labor Relations Act. The NLRB must find merit in a charge before an official complaint can be filed.

One of those charges stems from last summer’s lockout. According to the MNA, the NLRB found merit in the charge that “...the Employer has unlawfully interfered with, restrained, and coerced bargaining unit employees in the exercise of their rights... by threatening two union representatives, who were engaged

in union activity in the Employer’s facility and by having security guards escort those representatives from the Employer’s facility.”

“It’s unfortunate,” Stern said of last week’s confrontation, “that Baystate decided to repeat some of the same behaviors that they were called out on, that there was merit on, and that there will be a complaint [filed about].”

The major contention remaining in negotiations between Baystate and the nurses, who have been working without a contract since the end of 2016, revolves around staffing and patient assignments. The union argues that Baystate Franklin is chronically short-staffed and that charge nurses are receiving too many pa-

tient assignments. They are pushing for improvements to staffing ratios and a rule that charge nurses rarely are assigned their own patients.

The union has also backed a ballot initiative that would regulate staffing ratios at all hospitals in the state. The Massachusetts Nurse-Patient Assignment Limit Initiative, which may appear on the ballot this November, would place specific limits on the number and type of patients a nurse could care for at one time, stipulating that these limits be set “without reducing staff levels, such as service staff, maintenance staff, or clerical staff.”

Proponents of the measure point to what they say is a dangerous lack of regulation in patient limits in all

departments of Massachusetts’ hospitals except for the intensive care units, which are regulated. Opponents argue that such strict rules for patient care would remove flexibility among nurses and doctors, and would increase emergency room wait times.

Stern told the Reporter that the Baystate nurses planned to continue to fight both at their own hospital and through the legislative process, and that she hoped they would inspire other workers to push for fair treatment as well. “If 200 nurses in Greenfield can fight a \$2.5 billion corporation,” she said, “then maybe they can start fighting too.”



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Chasing our Tales: Little Big Man, Part I

By LYN CLARK

TURNERS FALLS – Most of us have a favorite grandparent, someone with whom we form a particularly close bond; why this one, and not that one, is sometimes a mystery. But in this case, perhaps not, since this favorite grandparent, about whom we write, clearly had a favorite grandchild: our *Local Briefs* writer and distribution manager, Don Clegg.

Edward Clegg was born in August of 1900 in Manchester, England where his father, Edward, Sr. worked in the textile mills, repairing the looms and maintaining machinery. Francis Cabot Lowell, for whom Lowell, Massachusetts is named, had traveled to Manchester in the early 1800s to tour the Manchester cotton mills where raw cotton was converted to cloth, and took home to America the information necessary to build his own mills.

It is not so surprising, then, that in 1908 when Edward Sr. brought his wife and three children to America, they settled in Lowell, Massachusetts, the center at that time of America’s cotton industry. Here Edward was again hired to repair and maintain the machinery.

The family rented in a typical row house constructed specifically for mill workers, probably

similar to the row houses on Third Street in Turners Falls. Edward Jr. was 8 years old at the time, and after school he worked for four to six hours in the mills, as did his older brother, probably as a runner helping the women who operated the looms.

In January of 1912, the mill workers in Lawrence walked off the job during the famous “Bread and Roses” strike and, despite many clashes with strike busters, they were successful in obtaining a 15% raise. This inspired the Lowell see **TALES** page B4



A row of worker housing at Lowell, Massachusetts in 1941 where the Clegg family once lived. (Jack Delano photograph from the Library of Congress collection.)

By BEVERLY KETCH

TURNERS FALLS – Opening almost one year ago, Elena Mamatas, owner of Great Falls Yoga, transformed a former carriage house at 34 Third Street into a comfortable and unpretentious space for all levels of yoga. The carriage house, which was most recently a very utilitarian art studio with concrete floors, now has a welcoming entryway, peaceful decor and cork floors in the yoga space. Here, Mamatas and a group of seven other teachers instruct a variety of classes, from gentle and yin yoga to more energetic Vinyasa flow.

I attended a class which happened to be the first class taught there by the newest member of their team, Jocelyn O’Shea. Her background includes yoga studies in New York City, among other places, but she now teaches an active flow class, which she describes as “non-lineage based” and “student-centered.”

Many years of experience as a full-time teacher make her teaching style a sort of second nature, but her fresh delight in practicing and teaching was evident and uplifting throughout the class. When she taught our group of five women the “Breath of Joy,” which involved strong breaths and a shout out loud, I was impressed that it indeed brought an exhilaration and rush of energy that surprised me.

The Great Falls Yoga studio has drawn a devoted group of students, many who were brand new to yoga and now practice daily. Students



Elena Mamatas of Great Falls Yoga in her newly renovated studio on Third Street in Turners Falls.

come from Turners Falls, Northfield, Orange, and other surrounding towns.

I asked Vicky Jenkins of Gill why she comes to the classes almost every day. “The reason I come here is that they really encourage acceptance and being kind to yourself,” she told me. “In other places in the past I’ve felt pushed

to work harder and as if I weren’t good enough. Here it’s just the opposite. I’ve been to classes with every teacher here and found the classes to be very different from each other, but the supportive attitude is always the same.”

Mamatas moved to Deerfield three years ago and now lives in see **YOGA** page B4



THE GARDENER’S COMPANION

Strength and Balance

By LESLIE BROWN

Don’t be afraid to explore; without exploration there are no discoveries... If you go out and work with the current of life, you may find that success comes from building upon small things.

from Deng Ming-Dao, “365 Tao: Daily Meditations”

MONTAGUE CITY – The human body evolves with aging. We no longer own the effervescence of youth. Mentally, we remain alert and thoughtful. Since we retired from physically active work, we find it absolutely necessary to take on a regime of exercise to maintain muscle tone and strength.

Balance is another issue for many. We have taken up Tai Chi over the last half-dozen years, most recently a form specifically modified for the aging body. This form also has the added benefit of connecting with the approach of Chinese medicine, as the body moves through positions which emphasize the meridians and points of energy used in such treatments as acupuncture and acupressure.

It is also a meditative form, engaging the body systems. For this writer, it has helped maintain limberness, balance and unexpectedly has resulted in a decrease in blood pressure as well.

We have moved quickly and run hard during the earlier phases of our lives, and sometimes regret

the loss of this level of energy. But much, also, is to be said for the increase of time for reading, meditation and contemplation that earlier lives did not always foster. We can be more active in other ways and have no need to ask for time away to learn new things, to find new forms of expression; to join a rally, or watch a grandchild play a game or perform in dance.

We can throw away guilt and spend as long as we care to in the yard and garden, or walking in our beautiful valley, or just plain sitting to admire the world we live in.

Things have less importance in our lives compared to our connections with those to whom we are close: longtime friends or partners or family. During a lifetime of decades we have accumulated much: things we bought or were given, hand-me-downs, memorabilia, not to mention pieces of paper or photos we no longer recognize. There is new lightness in letting go of some of these, or in passing them along to younger generations to treasure for a time. Then honing down to those things you really feel you can’t yet relinquish.

There was a wonderful horoscope in a recent newspaper which read: “Take a few moments and think about your inner values and what really matters to you. Remember – you never see a hearse pulling a U-Haul.”

There are many other ways than physical ones to be strong. Strength in beliefs and ideas is a founding see **GARDENERS** page B4

THEATER REVIEW

Plot and Music Swirl Around A Pious Con Man in *Tar2f!*



Left to right, Orgon’s son Damis (Rich Vaden) and daughter Mariane (Grace Olmsted) are upset with their father Orgon (Sam Samuels), who refuses to listen to what the family has to say about his choices.

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

GREENFIELD – The premier production of Jeff Olmsted’s original musical comedy, *Tar2f! An Irreverent Musical Comedy*, opens the Silverthorne Theater Company’s 2018 season to great success. The audience Saturday night at Hawks and Reed laughed, cheered, and commented in agreement, showing engagement with the play and its characters.

Local playwright and composer Olmsted wrote the book, music and lyrics, and provided musical accompaniment throughout the performance with the assistance of musician Lee Edelberg.

Under the direction of Chris Rohmann, and musical director Ted Trobaugh, the show comes alive in fast moving scenes that entertain

while presenting timeless issues of honesty, faith and greed. It features a large cast of multi-talented actors and singers, providing high drama (and some melodrama), with the storyline complemented with strong musical numbers in the style of traditional show tunes but a little more: dance numbers that include a hint of the minuet.

The cast’s vocal skills are outstanding: Grace Olmsted has the voice of a lyrical soprano that was particularly charming, and Myka Plunkett had a chance to show off her exceptional voice in the very funny song “I Married a Stupid Man.” As an ensemble, the level of complexity in the multi-layered choral parts are wonderful to hear, and lovely when they come back together in elegant harmonies.

A complex farce with many moving parts, *Tar2f!* is a modern interpretation of a 350-year-old play. *Tartuffe*, by French playwright Molière, provides the underpinning of the story which Olmsted has successfully developed into a thoroughly enjoyable modern musical.

Originally performed before King Louis XIV at Versailles in 1664, *Tartuffe* was promptly banned. Some of that history finds its way into this play through the character of Molière, played by Thom Griffin. At moments during the production, the play is interrupted by Molière, who speaks to the cast as if they are actors in a play – his play – announcing the play’s status. Then they go back to the performance, as if it’s a rehearsal, or as if it is really happening. The audience can interpret this as they wish.

Set in the year 1664, yet feeling very current in theme and language, *Tar2f!* tells the story of a wealthy gentleman, Orgon, who falls under the spell of an apparently pious man, Tartuffe. Orgon, played with drama and heart by Sam Samuels, is the head of a family favored by the King, and seeks the kind of faith he sees reflected in Tartuffe’s obvious piety.

Seeing how humble the man is, and that he appears to be both hungry and homeless, Orgon invites Tartuffe into his home. This upsets Orgon’s grown children, as *Tartuffe* seems harsh in his judgment of their see **TAR2F** page B8

Pet of the Week

Cats aren’t generally fond of citrus fruit but that doesn’t mean we can’t have orange-y names like OJ. That’s me, a handsome fellow who’s as welcome as a tall, cold glass of orange juice on a hot day. I traveled from out of state with a truckful of feline friends to Dakin to find a new home here in New England. I’m not giving up any details about my past, so we’ll just have to start from scratch and create a new future together!

Take her home with you this week! Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at info@dpvhs.org.



“O.J.”

Senior Center Activities APRIL 23 TO 27

GILL and MONTAGUE
The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted.
Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.
Tues–Thurs Noon Lunch
M, W, F 10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Monday 4/23:
8 a.m. Foot Clinic Appointments
Tuesday 4/24:
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga w/Andrea
1 p.m. Montague Highway Garage Project Presentation (Open to Public)
Wednesday 4/25:
9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach
12:30 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 4/26:
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga
1 p.m. Cards & Games
Friday 4/27:
1 p.m. Writing Group

LEVERETT
For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us.
Flexibility & Balance Chair Yoga – Wednesdays 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 4/23: No Lunch Served
9:30 a.m. Healthy Bones
10:30 a.m. Tai Chi
Tuesday 4/24:
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
Fire Safety
Wednesday 4/25:
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo & Snacks
6 p.m. Pitch Night
Thursday 4/26:
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
12:30 a.m. Create to Donate
Friday 4/27:
9 a.m. Quilting Workshop
9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling
11:15 a.m. Music, Movement, M...

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.

Here, There, and Everywhere in Massachusetts: ArtWeek 2018!

From combined sources.

FRANKLIN COUNTY – For the first year, Franklin County has joined an ArtWeek initiative that has expanded across Massachusetts with fifteen events planned during a special week of cultural activities April 27 through May 6.

The initiative was started in the greater Boston area in 2013 as an effort to make art and culture more accessible to everyone; over 70% of ArtWeek events are free. The current lineup across the state offers more than 500 events, more than double last year’s offerings, and includes all six regions of the state and over 155 neighborhoods and towns.

The week kicks off locally with a special Business After Hours event on Thursday evening, April 26, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center. Hosted by both the Franklin County and Northampton Chambers of Commerce, it will feature a presentation by special guest Sue Darling Sullivan, chief strategist for the Boch Center (producers of ArtWeek along with the Highland Street Foundation). Artists from participating events will be present to answer questions during the meet-and-greet following this presentation. Registration is required: call (413) 773-5463 or visit franklincc.org.

Natalie Blais, executive director for the Franklin Chamber, said, “We are very excited to be part of this creative statewide collaboration, which gives us the opportunity to maximize the exposure of our Franklin County artists to a broader audience and encourage residents and visitors to participate in our extensive creative offerings. Getting the word out that there is a vibrant cultural community here in western Massachusetts is critically important for our local economy.”

“When we joined forces with Highland Street Foundation in 2013, I had no idea that there would be such enthusiastic support and demand for redefining cultural experiences and allowing people to take creativity into their own hands,” said Boch Center CEO Josiah A. Spaulding, Jr. “Not only does ArtWeek provide hundreds of free and affordable creative events, it also spotlights the rich cultural community that exists across Massachusetts. We hope everyone will come out to participate in one – or more – of the many terrific ArtWeek events!”

The following events are held in conjunction with ArtWeek locally, and are only a sampling of all the offerings.

Activist Art Generator: April 29, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Shea Theater, Turners Falls. The goal of the Activist Art Generator is to bring artists together from all different genres (theater, dance, music, fine art, photography, film, etc.) to share ideas, knowledge and make connections, building relationships and creating an action plan for activist art.

Participants will be given tools with which to make art with new collaborators. The projects that are imagined during this day will be considered for production or facilitation by Eggtooth Productions.

Art For/Is Life: Elder Artists Share Their Stories: May 1, 1 to 3 p.m. at the Pushkin Gallery, Greenfield. Working with volunteers from Silverthorne Theater Company and the Deerfield Valley Arts Association, seniors from around Franklin County and anyone else who wants to join in, will create a simple work of art in the form of collage, clay, drawing, or what have you, that illustrates a particular moment in their life.

Participants will use the artwork to tell their stories to the group and Silverthorne Theater Company scribes will take down their words, later displaying these integrated works during Silverthorne’s performance of Athol Fugard’s play, *The Road to Mecca*, which tells the true story of an aging Afrikaner widow who creates unusual sculptures.

The Cloth of Community with Leonore Alaniz: May 3, 4, 5 and 6 from noon to 5 p.m. at Leverett Crafts & Arts. As part of a month-long exhibit, Leonore Alaniz transforms the Barnes Gallery into a public, hands-on maker-space.

Card and spin local wool, make rope, weave on small and large looms, repurpose textiles into a rug. Individuals wishing to weave personal threads into the Common Cloth Tapestry may do so. Participants may take home small projects they completed and wish to own, for a small material fee. Through collaborative weaving however, “Common Cloth” emerges.

Decoding African American Spirituals with Michael Nix and Gloria Matlock, April 28 from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Montague Center Library. A sing, hum, clap, stomp-along music experience for the entire family.

Participants will learn songs in the time-honored call and response oral tradition. Hear about the early African-American tradition of banjo and drum playing and the historical context of African American spirituals and the role they have played in the survival of Black people in America.

Fieldsteel Art Exploration: April 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and May 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Leverett Crafts & Arts. Fieldsteel Art offers pottery, silk screening, sculpture building, paper mache and so much more. Create a piece of art work to take home with you!

In addition, Liz Fieldsteel will lead a pottery demonstration each day of this event at noon, sharing about her artistic process and work, which will be offered for sale.

Hexe, an Exhibit on Female Rage: April 27 through May 6 at Anja Shutz Photography Studio at 15 Arch Street, Greenfield. During this exhibition of visual art, music, dance and other forms of performance, there will be an invite for femme/female-identifying visitors to confront their own bottled up emotions through a cathartic process of writing or drawing on a shirt (materials provided) art of words that express themselves.

Participants will then be invited to have their photo taken so they can be added to a larger community

piece made up of these photos.

Make Your Own Instrument from Recyclables: April 27, 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and April 28, 11 to 12:30 at Artspace Community Arts Center, Greenfield. Participants can create instruments from recyclable materials. Artspace will provide the space and materials, participants are welcome to bring their own supplies as well.

This event follows a screening of *Landfill Harmonic* by Greening Greenfield, on April 25, 6:30 p.m. at First Congregational Church, Greenfield.

Working Artists Share Stories: April 28 and 29, 1 to 5 p.m. at Sawmill River Arts Gallery at the Bookmill, Montague Center. Four artists – Judy Cummings, Lydia Grey, Louise Minks and Kathy Litchfield – will demonstrate their fine art and craft and share stories about being working artists.

Your Exquisite Corpse: April 29 at Great Falls Discovery Center and May 4, 5 and 6 at Hawks & Reed, Greenfield. Artists Jeff Wrench and Nina Rossi in a collaborative and interactive exhibit based on the Surrealist game of Exquisite Corpse in which sentences were created by a group of people, each person unaware of what previous players have written.

Figure paintings with the Head+Shoulders and Legs+Feet will be executed on site, and visitors will have several opportunities to interact at this event, including having their head or feet photographed for an Exquisite Corpse, engaging in unusual word play games, or creating their own work of art.

Where Do Our Clothes Come From, Where Can They Go? April 28, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Bedfellows Blankets, Buckland. This event invites participants to reevaluate their relationship to household textiles and consider creative alternatives to disposing of fabric in landfills.

With a tour of the Bedfellows Blankets working industrial loom workshop, participants will have the opportunity to see how textiles are woven. They may then try their hand at a weaving activity using their own recycled t-shirts and scrap materials to make a project they can take home. Then walk across the street to a neighboring sheep farm to see the most local of fiber sources.

A collaboration between Peggy Hart, a small-scale production weaver, and Katie Cavacco, a multidisciplinary maker with a focus on sustainability. Participants should bring clothes that they want to reuse, and are highly encouraged to register by emailing whether they plan to attend in the morning or afternoon.

The organizers need to plan materials and equipment for the number of people doing the hands on activity. Email blanketweave@gmail.com.

For a complete schedule and details on each of these events, please visit the chamber website: franklincc.org. For a list of statewide events, see artweekma.org.

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Email volunteer@montaguereporter.org for more information.

Activist, Author Iris Morales To Speak on Puerto Rico

WENDELL – Following the disastrous hurricanes in Puerto Rico last fall, longtime New York City activist, writer and publisher Iris Morales focused on the problems there – and getting support from the Puerto Rican diaspora for communities on the stricken island.

She wrote: “This critical situation has been a defining and turning point in Puerto Rican history. Hurricanes Irma and Maria have laid bare the result of centuries of colonial control, austerity, and exploitation. But people in Puerto Rico are organizing themselves, creating communities of support.”

During her visits to the island since the disasters, she was “filled with a mix of emotions from rage to sadness and compassion. I gained strength and inspiration from the resiliency of the Puerto Rican men, women, and children bringing their creativity to overcome extraordi-

narily difficult circumstances, and showing love and kindness to each other.”

Meet Iris on Earth Day, Sunday, April 22, from 5 p.m. at the historic Wendell Town Hall, 6 Center Street, for “Communities in Contact: Western Mass. and Puerto Rico.”

The program will begin by looking at local environmental struggles, from the historic colonial takeover to the NED pipeline victory.

Then to the present, and Puerto Rico. Iris Morales’ talk and discussion will be followed by a 7 p.m. community potluck supper.

The event is sponsored by the Wendell Energy Committee; North Quabbin Energy; and the Traprock Center for Peace & Justice (with thanks to the Markham-Nathan Fund for Social Justice). For information and childcare contact info@wloe.org or 1(978)544-3686.

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV



By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

New this week at *MontagueTV.org*, and on Channel 17, check out Lui Collins’ coffeehouse performance from March 14. It’s an hour and a half of poetry and music; ethereal sounds, vibrant storytelling, and words beckoning the coming of spring.

Something going you’d like others to see? If you get in touch, we can show you how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment.

Contact us at (413) 863-9200, info@montaguetelevision.com, or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners Falls between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. We’re excited to work with you!

Conference: “Memory Flow”

DEERFIELD – In western Massachusetts, the narrative of water runs parallel to the flow and displacement of people. From the genocide of Native American Nations, to the flooding of the Quabbin Valley, the history of western Mass. has been shaped by land and water battles.

In “Memory Flow: Narratives of Land, Water and Displacement,” the history and future of this life-giving “resource” will be explored through art and conversation. The Metonymy Collective and Visioning B.E.A.R. Circle Intertribal Coalition are partnering to run a series of performances and workshops that engage historical memory as a catalyst to unite communities in the

face of global warming.

The conference will occur on April 28 and 29, on the 90th anniversary of the complete disincorporation of the Swift River Valley towns flooded by the Quabbin. The address is: Deerfield Business Center, 110 N. Hillside Road, South Deerfield.

Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.: “History Under the Surface,” discussion and interactive exhibition.

Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: “From Memory to Action,” a series of workshops to delve deeper into the history, resulting in the creation of a Land, Water and People Plan of Remembrance and Action.

For more information, see www.metane.me/water.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Best Minds Of Generation Destroyed By Madness, Starving Hysterical Naked

Monday, 4/9

7:55 a.m. Caller from N Street into station to follow up with animal control officer regarding previous complaints. Voice-mail left for ACO.

3:38 p.m. 911 caller reporting that she heard a female screaming for help near L and Spring streets while walking home. Caller found female crying and saying that she was just assaulted by a man in a red truck. Both parties separated and sent on their way.

5:43 p.m. Walk-in from Dell Street reporting that his dog was attacked and injured by another dog. Other dog was on a leash but broke away from its owner, ran over, and started the attack. Message left for animal control officer.

6:18 p.m. Caller from Fifth Street states that after being gone from her home for eight days, she found that an envelope with cash in it has gone missing.

10:58 p.m. Caller states that the driver of a red car parked near F.L. Roberts got out, urinated in the street, then got back into the vehicle. Caller reports that driver appeared intoxicated. Vehicle has since left the scene and headed up Third Street hill at a high rate of speed. Unable to locate.

Tuesday, 4/10

1:05 a.m. Caller reporting two people yelling at each other outside a building at Avenue A and Fourth Street. Officers out behind Black Cow Burger. Units clear; situation mediated. Male had small cut and blood on hand from punching wall; otherwise, situation was all verbal. Parties going to bed for the night.

7:04 a.m. Report of barking German Shepherd on Grove Street; ongoing issue. Message left for ACO. Officer spoke to dog’s owner. Dog was brought in; owner advised of complaint.

8:37 a.m. Party from Grove Street requesting to speak to supervisor re: ongoing harassment/complaints her neighbor is making about her dog and other noise issues. Party states that she has spoken to several neighbors who have stated they do not have a problem with her dogs barking. Advised party that if calls continue and it is the same person calling and no one else, MPD will advise caller to file a complaint in court or provide MPD with a written statement.

9:28 a.m. Caller from Avenue A reports that a pane of glass in the front door was smashed overnight and he found blood in the rear of the building. Of-

ficer spoke to the involved party, who stated that he was the one who broke the window. Party will make arrangements with landlord to replace/pay.

12:34 p.m. Caller reports that the ball hitch on his truck is missing; believes someone removed it this morning between 9 and 10 a.m. at Cumberland Farms. Officer viewed surveillance video; no one approached truck from behind at any time.

4:09 p.m. Caller from Grove Street came to window to hand-deliver a complaint regarding neighbor’s barking dog. Officer advised caller of options.

7:10 p.m. Caller informing of open door and open window at Railroad Salvage. Owner advised and *en route* to location to secure building and inventory tools stored inside.

Wednesday, 4/11

11:39 a.m. 911 caller reporting that his former landlord has just threatened to choke him out. Advised of options.

2:17 p.m. Caller states that a pickup truck with a trailer is parked on the sidewalk on Federal Street blocking pedestrians. Vehicle owner made aware of complaint. He will move the vehicle as soon as he can.

2:44 p.m. Officer advising that a dangerous set of primary wires is hanging by just a couple of strands on West Chestnut Hill Road. Eversource notified.

2:48 p.m. Report of minor accident involving school bus at Franklin County Technical School. Officer requesting Med-Care and FD due to a possible injury. Rau’s will be removing SUV. TFFD remains on scene cleaning up fluids. Operator of SUV will be transported to hospital by her father. Bus allowed to leave with children on board.

4:21 p.m. Caller reports that while she was backing up on Franklin Street, she hit a utility pole, denting her bumper. Caller left

scene and returned home. Upon arrival, officer observed a minor scuff on the pole but no structural damage; no need for utility company to respond.

4:27 p.m. Shelburne Control requesting mutual aid on behalf of Erving PD. Erving officer on motor vehicle stop; female out of vehicle for field sobriety tests; male passenger is being uncooperative. Officers *en route* from Montague.

5:21 p.m. Caller advising that there is a capped needle next to a tree 150 feet from the intersection of Ferry Road and Greenfield Road. Caller placed a tree branch on the trunk of the tree to help locate the needle. Officer clear; negative findings. Requests that day shift attempt to find in the daylight.



6:16 p.m. Caller concerned about a stuffed chair that was left in the woods under the bridge on Newton Street. Officer advised; message left for DPW.

10:36 p.m. Caller noticed a car parked in the cemetery. Unable to locate.

11:10 p.m. Anonymous caller reporting loud music from Hubie’s Tavern. Caller states that the side door of the tavern is open. All quiet upon officer’s arrival. Band had already packed up for the night. Advised of complaint.

Thursday, 4/12

8:40 a.m. Caller from Norman Circle requesting to speak with ACO re: a raccoon that has been defecating on his pool cover. ACO advised.

12:25 p.m. Officer advising tractor trailer unit involved in accident at Old Greenfield and Old Ferry roads. While operator was unhooking trailer, rigging broke and box portion collapsed and partially turned on its side. Box has a full load of wood pellets; was close to utility pole, but did not make contact with pole. Operator has piece of ma-

chinery in place bracing the box portion so it does not make contact with the pole. Officer requesting Roseledge for tow and DPW supervisor to assess damage to road surface.

Friday, 4/13

12:43 a.m. MSP requesting K9 unit for assistance with motor vehicle stop; trooper and Bernardston PD out on Interstate 91. Officer *en route*.

[No logs provided from 6 a.m. Friday through 6 a.m. Saturday]

Saturday, 4/14

10:40 a.m. Officer received information regarding a blue pickup truck going door to door passing out flyers on Hillside Road. Officers advise party involved was a Jehovah’s Witness. They were advised of the complaint.

11:27 a.m. Officer reporting disabled vehicle on First Street with no one around. Someone in Unity Park states that the operator was working on it and just ran home to get a part that he needs to fix the vehicle.

1:52 p.m. Caller found utility hole missing cover on G Street. DPW advised and *en route*. DPW called stating they have covered hole with plywood and will repair on Tuesday.

10:48 p.m. 911 caller reporting large outside fire that appears unattended and close to apartment building on Turners Falls Road. Officers on scene advising large ring of fire spreading towards both the woods and the apartment buildings. Officer advising he used his extinguisher to put out part of the fire.

Sunday, 4/15

8:28 p.m. Caller from L Street states that there is very loud music being played and it is vibrating her walls and keeping her children up. Advised tenants of complaint. Music will be turned off for night.

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GARDENERS from page B1

principle of our nation. But we seem to have forgotten that one individual or group does not define the beliefs and ideas of the whole. The whole idea of democracy is that each member is allowed to define what is meaningful to them as long as it does not impinge upon the rights of others, and that compromise can be a strength, not a weakness.

Then there is the important matter of balance. Knee-jerk decision making, and thought-of-the-moment taken as gospel leads us to bad choices, not lasting policy or change. The leaders we revere are those who were also contemplative and who often agonized over decisions, taking none lightly.

Some choices which need to be made in the current times are crystal clear: how we will care for planet earth, for example; but the devil is indeed in the details, which may often interrupt restful nights. For this reason such decisions need to made by many, not one or a few who listen only to themselves or a few others.

What we do impacts everyone, so it is even more important now to think globally even as we seem to be operating more and more as if we were the only nation which matters. We are grateful that the younger generation is speaking loudly now, reminding us of the lives lost to violence with guns, to addiction, to poverty.

There is a desperate need to restore the balance in our land, so that the divides of origin and economy



and power are narrowed and we work to become again the nation that was created with such enduring goals as liberty and justice for all.

We have just celebrated Patriots' Day. In Old Deerfield there was a reenactment of Paul Revere's ride to announce the coming of the British, and a reminder of the strength of the new colony we were. Another celebration of endurance and strength is the annual Marathon run in Boston.

We have much strength. Now we just need to recover our balance.

Balance is not something you find, it's something you create.

Jana Kingsford

The balance of power is the scale of peace.

Thomas Paine

YOGA from page B1

Leyden, but says she was drawn to open her studio in Turners Falls because of the beauty of the rivers and bridges and a personal liking for the town.

She has a quiet and kindly manner, and seeks to provide a supportive space where all students can learn at their own pace. Mamatas studied Embodyoga™ at Yoga Center Amherst, a style of yoga that combines mindfulness and whole body integration.

Mamatas raised funds through a GoFundMe campaign website and by offering classes from which she donated the proceeds in order to fund free prenatal and postnatal classes for local mothers. These are presently available, and there are openings for those who would like

to sign up.

I asked Mamatas what she would most like people to know about the studio. "I have a strong commitment to including everyone who wants to take classes," she said, "and I have put in place a scholarship fund for those who need it. Also, we offer a free community class once a week."

I found the renovations to the space lovely and the easygoing and inviting approach inspiring, and it seems that a lot of other people do, too.

Want to find out more? Visit online at greatfallsyoga.com or call (413) 834-2078, or stop by the studio at 34 Third Street, across from the Five Eyed Fox in Turners Falls.



KETCH PHOTO

Mamatas says she was drawn to open her studio in Turners Falls because of the beauty of the bridges and rivers.

TALES from page B1

workers to do the same, although they were unable to secure more than 10%.

The exceedingly hard life these workers endured has been well documented: cotton fluff filled the air, clogging eyes and throat; the noise of the spinning mules crashing back and forth could be overwhelming, and accidents were common. The loss of a finger was the least of it: children, helping at the spinning mules and crawling under the looms to mend threads, could be and were badly injured.

At age 13, and in the 8th grade, Edward quit school to work full-time in the mills. When one refers to the apple not falling far from the tree, one might look at these two Edwards as a prime example. But with World War I their lives started to diverge, and although they would cross paths again, Edward Jr. would "take the one less traveled by."

The Cleggs were still British citizens, and although underage, Edward Jr. shipped over to England and managed to enlist in the British army. Fortunately he didn't see the trench warfare that killed 700,000 of Britain's young men, and in 1918 his unit was mustered out and he returned to New York City on a troop ship.

What does an 18-year-old youngster alone in the big city, with his whole life ahead of him, decide to do? He joins the vaudeville, of course!

Right on the horizon were the roaring Twenties in a New York City full of post-war celebration and fun, and even with prohibition in 1920, the fun continued, even if some of it went underground. (It probably was fortunate that Edward was not a drinking man.)

From 1880 until about 1930, vaudeville was the most popular entertainment in America. It was made up of a series of unrelated acts, mostly designed to make people laugh. There were plays, singers, magicians, and jugglers, but the focus was on comedy.

Edward was short of stature – as were and are all of the Cleggs, past and present – but he was remarkably strong and flexible, and until he died he had thick, jet-black hair. He was a dancer, one of the group that would often be backup to a singer, but his greatest talent may have been his acrobatic tumbling skills. He could turn cartwheels or do back flips, and walk across the stage behind a performer on his hands, making the audience laugh.

Don remembers him, many decades later in Florida, walking on his hands down the beach into the water until only his waving legs were visible. How could a grandson not be captivated?

While working vaudeville in New York City, Edward obtained his citizenship, and in 1923 he returned to Lowell and married Eva May Stockham, a Scandinavian Methodist whose family sold chickens and eggs from their local farm to, among others, the Cleggs. Eva didn't top 4'10" on a good day, so she fit right in with the diminutive Cleggs. (It has always amused Don that the last letters of the two names make them the perfect couple: Ham and Eggs.)

A married man hoping for a family puts vaudeville behind him and gets to work making money. Edward returned to the Lowell mills, this time doing what he had watched his father do for so many years: repairing machinery. In 1924 Edward and Eva had a son, Leonard; in 1925 Don's father Ray was born, and ten years later the last child, a daughter.

The family moved to Lynn in 1930 where Edward worked at Riverworks (General Electric) in, of course, his specialty, machine repair and maintenance, and there he was elected shop steward. It was a company that would also hire Ray when he reached adulthood, and eventually Don, each one moving a little up the corporate ladder.

According to a book about this plant during that period called *River Works, City Within a City* (D.M. Carpenter, 1993):

...[S]ome of the biggest and most important inno-



Child laborer in cotton mill in 1910, similar to the one where 8-year-old Edward Clegg worked. Photo by Lewis Hine (1874-1940) and part of the National Child Labor Committee collection at the Library of Congress.

vations in American history took place with GE and at the Riverworks Plant in Lynn, MA. It was there that the first jet engine in the US fired up in the 1940s.

None of the workers knew what they were working on at the time. The conjecture on the floor was that it was a huge supercharger. However, the machinists thought it would have to be for an unimaginably big engine, perhaps for a huge ship.

The plant also served as a secure storage facility for some of Britain's large diesel engine and ship components because of the plant's location.

The Clegg family was frugal, and saved until they could buy a house in a nice section of Lynn.

To supplement his income, Edward established the Clegg Dance Studio, where Ray and his brother and many others learned "to trip the light fantastic."

In 1944, when Ray was nineteen, he joined the navy and was sent to radio school, a somewhat relaxed version of boot camp. He served as a radioman on a tank landing ship (LST), the kind that delivered motorized vehicles and troops directly onto shore, used in the Pacific where the beaches were flat, unlike the Atlantic where these ships were useless. His ship was number 617, and while it was only intended to be used in one landing, it actually survived seven.

One evening in 1944, Edward and Eva were sitting in the movies watching the newsreels that always preceded the main feature during the war, when they were shocked to see the numbers 617 on an LST that was being bombed in a kamikaze attack. The tower where the radioman was normally stationed was blown apart.

The couple left the theater deeply traumatized, and did not learn that Ray had survived for several days. So deep was the shock of this experience that they would never again, so long as they lived, enter a movie theater.

We will return to the story of the Cleggs in the next Chasing Our Tales column.

Please consider telling us about an ancestor, distant or recent. Write it yourself, or let me interview you and I will write it for you. Do you have some old letters? Some photographs you could share with us? They have stories to tell, these all-too-human folks but for whom you would not exist. Let us honor them! Contact Lyn Clark at genealogy@montaguereporter.org.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Odd Happenings At Barton Cove; Roadside Thrift Dump; Bad Driving; Stolen Signs

Monday 2/26

1:51 p.m. Walk-in requested a ride home to Deer Run Lane. Injured his ankle while out walking, but doesn't want medical assistance.

7:52 p.m. Caller reports shots fired in area of high-tension lines.

Thursday 3/1

7:18 p.m. Marked lanes violation, speeding reported on French King Highway; same continued in to Greenfield.

Friday 3/2

8:19 a.m. Maintenance workers at Barton Cove Recreational Area report vehicle drove over a snow bank and parked in auxiliary parking area.

1:46 p.m. Caller advises power surges are affecting the Gill traffic lights. Back on upon arrival.

2:01 p.m. Tree burning on the power lines, Boyle Road. Power company on scene.

4:06 p.m. Power failure, Gill lights. MassDOT will send someone.

5:30 p.m. Report of large amounts of gunfire in River Road area.

Saturday 3/3

12:06 p.m. Main Road business requests officer to remove unwanted customer.

2:0 p.m. Officer found elderly subject, lost and operating a motor vehicle. Assisted with calling family to pick him up.

Sunday 3/4

10:02 a.m. Party dropped off key found on the side of the road with a name tag attached. Returned.

4:24 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with trespassing complaint, Papermill Road.

Monday 3/5

11:56 a.m. Large amount of clothing illegally dumped on roadside, Bascom Road.

12:18 p.m. Reports of vulgar words painted on West Gill Road. Located site in Bernardston.

Tuesday 3/6

10:40 a.m. Call into station reporting possible blasting in Franklin Road area, maybe causing sediment in caller's well.

4:10 p.m. Involuntary committal served on North Cross Road.

6:39 p.m. Motor vehicle accident, no injury, French King Highway. Parties to handle costs.

Wednesday 3/7

11:31 a.m. Medical emergency, Stonecutter Road.

5:44 p.m. Montague PD took report of older female walking in traffic across Turners Falls-Gill Bridge toward Gill. Located and checked.

Thursday 3/8

5:40 p.m. Investigated suspicious vehicle, Barton Cove Road.

Saturday 3/10

3:29 a.m. South Cross Road caller states he believes someone is walking around his house, wants officer. Nothing found.

3:09 p.m. Caller reports her Main Road residence was broken into sometime between Thursday and Saturday.

6:26 p.m. Subject placed into protective custody on Main Road.

Sunday 3/11

3:30 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD with disturbance on Mount Hermon Station Road.

Monday 3/12

1:03 p.m. Served court process on Main Road.

6:54 p.m. Investigated threat on Franklin Road.

Tuesday 3/13

5:43 p.m. Animal complaint, Stonecutter Road.

Wednesday 3/14

7:56 a.m. Harassment, Lamplighter Way.

Thursday 3/15

6:55 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with a disturbance at the Windmill Inn.

Saturday 3/17

1:55 p.m. Took report of past breaking & entering, Northfield Mount Hermon campus.

Sunday 3/18

5:26 p.m. Officer wanted on Chappell Drive for an argument about medication.

Wednesday 3/21

9:55 p.m. Officer wanted on Mountain Road regarding a past disturbance.

Thursday 3/22

9:46 a.m. Fraudulent state unemployment claim involving identity theft reported on South Cross Road.

10:02 a.m. Report of subject stealing parts from a vehicle at a French King Highway business.

1:15 p.m. Assisted Montague PD in taking a distraught subject into custody on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge.

1:43 p.m. Assisted state police with an arrest warrant on Main Road.

5:35 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with an arrest on Papermill Road.

Friday 3/23

12:41 p.m. Catholic Charities requesting welfare check on Oak Street; subject not answering door. Made entry with spare key. All OK.

6:07 p.m. Assisted with identity theft report.

6:34 p.m. Passerby reports erratic dark covered VW, plates unknown, on the French King Highway.

8:02 p.m. Subject removed from Barton Cove Road, which closes at dusk.

Sunday 3/25

12:19 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with arrest on Second Street.

6:05 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with disturbance, River and Depot Streets. Peace restored.

Monday 3/26

9:45 a.m. Power company contractor reports they had a window smashed out on a mini-excavator parked on Camp Road.

11:55 a.m. Caller reports condoms left in clear baggies on the side of Mountain Road.

4:47 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with arrests at skate park.

Tuesday 3/27

1:07 p.m. Warrant arrest made on Chappell Drive.

Wednesday 3/28

2:07 p.m. Took report of scam involving social media.

5:24 p.m. Caller reports she was sideswiped while turning into Gill Mobil. No injury.

6:20 p.m. Ankle injury, South Cross Road.

Thursday 3/29

8:31 a.m. Highway department reports stolen signs around town.

9:54 a.m. Lifeline activated, West Gill Road.

11:16 a.m. Caller reports scam call claiming to be from IRS. Warrant issued.

3:51 p.m. Fraud, Mount Hermon Road.

Friday 3/30

8:24 a.m. Removed debris from southbound travel lane, Main and Mountain Roads.

12:25 p.m. Two-car accident, Center and West Gill Roads. Minor to no personal injury.

Saturday 3/31

12:46 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with trespassing on Papermill Road.

2:15 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with report of a female laying in a ditch near the Eleventh Street bridge.

5:13 p.m. Assisted Erving PD on East Main Street.

Sunday 4/1

7:49 p.m. Motorcycle vs. car accident with injury, Route 10 and Turners Falls Road.

8:49 p.m. Caller reports numerous marked lane violations by a red Toyota near Barton's Cove. Unfounded.

Monday 4/2

8:59 a.m. Silver sedan struck the Turners Falls-Gill bridge. Standing by on the Gill side. No injury.

1 p.m. Caller advises her dog broke off her chain on Dole Road.

3:38 p.m. Report of suspicious vehicle parked on side of Mountain Road. Made contact with operator who advised baby taking nap.

4:19 p.m. Investigated past breaking & entering, Mountain Road.

Tuesday 4/3

9:31 a.m. Illegal dumping, Mountain Road.

Wednesday 4/4

2:31 p.m. Investigated report of past larceny at Main Road residence.

3:55 p.m. Investigated larceny at French King Highway business.

8:48 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with a fight on Avenue A.

Thursday 4/5

7:54 a.m. Unattended death, Franklin Road.

Spring Has Sprung Forward? No Fooling This Time!

JOE R. PARZYCH PHOTO



The water over the dam at Turners Falls.

By JOE R. PARZYCH

GILL – Yes, thank goodness, finally winter is over – we are all sick of it! Spring is here.

More warm weather, please, so we can all get out for fresh air, “spring sports, arts, also entertainment” – including dining outside soon, at local businesses like Riffs North and other places. Or going to your fave recorded music store, like Turn it Up!, or another cool place like the Replay music store.

People are looking forward to fishing, and also bird watching: looking forward to seeing and searching for rare, hard-to-find birds of all types, colors, shapes and sizes.

The Great Falls Farmers Market will be open this summer. Please support your local farms and businesses, thank you, by the way. I rec-

ommend Upinngil's delicious squash pasta also. The wheat is grown by Upinngil, in Gill, MA. They also have Grand Isle Pasta, made in Vermont (for info go to www.grandislepasta.com). To learn more, stop by at Upinngil, where they are grateful to help you. Also, their delicious baked cookies are to die for. It's just over the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge to the hills of Gill.

At the same time, if you want to get gas or something, you can go to the new awesome Gill Mobil gas station. The people there are helpful, and the food is great.

The Turners Falls Fishway is open next month, starting May 10, Wednesdays to Sundays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., until June 18. They are also open Memorial Day. For information please contact the Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center at (413) 659-3714.

Planning for the Future of Your Land

ERVING – Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the Agricultural and Conservation Commissions from the Towns of Montague and Erving are sponsoring a workshop and dinner for farm and forest landowners interested in learning about resources to manage and care for their land. This free session will present information on farm succession, leasing, forestry management, land conservation, estate planning, and financial planning.

The dinner and workshop will be held at the Erving Senior Center on Monday, April 30 from 6 to 8 p.m.. The Senior Center is located at 1 Care Drive in Erving.

Paul Voiland, owner of Montague's newest farm store, Red Fire North, and a member of the Montague Agricultural Commission, is hoping for a big turnout: “For thousands of years this soil has fed people, and we need to ensure the protection of our farmland if we want to continue to feed the growing human population,” said Voiland.

An estate plan helps ensure that your assets – including your land – get distributed according to your family's goals and financial needs. Learn from knowledgeable advisors about what resources are available to support you and your family as you consider options for the future of your land.

The free session will feature Richard Valcourt



Haying at Diemand Farm

and Sean Libbey, experienced foresters who help landowners explore forestry management options; as well as Robert Wigmore from Farm Credit East who helps with financial planning, Jason Silverman from Land for Good who connects landowners to resources for farm succession and farm leasing, and attorney Elizabeth Sillin who assists landowners with estate planning.

Please reserve your free seat, and dinner catered by Diemand Farm, by registering in advance. Call regional conservation coordinator Kat Kowalski at (978) 248-2055 x 29, or email her at kowalski@mountgrace.org.

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The Children's Page

YONDERNOD ILLUSTRATION

Words by BEVERLY KETCH
Illustrations by JOEL PAXTON



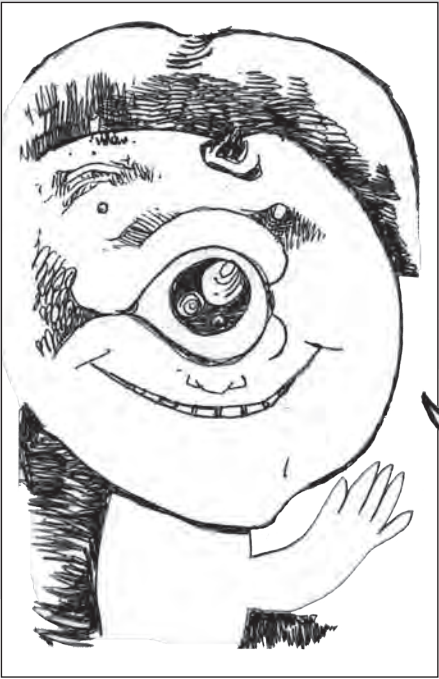
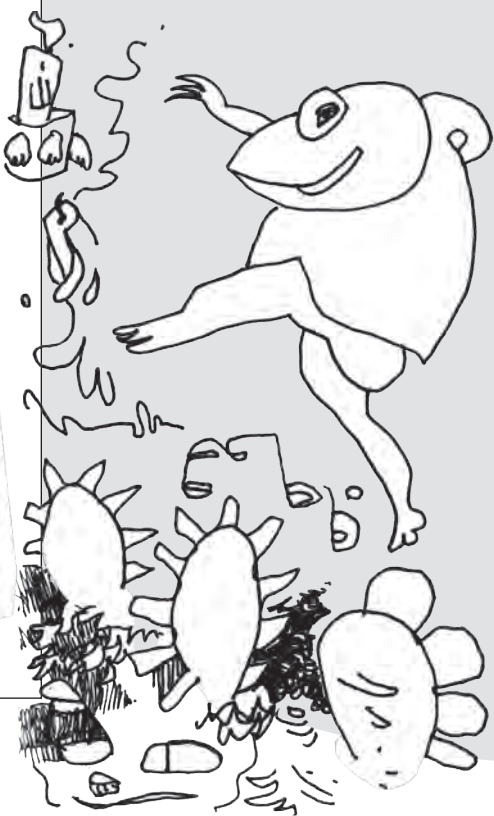
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

ONGOING EVENTS: EVERY SUNDAY

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

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 mcb Brass@vermontel.net for location and details.

2ND AND 4TH MONDAYS

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

EVERY THURSDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers. 10 to 10:45 a.m.

1ST AND 3RD THURSDAYS

Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Open Mic Night*, 7 p.m.

2ND AND 4TH THURSDAYS

Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Karaoke Night*, 8 p.m.

EVERY THIRD THURSDAY

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

EVERY FRIDAY

Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Acoustic Country with Heath Lewis*, 9 p.m.

EVERY THIRD FRIDAY

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

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

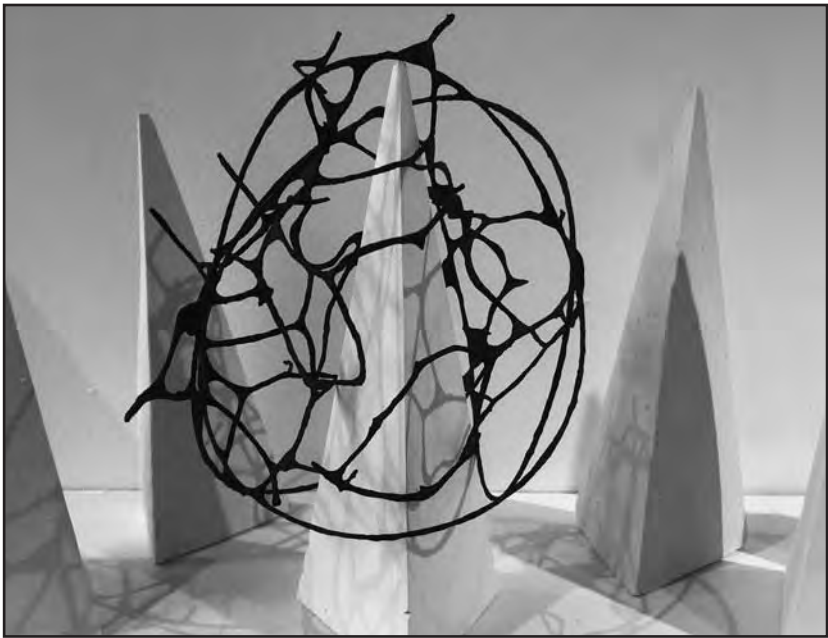
EXHIBITS:

Art Garden, Shelburne Falls: *Great and Small*. Community art exhibit about the creatures we love. Closing Reception April 14 at 6 p.m. Through April.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Brattleboro: Six new Spring exhibits: *Best of Springs, Sprockets and Pulleys; 100 Views Along the Road; Bottle in the River; We Walk in Their Shadows; Gloria Garfinkel; Susan Calabria*.

Great Hall, Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Seen/Unseen, portraits by Cindi Oldham*. A conceptual watercolor portrait series that explores what it means to be seen, yet unseen at the same time. April 6 through May 30. Reception April 28.

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *Speaking Figuratively*, by Eric Grab. He will do a life drawing demo at his reception on Friday,



"Forty Imperfect Gestures," a sculpture by Turners Falls artist Fafnir Adamites made of plaster, wire and abaca paper pulp. The artist currently has an exhibit in the Hampden Gallery at UMass Amherst. A meet and greet event will be held Sunday April 22 at the gallery with fellow exhibitors Alicia Hunsicker and Ben Sears.

April 27. Exhibit through May.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Art of Onge*. Paintings by Andrea "Onge" Newland whose ranging "from portrait to abstract where worlds collide in a kaleidoscope of color." Through May 15.

Historic Northampton, Northampton: *Single Room Occupancy: Portraits and Stories from Northampton Lodging, 1976-2016*. Northampton Lodging was demolished in 2016. Cassandra Holden interviewed residents and Paul Shoul took portraits of them just before they were relocated. Tracing the waning years of boarding houses in Northampton and existence at the edge of the community. Through June 10.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *Embraced by Natural Beauty*. Paintings by Stacey Temple.

Leverett Library: *Potpourri*, paintings by artist Louise Minks of Leverett. Through April.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Turners Falls Show*. Nina Rossi presents work about Turners Falls from over the years. Through May 15.

McKusker's Market, Shelburne Falls: *Precarious*. Art by Alice

Thomas. April 16 through May 31.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Recent Work: Artspace Pastel Studio*. Artists from Rebecca Clark's pastel studio exhibit work with their mentor in the pastel medium. Through April.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Our Vanishing Wild*. Watercolor portraits by Maureen Moore of endangered species. Through April.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Heavenly Bodies*. New multi-media work by Nina Rossi featuring back lit clouds and flying figures. Through April 30.

Wendell Library: *Mez Ziemba and Natasha Hannah*. Ziemba's



sculpture and Hannah's digital prints. Through April.

Hampden Gallery, UMass: *Post-sentiment*. Fafnir Adamites' sculptures in paper and plaster. Through April.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Slate Roof Press 2018 Elyse Wolf Prize for a poetry chapbook. Winner receives publication and \$500. For full contest guidelines, visit www.slateroofpress.com/contest.html. Submit no more than 28 pages of poetry by June 15. \$10 reading fee.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, APRIL 19

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The River Cried, "Mni W'Coni!"* Documentary about Service and Solidarity in Standing Rock by Jehann El-Bisi. Screening of the film and conversation to follow. 7 p.m.

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

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Mystra Nite at RC #1. Tarp, Oroboro, BOF (Jeff G) Xamxa*. 8 p.m. \$

FRIDAY, APRIL 20

Dream Away Lodge, Becket:

Frank Hurricane, Liz Durette, and Anthony Pasquarosa. Holy psychedelic blues and storytelling in an intimate venue. 8 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Pothole Pictures presents *Mean Girls*. Hilarious high school drama. Movie at 7:30. Repeats Saturday. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Skatalites*. Jamaica's premier ska band. 8:30 p.m. \$

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Classic Hip Hop with Krefting and Rec*. DJ night. 9 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sed-agive*. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 21

Northfield Mount Hermon School, Gill: Young Shakespeare Players East present two plays by Bernard Shaw, *Augustus Does His Bit* and *The Music Cure*. Performances at 11, 2, 5 and 8 p.m. Repeats Sunday.

Leverett Crafts & Arts: *Stacey Temple Art Reception with Deep C Divers & The Four Elements*. 4 p.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Open Mic Night #23*. Featuring Ben Wetherbee. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Skell Entertainment* presents death metal bands *Shots Fired, Burden, Years Apart* and more. 7:30 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Pistoler*s. Outlaw country dance party. 8:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *What Cheer?* 20 piece brass band. Opens with local band *Landowner*. 8:30 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dance Party with DJ Nikos*. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 22

Hampden Gallery, UMass: *Alicia Hunsicker, Fafnir Adamites, Ben Sears* meet and greet with these artists and view their work in the galleries. 2 to 4 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26

Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton: *Artist Talk with Andrea Fraser. "Untitled, 2018."* Fraser is an artist best known for forms of performance art, institutional critique and feminist practice that turn art world conventions on their head. 4:30 p.m.

Stoneleigh-Burnham School, Greenfield: *Poets Seat Poetry Contest Winner Celebration*. Annual prize ceremony and reading. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Improv Comedy Night with Josie's Magic Flute*. 7:30 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Congo Sanchez*. Cutting edge musical force of diverse influences. Opens with *Rhythm Incorporated*. 8:30 p.m. \$

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TAR2F from page B1

behavior, which includes parties. Tartuffe, played irreverently by Peter Ludwig, expresses his displeasure by staring at them disapprovingly and lecturing them on the importance of piety and modesty.

Orgon’s mother, Mme. Pernelle (Louise Krieger), supports her son’s decision to invite Tartuffe into his home and speaks glowingly of his piety and sincerity, scolding her grandchildren for their lack of respect. Tartuffe reveals his true self, however, when he sings “Nothing Sacred,” which has the effect of telling the audience what he *really* believes.

Orgon’s children, son Damis (Rich Vaden) and Mariane (Grace Olmsted), upset at how Tartuffe’s presence is putting a damper on their parties and interfering with their abil-

ity to have fun, express their feelings in the song “He Hates Us.”

They are joined by Linda Tardif, who plays Dorine, the saucy maid, who is in almost every scene with her commentary – many expressions of disdain, support, annoyance – but always in general support of what she thinks is best for the family. For a servant, she is surprisingly intrusive, and does not hold back in expressing her opinion on all things Tartuffe.

Tardif offers charm and humor, smiling her big smile then making a sour face that shows her disdain. Her singing and acting are superior, but it is her natural style, her ease onstage, that is impressive. She is always in the moment, honest in her portrayal of Dorine, a character who is herself always frank and honest, often to a fault.

Dorine raises the ire of Orgon, but seems undaunted. Her opinions are appreciated by the rest of his family, including Orgon’s wife Elmire, played by Myka Plunkett. Orgon’s brother-in-law, Cléante (Ted Trobaugh) is not happy with the introduction of Tartuffe into the family household either, feeling the disapproval behind his so-called piety.

Dorine and Cléante have a moment where they admit to not always showing their true selves that is quite touching. They sing “False Appearance,” where they consider the need to be who others want them to be, rather than who they really are.

Daughter Mariane is upset at Tartuffe’s interference with her plans to marry young Valère, played by Steven Williams. Her mood goes from joyful romance with Valère to exaggerated distress when her father seems to be ready to change his mind about their marriage. Mariane and Valère have a wonderfully dramatic interaction when they sing “If You Really Loved Me,” going from warm affection to doubting each other and back again, capturing so well the conflict of love, expressing it all in song.

The central character, Tartuffe, is a scoundrel and a con. Ludwig is masterful in his portrayal, with an expressive face that can be stone but then lights up when he is sharing his secret plans to get what he wants. In demonstrating the cost of greed and pious hypocrisy, this is a timeless story of a good, kind man who falls for this type of scam because he seeks more: truth, salvation – it isn’t clear. Orgon risks losing all he has and for-



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ELLEN BLANCHETTE PHOTO

Orgon (Sam Samuels) listens in rapture to the pious Tartuffe (Peter Ludwig) as he provides spiritual guidance in the musical comedy Tar2f!

gets the value of his loving family in the foolish choice to follow a man who is not worthy of his trust.

There is much more to this play, including the resolution of who young Mariane will marry, a shocking interaction with Orgon’s wife, and an almost disastrous turn of affairs that threatens the family’s well-being.

Adding to the entertainment are the very decorative costumes created by Reba-Jean Shaw-Pichette with the assistance of Piper Pichette. The sets are perfect, a subtle but beautiful backdrop that enhances the entire experience, created by technical director John Iverson. Choreography by Myka Plunkett brings everything

to life. There is almost constant movement onstage.


Producer Lucinda Kidder is to be commended for bringing this all together as she continues to find and nurture local talent, building this theater company now in its fifth season.

The show has one more run this week at the Hawks and Reed Performing Arts Center, with shows on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 19, 20 and 21, at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 general admission and \$20 for students and seniors. They may be purchased online at eventbrite.com, or reserved by calling the box office at (413) 768-7514. For more information, see silverthornetheater.org.



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