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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 16 – NO. 33

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 7, 2018

G-M SCHOOL COMMITTEE Member Misses Nine Consecutive Meetings, Offers No Explanation

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – “That is correct and no I have no comments for you,” Shawn Hubert, elected in 2017 to the regional school committee as a representative from Gill, told the *Montague Reporter* this week in response to an inquiry about his recent attendance record.

Since his election, Hubert has attended 20 of the 32 meetings of the full school committee. Eight of his absences have occurred since early February, including the last six consecutive meetings – April 10, April 24, and May 8, 18, 22, and 29.

He last attended a school committee meeting on March 27.

Hubert was also appointed to one subcommittee: the negotiations subcommittee for Unit D, the district’s unionized custodial employees. According to business director Joanne Blier, Hubert last attended a custodial mediation meeting on March 14, and missed sessions on April 11, May 7, and May 14.

Though Hubert’s extended absence has begun to raise eyebrows, he is not in violation of any district policy. Elected members are not required to participate on the committee or attend its meetings. Resignation is only mandated if a member “move[s] out of the Region or city which elected him/her to the Committee.”

Last year, following an extended absence during which she was caring for a family member, Montague member Marje Levenson resigned. In accordance with policy,

see **MEMBER** page A4

Grads Celebrate an Ending, Mark a New Beginning



Graduates clutch their diplomas, and the yellow roses provided by the Gill-Montague Education Fund to present to someone who supported them during their school years.

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

TURNERS FALLS – The ceremony started with the Processional: the band played and the members of the Graduating Class of 2018 entered the room. One by one, all 54 young men and women stepped through the flower-encrusted trellis as the crowd cheered.

The Turners Falls High School gymnasium was packed with well-wishers last Friday – family, friends, neighbors – and it seemed like half the town came to support these students at graduation. They walked slowly through the gymnasium in cap and gowns of blue or white while the room swelled with cheering.

Class president Chloe Ellis led the procession through the gymnasium, then stood before them as they took their seats in front of the flower-decorated dais. Principal Annie Leonard stepped up to the podium and spoke of the journey students had made and how they had learned to turn negative experiences to positive learning oppor-

tunities. Leonard introduced the speakers and guided the ceremony throughout.

Then Ellis reflected on their time together and shared memories with her fellow seniors. She spoke of how they had supported each other, mentioning the Buzz Off to support cancer treatment as an effort they had made together to reach out and help others. She thanked her parents for their support, and for attending every sporting event.

Remembering the good times they’ve shared, she said that “happiness is the key to success,” and told her fellow graduates to find what lights their lives.

Salutatorian Snezana Lashtur spoke of the time they’d all spent together in the district. She said many of them had been in the school district since middle school or earlier. “Never again will we share lunch together, never again will we wander the halls together...”

Facing the change that lies ahead, Lashtur said, “Today marks see **GRADUATION** page A5

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Citing Bar Owner’s Request, Liquor Salesman Un-Recuses Himself, Casts Swing Votes

By JEFF SINGLETON

Two years ago, a lengthy debate over outdoor music at Hubie’s Tavern ended with the revision of town noise regulations by the Montague selectboard. At the selectboard’s June 4 meeting, the noise issue emerged again.

This time the dispute focused on indoor music, how frequently a broken door has been left open, and attempts by selectboard chair Rich Kuklucz to respond to complaints from Hubie’s neighbors.

Adding to the confusion and contention, selectboard member Chris Boutwell initially recused himself from the discussion due to

a conflict of interest, but then returned to deliberate and vote on the matter – at the request of Hubie’s owner Shawn Hubert.

With Hubert and his partner Lynne sitting at the front table, Kuklucz began the “noise hearing” by describing a number of situations in which he had gone to the area around Hubie’s in response to complaints about excessive noise from the bar’s neighbors. He said he had found that music could be heard from distances in excess of 200 feet, which violated the 2016 ordinance.

Later, he also said that in June 2017 he had gone inside the bar in response to complaints and asked the

see **UN-RECUSES** page A7



Lynne and Shawn Hubert, at left, owners of Hubie’s Tavern in downtown Turners Falls, discuss noise complaints with selectboard members Mike Nelson and Rich Kuklucz, at right. Not long after, Chris Boutwell would rejoin the board at the table.

WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Town Meeting Digs Deeper Into Stabilization Fund; Trouble at the WRATS

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The open session of the Wendell selectboard’s May 30 meeting was short – from 7 to 7:30 p.m. – and was followed by an executive session with the highway commission “to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health rather than the professional competence of an individual.”

On Saturday, June 2, the Wendell recycling and transfer station (WRATS), which is supervised by the highway commission, was not open for its normal hours. On Tuesday, the highway commissioners opened the station themselves with other volunteer help.

In the open session, town coordinator Nancy Aldrich reported that the meetinghouse request for proposals had no answering responses before the deadline of 3 p.m. on Tuesday, May 29.

Selectboard member Dan Keller suggested that the selectboard should extend the deadline six weeks to July 10, and the town would “probably get a response.”

Board members authorized spending some of the few hundred dollars left in the fiscal year’s “maintenance of town properties” account

on a flag, pole, and light for the office building, and a lifetime folding table to replace the picnic table that sat behind the office building until it rotted and was dismantled.

The highway crew accepted the job of loading mattresses onto Gelin trucks, and payment will be made from the highway budget.

Tom Chaisson did a large part of the digging under town hall by hand on his belly, and brought out 1,100 buckets of dirt and rocks.

Linda Dunlavy of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) sent a letter to Franklin County towns offering IT services. Wendell already has Peter Golrick overseeing its computer network, and the board’s thought was the FRCOG proposal would cost more, especially if not many towns sign on.

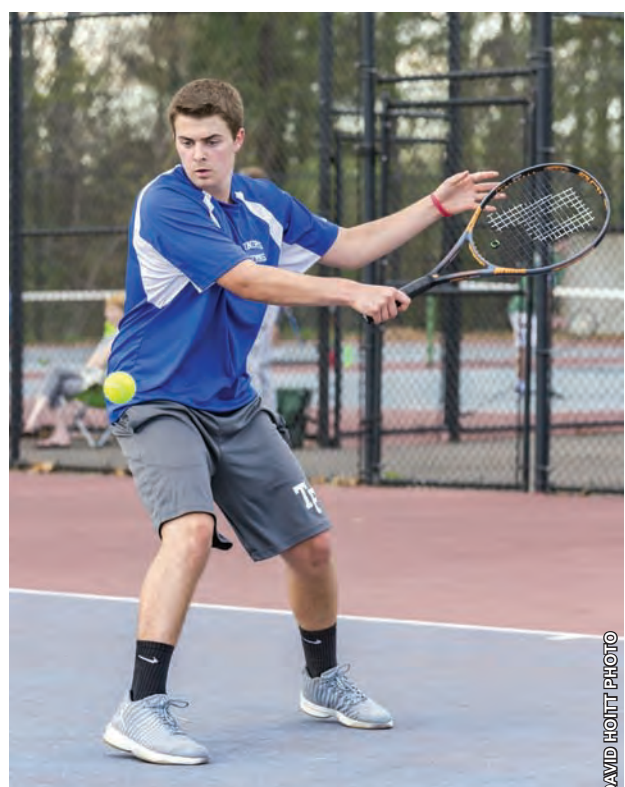
Board members opened a discussion about the town’s Citizen of the Year. Citizens can send suggestions see **WENDELL** page A7

The Week in Turners Falls Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

The Turners Falls High School softball team opens the postseason this Sunday, June 10, in a home game. They will face the winner of this Thursday’s Ware/Commerce game.

This week the final regular high school season of the year, boys’ tennis, wrapped up, and I also caught the home opener in the Sandy Koufax baseball league.



Jimmy Vaughn, Turners Falls’ first singles player, graduated last Friday, and played his last match in blue on Monday.

Tennis

Monument Mt. 4 – TFHS 1

On Monday, the Turners Falls boys wrapped up their 2018 tennis season in Great Barrington against Monument Mountain. The Pioneer Valley had received more than an inch of rain between Sunday and Monday, so the match was up in the air until almost game time.

But over the mountain, it was high and dry, and the match went on as scheduled.

Because the Monument girls’ tennis team also had a home match on Monday, the courts were limited, and the boys only got three. So as Jimmy Vaughn, Brian Porier, and Will Turn were playing singles, Brody Trott and Josh Gaulin had to sit and wait for their doubles match.

The Mountaineers forfeited the second doubles match, putting Powertown in the driver’s seat even before they began. Vaughn got behind early in first singles, and dropped his first set 6-0. Porier likewise dropped his first set 6-0 on the second singles court. Turn, however, won his, 6-4.

So it seemed that the fate of the match would be on the rackets of Trott and Gaulin. In his second set, Porier started strong, taking an early game, but eventually lost 6-1. Vaughn also dropped his second set, and Turners was down 2-1. Meanwhile in third singles, Monument evened the score, and that match went on to a third set.

By this time first doubles had started, but the Blue duo fared no better. In their first set, Trott and Gaulin went from a 3-3 tie to a 6-3 loss. In their second, it was tied 2-2 but they eventually lost their match 6-2. So while Turn was still duking it out on third singles, the match was already decided.

Turn fought tough, but eventually dropped his match as well, 7-5.

see **TFHS SPORTS** page A8

The Montague Reporter

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The Case for Trade War

Not having yet started any regular international war to call his own, President Trump is proving America's bulging muscularity on the world stage by getting us into the next-best thing: a trade war. He is pushing ahead on placing steel and aluminum duties on Canada, Mexico, and the European Union, and threatening to impose a tariff on auto imports, among other ambitious ideas.

The president is using his executive powers under the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, designed to "stimulate the economic growth of the United States" by balancing tariff reductions "in the free world" with provisions designed "to prevent Communist economic penetration."

The law contains a provision stating that if "an article is being imported into the United States in such quantities or under such circumstances as to threaten to impair the national security," the White House has broad powers to take action to reduce those imports.

"The U.S. has made such bad trade deals over so many years that we can only WIN!" Trump tweeted on Monday, by way of explanation.

Other nation-states are now threatening retaliatory tariffs on imports of American manufactures and foods, ranging from yogurt to motorcycles.

If this is confusing, maybe this will exacerbate it. Using only on-line news comments made in the past week by supporters of the president's actions, we have assembled a primer on America's path to dominance via economic withdrawal.

All comments were found on articles about the incipient global trade war on *usatoday.com*, *thehill.com*, *breitbart.com*, *foxnews.com*, and the Youtube channels of Fox Business and CNN. (We have corrected spelling and punctuation.)

Let the foreign crybabies whine! This is a boot to the jaw of all liberal governments. I see the Chinese are paying all their agents to sow fear of a trade war in America.

Trump is turning the world right side up, and the liberals/communists are going bonkers. Trump's 500 days has produced much improvement and will continue to improve more.

There isn't one product we can't make on our own, and we make the best products, always have. We won't even need to import oil at the rate the fracking industry is growing. We have all the food in the world, other countries will al-

ways buy from us.

Have you seen the tilapia poop farms... and people eat that? I like Mexican avocados, but I won't die if I don't get one. The only good thing to come out of Canada is Jordan Peterson.

Mostly this is about having a US military without having to depend on China for the materials needed to make warplanes and warships. If America holds onto recycled steel, we don't need everyone else. What good is a cheaper car if you end up being conquered because you can't build the weapons you need to defend yourself?

If Americans are disarmed, China and Russia would be in here in a second. Globalization was an Antichrist agenda from the beginning. Once they know you won't fight, your government gets overthrown, and now they can put in place their one-world government.

Remember that the Left-globalists believe that no nation should be able to defend itself without UN assistance. Ever stop and think for a moment that, *if I were an OPEC country, I'd try to have greenies and people working for the EPA in order to impede the US from developing their own reserves?* We have to destroy Marxist EU and Canada.

We were going down and down and down the slippery slope until Trump showed up. The fact that Trump has made himself into a multi-billionaire makes him more of an economist than you! I am glad he is finally fixing the problem the pervert Bill Clinton Cartel started.

God was right to disrupt the elitists' self-aggrandizing schemes. Of course all these countries who have been taking the advantage on America, they wouldn't want to get out of their comfort zone just like you give a candy to a child and start taking it away.

Nowadays everything they have was stolen from the western world or built for them by the western world. They greatly fear the loss of the American teat to feast upon as it is the last recourse to stay the inevitable.

Trump is flexing American muscle, knowing they will have to come to the table and bargain.

Now, there's going to be some pain as we try to right the boat – but that boat was tipping in the first place only because Democrats were doing it. Just like working out, you have to endure a little soreness to build muscle.

Florida's Natural is the *only* American OJ, to hell with the other brands.



Iain Sorrell came up from West Hartford, CT to fish for carp in the Turners Falls power canal. Carp fishing is the fastest-growing segment of sport fishing. They can grow to 30 or 40 lbs., but are basically considered inedible photo ops, released after a few selfies. The carp at Turners must have gone gluten-free, though, rejecting Iain's dough ball bait.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Allen: In Honor of Frank Abbondanzio

By PAT ALLEN

MONTAGUE – I learned of Frank's passing while in Slovakia, and apologize for not responding sooner, but his impact on me required time to process.

My deepest condolences to Libby, Breton, and family.

I was a member of the planning board, and a member of the interviewing committee, when Frank applied for the position of Town Administrator – again. There was only one other candidate who seemed remotely close to Frank in qualifications, but it was quite clear that that statement was actually ridiculous.

And over the next two decades the depth and breadth of Frank's knowledge, experience, and commitment proved the wisdom of the committee's decision. In spite of all the twists and turns over those years, I believe that Frank's vision and tenacity made the evolution of Montague, both internally and externally, possible; and that much of the "new Montague" is due to his strength of character.

I am sure it was typical for a town administrator to wonder what the voters had given him, the first day I sat in Frank's office as a newly elected selectman in Montague. I am also certain that Frank had done his homework in his usual, quiet, behind-the-scenes style and probably had a pretty good idea what he was getting.

But who could have foreseen the angst, the joys, and the evolution of Montague – especially Turners Falls – that would come!

Over the first few years, we spent many frustrating hours, weeks, and months trying to understand the dynamics swirling in our midst, and attempting to keep the faith with the residents while forging a path of integrity that would keep the town from unraveling legally. While I walked endless miles in the woods in frustration and broke pens in meetings, Frank would keep his own counsel, and suggest – always suggesting, never pushing – ways to

work through the issues.

His was not an easy path since as town administrator he was an employee of the Board of Selectmen and answered to all three of us; yet, he never wavered in his honesty and integrity. Frank's quiet and subtle reasoning for decisions, and the results they could bring, were instrumental in fortifying my resolve to remain a selectman through some difficult times.

When the moment came, Frank was the one who responded to my statement, "We need to get rid of the curse of Turners Falls." Frank had the sensitivity and sensibility to see what must be done, contacted Joe Graveline and others, and together they brought forth the Reconciliation Day Ceremony in 2004. With that and subsequent events, we have seen a wonderful collaboration with the First Peoples that has forged new alliances and understandings throughout the valley, not just in Montague, which should help ensure the strength of our cultures and environment in the future.

The man was a veritable encyclopedia. Over the years in Frank's office, we would discuss the various issues coming up before the Board. Invariably there would be a comment from Frank such as, "I discovered when I wrote this paper on the ecology and aquifers of the Pioneer Valley at UMass that..." and then another equally random, yet relevant, statement that "when I studied [add almost any field you can think of], I learned..."

His historical knowledge of the immigrant families in our valley, with his recognition of the enormous value those folks brought to the area, led to a highly acclaimed series of talks.

Frank saved the town immense amounts of money because he could read, write, and comprehend almost any contract or grant that came before us. This meant most documents needed only a cursory check by town lawyers. All those books on his shelf – he knew where the answers lay.

The same held true for budgeting

– his was the mind that saw not only the details, but also the big picture and how it fit in locally, state, and nationally. Sure it was amusing, or frustrating, depending on your viewpoint, that he did all his calculations by hand on yellow legal pads – yellow pads that were ubiquitous and voluminous. But beyond that, and probably his greatest impact, came in his vision for the town itself, through planning and implementation. No matter how many years and how many setbacks, he held that vision.

Frank seemed to be truly respected and appreciated by various state departments and our legislative delegates and was able to present the needs of Montague in clear, concise presentations that provided the town with unparalleled awards of grants. I think the state folks knew that when Frank said Montague would do something, it would happen, it would be appreciated, and there would be no embarrassing fallback.

Those days in Frank's office were also filled with laughter: with tales of a 7-year-old boy wandering the streets of Brighton and Boston; of a youth who might have become a professional baseball player; of a young man serving a military post in Germany seated next to another military person and showing him an article on a murderer, only to discover that was the person the police were looking for; tales of dark, smoky two a.m. selectboard meetings in the good old days (i.e. his first incarnation in Montague); of daring-do at the airport in the days of Sabah Dawlett and others – all stories we hoped Frank would write up some day.

All this and so much more I will miss;

All this and so much more, I wish Frank could have pursued in his retirement;

All this and so much more I believe Frank enriched all our lives and will be remembered.

Thank you, Frank, for sharing so much of yourself with me and the Town of Montague.

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LOCAL BRIEFS

ings Bank in Turners Falls. Mary Ellen and her family have graciously welcomed puppies into their home for about 1½ years' worth of training. Cash is 9 months old, and is the seventh dog the family has raised for CCI. Cash is on his way to learning about 40 commands from Mary Ellen, which he will take with him as he begins the new chapter in his life providing independence to someone who needs him.

Come and meet both Mary Ellen and Cash, while hearing their heartwarming story! Light refreshments provided courtesy of the bank.

On Friday, June 8 and Saturday, June 9, at 7:30 p.m. at Memorial Hall in Shelburne Falls, Pothole Pictures will screen **UNREST**, a Sundance award-winning documentary by Jen Brea about the highly disabling disease ME/CFS which afflicts 21,000 to 52,000 people in Massachusetts.

Saturday's event will be followed by a panel discussion with a doctor from Northampton Integrative Medicine who has been treating ME/CFS patients for 10 years, and an ME/CFS advocate who is the caregiver for her homebound daughter with ME/CFS.

The film merges a love story with a medical mystery and a social justice fight for healthcare equality. **UNREST** was nominated for an Oscar, won a Sundance special jury prize, and won the Boston Globe's GlobeDocs "Best Film" award.

The Great Falls Apple Corps presents a free **Summer Kick-off Celebration** at the Unity Park Community Garden on Sunday, June 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be arts and crafts, a plant swap, planting, and play time, along with educational talks.

Live music will also be in the park; join the Corps in welcoming "Under the Tree to Unity Park." From their website: "Under the Tree Music Company and their ever-changing kids' band (that's you!) are excited to entertain the masses through an open-staged, freestyle wave of costumes, puppets, danc-

ing, music playing, singing, and as much silliness as possible."

Snacks, which will hopefully include ripe garden strawberries, will be on hand, and free seeds will be given out while supplies last. Questions, comments, or looking to get involved? Email greatfallsaplecorps@gmail.com.

The **United Way of Franklin County** is holding its 80th Anniversary Celebration on Thursday, June 14 with a "Gatsby Gala" theme. The celebration starts at 6 p.m. at 7 Boyden Drive in Deerfield. For tickets, call (413) 772-2168

Join the Friends of the Greenfield Public Library for an evening of fun at their **3rd Annual Spelling Bee** as part of Greenfield's Bee Week celebration. The Spelling Bee is on Thursday, June 14, starting at 6 p.m. at the Second Congregational Church on Court Square.

Contest words from *antediluvian* to *zymurgy* will be selected from the Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English language. Everyone is bound to increase their vocabulary at this event, and even if you are an abecedarian, come along and cheer on your friends. Entry fee for each team is \$15. Don't forget to name your team!

Stone sculptor **Tim de Christopher** will present a lecture describing the making of his work, *Rock Paper Scissors*, a public installation honoring the history of the village of Turners Falls. The talk will take place at Great Falls Harvest at 50 Third Street at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 16.

De Christopher will talk about the concept that inspired the work, how he presented his idea to the town, and, most of all, the execution of the work. The creation of *Rock Paper Scissors* was sponsored by RiverCulture, and de Christopher's lecture is sponsored, in part, by the Montague Cultural Council. Donations will be accepted at the door.

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Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

Week ending June 1:

Grade 6
Joseph Mosca

Grade 7
Robert Murphy

Grade 8
Willa Beltrandi

Compiled by **DON CLEGG**

The **West Mass Brass Ensemble** will give a free concert this Friday, June 8 at 7 p.m. at the Shea Theater as part of its fourth annual Spring Concert Series. A free-will offering will be taken, with all contributions going to support the band, and parking is also free. The performance will last about an hour and a half.

The ensemble is made up of brass band enthusiasts, music majors, music teachers, and students, all coming together to play music in the British brass band tradition from all over western Mass and southern CT.

The mission of the West Mass Brass Ensemble, started in Sep-

tember 2014 and conducted by Ken McCance of Millers Falls, is to perpetuate British-style brass banding. Its goals include providing challenging music to play in suitable settings, and sharing the unique sound of a quality brass band with the public. Interested individuals may contact Mr. McCance at kmccance@aol.com for more information about the band.

Meet Mary Ellen, a volunteer with the **Canine Companions for Independence**, an organization that provides assistance dogs free of charge to adults, children and veterans with disabilities, this Saturday, June 9, at 9 a.m. at Greenfield Sav-

reg.com/the-brick-house-5k. Participants under 18 will need to have a parent or guardian sign the registration and waiver form.

Race day registration is \$25, from 9 to 9:45 a.m. However, a sliding-scale entrance fee will be available during onsite registration, and no runner will be turned away.

Runners can also collect sponsors for the race at www.pledgereg.com/the-brick-house-5k. Raise \$75 and get a free race tote, featuring this year's logo by Opertura.

There are also many volunteer opportunities - email thebrickhouse5k@gmail.com if you're interested in helping out!

The Brick House, located at 24 Third Street, provides a drop-in youth center, resources for parents and families, and affordable spaces for meeting, movement, and music.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Trash Bids Rise; Library Requests Benefited Position

By **KATIE NOLAN**

On Monday, Erving library trustees Rupert Roy-Clark and Mackensey Bailey presented the town selectboard with a plan to increase the library assistant from 19.5 hours per week to 26, making the position eligible for benefits. The trustees and library director Barbara Friedman told the board that the extra hours are necessary in order to free Friedman to work on the new library construction project.

In a memo to the board, the trustees wrote, "The demands on the Library Director to see this project through to completion leave no time for covering the desk, forcing us to rethink our staffing needs for FY19 and into the future. These needs will continue throughout the design, construction, and the move to the new library location."

Clark told the board, "This gives us director time. No one else can do what she has to do, to build the new library and keep the grants coming."

The trustees also cited "safety issues for town personnel and the risks involved in having only one staff person present in the building" as a

reason for additional staffing. A second library assistant, at 14 hours per week, starting July 1, was approved at the annual town meeting.

Finance committee member Ben Fellows agreed that additional hours were warranted, but suggested increasing the second assistant's weekly hours from 14 to 19, keeping both assistants part-time and ineligible for benefits. This plan would result in 1.5 fewer staff hours per week than the trustees' plan. Fellows suggested closing the library for an hour per week to account for this.

Selectboard chair Scott Bastarache commented, "That seems counter-productive to me - to give the town less service." He said that the long-range vision for the new library is to have two benefited positions.

Fellows said that this vision had not been presented to the finance committee.

Friedman said that the fin com should have been included during the process of applying for the library building grant. "That's where we missed the boat," she said.

The appropriation to pay for the hours increase will be presented to

voters at the June 25 special town meeting.

Solid Waste and Recyclables

The town's current contract for curbside solid waste and recycles pickup, with Duseau Trucking of Hatfield, ends June 30.

In April, the selectboard considered the two bids for the next contract: a lower bid from Duseau and a higher one from Alternative Recycling Systems of West Hatfield. Jan Ameen, executive director of Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, who is advising the town, said that both bids had items missing, and that town residents have complained about Duseau's service to date.

The board decided that the bid process had failed, and asked Ameen to begin negotiations with Alternative.

On Monday night, Ameen reported that she and administrative coordinator Bryan Smith had met with Patrick Kennedy of Alternative, and that the company's prices had increased from the time of the bid: "A sharp increase in disposal rates," she said. "I was unpleas-

antly surprised that Alternative changed [the costs]."

Ameen said she had contacted other waste hauling companies, but they were not interested in bidding, because the Erving contract is "too small for us." "They [Alternative] may be the only company you can get," she said.

"It seems opportunistic to me," said Bastarache.

The board authorized Ameen to negotiate further to see if she could get a reduction in the price, but approved signing a contract with Alternative, with a not-to-exceed price. With Alternative, the collection day will change to Friday.

Abatement and Demolition

The board awarded a contract for \$22,500 to Allstate Asbestos Abatement of Lowell for abatement of asbestos-containing materials at the former residence at 34 Northfield Road that will be demolished before construction of the new library.

Royal Oak Builders of Athol was awarded the demolition contract for \$14,749.

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NOW HIRING!

Assistant manager for Great Falls Farmers Market (in Turners Falls). Assistant will process SNAP/EBT, do market set-up, help with advertising and outreach. Must be available every Wednesday. Compensation will be approximately \$80/week.

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RECYCLE

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Week of June 11
in Montague



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MEMBER from page A1

the remaining school committee members selected a temporary replacement until annual town elections were held last month, at which point their selection, Michael Langknecht, was elected to serve out the final year of the term.

"I hope Shawn can return to active duty. Until there is a change in his status, I will continue to regard him as a Committee colleague with all the rights and responsibilities thereof," Langknecht said this week. "I will refrain from judgment or speculation about his circumstances, and make myself available to him if he feels there's any way I can support him in serving his term in office, as I would with any other School Committee member."

"I am hoping to see Shawn back. I enjoyed having him there," April Reipold said. Reipold said she has also missed a number of meetings over the last year due to health concerns; last summer, she had to miss several consecutive meetings due to surgery, but she let then-chair Timmie Smith and others know the reason for her absence.

"I find it respectful to email the chair if I am not going to be able to attend a meeting," she said. "I don't believe I have ever been told procedure for missing a meeting... I was surprised when I found out you can't be stripped of your seat - you have to resign, or wait out your time."

"I enjoy working with Mr. Hubert. It has always been clear to me

that he cares about the community, and has wanted to do what is right for our kids," said Cassie Damkoehler of Montague.

"That being said, it's been difficult to field questions from constituents regarding his absence."


Damkoehler, who has served on the Unit D negotiation subcommittee with Hubert and former member Lesley Cogswell, said that Hubert's absence has "put more work on the active members."

"I personally had to leave a subcommittee meeting to grab my son from the nurse's office. I brought that child back to the meeting because if I hadn't been available we would have had to cancel," she said, of a mediation session with representatives of the district's

custodial workers.

"I certainly hope all is well with Mr. Hubert," Damkoehler continued, "but I would like to have some sort of idea, moving forward, of what to expect."

Reflecting on his "twenty years as an active participant in District matters," Mike Langknecht said that he has "seen seats go unfilled for lack of interested candidates; chairs empty due to extended illness or logistical challenges; and perfect attendance that did far more harm than good."

The next school committee meeting is scheduled for this coming Tuesday, June 12 at 6:30 p.m. in room 228 of Turners Falls High School. 

GUEST EDITORIAL

By **PAT HYNES**
and **FRANCES CROWE**

Fifty-five years ago on June 10, President John F. Kennedy delivered a commencement address at American University that, in fewer than 30 minutes, turned traditional national security policy on its head. Kennedy proclaimed that world peace is "the most important topic on earth... not merely peace for Americans, but peace for all men and women - not merely peace in our time, but peace for all time."

His speech was hailed by then-Soviet Union premier Nikita Khrushchev as "the greatest speech by any American President since Roosevelt."

Eight months earlier, both men had faced the terrifying possibility of nuclear holocaust in a showdown between the United States and the Soviet Union, remembered to history as the Cuban Missile Crisis. Shaken but emboldened by it, Kennedy laid out a principled, strategic, and humanistic vision for ending the arms race and dissipating the hostile Cold War rhetoric and culture.

He led by example in honoring the Russian people "for their many achievements - in science and space, in economic and industrial growth, in culture, and in acts of courage" (alluding to 20 million Russians killed in World War II). And he announced a proposed direct line of communication between Moscow and Washington.

Within two months of his commencement address, both former Cold War antagonists and Britain signed the Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, prohibiting nuclear testing in the atmosphere, outer space, and under water, resulting in substantial reduction of radioactive contamination.

President Kennedy was assassinated before being able to construct a path toward complete and permanent disarmament.

Let us contrast Kennedy's words and convictions expressed on June

Two Roads Diverged

10, 1963 with our government's present-day national defense posture. These two diverging roads - Kennedy's, the one less traveled by - lay before us.

JFK: "What kind of peace do we seek...?"

Not one "enforced on the world by American weapons of war... I am talking about... the kind of peace... that enables people... to hope and to build a better life for their children - not merely peace for Americans, but peace for all men and women."

Stockpiling weapons - nuclear and non-nuclear - "is not the only," nor the most efficient, means of achieving peace, he continues.

Both the United States and the Soviet Union "are devoting massive sums of money that could be better devoted to combating ignorance, poverty, and disease... New weapons beget new counterweapons."

The Pentagon: 2018 opened with a new National Defense Posture: The greatest threats to US national security and prosperity are now Russia and China, with terrorism relegated to a second tier. Elsewhere the Pentagon speaks of "4+1" threats: Russia, China, North Korea, Iran, and terrorism.

Their chief concern is that the 2018-19 defense budget - morbidly obese by comparison with the funds dedicated to diplomacy - is not large enough for conducting war on all these fronts.

President Trump's proposed national defense budget for next fiscal year, recently passed overwhelmingly by Republicans and Democrats in the House of Representatives, allocates 18 times more funding - \$717 billion - to military defense than to his proposed budget for diplomacy (\$39 billion).

China's response to US war talk? The United States has unparalleled military might, spending three times more on military than China, remarks Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang. Yet its sense of inse-

curity is "beyond comprehension."

He urged the United States to abandon its confrontation mindset and move with the trend of the times - multipolarity, that is, numerous power centers in the world. Bluntly put: get used to sharing power with other regions, alliances and countries.

JFK: "The pursuit of peace is not as dramatic as the pursuit of war... but we have no more urgent task... Too many of us think it is impossible... But that is a dangerous, defeatist belief... Our problems are man-made - therefore, they can be solved by [us]."

Resolving to end war for good is not a perfect guarantee, he continues, but it does offer "far more security and far fewer risks than an unabated, uncontrolled, unpredictable arms race."

"...We can seek a relaxation of tensions without relaxing our guard... We are willing and able to engage in peaceful competition with any people on earth."

What will this require, he asks? "Increased understanding" with our enemies, which requires "increased contact and communication." The goal is complete disarmament, achieved in stages while building "new institutions of peace which would take the place of arms."

The Pentagon: Since 9/11 we have expended more than \$250 billion dollars on training soldiers and security officers from at least 150 countries in the name of combating terrorism and promoting democracy, international peace and security.

The results: no tangible national security benefit in Middle East and African countries, and no evidence of an increase in democratic values and civilian control of armed forces.

If anything, the opposite: a doubling of military-backed coups in the home countries of militaries we have trained. The program, according to Carter Ham, a former US commanding officer for Africa, suc-

ceeded in transmission of military skills, but *failed to spend enough time on promoting good governance and democratic values.*

Vietnam veteran and foreign policy historian Andrew Bacevich asserts that the goal of the United States since the fall of the Soviet Union and end of the Cold War has been to remake the world in its own image: to "align everybody from A to Z - Afghanistan to Zimbabwe - with American values and the American way of life."

With this goal, the US embroiled itself for decades now in "a series of costly, senseless, unsuccessful and ultimately counterproductive wars." Millions have been killed; countries, broken; trillions in US war debt, accumulated; and terrorism abroad and at home, fueled.

JFK: If we cannot end now our differences, at least we can focus on our "common interests" and work to "make the world safe for diversity" of ideas, beliefs, forms of economy and government. "For in the final analysis, we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future. And we are all mortal."

How far we have diverged as a country from this principled, strategic and humanistic vision for our national security toward one of moral collapse.

The road taken by Trump and his administration - clutching to military superpower status, abandoning the multiparty nuclear agreement with Iran and the Paris climate agreement, threatening to use nuclear weapons, and eroding decades of environmental protection - leads only to hate, hostility, and extreme peril.

Pat Hynes, a retired professor of environmental health, directs the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice (www.traprock.org) and lives in Montague. Frances Crowe is a much-honored lifelong activist for peace and justice who lives in Northampton.

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**THE
SPIRIT SHOPPE**

GRADUATION from page A1

a new beginning for us. We may be terrified but I'm sure every one of us will be great." She offered this advice: "As you confront obstacles, don't avoid them but have the courage to confront them," and said that the greatest success comes from facing failure and learning from it.

Valedictorian Simon Lorenzo told humorous anecdotes that entertained the school administrators on the dais along with his fellow grads. The room filled with laughter and he seemed delighted. He offered many inside jokes to his classmates, and thanked his mother.

Lorenzo reminisced about the day they took the walk from Great Falls Middle School to Turners Falls High School, following the paper signs which he suggested were re-used every year. And the question he said came to mind was, "What do you want to be?"

As he looked to the future, beyond college – yes, he reassured his fellow graduates, he was going to college – he reflected on what people often say: "They say we'll look to these days with wonder in our eyes and nostalgia in our hearts. They say these are going to be the best four years of our lives. Lord, I hope not!"

The audience laughed, and he went on. "If SATs, AP exams, and a squirrel running through the classroom in English are our best four years, there's something terribly wrong. Don't let these be the best years of your life. They were great years, mind you. I loved not every minute, but at least a couple. And I want each and every one of you to go out into this mess of a world and forge your own path. Meet new people, travel, learn new things.

"So in five or ten years we meet, when I'm smarter, wealthier and far more handsome than I am today, we will have stories to tell and things to laugh about. Whether you want to write stories or save lives, draw tattoos or program computers, I want each and every one of you to go out into the world and be you."

Lorenzo said he knew that

sounded clichéd, but that it wasn't something they could decide in a day. Just that one day they would see it: "One day you'll look in the mirror and like what you see, and you'll know you've succeeded." He ended saying his thank you's, as all the speakers had, with much sincere gratitude for the education they had received, the attention of teachers, and the friendship of their fellow students.

A Balanced Life

Superintendent Michael Sullivan congratulated the graduates, telling them that Massachusetts sets a high bar for graduation and they should be proud. He offered some traditional advice, then he told them that this was not sufficient for what they would face in their lives. "There you have it, wisdom for the rest of your life. Except of course, it's not."

He said, in reality, each of them must find their own way, their own answers. This brought him to a point about education that he wanted to share.

Sullivan said he had come to see the limits of the type of learning that asks students to demonstrate on tests or essays their ability to simply provide the right answer. "Engaging in this kind of learning as the predominant way of doing things is a bit misleading," he said. "It trains us to think if we just find the right person to speak to or read the right article we will come up with the answers we need. But the issues and problems we face do not lend themselves to this straightforward way of doing things."

Speaking of his own work as superintendent, Sullivan said, "The most challenging decisions I deal with involve balancing budgets or making personnel decisions, which require listening closely to a range of voices and weighing whatever evidence can be gathered, making the best decision with a team of people, usually in the context of very unique circumstances. Life is messy. People are messy."

Sullivan concluded with some thoughts for the graduates as they

go out into the world: "Although it will be important that you continue to listen to your parents, coaches, teachers, it's time we let you in on a secret. No one has the answers to your questions. You will need to figure things out for yourselves. More often than not, it will be your wisdom, your inner voice that will be your compass. I hope we've been good at equipping you with the tools you'll need."

Noting that the students will be going off to work or college or the military, he added, "Wherever you're headed, set your own course."

Sullivan asked one more thing of them. He encouraged them to recall a time in the district when they felt a sense of accomplishment. "Take a moment this summer to send a note to your teachers," he said. "It will mean a great deal to them."

Newly elected Gill-Montague school committee chair Jane Oakes opened her brief remarks by offering congratulations on behalf of the members of the committee. She said graduation made her think about the book *All I Really Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*. That said, she offered this advice: "Live a balanced life, learn some and think some, and draw and paint and sing, and dance and play and work every day."

Yellow Roses

That ended the speeches, which brought the ceremony to the most important part of the program, the actual graduation.

The graduates rose from their seats and left the room. With the band playing they returned one by one to step up on the platform, where Principal Leonard handed each one a diploma with a big smile and handshake of congratulations.

They then moved on to be greeted and congratulated by school committee chair Oakes and superintendent Sullivan, assistant principal Ervin Santiago, counselor Beth Fortin, and senior class advisors Donna Fowler and Stephen Burke. Each grad stopped at the edge of the

platform to turn around and greet the next one, switching their tassel to the other side, an indication of completing graduation.

This proceeded for some time until all had received their diplomas and been handed a yellow rose. The roses were provided by the Gill-Montague Education Fund, who encouraged each senior to give theirs to someone special in their life. In a bit of emotional activity, the members of the graduating class got up and quickly moved into the audience, each one finding that special person and giving them a rose and a hug.

Returning to their seats they stood waiting until the principal declared them graduated. Then they tossed their hats high, while the audience cheered.

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Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

Public Hearing

June 12, 2018 at 7:30 pm
Leverett Town Hall
Upstairs Meeting Room

Consultant will present an overview of draft findings and recommendations related to the town's ongoing efforts to complete an ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, followed by an opportunity for public comment. Public input welcome and encouraged.



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

Here's the way it was June 5, 2008: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

**Tanzer Trial Gets Underway
One Year after Strathmore Blaze**

Sergeant Chip Dodge of the Montague police took the witness stand in Greenfield Superior Court on Tuesday during preliminary motions phase of the arson trial of Jonathan Tanzer.

Tanzer, 44, a former resident of Chestnut Lane in Turners, has been jailed in Greenfield since June of last year, charged with breaking and entering in the nighttime, burning a building, and burning personal property in connection with the fire that destroyed Building #10 of the Strathmore Mill in the early morning hours of May 26, 2007.

A heroic response by area fire departments saved 90% of the complex and the neighboring Southworth Paper.

Tanzer had been hired in 2006 as an occasional employee by former Strathmore owner Jerry Jones to help salvage materials, including copper wiring and copper piping, at the mill. He was badly injured in an electrical arc fire on May 6, 2007, while working under Jones' supervision, attempting to strip copper wire from a live 13,800-volt transmission line on the side of one of the mill buildings.

Tanzer subsequently sued Jones for damages in that incident; a \$1 million lien had been attached to the Strathmore mill in connection with his damage claims before the blaze.

The main evidence implicating Tanzer in the arson fire rests on a statement made the morning of June 12 of last year by Tanzer's girlfriend, Amber Hewes, 31. She told police she had driven Tanzer to the Strathmore at about 1:45 a.m. on the morning of May 26 and acted as lookout while Tanzer entered Building #10 through an unsecured rear

door, ostensibly to steal and sell as scrap some copper he had stored in the closet there.

According to Hewes' statement, Tanzer was gone for about half an hour, and when he returned to the car he was not carrying any copper.

**Wendell Cuts \$98,203
From Mahar Request**

At one session, Wendell citizens acted on all 29 articles of the annual town meeting warrant. Voters approved an operating budget of \$1,692,806, as well as payment on outstanding loans for the purchase of Fiske Pond, the town's new fire truck, town office property, and payment on the construction loan for the new town buildings.

Voters went along with the finance committee's recommendation that approximately \$80,000 in payments be taken from the stabilization account to reduce the impact of the construction expense on the tax rate for the first few years of the USDA loan for the new town library and office building, until some of the town's shorter term loans are paid off.

At last year's annual town meeting, Mahar Regional High School superintendent Reza Namin walked out abruptly during the contentious debate over the Mahar budget.

This year, despite Namin's protest that it would be devastating to the high school's programs, Wendell voters followed the recommendation of the finance committee and approved, by a simple majority, an assessment of \$266,626, which was \$98,203 less than the school committee's \$364,829 request.

The finance committee arrived at the lower figure by using the alternative method of assessment for Mahar, which is calculated on the basis of an equal per student payment for each of the four towns in the district, as was called for in the original contract that created the school district.



BLANCHETTE PHOTO

Class of 2018 valedictorian Simon Edward Lorenzo addressed an enthusiastic audience at Turners Falls High School's graduation ceremony last Friday. Behind him on the dais (left to right) were high school principal Annie Leonard; school committee chair Jane Oakes; district superintendent Michael Sullivan; Beth Fortin; Stephen Burke; Donna Fowler; and Ervin Santiago.

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- Lisa McLoughlin, editor

NatureCulture: The Science Page

One Tree: Measuring Our Impact

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

NEW ZEALAND – Uninhabited, volcanic, steep, rugged, wet, and cold: Campbell Island is the southernmost island of New Zealand's Sub-Antarctic World Heritage Site, and a marine reserve. According to the New Zealand government site, it was not always uninhabited – there were cattle, sheep, cats, and rats there at some point, but all were removed as non-native, except the cats, which died off.

Past human inhabitants include seal hunters, whalers, and farmers; people involved in wartime defense, and meteorological observers – also all removed.

One tree that grows here is a non-native Sitka spruce, also known as the "Loneliest Tree in the World," apparently because it's the only tree on the island, and also as the "Christmas Tree," because parts of it used to be hacked off and used as such by human inhabitants of the meteorological station (which is now automated).

The Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) is native to the Northwest of North America and generally grows to 70 meters tall. This one is in Camp Cove and was probably planted between 1903 and 1940; it's now approximately 10 meters tall and has a wide, spreading crown consisting of multiple branches, some of them originating from near ground level.

A 2012 article online at subantarcticstories.wordpress.com says that "some have called it 'Ranfurly's Tree' as it is said that the eccentric Lord Ranfurly, who was the governor general of New Zealand from 1897 until 1904, planted the spruce in 1907. While on an expedition to New Zealand's outlying islands to collect bird specimens for the British Museum, Ranfurly had the thought to use the island for forestry. On his return visit he brought with him the Sitka spruce seedling and planted it in the cove, where it has since flourished."

"Flourished" might not be the right word for a tree that's one-seventh the size it would be if unmolested on native soil, but it does seem probable that Ranfurly or one of his ilk planted it, as British Columbia's governmental forestry site reports it has been introduced and is now widely grown in Britain and Northern Europe. A 2011 article by Bill Mason & Michael P. Perks in *Scandinavian Journal of Forest Research* added that this introduction occurred in the 19th century.

One Tree's Significance

What is interesting about this tree, other than its being lonely and misplaced, is what data scientists are gathering and interpreting from it. Out of the messes that we make within Earth's systems, we need to be able to measure scientific points of data to show that actual changes were caused by human activity. And some among us would like to use specific data points to clearly mark the beginning of different eras, the most recent of which is being labeled by some as the "Anthropocene."

Personally, I'm not a big fan of the term Anthropocene, which basically names an era of time after human beings and our effects on life, the universe, and everything, or, as Chris S. M. Turney et al puts it in a scientific report from February 2018 published on *nature.com*, "Anthropogenic activity is now recognized as having profoundly and permanently altered the Earth system, suggesting we have entered a human-dominated geological epoch, the 'Anthropocene.'" (*Global*

Peak in Atmospheric Radiocarbon Provides a Potential Definition for the Onset of the Anthropocene Epoch in 1965 by CSM Turney, et al. p. 1)

While the scientifically literate can't deny that humans do affect our planet, we're not the only, or even the most important, forces in the universe. It feels narcissistic to me to name an era after ourselves, and also a sign that we're looking too inwardly at a time when we need to be thinking more about how we fit into the larger web.

Having an effect is not the same as dominating or defining an era. However, what the term anthropogenic does that's useful is focus our attention on human choices and actions, which are usually not in sync with the rest of Nature, which generates our disproportional influence on climate change.

The Tree and the Anthropocene

This is where the lonely tree comes in. The onset of above-ground nuclear testing is a useful marker as the beginning of the anthropogenic era, because only human activity can have released large amounts of radiation into the air, and the rest of Nature is affected. This one tree is helping scientists measure the beginning of this era.

Stephanie Pappas in a February 2018 article on *Live Science* writes that in the Turney report, the effects of nuclear radiocarbon were measured in order to definitively set the start time of the anthropogenic as when nuclear bomb activity was recorded in the very remote reaches of the globe, namely, on Campbell Island in New Zealand. The team of scientists is hopeful that the clear global record of Carbon 14 from nuclear bomb testing will definitively mark the beginning of the Anthropocene.

By sampling the lonely tree's rings, the scientists have been able to definitively measure the beginning of this human-defined era. "The only non-native tree on the island, a Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*), allows us to seasonally-resolve Southern Hemisphere atmospheric ^{14}C , demonstrating the 'bomb peak' in this remote and pristine location occurred in the last quarter of 1965 (October-December).... Our findings provide a precisely-resolved potential Global Stratotype Section and Point (GSSP) or 'golden spike' marking the onset of the Anthropocene Epoch." (Turney, et al, p. 1)

Other trees on the island, shrubs, and peat bog material were also measured for their retention of radioactive elements, but because of its large tree rings, this non-native tree was the best one to use for the test. They described the test as "sampling" and it seemed to involve coring the trees, which is considered non-destructive in the long term, though that is debatable. The peat was sampled by digging pits and looking at and testing the layers in them.

A Hard-Working Tree

This one tree was sampled before for other scientific experiments, and seems to be very hard-working, if lonely. Perhaps it wishes it were a bit more lonely, if the only thing people do when they come visit it is drill into it or hack off pieces.

Apparently, you would need New Zealand Department of Conservation permission to go do any experiments on it, or to even visit the island.

Which might give the tree, tasked with marking the dawn of an era named after humans, a nice break from us.



Campbell Island's single, hard-working, lonely tree.

CHRIS S.M. TURNEY PHOTO

Montreal's Plan to Be a Sustainable Metropolis



CREATIVE COMMONS PHOTO / FLICKR USER MAHA

View of the Montreal skyline from Mont Royal.

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

Cities can do a lot to be greener if only they make a plan and stick to it. Montreal, Quebec in Canada has a plan to become more sustainable from 2016 through 2020; this is their third sustainability plan since developing the initiative in 2002.

The city seeks to improve the quality of life of its residents, and their stated goals are to become a community that:

- is prosperous, innovative, and concerned about its environment
- applies the principles of responsible mobility and land development
- is equitable and in solidarity
- displays its cultural identity and heritage.

I find it interesting that cultural identity and heritage is included in sustainability. I think it shows that Canadians can think holistically about their land, which is something we in the United States need to work on.

The three sustainable development challenges Montreal is taking on are:

- lowering carbon emissions by 30% by 2020, and 80% by 2050
- fighting inequity and promoting inclusiveness; they want all Montrealers to benefit from improvements in health and access to sustainable and recreational services
- setting an example for other cit-

ies, and working inclusively with municipal services, corporations, non-profits, institutions, and citizen groups.

Montreal is committed to taking these challenges into account in all their design decisions, and in addition, to create one design that is leading edge and "exemplary."

They are also thinking on the scale of neighborhoods and people, putting into place more greenery; for example, increasing tree canopy cover from 20% to 25%. They want 55% of rush hour traffic to be people commuting by foot, bicycle, or municipal transport (rather than the current 47%), and to get 10% more people out and walking in general.

Waste and recycling are also addressed, with an aspirational increase in composting from 14% to 60%.

If you lived in Montreal, you could sign up for an "action team" and work on these changes. But what about us?

Towns in Massachusetts have planning boards, and they set goals for our towns and regions. And I bet we could do a lot better than a big city like Montreal in tree canopy cover and composting, for example. Think about volunteering for municipal or regional boards that work on these issues; they can use all our input.

The full Montreal report can be found at ville.montreal.qc.ca.

June Moon Calendar

Wednesday, June 6:
Last Quarter

Wednesday, June 13:
New Moon

Wednesday, June 20:
First Quarter

Thursday, June 28:
Full Moon

Note: Summer Solstice occurs Thursday, June 21.
NASA photo: Earth's moon compared to Earth.

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UN-RECUSES from A1

bartender to “please close the door.” Early in the hearing, Hubert requested that Boutwell, who had recused himself from the deliberation because he is a liquor distributor who sells alcohol to Hubie’s, re-join the discussion so “I can speak individually with each member of the board.”

Boutwell, who had left the selectboard table, sat back down without any objection from his fellow members.

Hubert told Boutwell that he would continue to buy liquor from him no matter what opinion he expressed. He also told Kuklewicz that he already knew how he would vote, so “anything I would have to say means nothing.”

To Nelson, Hubert complained that neighbors John McNamara and Erin MacLean, who own the store Loot and an apartment building next to Hubie’s, were trying to “run him out of business” with their regular noise complaints. He said that if the board approved a proposed warning about the noise, “every time they hear a loud noise coming out of that bar, you’ve given them the right to call Mr. Kuklewicz, and then Mr. Kuklewicz will call the police. They hate us. They hate me.”

Shut The Door

John McNamara denied that noise complaints were only coming from him and his partner, noting concerns expressed on a petition signed by eleven neighbors, and also expressed by the director of the Franklin Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority. He focused on a broken side door that fails to contain the noise: “It doesn’t close. It thunks, and then creeps open. There are times when the door has been propped open.... All we are asking for is the doors be closed, and the window.”

Lynne Hubert, who manages the bar during the evening hours, stated

emphatically that the door is “never propped open.”

Selectboard member Mike Nelson responded: “In your opinion, the door had been closed. Other people think the door may or may not have been closed. Can we just keep the door closed?”

Nelson proposed a motion to require the Huberts to install automatic door closers on the side and front doors of the Tavern, “and keep them closed during periods [when noise] could be considered excessive.” The motion also issued a “verbal warning... in the spirit of trying to find a compromise.”

MacLean stated that she was concerned that the side door was broken, and still might not close properly.

“As long as it closes, that’s all we’re asking for,” said Kuklewicz.

Nelson’s motion was approved by a two to one vote, with Boutwell voting yes and Kuklewicz voting no. Kuklewicz explained that he believed the noise problem had continued for two years, so “I’m not comfortable with just a verbal warning.”

“You had this written up before we got here,” said Hubert.

“If I didn’t have regulations that I have to follow, I would say that I’d like to suspend your license,” Kuklewicz told him.

Kuklewicz then proposed issuing a “first written warning” to the Huberts. That motion failed, with Nelson and Boutwell both voting “nay.”

Recusal’s Reversal?

As the hearing was breaking up, *Montague Reporter* editor Mike Jackson, asked Boutwell to clarify whether he had “unrecused” himself from the noise deliberation.

“I tried to recuse myself, but then it was requested that I come back,” Boutwell responded.

“But was that on the record?” asked a member of the audience. “There was no statement of that other than Hubie asking you to sit down.”

“Yes it was on the record,” re-

plied Boutwell, and Kuklewicz concurred.

After the meeting, Kuklewicz told Jackson that it was up to individual members to make the decision about their potential conflicts of interest. “If Chris feels he’s not in a compromised position, then I have to honor his decision,” he said.

Jackson noted that Boutwell had suggested that the chair had supported the request to rejoin the discussion and vote. “I asked him to come up when Shawn brought up the discussion,” said Kuklewicz.

“I left it to his decision... He could have abstained, at the voting point, too.”

DPW Building Committee

In other business Monday night, town planner Walter Ramsey requested that the selectboard dissolve the planning committee for the new public works facility and “reconstitute” the group as the Public Works Building Committee. He also requested a new “charge” for the committee, and that it be expanded to nine members.

The request follows the recent approval of the project by town meeting, currently priced at \$11.2 million, and a town-wide debt exclusion vote to borrow for it, approved 688 to 649, with 152 blank ballots.

The board agreed to decommission the planning committee, “with gratitude and thanks.” But when it came time to appoint the members of the new committee, Peter Golrick of Millers Falls, a vocal critic of the project’s cost, complained that the selectboard had called for new applicants at its previous meeting without that topic being on the agenda.

“This is one of those topics that is of particular public interest where 49% of the voters said ‘No,’” said Golrick.

“So what is your objection specifically?” asked Kuklewicz.

“Specifically this looks like the same committee as it was before,



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and it doesn’t include anybody that represents the 49% of the people in the town who said ‘No,’” Golrick replied. “You just have a whole bunch of people who are all in favor of spending \$11 million.”

Ramsey said a solicitation for new members of the committee had been put on the town website the previous week with qualifications.

“How are people supposed to know that?” Golrick asked. “Look at the website every week?”

In the end, the board decided to wait until its next meeting to appoint new members.

Easements and Grants

Ramsey requested that the selectboard approve an “assignment of easement” from the Rocky River Realty Company for land along Millers Falls Road.

Rocky River, owned by the electric company Eversource, is selling the land to the state Department of Fish and Wildlife. The town has an easement on the property which was invoked several years ago to insert a drainage pipe needed for a slope stabilization and drainage project along the road. The board approved the request.

Ramsey also announced that the town had received funds from a state “Municipal Vulnerabilities Action Grant” which is designed to address problems caused by global warming. The funds will be used to address chronic flooding caused by a brook along Montague City Road.

A second application, to address flooding at South Street in Montague Center, was not approved by the state at this time.

Bruce Hunter of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (FCRHRA) came before the board to request the final disbursement of payments to the firm GZA Environmental for the design of Rutters Park in Lake Pleasant. They approved the request.

The board also agreed to request that the FCRHRA assist with the town’s FY’19 Community Development Block Grant application.

Appointments

Meeting as the personnel board, the selectboard approved a number of requests from highway superintendent Tom Bergeron, acting police chief Chris Bonnett, and library director Linda Hickman.

At the DPW, Kyle Bessett was appointed to the position of heavy equipment operator and Joshua Dempsey to the position of truck driver/laborer.

The board approved requests from Bonnett to execute two agree-

ments with the new police union, the New England Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

Hickman was approved to reduce the hours for Michelle Welcome, the library technician.

The board also officially appointed Suzanne LoManto as Montague’s “Cultural Coordinator,” a new position on the town staff which replaces grant-funded Director of RiverCulture.

Other Business

The board approved an agreement with the Franklin County sheriff’s office for regional dog control services, and a memorandum of understanding between the police department and the Gill-Montague school district for the new school resource officer.

Acting chief Bonnett read commendations to a number of police officers, and an employee of the dispatch department, who had prevented two attempted suicides on the Gill-Montague Bridge. The board voted to put the commendations in the employees’ files.

Town administrator Steve Ellis announced a “Community Input Session” on the town’s Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) transition plan will be held at the senior center in Turner Falls on Tuesday, June 12 at 2:30 p.m.

Lew Collins, owner of the Avenue A sports bar Between the Uprights, came before the board to request to be allowed the use of public property and two special noise permits for three outdoor events in the summer and fall.

The first request was for a 10th anniversary party on June 10. “Any time you’re in business for ten years, I guess that’s good,” said Collins.

“It seems like forever, really,” said Ellis. The board approved all three requests.

The board also accepted a plan for the mounting of a plaque honoring former town administrator Frank Abbondanzio. The plaque will eventually be located in Spinner Park on Avenue A, but in the meantime it will be placed in town hall.

The board also approved a \$1,000 payment to architect Tris Metcalf to develop specifications for the Shea Theater roof. Ellis said it might be necessary to delay further roof repairs until work on the adjoining Colle Opera House building is completed. Both buildings are owned by the town.

The next selectboard meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 18 at 7 p.m. at the town hall in Turners Falls.

WENDELL from A1

with reasons to Aldrich at the town office.

Keller said that Tom Chaisson had finished excavating the crawl space under the town hall. He did a large part of it digging by hand on his belly, and brought out 1,100 buckets of dirt and rocks. Now it is possible – but maybe not recommended – to sit up underneath the building.

The next step is to replace broken or missing pylons. This excavation is the first step of insulating the town hall floor, and is using the bulk of the FY’18 maintenance of town properties budget. Payment of the remaining town hall floor insulation can be made through a transfer of rehab loan money.

Annual Town Meeting

In two and a half hours on Tuesday, June 5, over fifty Wendell citizens passed the entire annual town meeting warrant, with the exception of one article that was passed over.

A long-standing Wendell tradition was broken when the finance committee offered an amendment to Article 14 which raised a proposed transfer from stabilization into the general fund from \$35,000 to \$67,000. The altered tradition was that money amounts on the posted warrant may be amended down, but not up.

The amendment narrowly passed, and the article passed as well, with the 2/3 majority that is required for a transfer from stabilization.

The passed-over article would have put \$65,368 from the rehab loan payback account into a fund available for residents to make energy improvements to their homes. Fin com chair Doug Tanner said that administration of such a fund would have been beyond the ability of the town, and would have used the entire amount available.

Voters approved the operating budget of \$2,623,765 with only a bit of discussion. Citizen Sylvia Wetherby asked why the cemetery commission budget was in the section for protection.

Article 16 moved \$108,643 from free cash into the stabilization fund, but stabilization money was used in several other articles in an effort to lower the increase in the tax rate. The town is approaching its levy ceiling.

All told, the town’s stabilization fund was reduced from \$455,038 to \$416,038.

Article 22 was a resolution that disavowed the use of nuclear weapons, and instructed the town clerk to write to United States senators and representatives accordingly. It passed unanimously.

The final article, Article 23, was a resolution in support of state bill H.1707, calling for the creation of a special commission to recommend changes to the state seal and flag, and it too had the town clerk write appropriate letters. It passed with little discussion at 9:30 p.m.

Montague to Protest Bus Route Changes

By MIKE JACKSON

On Monday the Montague selectboard unanimously approved a plan to send a letter to the Franklin Regional Transit Authority objecting to the process that led to new route changes last month.

“We voted [to raise] some concerns on Wednesday night, May 16, and the next day I went to an FRTA advisory board meeting and expressed those concerns, and I felt like they were completely rejected,” Jeff Singleton, the town’s alternate representative to that board, told the selectboard.

“We’re sort of left with these routes that were proposed at the last minute, when we really didn’t have time to discuss them.”

The letter said Montague “would prefer that new routes not be implemented this fall, pending a discussion of alternatives more consistent” with the town’s “goals of transportation and economic development.”

Chair Rich Kuklewicz suggested Montague could “pull together a team, or a group of folks that are from communities that are affected by the routes,” primarily Greenfield, Montague, and Orange, to discuss the issue.

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TFHS SPORTS from page A1

Monday's loss against Monument Mountain ends the 2018 season. So what's next for Turners Falls Boys Tennis?

Coach Steven Touloumtzis is optimistic, even with the loss of Vaughn. "Almost all are devoted to improvement," he said. "Next year: technique, technique, technique."

And on the bus ride home, several of his team spoke about the things they'll be working on for next year.

Baseball

Tech/Pioneer 11 - Hatfield 3

With the end of the school season looming, and the elimination of my beloved C's, I thought I'd be relegated to the beach and camping for the summer.

But at the last baseball game, Chip Dodge approached me to see if I'd cover the Sandy Koufax summer league. Dodge is one of the coaches for the Tech/Pioneer amalgamated team. The season runs from the end of May to the end of July, and I plan to go to several of the home games.

The home opener, played last Friday against Hatfield, went from a 3-3 tie to an 11-3 rout in just one inning.

The first inning was pitched by Cayden Lehtomaki. He allowed one hit, struck out two, and gave up one unearned run.

Tech's first run also came in the first inning, and was very interesting. Jake Dodge was at bat and Dalton Henderson was standing at second base. Henderson scored on a steal and a throwing error, but it

was called back. The ump called Dodge out because he didn't get out of the batters' box. Apparently, the catcher didn't have a clear view of third base, causing the throw to go wild and the run to score.

But after a couple more steals, Henderson scored anyway, knotting the score at 1.

Then James Robison went to the mound, and pitched shutout ball for two innings. In the third, the Technical Pioneers took a 2-1 lead when Levin Prondecki scored off a Corbin Leh RBI.

But in the fourth, Hatfield finally got to Robison, scoring two runs to take back the lead, 3-2. In the Tech fourth, Lehtomaki sent Jason Quinn home on a sacrifice to knot the game at 3.

Then came the sixth inning. "This is what you want," someone called from the sideline.

"It's not what I want. Definitely not what I want," answered Henderson as he was warming up.

There were two outs, the game was tied, the bases were loaded, and to make matters worse, the batter in front of him had been intentionally walked. Henderson answered by rapping the ball into right field for a 3-run triple. He then scored himself off a Dodge base hit.

Dodge also scored. As did Lehtomaki, Robison and Hunter Haughey - for an 8-run inning, and the 11-3 win.

Next week: The softball postseason begins!



MONTAGUE REPORTER

Foxy Calhoun checks out a March edition of the Reporter. Calhoun is the proprietor of Foxy's Tamarind Bar on the island of Jost Van Dyke in the British Virgin Islands. When the island was devastated last fall by Hurricane Irma, Foxy's beachfront bar became "the island's de facto command center and lifeline," in the words of the New York Times, because it had some of the only working generators and fridges. Thanks to Dave Hoitt, our sports photographer and sometime sailor, for the photo!



Robert Steinberg of Montague Center reads the Reporter last April at the highway sign for Sumy, Ukraine, about a five-hour drive from Kiev. "Sumy is where my company, ARTBnk LLC (artbnk.com) has a software development team," Steinberg explains.

ON THE ROAD

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YEAR 16 – NO. 33

B1

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JUNE 7, 2018

Preview: Bee Festival

By JOE KWIECINSKI

GREENFIELD – There’s a lot of buzzing around in these parts as organizers make their final preparations for Saturday’s Ninth Annual Langstroth Bee Fest. The fun-filled event will unfold at the Second Congregational Church and other downtown locations.

For the first time in the sweet happening’s history, Hawks and

Reed, located on Main Street, is serving as a community partner along with the original event organizers. The restaurant will be serving scrumptious culinary creations using honey from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

“Bee Fest is an amazing effort,” says owner Ben Goldsher. “We’ve watched it grow over the years, and wanted to be part of it.

see **BEES** page B6



Something Wicked Good This Way Comes . . .

By GEORGE BRACE

TURNERS FALLS – Like the mythical Scottish village of Brigadoon that appears once every 100 years, on June 16 and 17 the Mutton and Mead Tavern and surrounding shire will once again sprout up in the woods and meadows of Turners Falls.

It’s a unique event, even among historically-themed fairs. It’s family-friendly for sure, but basically everybody-friendly. The rich and well-realized group of events, performances, demonstrations and activities are at once entertaining, educational, exciting, relaxing and fun.

The production is rooted in the local community and grounded in a philosophy of collaboration, consensus, contribution and participation, with goals beyond providing a day or weekend of awesome fun – but a day or weekend of fun is sure to be had by anyone attending. As stated on their website, the fair seeks to provide “a venue to members of the local and extended community to showcase their talents as performers, educators, crafters and artisans.”

Work on various aspects of the mammoth undertaking goes on year-round, with things getting underway in earnest in January. As part of the mission of “The Knighten Guild and Company,” the organization behind



Festival-goers wander the Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club grounds last year.

the fair, free workshops and training for volunteers begin at that time.

David Agro, one of the fair’s lead organizers, has been involved with community theater for decades, and cites that model as a major influence on how they go about bringing the production to life. He and the Knighten Guild want to help facilitate regional entertainment and education, and foster community participation beyond the festival.

Aside from people who are already performers, or have a ready-made connection, Agro says the Guild can help “medievalfy” an interest someone might have to fit

in with the fair. They are always looking for collaborators, and for anyone interested in participating, showing up at the fair is a good place to start.

The Guild also runs an annual food drive for the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts as part of the fair, and supports other community causes and groups. Last year, non-perishable food items donated at the festival totaled 1,575 lb. (The Knighten Guild also donated \$6,500 to the Montague Common Hall, and \$1,000 in matching donations and festival tickets to Monte’s March and the Cancer Connection.)

see **WICKED** page B4



Fiona Wilkey takes aim at a bee piñata boosted by Second Congregational Church member Russ Thomas at last year’s Langstroth Bee Fest.



CHRISTOPHER CARMODY ILLUSTRATION

OK Cannabis Part 2: Grow Your Own

By ROB SKELTON

MONTAGUE – It’s not too late to start some outdoor weed.

Put the seeds on paper towels moist with slightly soapy water in a warm, dry, dark place (simulating the earth); in two to three days, they’ll pop open. Then stick ‘em a half inch deep into some seed-starter, or potting or backyard soil. I like 3-inch plastic pots but the bigger the better. You can also plant straight into the earth, or into a trash can with drainage.

Protect the plant from predation by fencing it off with hardware cloth, mesh, chicken wire, etc. Water every other day, and fertilize a few weeks in: decomposed leaf matter is tops; compost, sandy horseshit, aged chickenshit, bought moo-doo, fish emulsion, chemmy Miracle-Gro...whatever your ideology and budget allow. There is no mystery to it, no need to buy expensive crap with fancy labels. Weed grows like corn and tomatoes.

If you have access to clones (clippings), stick ‘em in like you do with basil or marigolds. They’ll need a bit more attention at the outset, but should thrive into bushy producers over time. With clones there is sometimes a danger of sexual confusion (hermaphrodites), so if you see male nut sacks appearing, you’ll want to remove them from the garden.

Growing from seed requires “sex-ing,” meaning that a month or two in, those which display male indicators (speedy growth; nutsacks) must be removed, or else the females will get seeded. A strong male plant which seeds a promising female can create a valuable seed-stock for next year, and for sharing and trading.

Two months in, you’ll want to tie the plants down; then all the branches head skyward. A strong plant getting its needs met will not succumb to disease or bugs. The leaves are the solar panels of the plant; don’t cut ‘em. This is not bonsai, and you can make smoothies with the leaves at harvest.

When you think it’s time to harvest, wait. They’re not ready yet. Keep your hands off the buds. If you do touch ‘em, don’t touch your eyes – you’ll be sorry. If you see mold, cut it out. Let ‘em grow more. Use a magnifier to assess the THC crystals; when they start to “cloud,” you’re ready to harvest.

Hang ‘em whole in a dark, dry place with a breeze. They don’t have to be upside down. Later, cut the branches and transfer them to a brown paper grocery bag, like the herbalists do. For storage, get ‘em in an airtight container and check ‘em periodically. For moisture, use citrus skin or celery, but again, monitor for mold.

It’s easy, and everybody should do it!



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

WEST ALONG THE RIVER SEVEN DAYS INTO JUNE

By DAVID BRULE

ERVINGSIDE – A fire crackles in the fireplace, sending heat out into the living room. Who would have thought it, this far into June?

Early summer chronicles, written just a few days ago, had us waxing poetic about the beauty of the season:

The entry for *May 30* dwells on the morning air, the shadows of the cherry tree leaves overhead flickering across the notebook page. Not summer yet, but this is the way summer should be. Cool nights, warm afternoons, and endless days of summer months ahead stretching out before us. The older we get, the more we appreciate these fleeting moments. We could stay young by just looking forward to another summer.

There’s still a little bit of wood to split, a reassurance against the cold that will eventually come again, but for this morning, it’s a good day for that kind of work in a light morning breeze and lower humidity.

The dog lolls and luxuriates among the buttercups, just lazying about, he contemplates the hoarse *row-aharc* call of a soaring raven somewhere off in the distance. Such

are the small, mundane occurrences and observations in my morning world, like the lady slippers pink and upright down in the old pasture along the river, blooming as they always do just there, this time of year. We can count on it.

Then there was the first firefly last night. It would seem to be early for them. Grandmother Hannah’s peonies, planted eighty years ago, still come forth June after June. Soon determined and organized ants will coat the buds, removing sticky sap that will release those buds to bloom.

Down by the frog pond, a young-

ish watersnake may well have cleaned out our thriving pollywog population. The aggressive, dark snake shot across my path two days ago, moving fast through the grasses and plunging into the pond. Luckily, he decided to flee instead of challenging me to fight on the path. They don’t mind biting an intruder if startled.

The wild irises down by the west-flowing river have budspears pointed skyward, still only a promise of their blue flag flowers. Trees beyond on the small river island are scarred

see **WEST ALONG** page B6



The gray catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*).

LOUIS AGASSIZ-FUERTE ILLUSTRATION



Mutton & Mead Medieval Festival
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 Mutton & Mead Medieval Festival is a production of The Knighten Guild and Company, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt public charity



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GILL and MONTAGUE

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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.

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Monday 6/11:

8 a.m. Foot Clinic (by appt.)
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 6/12:

10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga w/Jean

Wednesday 6/13:

9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach
11:30 a.m. Friends' Meeting

Thursday 6/14:

9 a.m. Tai Chi w/Mari
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga w/Andrea

1 p.m. Cards & Games

4 p.m. Mat Yoga w/Andrea

Friday 6/15:

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.

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.

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 Better, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.

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

Monday 6/11:

9:30 a.m. Healthy Bones
9:30 a.m. COA Meeting

10:30 a.m. Tai Chi

No Lunch Served

Tuesday 6/12:

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance

Schuetzen Verein Lunch:

The Singing Trooper

Wednesday 6/13:

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga

11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch

Noon: Bingo & snacks

Thursday 6/14:

8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones

11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch

12:15 p.m. Bingo

Friday 6/15:

9 a.m. Quilting Workshop
9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling

11:15 a.m. M3 (Music, Movement,

Mayhem) Fun!

Electric Vehicles Have Arrived!

MONTAGUE ENERGY CORNER

By SALLY PICK

MONTAGUE – You may have noticed a sexy Tesla whooshing by, a Chevy Volt quietly backing out of a parking space, a Nissan Leaf plugged into a charging station in Greenfield behind Wilson's.

By 2025, Toyota expects to offer an electric option for all of its models, and GM plans to introduce 20 electric vehicles (EVs) by 2023. In 2017, China sold 600,000 EVs, and California had 300,000 electric cars on the road. EVs are quietly zooming into the market!

While the upfront price of an EV may seem out of reach, they have big incentives. Depending on the car, buying an EV gives you a federal tax credit of \$2,500 to \$7,500. Forty-two electric vehicles also qualify for a Massachusetts rebate of between \$1,000 to \$2,500. You can find state rebate amounts per car at mor-ev.org.

And then there's the lesser known Drive Green incentive from the Mass Energy Consumers Alliance, available at participating auto dealers, which can drop your price by several hundred to (more typically) several thousand dollars. Check out the program's website at massenergy.org/drivegreen/incentives for specific deals, charts of the offers, and specs on cars in the program.

Here's an example of the costs and incentives for a plug-in hybrid electric Prius Prime Plus, which goes 25 miles on a charge plus 615 miles on its gas engine. The starting price at one dealer participating in the Drive Green program is \$28,382. Until June 5, Drive Green offered a discount of \$2,112! With a Massachusetts MOR-EV rebate of \$1,500 and a federal tax credit of \$4,502, the final price is a much more reasonable \$20,268.

Some dealers offer leases, too. Check the Drive Green website for this month's current offers, not available at press time.

Two Types of EVs

To help you decide which EV is a good fit for you, you should know that there are two types of electric vehicles. A battery electric vehicle (BEV) drives only on an electric charge from its battery. A plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) has a battery that you can plug in to charge, and a gas engine to extend your mileage beyond the electric charge. PHEVs are different from hybrid vehicles, which cannot be plugged in to charge the battery.

Both types of EVs give you savings from less maintenance and little or no gas use. The American Automobile Association estimates that the average EV saves \$2,100 in maintenance compared to a similarly-sized gas-powered car, after 150,000 miles.

With an electric car having around only 20 moving parts – compared to 2,000 in a gas engine – there's much less maintenance of the motor, fewer fluids to change, and less brake wear because of EV's regenerative braking, which adds power to your battery.

Speaking of mileage, you may have been deterred from looking at EVs because of range anxiety – that is, fear of running out of charge. With a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle you avoid range anxiety, because the car automatically switches



Most electric vehicles have this standard SAE J1772 charging connector.

to the gas engine if your battery runs out of juice. For battery electric vehicles (BEVs) that run only on battery charge, you do need to consider your driving needs, the range of the EV, and the availability of chargers where you're driving.

For example, if you use the car only for local driving, you're likely to have little or no need for range anxiety with a 2018 Nissan Leaf, a BEV. A Leaf has a range of 150 miles or so, depending on the outside temperature and how you drive. Let's say you commute from Greenfield to UMass-Amherst and home. That's 36 miles total, leaving you plenty of leeway to do errands along the way and use up some battery charge heating your car cabin or running AC.

If you have longer commutes, you may want to look into a Chevy Volt, rated to go 238 miles, or wait until the new Leaf comes out in the fall with a 225-mile range.

To get the most miles out of your battery, use strategies such as coasting to stops, braking downhill for regenerative charging, driving on slower back roads instead of at higher speeds on the highway, using seat radiant heat rather than the fan, and coasting to the top of hills.

Charge It

Then there's the question of how to charge an EV, how long it takes to charge, and how to find chargers that fit your car when you're out and about. Not to mention charging at home.

Most EVs have an SAE J1772 charging connector (see photo). You can use these connectors on the standard Level 2 (240 volt) charging stations that you see in many towns for fairly fast charging – two to 10 hours to fill an empty battery, depending on the size of the battery. If your home electric system has the capacity, you can have a Level 2 charger installed outside or in your garage, or you can charge more slowly with a standard 120-volt outlet.

If you need a really fast charge when you're taking longer trips, you'll need a connector with a combined charging system (CCS) or a CHAdeMO charger found on some Japanese cars, for charging at DC fast charging stations found along travel corridors such as the Mass Turnpike. These can add 60 to 80 miles for every 20 minutes of charging. You'll need to find a charging station that matches your car's DC fast charging plug. (Note: not all EVs have DC fast-charging capability.)

FYI, more charging stations are in the works across the state and country, thanks in part to a settlement with Volkswagen for their diesel car scam; funds from the settlement are being used to install stations in communities and along travel corridors. Eversource is also required by the state to install stations. Within the next several years, as more chargers are installed and EVs have longer range, range anxiety will be a thing of the past.

Finding a charging station isn't as hard as it sounds, since there are apps for that. ChargePoint is one of the most common charging stations, which also has an app for finding stations.

To use a ChargePoint station, you'll need a ChargePoint radio frequency identification (RFID) card. Their chargers are connected to the Internet, allowing you to see in real time if the station you want to use is available, and the type of charger at each station. If you want to charge on the Mass Turnpike, you may want to download EVgo in advance of your travels, as it's a common station, and you'll need the app activated to charge.

If, like me, you want to charge with the lowest greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the best times to charge are overnight, when electric demand is low, or on a sunny, not too hot day, around midday, when solar power is contributing clean electricity to the grid. To charge it in the wee hours, you don't need to set your alarm. EVs have settings to delay your charge. If you have solar panels at home, charging on a sunny day around noon takes the most advantage of the peak solar power time.

To avoid charging when the utilities have their highest GHG emissions, don't charge on cold evenings until at least 9 p.m. or in the early mornings. In the summer, avoid charging in the late afternoon until at least 9 p.m. on hot, humid days, when people come home from work and turn on their dishwashers, air conditioners, etc. This is when solar power is diminishing as the sun goes down, and the utilities turn on dirty, expensive power plants to meet these peak power demand times.

I hope you'll soon be able to join the EV revolution.

Sally Pick is a member of the Montague Energy Committee. For more information, she can be reached at (413) 367-0082 or SJP@crocker.com.

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FROM A KID'S POINT OF VIEW

Movie Making

By FINTAN ANDREW JONES

GREENFIELD – For my sixth column, I am writing about “Movie Making.”

I enjoy making movies because, when you are done, you have an awesome homemade movie. At home I make movies with Legos. They are kind of easy to make movies with, because they are able to move easily. The Lego guys (minifigures) can move their arms and legs so I can make them walk, interact, and do many other things, too. And I can also add in Lego backdrops, such as a building or a mountain, and other stuff, such as vehicles.

When I'm making a stop-motion animation, I don't want to show my hands in the film, so I take multiple, second-long mini-videos. It takes a little time to do hundreds, maybe even thousands of videos. Every time I make a little video, I move the scene a little bit, so it will look like it's moving in the end. I need to keep my tablet still when I film so it won't look like I did stop motion.

When I make a movie, I need to have the appropriate characters for the set, or it will look weird. If I want to make a character have a different look, I can just change their heads, hair, shirt, and their add-ons, like a bag or a hat or other accessories. You are able to change quite a bit on Lego minifigures.

When I make the video, I need to have some motions for the character to do. For example, if I want them to hand someone a flower, I slowly lift their hand up with stop motion, and then the other person gets the flower. If you have someone kicking a soccer ball, I can use stop motion

to raise their foot. If I want to change their emotions, using stop motion I can switch their face. You can do other motions, too.

When I make films they usually involve Lego sets. Once, I was making a fire scene and I used stop motion to make a fire truck drive to the scene. He got out and ran to the fire, and then started to spray water at it. Then I started moving the sun so it looked like he fought the fire the whole day. That was my first film.

My second film was about a family. The family was going to work, but their road was closed for construction, so they took the long way and got pizza. And then they didn't give the pizza guy money, and when they were eating, the kid burped. So they went home and did jokes, and then they went inside.

When I'm filming these videos, I first need to figure out what dimension I should film at. If I am filming a car chase, I don't want to be filming really close to only one driver; I want to be filming all the cars in the chase.

Now how I do it is I make the first part of the video, then film for one second, and then press *pause*. That just pauses the video so I can move the scene a little bit and then film it for one more second. Repeat that process until you want it to stop, and then press *stop*.

And there you have it... an awesome, homemade video!

NOTE: In my previous column, I said that this one would be about going to New York City, but I was sick and could not get to the city. I am sorry for any disappointment or confusion.

TV REVIEW

The Colony: Season 3 (USA)

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – *The Colony* is a show on the USA Network where an alien invasion happens and we are treated to how things are after it.

There are areas now called blocs, a private police force called Red Hats and a restriction on several things – one of which is what medical conditions get treated by the aliens, called Hosts. In an area called the Green Zone, people don't really have to deal with these restrictions, and are treated to other luxuries that people in the Red Zone don't get.

One family, named the Bowmans, are basically at the center of the show. They have been separated from one of their sons when the invasion happens, a day called Arrival Day. The family's mother, Katie Bowman, decides to join the Resistance, while her husband Will works with the people trying to stop them, in order to find out what happens to their second son, Charlie.

All of this kept me interested in the show in the first season. When there was a second season, the only things that were interesting to me were that this Resistance fighter and Mr. Bowman were on a list of people that can't be killed by the Hosts.

I decided to watch the third season premiere last month because at the end of last season, the family made it out of the bloc after being reunited with Charlie. Unlike the second season, which didn't really have

anything new, it's basically a whole new ball game, something new to watch.

The start of this something new is that the family is now living at a cabin in the wilderness, with a governmental official who decided to flee with them. But they are pulled back into things, for two reasons. One is because of an object they took with them when they left, called the gauntlet, and the other is that something crashes near where they are.

That crash sort of gets them back into everything that has been going on since Arrival Day. It would seem that they don't have much of a choice except to finish what they started with that gauntlet, which is to give it to the Resistance, like they were told to do.

Another thing that comes into play, and is rather lucky for his wife's safety, is Will Bowman being on that no-kill list. By the end of the episode, they set up a meet with the Resistance in order to give them that gauntlet.

Then, in a preview of the rest of the new season, we get to see that things are going to get a lot worse for people. Entire cities just being gone, people getting sent up to work in a place called the Factory – this is only the beginning. It's indicated that all of mankind is at stake.

This season is definitely a whole new ball game to deal with, and one that will more than likely earn *The Colony* a fourth season.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Stray Cats; Black Bear; Dead Beaver; Aggressive Groundhog; Loose Chihuahua

Monday, 5/28

7:04 a.m. Caller from K Street states that his vehicle's back window was smashed out overnight. Report taken.

12:51 p.m. Caller from Second Street wants it on record that his upstairs neighbor is continuing to verbally harass him.

11:17 p.m. Caller from L Street reports hearing a shots fired from a white SUV that just passed her house; believed to have been a BB gun. Area checked; unable to locate.

11:38 p.m. Report of fireworks being set off on Center Street. Area checked. No gatherings; no noise.

Tuesday, 5/29

12:56 a.m. Report of loud party on H Street. Not loud upon arrival. Officer advised male in apartment of complaint.

10:33 a.m. 911 caller reporting seeing a tall man with dark hair and a long beard aggressively yanking on his dog's leash on Sixth Street. Caller concerned for dog's wellbeing. Contact made with involved male and his mother. They were advised of some options re: handling the dog.

4:04 p.m. General fire alarm activation at Judd Wire. Small fire in a machine; under control at this time.

5:24 p.m. Report of erratic operator tailgating, speeding, and passing in a no passing zone. Last seen headed toward Scotty's from area of Field of Dreams. Officer out with vehicle at listed address. Involved party gave a somewhat different version of events. Advised of complaint.

5:39 p.m. Caller from Central Street complaining of stray cats outside her apartment window that annoy her indoor cats. Provided caller with number for animal control officer. Caller called back to request that an officer remove said cats. Attempted to explain to caller that MPD doesn't have the equipment or storage for a cat. Caller requesting to speak to officer. Caller later reported that owner came to get the cat.

6:16 p.m. Report of larceny on Fourth Street. Investigated.

Wednesday, 5/30

8:33 a.m. Officer advised Eversource crew working at Turners Falls Road and Coolidge Avenue that they need a detail officer.

11:16 a.m. Theft of a golf cart reported on Emond Avenue.

11:27 a.m. Caller from Third Street found a broken window in his home and damage to a nearby vehicle caused by what he

believes are paintballs.

11:30 a.m. Party reported black bear in her yard last night via MPD's Facebook page. Per acting chief's request, party contacted and encouraged to use the MPD number or 911 when making an animal complaint.

1:27 p.m. Caller from Marstons Alley witnessed a black bear the size of a large dog running up and down the road. Advised to call back if animal returns and becomes a threat. Call printed for ACO.

1:30 p.m. Caller reporting an unknown male party following his daughter near the end of the road swimming area off North Street. Daughter is now at home and is safe. Advised of options.

2:30 p.m. Caller from Lyman Avenue reporting numerous vehicles at a nearby address with what she believes to be inactive registrations. Caller concerned for safety and aesthetic of neighborhood. Officer contacted homeowner and advised them of town bylaws regarding unregistered vehicles. They currently have five unregistered vehicles and are in the process of taking care of them. Officer will follow up in one week to see if they have followed through.

6:36 p.m. Car vs. motorcycle accident at Third and L streets. No injuries reported; EMS requested to continue response and check out motorcycle rider. Report taken.

7:52 p.m. Caller reporting hypodermic needle sitting on a parking curb in the First Street parking lot near the bike path. Item recovered.

8:54 p.m. 911 caller reporting that two trees near Lake Pleasant Road and Green Pond Road are actively burning. FD and PD en route. Fires extinguished.

Thursday, 5/31

9:03 a.m. Caller requesting assistance with an aggressive groundhog. Caller currently has the animal contained in a bucket in her yard. ACO off at residence;

no one is home; unable to locate bucket.

1:12 p.m. Party into station to report that some flowers are missing from a gravesite at the Our Lady of Czestochowa Cemetery. Report taken.

7:43 p.m. Caller reporting hole in road at Ninth and L streets. DPW advised.

Friday, 6/1

1:12 a.m. Caller reporting a group of 6-8 people walking down Avenue A toward Cumberland Farms. Does not believe there is a problem; just states that they are very excited and loud, and he does not know why they are out at this time of night. Officers were already in area at time of call; parties observed walking toward the Greenfield Savings Bank ATM. Does not appear to be a problem at this time.

7:59 a.m. Caller from South Prospect Street reporting that this morning, her daughter observed a suspicious male walking in front of their residence. Male stopped and spent a fair amount of time talking to the caller's five-year-old granddaughter. Caller's daughter was on porch and intervened; same reports that subject appeared unnerved when school bus approached location at approximately the same time. White male, dark hair, beard. Area checked; unable to locate. Will continue to be on lookout.

9:38 a.m. Officer witnessed vehicle jump curb in front of Farren Care Center on Montague City Road. Summons issued; immediate threat will be filed.

12:59 p.m. Caller from Glow Beauty Bar requesting removal of unwanted male who periodically comes in and creates a disturbance. Officer advises male was inside upon arrival but has since left the premises. Male claimed to have been wanting to make an appointment; staff advise he was not a customer but had been threatening to sue the business. Advised of options.

9:35 p.m. A 47-year-old

Lake Pleasant man was arrested at F.L. Roberts on a default warrant.

Saturday, 6/2

10:55 a.m. Report of fire alarm in Crocker Building. TFFD advised and en route. Engine 1 advising that alarm was triggered by a pull station in the Creemee.

4:05 p.m. ACO advising that he has removed a dead beaver from Unity Park and will dispose of it at the Montague transfer station.

7:02 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street requesting that an officer speak to the people at Powertown Apartments who keep coming into her yard. All parties advised.

9:51 p.m. Caller believes that her cat was stolen by a neighbor, who has moved; requesting assistance from an officer in getting it back.

Sunday, 6/3

9:28 a.m. Caller from Avenue A requesting to speak to an officer regarding gas stolen out of a neighbor's vehicle last night and loud noise from another unit at this location Friday night. Investigated.

5:21 p.m. Loose small Chihuahua running around near Fourth Street and Avenue A; has a harness, but no tags. Caller later reported that the owner located the dog.

8:22 p.m. Caller reporting two females and one male creating a disturbance inside and outside of Family Dollar. Issue stemmed from a customer thinking they saw someone wipe saliva or other item on the credit card machine in the store. One party verbally trespassed from store.

Monday, 6/4

3:30 a.m. Most recent of a series of calls over the past week reporting barking dogs inside a neighbor's house on Bridge Street. Ongoing issue. ACO is monitoring situation and has requested that caller report incidents to be logged by MPD. Caller understands that there is nothing MPD can do at this time.

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WICKED from page B1

What to Expect

A cliché is necessary here: “expect the unexpected” – but above all, expect a good time. In describing the number and types of entertainment and exhibits at the fair, it might come off as being a little overwhelming, with maybe too much to do and see, but in experiencing the fair, it all seems just right.

The two-day festival features over 50 different acts and spectacles, not including the many demonstrations, exhibits, and a troupe of over 60 actors roaming the grounds in period garb, speaking in 13th-century dialect while interacting with guests.

It all fits seamlessly together, and the atmosphere, while interesting and exciting, is also relaxed. Small crowds continually form and dissipate throughout the weekend at the various events and demonstrations in an easy, laid-back manner. You might encounter a short line at the Dragon Ice Cream booth, or one of the many other food vendors selling delicious food of all kinds, but an attendee is never more than a few steps away from a comfortable place to sit and relax in the idyllic woodland setting.

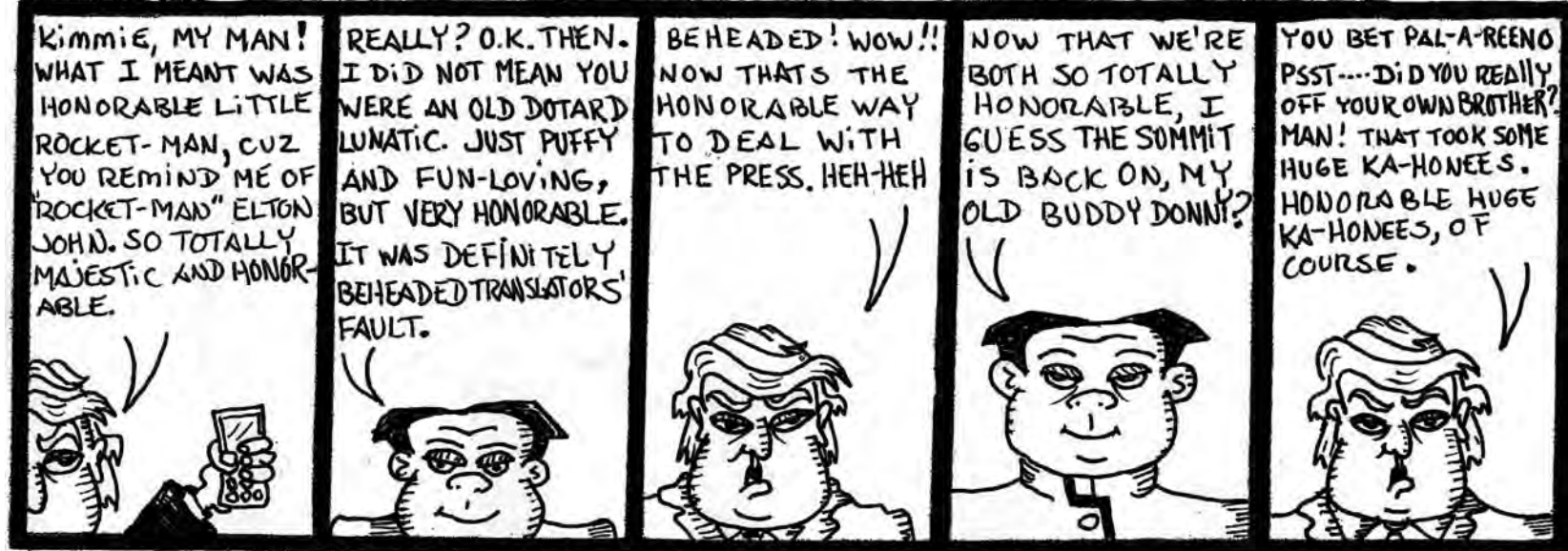


A costumed character outside the entrance of the Enchanted Forest.

The fair takes place on the grounds of the Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club in Turners Falls, co-sponsors of the event, and the beautiful, natural setting is one of the many elements that makes the fair so enjoyable. The central area is a large field, with a fenced-off arena for jousting and other performances, and the surrounding woods provide a pleasant backdrop for smaller, more intimate exhibits, where people can take in less spectacular, though equally enjoyable performances, or simply rest for a bit.

As for the performances, there are indeed spectacular and exciting shows, like real jousting on horses in the arena, and the 30-foot-tall Wheel of Death performance by old-school acrobat and showman Ichabod Wainwright. This guy is the real deal, and authentically embodies a rich tradition of performance and showmanship in a truly amazing and highly entertaining show. You could easily see his act being performed and received with an identical enthusiasm at any time within the last 1,000 years – for those fortunate enough to

T-RUMP



have the opportunity.

Performers like Wainwright are a rare breed. These events serve as main attractions, and attract sizable crowds, but there is plenty of room for everybody to get a good view, and the crowd sizes are not off-putting.

Less spectacular, but also great, are the many other performances such as plays, music, dancing, demonstrations and comedy shows, which occur throughout the day on the seven small stages and performance areas

Here too, there is a small performance area, surrounding a large tree, where both scheduled and unscheduled performances take place at intervals throughout the day. It is also a peaceful, cool and relaxing place to hang out and relax for a time if that's what you feel like doing.

You walk twenty feet into the forest, and you are in a different world. You no longer see the large central field, and would not even know it was there if you hadn't just been there.

Falcons and Faerie Wings

Not exactly a different end of the spectrum, but something more geared for adults, is the famed Mead and Mutton Tavern itself, the center of the imaginary world of the festival. Here too, a variety of performances take place throughout the day, such as the rousing drum and bagpipe music of Cu Dubh, one of several national acts performing at the fair.

Also performing at the tavern are a variety of other entertainers, including the local troupe “Lord Pomeroy's Minstrels,” hosts of the Bawdy Ball, where they perform songs with a lot of humor and a bit of titillation. Troupe member and music director Eric Johnson (a.k.a. Bertram Buckingham Bach, or BB Bach for short) described the ball as “perhaps PG-14 rated,” saying, “My philosophy is that vulgar isn't funny, innuendo is better.” He says that the performance is not all that racy, but if a parent would not be comfortable facing questions such as “Why is that funny?” or “What is that supposed to rhyme with?”, they may want to skip the Ball in favor of another attraction, of which there are plenty to choose from.

The educational exhibits and demonstrations include blacksmithing, cooking, clothes-making, and an exhibit of real live birds of prey with falcons, raptors and owls. These majestic birds are particularly striking when seen close to their natural habitats, with the backdrop of the forest behind and around them.

There are also archery and sword-fighting exhibitions put on by a number of different groups, and opportunities to learn about the history and techniques of brewing alcohol, and other medieval crafts.

And while there are aspects of the fair that are educational and historically accurate, it's a festival that includes learning, not a history class.

There are more than a few mythical creatures to be found roaming about, and some leeway as to the time periods which are brought to life. No one is checking IDs to make sure a given character is from the 13th century. That's the focus, especially on the theme of this year's fair, the Legend of Robin Hood, but garb and presentations from other periods, such as the Renaissance or from non-European locales are welcome, and do not seem out of place in the least.

In a similar vein, attendees are encouraged to dress up for the event, but it's not required, and people who aren't in costume will not feel out of place.

Participatory events are numerous, which attendees can join in with or simply watch as part of the entertainment if they prefer. There are classes in medieval dancing, and in keeping with the Robin Hood theme of this year's fair, free archery is available all weekend, a big hit with kids, some of whom are reported to spend quite a bit of time testing and improving their marksmanship.

Aside from acts and exhibits that serve specifically as entertainment or learning opportunities, over 80 vendors will be selling a wide range of goods and food you might find in the world of Game of Thrones. Touring the shops is like a trip to a combination museum/curiosity

shop/food court, with good, shire-made food, not mall-food.

The shop-keepers appear in period garb and are pleasant, informative and entertaining to talk to, clearly enjoying their part in the festivities. With names such as Black Swan Armory, Forge and Fleece, Meadhall Outfitters, Mischief and Mirth Studios, and Purely Pixie, they sell a range of items such as faerie wings, leather goods, jewelry, medieval weaponry, period clothing, arts, crafts, and unusual items of all kinds. Cheesecake penguins, courtesy of the Girls Club of Greenfield are available, as is of course, mutton and mead.

The Mutton and Mead festival is a whole lot of bang for the buck. Adult tickets are only \$15 per day, children under 5 are free, and there are discounts for teens, seniors, the military and first responders. There are also opportunities on their website to find discounted tickets through local businesses and organizations. Parking is ample and cheap, and if the walk to the gate seems far, there are golf cart rides available.

A trip to the website muttonandmead.org is a good idea because there is a lot more to learn about this wonderful event. Of course, it's best to show up and see for yourself – verily, it's not to be missed!



Johnny Swing Sculpture Event

By ERIN JENKINS
and REPORTER STAFF

BRATTLEBORO, VT – The Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (BMAC) will host a cookout and studio tour at the Brookline, VT workshop of sculptor Johnny Swing on Saturday, June 9 at 1 p.m. Best known for his dazzling coin furniture and other objects made from US currency, Swing will demonstrate his longstanding practice of transforming massive steel rods into twisted works of art.

Swing spent the first part of his career on New York's Lower East Side, exhibiting sculptures and furniture made from salvaged industrial materials, before moving to Vermont in 1995. His coin furniture can be found in the permanent collections of notable institutions around the world, in-

cluding Storm King Art Center and Chatsworth House.


For a recent exhibition of his work at the Bundy Modern in Waitfield, VT, Swing wrote, “First, it needs to be entertaining; second, it needs to spark curiosity, so that it creates a dialogue with the viewer; and third, it should have a formal quality, so that when the work is or approximates furniture, it must be comfortable.”

Founded in 1972, BMAC presents rotating exhibits of contemporary art, complemented by artist talks, screenings, and other public programs. The museum's galleries and gift shop are open every day except Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Johnny Swing event is free, but open to members only. To register or become a member, visit brattleboromuseum.org or call (802) 257-0124 x. 101.


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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 mcbass@vermontel.net for location and details.

2ND AND 4TH MONDAYS

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

2ND and LAST TUESDAYS

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Comedy in the Wheelhouse* with Jon Ross, 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*. 8 p.m. Free.

2ND WEDNESDAY

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Hip hop dance night with *Crazefaze*. 7 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:

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*.

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *Magic and Flow: A Collection of Contemporary Paintings*, by Dave Hay. Abstract and "pop portraits," all painted in his bold palette. Reception Friday, June 22, 6 p.m. Through July 21.



Rock 'n' Soul will rule the night when Christine Ohlman, the flashy, gritty platinum blonde "Beehive Queen" and longtime Saturday Night Live Band vocalist, performs with Rebel Montez to kick off the season at the 1794 Meetinghouse. Enjoy her soulful roots rock and blues this Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

Historic Northampton, Northampton: *Single Room Occupancy: Portraits and Stories from Northampton Lodging, 1976 - 2016*. Tracing the waning years of boarding houses in Northampton and existence at the edge of the community. Through June 10.

Leverett Library: *Recollections of Schooling in Leverett*. Through June.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Sculpture by Ron Edwards*. Edwards is a retired mathematics professor and a self-taught artist. The small scale mixed media sculptures on display in this show are made from wood collected along rivers and in forests. The 82-year-old artist also makes uniquely detailed walking sticks. Through June 23.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *In My Nature*, an exhibit of scanography by Marty Klein. Through July 1.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Drawings & Sewn Works on Paper by Katie Yun*. As a Korean-American queer woman, Yun's art brings to light the inherent politics of identity. Through July 1.

Sawmill River Arts Gallery, Montague Center: *Life's Too Short to Follow Rules*. Painter Sharon Loehr-Lapan and photographer Roy Mansur highlight their abstract work, along other gallery members. Through August.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Magical Shelburne Falls*. Photographs by Marty Yaffee. Evocative images of area landmarks. Reception Saturday, June 2, 6 p.m. Through June.

Wendell Library: *Richard Baldwin Retrospective*. Paintings by long time Wendell artist and writer. Reception June 9, 3 p.m. Through June.

8:30 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Lez Zeppelin* with opening band *She Said*. Led Zeppelin tribute band, and local rockers; all female musicians. 9 p.m. \$

FRIDAY, JUNE 8

Antenna Cloud Farm, Gill: *LA-DAMA*. Internationally acclaimed all-female Latin roots/folk/pop collective. Refreshments at 6, concert at 7 p.m. \$

Great Falls Discovery Center Great Hall, Turners Falls: Great Falls Coffeehouse Series presents *Sue Kranz and Friends*. Singer songwriter guitarist and flutist. 7 p.m. Donation.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Western Mass Brass Ensemble*. Started by Ken McCance of Millers Falls, the concert is free and features "British style brass banding." 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *KRS-One*, with support from local artists *Tai Chi, Jarv, DJ Rec, Congo Sanchez, Heatmizer*. Hip Hop pioneer has lectured, published three groundbreaking books, established the Temple of Hip Hop and more. Lecture at 6 p.m., performance at 9 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Driftwood*. Folk, rock 'n' roll and Americana. 7 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Dead Collective*. Grateful Dead tribute band. 8 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Patty T Blues Band*. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9

Downtown Greenfield: *Langstroth Annual Bee Festival*. All day. See article in this week's paper on page B1 for details.

Leverett Crafts and Arts Center: *Botanical Print Making Workshop with Leonore Alaniz*. 9:15 a.m. until 5 p.m. Preregister: (860) 605 6705. \$

Common Hall, Montague Center: *Open Mic Night*. Featured performers *The Providence Research Ensemble* followed by open mic. 7:30 p.m. Donation.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: Saturday Night Live vocalist *Christine Ohlman*, with *Rebel Montez*. Champagne reception precedes the concert at 7, concert starts at 7:30 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Date Nite Duo*. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 10

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Quabbin Valley Pro Musica* singing choral folk music. 4 p.m. \$

Diemand Farm, Wendell: *BBQ to benefit the Arredondo Family Foundation*. Cookout, music, fun. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Traditional Quebecois Music Session*. 3 p.m.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Call for artists for *PaperJam: A Month Long Riff on Paper*. Exploded View invites artists to submit artwork on, about or related to paper, its personal or local significance, or your creative interpretation thereof - use your imagination! Exhibit to be held in September at the Great Falls Discovery Center. Send info, three jpegs to explodedviewma@gmail.com by August 22.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, JUNE 7

Brick House, Turners Falls: *LAD-AMA* Latin music collective presents an outreach performance and workshop from 5 to 6 p.m. Open to all.

Greenfield Energy Park: Coop Concert Series presents *Bruce Colegrove, Sheryl Stanton, Boys of the Landfill*. 6 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*. 8 p.m.


Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Comedy Night: Cinday Foster, Dani O'Brien*. 8 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Upstate Rubdown*. Americana.

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BEEES from B1

Given the rich history of Rev. Langstroth's contributions, Saturday's event should put Greenfield on the map."

Co-chair Sandy Thomas is in agreement. "Although we have a lot of free fun activities for children, we also want to engage the public through lectures by leading experts about how to have a healthier environment for bees. After all, researchers have shown that one out of three bites of our food are pollinated by bees," she says.

"It's a great opportunity for our church and the bee community to share information with the public both formally and through activities for families and their children. We're very thrilled to do this."

Kids will have plenty of activities scheduled for the morning. By the way, the youngsters are encouraged to dress up as a bee, a butterfly, or a flower. Meanwhile, there will be an art show at the Pushkin Gallery on Main Street from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Area and regional artists will take part. On display will be paintings, fabric art, metal outdoor sculptures, pottery, and household goods among other works.

In addition, Dan Conlon of Warm Colors Apiary will give one of the short talks at the Langstroth Lectures. Conlon pays tribute to the Rev. Lorenzo Langstroth who served the congregational church as its sixth pastor. "Rev. Langstroth," Dan explains, "invented the modern movable beehive back in 1852. That changed everything in beekeeping throughout the world. Thus, the bee

space is always a quarter of an inch to three-eighths of an inch between the movable parts."

Moreover, the ingenious minister wrote *The Hive and the Honey Bee*, which is in its 40th printing. "He is regarded as the father of modern beekeeping," adds Conlon, "and is a member of the Inventors Hall of Fame. And the movable frame beehive is used by about 90 percent of the world's beekeepers, even today."

From 4 to 6:30 p.m. Saturday, expert Tom Sullivan of Montague will discuss native bees – those that don't make honey, but are pollinators. Sullivan will talk about why they're threatened, and what we can do to improve their lives, and, in turn, our own.



WEST ALONG from B1

by the raging crush of refrigerator-sized blocks of ice that roared down the river this past February when the ice-jam broke up around Athol. It'll take years for the damaged bark to once again cover the bare trunk, if ever.

The last day of May brought another morning like the next-to-the-last that was yesterday.

Waxwings wheeze overhead, wings make shadows on my page here below. They're eyeballing the green cherries just forming, and I'm eyeballing the same crop, jealous to preserve at least two jars-full for the annual winter treat of Montmorency vodka-cured fruit at Christmastime. We'll see who gets the lion's share,

me or the waxwings. Maybe we'll just split the crop. But then there's the wood thrush and the catbird who'll be wanting some too.

June 4. So now it's Monday morning under a rain that is supposed to last all day, temperatures hardly out of the 40s; that's why the fire is crackling in the fireplace, as mentioned above. After Sunday's brilliance, now we have the gray of Monday, the gray of a new work week.

Out of the rain, on the old piazza, there's the three of us: one with coffee and a pen, one lying on his back with tail idly wagging, one perched on the porch railing with a beak full of caterpillars. That'd be me, dog, and catbird, in that order.

Catbird clearly is the one who wants to be in my story, to have a part in this week's journal of days. I often refer to this catbird as *she*, although of course the two of them who have set up housekeeping on the edge of the piazza are of each gender, though hard to tell apart.

This year their home is just five feet away from my chair, in a tangle of thirty-year-old holly bushes and invasive bittersweet tendrils. I can't pull the bittersweet out for fear of upsetting the catbird couple. I'll take care of that after the young have been reared and the parent couple has left. Let's say I'll be sure to tackle that chore by the Fourth of July, unless they start a new brood!

This sassy gray couple has decided to live so close to us and our front door, that I'll take that gesture as a distinctive honor. They are this summer's talisman bird, our totem

by which to remember the Summer of '18.

One hops on the front steps when we arrive home, moves off to perch on the rake handle or spade stuck upright near the roses, then flounces off a few feet away to the bird bath. They sometimes flash a quick glimpse of red underpants (just beneath the tail), but you have to look quick, and know what you're looking for. The red is often just a coy tease.

Years ago, there was one so familiar and trusting in us that she (or he!) was wont to perch on the tip of my shoe when I crossed my legs knee over knee to read and write.

But this morning, one of them is preoccupied with hunting grubs to bring to the spouse sitting on the nest. I do believe that she (the one incubating) is staying put, keeping the eggs, and thus the next generation of catbirds, warm and dry.

Rain is coming down harder. She scrunches down tight, raindrops roll from her water-repellant feathers. The male arrives to give her a caterpillar snack and some encouragement, his wings quivering in greeting.

Monday morning rain increases its tempo on oak and maple leaves across the way.

Dog complains I'm not paying enough attention to him, and my coffee cup is cold and empty. Just the same, life is good. It could be worse.

Dog, catbird and rain are there to remind me of a wise existential truth that they live out their lives by:

It will be exactly like this on only one day, today.



MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV

By **ABIGAIL TATARIAN**

Happy June! Check out the following programs from MCTV this week:

- *First Franklin District* climate change debate
- *Rose Cora Perry: the Truth Untold 2018*: Take a look at this interview with the band Rose Cora Perry!
- *Hilltown Youth Workshop*: On May 22, members of Hilltown Youth theater discussed their "Recovery Theater" workshop program at Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls. The workshop provides intensive arts experience for aspiring actors, dancers and set designers ages 10 to 18, with youth getting the chance to exchange voices with guest artists and master teachers in the performing arts and social justice communities.

Something going on 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.

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