

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 16 – NO. 34

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 14, 2018

Montague Updates Its Plan for Improved Accessibility: “A Law, Enforced as a Right”

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – A group of town officials and concerned citizens met Tuesday at the Gill-Montague Senior Center to discuss the findings of a “self-evaluation” of Montague’s public spaces under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The group, which sat around a

large table, included town administrator Steve Ellis, director of public works Tom Bergeron, library director Linda Hickman, Council on Aging director Roberta Potter, and current building inspector Christopher Rice. David Jensen, the longtime and recently retired building inspector, sat in the audience.

The meeting was chaired by Megan Rhodes, a transportation plan-

ner at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG). Montague hired FRCOG to conduct the evaluation, which was funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Office on Disability. The town recently received a similar grant to improve curb cuts for handicapped access at several intersections in downtown Turners Falls.

The “draft” evaluation focused on town buildings, sidewalks, and parks, identifying potential violations of federal policy. These ranged from the relatively modest and inexpensive, such as handicapped parking signs at town hall that are too low, to the formidable and costly, such as the need to install elevators at the town library and the town-owned Gill-Montague Regional School District administration building.

“The transition plan is not a list of ‘what you must do now,’” Ellis explained. “There are going to be

see **ACCESSIBILITY** page A7



The public hearing was held at the Gill-Montague senior center.

Ellis: “Seeds” Planted For Canal District Redevelopment

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – A capital bond bill that cleared the state legislature last week and is waiting for Governor Charlie Baker’s signature, H.4549, includes among hundreds of other items a provision “that \$2,600,000 shall be expended for the pedestrian bridge and sewer pump station in the Turners Falls canal district in the town of Montague.”

If Baker signs it – his website indicates this may happen Sunday – the projects will not yet be funded, Montague town administrator Steve Ellis explained. “These are

see **CANAL** page A5

GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Fees for Repair? Schools Prepare For Laptop Program

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – Tuesday night’s school committee meeting was chaired by Heather Katsoulis, in Jane Oakes’ absence.

Shawn Hubert, who last attended a meeting in March, was also absent. Hubert’s extended unavailability prompted Cassie Damkoehler to propose adding an “alternate member” to the Unit D negotiations subcommittee, which has been attending mediation sessions with custodial workers. Without Hubert in the mix, Damkoehler and April Reipold have both been required to attend every session to maintain a quorum.

Timmie Smith was appointed as the subcommittee’s alternate mem-

ber by a 6-0 vote, with Smith herself abstaining – or, if she wasn’t joking, a 6-1 vote with Smith opposing.

Chromebook Rollout

Nearly half the meeting was dedicated to a discussion with technology director Tina Mahaney about establishing policies for the “one-to-one” computing program. Sixth, seventh, and eighth graders will all receive Chromebook laptops in the fall, and the committee’s input was sought regarding such thorny issues as deposits, insurance, and fees for repairing the computers.

The district uses Google Domains, so students’ data would exist in the cloud, with the Chromebooks

see **GMRSD** page A8

Students Fundraise for Endangered Animals

By LESLIE BROWN

TURNERS FALLS – It’s the last few weeks of school. The weather has turned summer-like, and the eighth graders are itchy to be let out.

Teachers need something special in their bag of tricks to keep students focused on learning.

A three-teacher team at Great Falls Middle School – Craig Tully, science; Fiona Chevalier, librarian;

and Lynn Cook, technology – have devised a highly motivating project on endangered animals.

Approximately 80 eighth graders in four classes researched at-risk animals, using print and electronic sources, and produced visual and print information on their endangered species of choice. These projects were presented in their classes, and one winning project per class was voted to be the most worthy.

On Tuesday morning, the four winning projects were presented at an all-school meeting. Mr. Tully chose to make the four presentations without naming the student authors, so the voters could best focus on the animals, rather than on their classmates.

Endangered animals chosen were the pygmy three-toed sloth, the hawksbill sea turtle, the bonobo, and the chimpanzee.

The pygmy three-toed sloth is found uniquely on an island off the

see **ANIMALS** page A3



PHOTO COURTESY OF CRAIG TULLY

Left to right: Laura Cioclea, Britney Lambert, Olivia Delisle, Jake Lyons, Brandon Pollard, Kiley Palmquist, and Hannah Warnock show their winning presentations.

SLIDING TO THE TOP



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Sienna Dillensneider scores Turners’ 11th run in the bottom of the second inning in a home game against the Ware Indians in a D-III quarterfinal. (See story, page A4.)

MEMORIAL

Michael J. Crabtree

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – If you lived downtown for very long, you got to know Mike Crabtree.

Exuberant, extroverted, and pretty loud, Mike was a force of nature, never able to rest for long, and always happy to make new friends. He would walk the streets at odd hours singing – snatches of Bob Marley or the Rolling Stones woven together with his own freestyle rap, sometimes funny and sometimes raw expressions of emotion.

Often he would sleep outside, camped in a riverside thicket; other times, friends would lend him a spot, in a spare room or basement or an old alley shed. Though a hard worker and willing volunteer, Mike found it hard to hold a job, or rent a room, for very long. He struggled openly with addiction to alcohol, and was always determined and hopeful, when he fell crashing off the wagon, to beat the odds and get himself sober again.

He left town for weeks or months at a time, but would always come back to Turners again. When he arrived he would seem overwhelmed: dozens and dozens of friends – for better or for worse, from all walks of life – in a few square blocks; people to catch up with and share news of his travels, his challenges and doubts, his plans.

Mike Crabtree carried right on the surface everything that makes it hard to be human. It can’t have been easy to be that bursting with song, to be that tormented by impulse, to be that worn down by grief and loss.

Newcomers would quickly be assured that Mike was harmless, but that was an understatement. His charm was always his wide-eyed, earnest caring for living creatures, his blunt honesty, and his almost childlike yearning to share with others the roller coaster of what he was feeling and experiencing.

So many of us – even those of us who knew better – were rooting for Mike to somehow make it through.

I spoke with Matt Howe, a Fourth



Downtown fixture Mike Crabtree died unexpectedly on Saturday.

Street resident and former pastor at Congregation of Grace. Matt gave help freely to Mike over the course of 14 years of friendship, once driving him all the way to Florida to be with his family after a stint locked up in upstate New York.

“He loved Jesus, he loved God – his issue was he couldn’t handle how to forgive,” Matt said. “He couldn’t let go: forgive himself, forgive the people that hurt him. He had all those memories that just kept coming back.”

The last few years were a series of particular highs and lows: an longer spell clean, and disappointment; and then romance and a close companionship with a woman named Deb, also in recovery, and a taste of redemption in her love; followed by a shared relapse and then, shockingly, Deb’s illness and death.

Mike’s situation made him vulnerable. He suffered the long-term effects of being jumped and beaten by a group of teenaged boys in another town. And it sometimes seemed like there were people who would nudge him off the wagon just for the sport of it.

“What can we learn from his life?” Matt asked. “What can we learn from our interactions with him – let’s think about how we handled him. How many of us loved him, just truly loved him?”

I’ll remember Mike washing dishes at a Brick House harvest

see **CRABTREE** page A6

PHOTO BY ASHLEY ARTHUR

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The Other Other War

Arab warplanes and warships pounded Houthi positions in Yemen's Hodeidah for a second day on Thursday, as a Saudi-led alliance tried to seize the main port in the largest battle of a war that has created the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Two residents contacted by Reuters said Apache attack helicopters were conducting intensive strikes on a strip of coastal territory near the city's airport.

The United Nations is struggling to avert disruption to the port, the main lifeline for food aid to a country where 8.4 million people are on the verge of starvation, potentially the world's worst famine for generations.

(Reuters, June 14)

grains and suffered severe water shortages. Today, three-quarters of the country's 28 million people suffer food insecurity, including 8.4 million who are wholly dependent on food aid to survive.

Some 50,000 children died of hunger and related causes last year alone, according to the humanitarian group Save the Children. One million people have cholera – the world's largest such epidemic in a half-century.

(Alex de Waal, New York Times, June 14)

What, did you forget about Yemen? How many worst humanitarian crises does the world have going on right now?

The United States may not have "boots on the ground" in Yemen, but we are deeply implicated. This spring, our government inked a nearly \$1 billion arms deal with our regional ally – some would say proxy – Saudi Arabia. And we may not be bombing, but we're refueling their American-made planes to go out on fresh runs to drop American-made bombs, and tacitly encouraging it because we perceive it to weaken the interest of our shared strategic rival Iran.

It is impossible for most civilian observers to responsibly follow global political and military developments. As this article goes to press, there is plenty of nominal coverage of the Saudi coalition's assault on Hodeidah, if you go and look for it, but this potentially catastrophic turning point in "the world's worst humanitarian crisis" isn't exactly trending.

Last week, the UN said that in a worst-case scenario as many as 250,000 people could be killed in an offensive against Hodeidah....

The city, which is currently under rebel control, is considered a lifeline for the country's war-ravaged population. About 90% of food, fuel and medicines consumed in Yemen is imported, with 70% of that coming through Hodeidah, according to the UN.

(Euan McKirdy and Tamara Qiblawi, CNN, June 13)

A Saudi-led airstrike blasted off the roof and pulverized walls of a cholera treatment center in Yemen, but no one was hurt, according to an international aid group, even as civil war has led to widespread outbreaks of the disease.

(Daniella Cheslow, NPR, June 12)

The U.S. position on the actions of the Saudi-led coalition has evolved. Just last week, it appeared as if the U.S. was warning the UAE not to attack the city.


But on Monday, Mike Pompeo, the U.S. secretary of state, said in a statement that he had "spoken with Emirati leaders and made clear our desire to address their security concerns while preserving the free flow of humanitarian aid and life-saving commercial imports."

But the Trump administration is likely aware of the growing congressional opposition to the Emirati-led assault on the port, and is likely to support the action of its ally without endorsing it explicitly.

(Krishnadev Calamur, The Atlantic, June 13)

Yemen was poor and vulnerable before the war: It depended on imports for 80 percent of basic

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION



Zach Gordon of South Deerfield and Nate Comiskey of Northfield man the camp store office at the Barton Cove Campground. Dozens of canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards are available for rent there for \$20 an hour or \$40 a day, including paddles and life vests.

Letters to the Editors

Warrior Dash Volunteers: Thanks for Helping Out!

On Saturday, June 12, Montague Parks & Recreation and the Friends of Hillcrest Elementary held their first Warrior Dash Obstacle Course Race for youth at Hillcrest & Sheffield Elementary Schools in Turners Falls. Approximately 125 runners throughout the area (and beyond) participated in this major fundraising event that supports the Hillcrest Elementary Playground Project, and MPRD's Sponsor-A-Child Scholarship Program.

The race would not have been possible without the investment of time, energy, resources, and funding from many within our fine community.

We would like to thank Judd Wire, Lively Builders, Nemesis Photo, and Letourneau Plumbing for their generous financial support. We would also like to thank the following for loaning and donating materials, and assisting

with the logistics of the event: Ed Snow of Snow & Son's Landscaping, Chip Garbiel, Jon Bevins, Ernie Hastings, the Montague DPW, Gill-Montague Regional School District Facilities & Grounds, and Ron Wood from the GMRSD Physical Education Department.

We also wish to acknowledge those who enhanced the event: the Turners Falls Fire Department, for hosing the kids down as they came down the home stretch; members of the Montague Center Fire Department, Montague Police Department, Senn II Excavating, Rau's Towing, and Mike Szady with his '23 T-Bucket hot rod for the Touch-

A-Truck event; and Ride 'N' Dine Food Truck for keeping everyone well fed.

As many of you know, volunteer assistance is essential to the success of an event of this magnitude. Therefore, considerable appreciation goes out to all of our volunteers who helped the kids get through the course safely, and cheered them all on as they crossed the finish line. This event would not have been possible without you.

Finally, we would like to thank the kids who ran in our first Warrior Dash! You all did a great job, we're very proud of you, and we hope to see you in June of 2019!

Sincerely,

The Warrior Dash Planning Committee
Sarah Burstien, Hillcrest Elementary Principal
Jon Dobosz, Director of Montague Parks & Recreation
Julie Nolet, Chairperson, Hillcrest Elementary Playground Project

Boutwell's Un-Recusal

I've been following the noise issue in regard to Hubie's Tavern for a while.

That selectboard member Chris Boutwell has in the past recused himself from the process because of conflict of interest was obviously the correct decision, since he has a financial relationship with Hubie's through selling the bar liquor.

Am I understanding this correctly, that simply because the bar owner wanted Boutwell to rejoin the process he did? When I watched the meeting, I saw no discussion on the matter; no acknowledge-

ment that a significant reversal was about to happen.

Recusing oneself when there is a conflict of interest ensures that there is no appearance of bias, regardless of how fair one's intent might be. How can the constituents that the selectboard represents have confidence in the process, when this norm is broken?

I wonder what the state ethics commission's opinion would be.

Anne Jemas
Turners Falls

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Compiled by DON CLEGG

Members of 4-H will be visiting the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls this Saturday, June 16, from 10 a.m. to noon. Listen to the members of the club share their passion for horses with you.

Light refreshments will be provided courtesy of the bank.

The **Massachusetts Walking Tour** visits towns along the Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail by hiking and paddling to eleven community concerts from June 15 to 27. The tour performs at the Great Falls Discovery Center on Saturday, June 16, from 6 to 9 p.m. (For more information, see page B2.)

Sunday, June 17, is the last day the **Turners Falls Fishway** is open. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 17 is also **Father's Day**.

The **Western Mass Recovery Learning Community** (RLC) is

holding an open house next Wednesday, June 20, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at their Greenfield Center, 20 Chapman Street, followed by an open mic from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The RLC invites residents of Montague to come learn more about the organization and community it supports. The organization offers peer support, wellness activities, education, and advocacy throughout the region. It is run by and for people with lived experience of trauma, addiction, psychiatric diagnosis, violence, homelessness, or other life-interrupting challenges.

The RLC recently began offering activities in Turners Falls, funded through the Montague Community Development Block Grant. These include an Alternatives to Suicide mutual support group, which meets 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Brick House, 24 Third Street; and Turners Falls Open Hours, every Thursday 2 to 5 p.m. at the Turners Falls Women's Center (all genders welcome), at 41 Third Street.

The Wendell Council on Aging will host **award-winning pastel artist Gregory John Maichack** to present an adult hands-on workshop, "Monet's Magic: Pastel Paint Monet's Wondrous Water Lilies," next Thursday, June 21 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the senior/community center, 2 Locke Hill Road in Wendell.

Imagine using the actual imagery that inspired Monet to paint his "Water Lily" paintings. In this new, fun, highly researched, two-hour workshop, participants create their own pastel painting, freely experimenting with hundreds of the artist's professional-grade pastels, pastel pencils, and pastel paper.

The workshop is designed for sheer beginners to experienced artists. It is supported in part by a grant from the Wendell Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Seats may fill quickly, so please call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 to pre-register.

Montague Center Congregational Church is hosting a **Strawberry Supper** on Saturday, June 23, at 5:30 p.m.

The menu includes baked stuffed chicken breast, rice, gravy, salad, and hot veggies, homemade bread, and strawberry shortcake on homemade biscuits. Meals cost \$12 for adults and \$5 for children 10 and under. Walk-ins welcome. To make

a reservation, or order take-out, call 367-2652.

So, you think you can bake? Professional and amateur kitchens, it's time to throw your best cupcakes into the ring! It's the Great Cupcake Challenge at Northfield Golf Club, Sunday, June 24. It's just \$10 per entry, or \$25 for three entries. Categories include "patriotic," "summer fun," and "People's choice."

First prize in each category wins \$100. Please drop off all entries by 1 p.m. on June 24.

Not a baker? There will also be huge basket and prize raffles, face painting, a bicycle decorating contest, live music, hot dogs, a cash bar, a kids' cupcake decorating tent, and more. This is the first annual Challenge to raise funds for Neighbors at Home, and is sponsored by Northfield Golf Club, Transitions Salon, and Cameron's Winery.

Mea culpa: **An unexpected scheduling conflict with carrier resulted in many Montague Center customers not receiving the June 7 issue.** The paper will be delivered via replacement carriers or postal service until June 28. The Taylor Hill section of Montague Center will have a new carrier effective June 14. We apologize for the interruption!

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Big Changes at Leverett Food Coop: Meet the New GM Sunday, June 24!

By ANN FERGUSON

This spring the Leverett Food Coop has had several special member meetings to consider the transition which will occur with the retirement of its long time general manager, Paul Rosenberg, who has shepherded this small business through eighteen years of service to the community.

At the special member meeting on May 2, thirty people, including twenty-two members and some visitors from the Amherst Coop, shared their visions and expressed their commitment to help the Coop continue its important services and community-building mission in the area.

Eight new members of the Board of Directors of the Coop were elected: Apple Ahearn, Ann Ferguson, Pat Fiero, Paula Green, Susan Lynton, Susan Mareneck, Julio Mendez, and Jono Neiger.

At the same meeting Heather Hutchinson, then president of the Board, announced that she and the other two officers of the Board, clerk Ken Brownell and treasurer Richard Nathhorst, were retiring as officers in order to allow for new leadership of the Board. New officers were elected, including Ann Ferguson, president; Pat Fiero, clerk; and Susan Mareneck, treasurer.

Volunteers signed up for new special committees of the Board to help the Coop in this transition, each of which is chaired by a Board member. These committees include: Events and Fundraising, chair Julio Mendez; Strategic Visions, chair Susan Lynton; Finance Committee, chair Susan Mareneck; Facilities/Energy, chair Richard Nathhorst, and Board Organization, Apple Ahearn and Heather Hutchinson.

These committees are still look-



PHOTO COURTESY LEVERETT FOOD COOP

The Coop's newly expanded Board of Directors, at the May 2 special membership meeting. Front row, left to right: Jono Neiger, Ann Ferguson, Elizabeth (Apple) Ahearn, Paula Green, and Pat Fiero. Back row, left to right: Ken Brownell, Heather Hutchinson, Julio Mendez, Susan Mareneck, Richard Nathhorst, and Susan Lynton.

ing for volunteers and ideas of ways to help the Coop increase sales and better meet the needs of the community. To volunteer or for more information, contact me at ferguson3638@gmail.com.

The new Board has had further meetings in May which involved joint sessions with the General Manager Search Committee. At these meetings, held in executive session, applicants were interviewed for the position. In all, five applicants were invited to interview, and four accepted.

At the May 31 meeting after the interviews, the Board voted to offer the position to Ann Walsh, pending further negotiations, including Meet and Greet sessions with Coop staff.

Walsh is a longtime resident of the Lake Wyola community in Shutesbury, and has worked as store manager in the Mill Valley

Milk Co. Store Farm, as well as for a number of years as marketing team leader at Whole Foods in Hadley. She has also been one of the organizers of the annual Jazz and Roots festival in Springfield and president of Connected Marketing, a consulting company involved in event management.

We are planning a Coffee and Pastry Meet and Greet with Ann Walsh and the Coop community, open to the general public. This will take place at the Leverett Coop on 180 Rattlesnake Gutter Road, Leverett on Sunday, June 24 from 10 a.m. to noon.

We are excited to welcome Ann and her creative visions for improving the Coop, and hope many of you will attend!

Ann Ferguson is president of the Leverett Coop Board of Directors.

ANIMALS from page A1

coast of Panama. It is a rather ungainly creature which lives mostly in trees and is so slow-moving that it actually grows algae on its back. This algae is believed to have potential in the treatment of breast cancer. This sloth is at risk because of clear cutting in its only habitat; there are only 100 left in the world.

The hawksbill sea turtle is found in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian oceans. These turtles are beneficial to the health of the coral reefs, as they eat sponges which are toxic to other marine life. The hawksbill is endangered because it is hunted for food and for its beautiful shell. It is estimated that about 8,000 remain worldwide.

Bonobos live in the tropical rainforest in Africa. They are a relative of the chimpanzee, and likely evolved because the two populations were separated by the Congo River, and the great apes do not swim. Like the chimpanzee, the bonobo is of interest because it is so closely related to humans. It is poached as a food source. It is estimated that under 50,000 bonobos remain.

Like the bonobo, the chimpanzee is a great ape. Found in Africa, it is better known to us as it has been highly studied because of its similarity to humans and, like the bonobo, because of its high intelligence. Both great apes create tools and have language. They have also been taught sign language. The chimpan-

zee is at risk because of poaching and habitat destruction.

After the presentations, Craig Tully called for the student body to "make some noise" for each endangered animal's cause. The chimpanzee received the most claps and cheers – perhaps understandably, because it is the most familiar to all of us and is a very compelling creature.

Tully presented the students whose projects won the class votes, and photos were taken. As the culmination of their work, the class will create a crowd-sourced fundraiser for the chimpanzee, and students from the film class will create a brief video for the site.

The winning projects were as follows: the three-toed sloth, by Laura Cioclea; the hawksbill turtle by Olivia Delisle and Brittany Lambert; the bonobo by Brandon Pollard and Jake Lyons; and the chimpanzee by Kiley Palmquist and Hannah Warnock.

Kiley said she chose the chimpanzee because it is her "spirit animal." Hannah chose it because of its close relationship to human beings. In addition to their written report, the girls made an engaging baby-sized chimp out of papier-mâché.

Readers interested in supporting the students' fundraising efforts may follow this GoFundMe link: gofundme.com/save-the-chimpanzee. All funds will go to the World Wildlife Fund.



Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

Week ending June 8:

Grade 6: Nevaeh Sikoski

Grade 7: Taylana Pabon; Vincent Renaud

Grade 8: Lucy Postera

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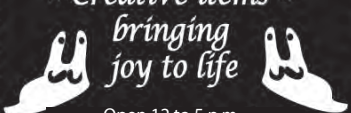
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Turners Falls Sports: The Week In Review

By MATT ROBINSON

AMHERST – The Turners Falls High School softball team, the reigning D-III state champions began their quest this week to win a fourth consecutive state title – and took two giant steps forward, beating Ware and Mt. Greylock. On Saturday, they will face the Mount Everett Eagles to claim the Western Mass title.

It's been a long road back to the playoffs for Turners, who lost three games this season. Their first loss came against Wachusett, the top-seeded team in D-I Central. Wachusett scored four runs in the seventh inning to steal the game by two runs. The other two losses were one-run affairs: Greenfield, the top seed in D-II West, beat Blue 1-0, though Powertown got their revenge later in the season by beating them 2-1. The last game of the season was against Minnechaug, another highly-ranked D-I team, and again, Blue lost by a single run.

But because their losses came against some of the best teams in the state, Turners went into the playoffs ranked number 1 in D-III West.

This week began with some bad news: super shortstop Cassie Wozniak injured her shoulder in a scrimmage against Greenfield on June 6. That forced Turners coach Gary Mullins to shuffle around his infield, moving Taylor Murphy to short and Eliza Johnson to second base. Because she's such a trooper, Wozniak came in as a courtesy runner during the Greylock game. But the bigger question was how to replace her at the plate.

Woz was Powertown's leadoff batter all year, and consistently got on base. Mullins decided to move Taylor Murphy to leadoff, Aly Murphy to the number 2 spot, Olivia Whittier to third batter, and Jade Tyler to the cleanup.

But the Ware Indians and the Mount Greylock Mounties discovered that there are very few soft spots in Turners Falls' lineup.

In other sports news, the Tech/Pioneer Sandy Koufax baseball team won back-to-back games to give them a 4-1 record, and two Turners Falls student athletes were selected as all-league players by the PVIAC.

Softball

TFHS 16 – Ware 0

TFHS 12 – Mt. Greylock 3

When a team bats the order in an inning, it's a long rally. When a team does it twice in two innings, it's a marathon rally. But when girls get their third at-bats while still in the second inning, it's a rout.

That's how it was on Sunday, June 10 when Turners eliminated the Ware Indians from the playoffs.

In the top of the first inning, Turners' first six batters reached base. Only a pickoff and a double

play limited the damage to four runs. By the second, the Indian defense was getting rattled. Wild pitches and unforced errors scored more Turners players.

At one point, Taylor Murphy drew a walk, and as the pitcher was trying to compose herself, Murphy kept going and made it to second base. In the third inning, the Turners base coaches were actively holding their runners back, limiting them to only one base at a time. Despite this mercy, by the time the third inning finally ended, Turners was up 13-0.

Defensively, Peyton Emery and the Blue fielders never let up. They kept the shutout going even with a double-digit lead. And with the game well in hand, Jade Tyler and a bevy of underclassmen came in to nail the door shut.

Powertown added three more runs in the fourth to satisfy the mercy rule, and then Tyler and the reserves shut down Ware for the 16-0 mercy win.

Their next opponent in the playoff grid was the fourth-ranked Mount Greylock Mounties. On Wednesday, Turners beat them 12-3.

Grey came out swinging – or at least bunting. They managed to load the bases with only one out. "This is when Jade gets tough," one of the fathers said as he watched Tyler in the circle.

And she did get tough, striking out the next batter and fielding a high pop to get out of the inning unscathed. Turners' first three batters all hit deep high flies into the outfield, and the game remained scoreless after the first inning.

Tyler struck out the side in the top of the second. Then in the bottom of the inning, she hit one deep over the fence and into the bleachers for a 2-run homer. Peyton Emery came up next and cracked the ball into the scoreboard for a solo homer, and after two, Turners led 3-0.

In the third, a collision knocked Lexi Lacey out of the game and put a runner at first. After a bunt, an errant throw, and two RBIs, the game was all tied up at 3-3. Turners loaded the bases in their third, but could only score one run off a wild pitch, regained the lead at 4-3.

In the fourth, more wild pitches and base hits by Taryn Thayer, Taylor Murphy, and Whittier stretched Powertown's lead to 8-3, and in the sixth, Turners put the game away. Taylor hit a double, Whittier cracked a triple, Hailey Bogosz walked and Jade Tyler followed with a double. Then Thayer batted in Tyler for Blue's fourth run of the inning and the 12-3 victory.

Turners returns to Sortino Field this Saturday, June 16 at 4 p.m. to take on the Mt. Everett Eagles. The winner of that matchup will go on to face Central's champs in the state semifinals.



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Powertown first baseman Lexi Lacey catches an infield popup to finish the second inning against Ware. Pitcher Peyton Emery backs up the play.

Baseball

Tech/Pioneer 8 – Dalton 2

Tech/Pioneer 5 – Frontier 4

On Wednesday, June 6, the Tech/Pioneers hosted the Dalton Sandy Koufax baseball team. But it wasn't a home game for the Pioneers because Franklin Tech needed their diamond to prepare for the playoffs, so the game was held at Turners Falls High School.

Cayden Lehtomaki took the mound for Tech, and pitched shutout ball through six innings. And while Lehtomaki kept Dalton off the scoreboard, Tech's batters quietly built a lead.

Tech drew first blood when Robbie Kenyon crossed the plate in the bottom of the first inning. In the second, Tech put two more in the bank as James Robison and Levin Prondecki got base hits and then scored. Next inning, Dalton Henderson and Lehtomaki scored to give tech a healthy 5-0 lead.

In the Tech fifth, Jason Quinn hit a 1-out double and Henderson batted him in. Then Lehtomaki hit a Texas leaguer, followed by Kenyon, who slapped a base hit. The base hit sent Henderson home and advanced the runners. Lehtomaki, who was now at third base, was sent home on a balk for Tech's third run of the inning and an 8-0 lead.

Determined not to be shut out, Dalton scored two runs on three base hits in their final at-bats, but it was too little too late, and Tech took the game 8-2.

Then the next day, Tech traveled to Deerfield Academy and won

a close one against Frontier at Headmaster's Field.

In this game, Dodge was the man on the mound. Tech came out swinging and scored three quick runs in the top of the first. Henderson and Jake Dodge led off with base hits. Lehtomaki knocked in Henderson, Dodge scored on a Kenyon sacrifice, and a passed ball scored Tech's third run.

Frontier got a run back in the bottom of the inning and two more in the fourth to tie the game 3-3, where it would remain knotted until the seventh inning. In the top of the seventh, Jason Quinn and Henderson scored to give Tech a 5-3 lead.

In the Frontier side, the first batter got a base hit, the second reached on an error, and the third walked. A pickoff retired the middle runner for the first out. The next batter reached first, scoring the man on third but the runner going to second was thrown out for out number 2.

So it was a 1-run game, and Frontier had the tying run at third base and the go-ahead run at first.

Three pitches later, the batter was struck out, and Tech escaped with the 1-run victory.

Tennis

This week, the PVIAC made their all league tennis selections. Only six players from the Tri-County League were selected.

Of those, Turners had two players named, Jimmy Vaughn and Brian Poirier. Vaughn will move on to STCC, but Poirier plans to be back in Blue next season.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving Continues To Combat Dangerous Cut-Through Traffic

By KATIE NOLAN

Approximately a dozen residents attended the Erving selectboard’s discussion of traffic pattern changes for Church and North streets on Monday. According to residents, tractor trailers, excursion buses, and ski-season tourists travel on North and Church streets as a short route between Route 63 and Route 2. “People go flying up Church Street,” selectboard member William Bembury said.

After consultations with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and Erving residents last year, the board had selected these changes to slow and reduce the amount of traffic on North and Church streets:

- Paint the center double yellow line on North Street to better define travel lanes;
- Install a stop sign in the north-bound lane on Church Street;
- Paint a shoulder that will narrow the travel lane at the end of Church Street;
- Stencil “Stop Ahead” on the Church Street pavement;
- Add a crosswalk on Church Street in front of the Church Street playground.

Selectboard chair Scott Bastarache said that a truck exclusion was still being considered for North Street, but Erving was waiting for a decision from Northfield, because Northfield’s Maple Street flows into North Street. Bastarache said that Northfield is waiting for the results of a Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) traffic study before responding to Erving’s recommendation for a truck exclusion.

Residents also asked for a greater police presence on North and Church streets, and the board agreed to contact police chief Christopher Blair.

Bastarache said that, in the future, the board may consider installing a rumble strip or concrete padding to slow traffic. He said the board would study the effects of the traffic pattern changes over the summer

and reconsider them in the fall.

Selectboard member Jacob Smith said, “We’re going to do everything we can to mitigate it.”

One North Street resident said he had heard there was a plan to make North Street one-way. Highway foreman Glenn McCrory said that, early in the discussion of traffic pattern changes, a FRCOG planner had suggested a one-way option, but that had never been one of the three traffic patterns considered by the selectboard.

McCrory said the painting and sign installation would be done quickly, but the timing of that depended on scheduling a police detail.

Historic and Future Cemeteries

The board considered estimates for repairing and restoring historic gravestones at the Erving Center Cemetery from Monument Conservation Collaborative of Norfolk, Connecticut and Historic Gravestones Services of New Salem.

Board members were impressed with the thorough response from Historic Gravestones, which provided an extensive list of stones in need of repair, and prioritized the repair tasks based on safety, extent of damage, and visibility. Historic Gravestones estimated a cost of \$55,000 for completing all of the repairs.

The board authorized \$5,000 to have an initial number of gravestones repaired “as a sample” of the type of work Historic Gravestones does.

Bryan Smith told the board that Tighe & Bond consultants have started the feasibility study for erosion control for a slope at the Erving Center Cemetery.

McCrory told the board that the town will need a new cemetery in a few years. He said there are about 75 plots available in the Erving Center Cemetery, and approximately six plots are sold per year. McCrory said that it would take over a year to prepare land for a new cemetery.

The board asked McCrory to investigate town-owned properties to see if any would be useful as a future cemetery.

Audits

The board authorized Scanlon and Associates of South Deerfield to conduct audits of the town’s finances, the Community Development Block Grant (where Erving is the lead town for the five-town housing rehabilitation grant) and Erving Elementary School. Formerly the Franklin Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (FCRHRA) had conducted the audit for the block grant.

The board instructed administrative coordinator Smith to ask FCRHRA to reimburse the town for the audit from the federal block grant funds.

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Accessibility Plan Reviewed; Appointments Contested; Earth-Shaking and Robo-Calling

By ROB SKELTON

The administrative state arrived in Leverett in the person of architect Josh Safdie, who led the selectboard Tuesday through a punchlist of accessibility issues in a grant-funded program to ensure compliance with 1990’s Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The board thanked Safdie for his efforts, despite the estimated \$327,000 it will cost to achieve full compliance, with the lion’s share (\$241,000) being at Leverett Elementary School.

Selectwoman Julie Shively noted that the school was built with state architects and state inspectors. “Have the regs changed?” she asked. “Can we be grandfathered in?”

The report, available at town hall, cites the book drop at the library as being two inches too high. The counter at the police station is also too high. Handrails and signage outside buildings are non-compliant. There is no wheelchair-friendly path to the school’s greenhouse, and the toilet paper roll is too far from the toilet. Documents for the public must be available in large print.

The list goes on, but Safdie gave the town a “B+.”

Selectman Tom Hankinson, trying to parse the degree of noncompliance relative to the cost of its fix, sought Safdie’s input on priorities – if he was in charge, what he’d do. Safdie agreed with Hankinson that training topped the list.

Resident Cheryl Howland, who worked many years at UMass in the Disabilities Office, brought administrative and practical concerns to the table, as a wheelchair user herself.

Broadband Shuffle

The board voted to appoint Rob Brooks to a one-year seat on the town’s broadband committee, with Hankinson voting no, because it would displace his older brother Denzel from his seat. Fin com member Tom Powers was appointed to a three-year seat.



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shakes all around.

Duteau will continue to work at part-time salary until October, when he starts 22 weeks of full time police academy, after which he’ll work and be paid a full-timer’s salary.

Other Business

The selectboard passed on a “right of first refusal” on a parcel off Route 63 across from Field Sugar House owned by Cowl’s Lumber where an access road for a cell tower is planned.

A meeting has been set up with Curtis Warner of the Bull Hill Road gravel pit, whose neighbors have complained of “house-shaking” noises. Warner disputed the noise claims, but agreed to meet at his office with the group of Leverett residents, including a selectboard member. D’Errico explained the situation as “ceremonial digging” to protect their grandfathered status under Sunderland’s rules. Since Leverett and Sunderland previously agreed to a protective overlay district in this water-rich area, the hope is that a meeting will allow greater understanding going forward.

The “fire pond” at the dam in North Leverett has been drained to fix a post holding up the corner of Slarrow’s sawmill, undertaken by owner/contractor Lance Kirley. The board termed it an emergency, to expedite speedy action, and the road boss suggested the pond be dredged by his crew. The con com must be in the loop, said d’Errico.

Friends of Leverett Pond will be holding an auction of 96 artworks – “beautiful art,” according to Hankinson – this weekend at the LCA facility. The board was reluctant to use the town’s robo-call system to publicize the event, preferring it for real emergencies. The fire dept offered to put it on its Facebook page, and to sponsor it so that it’s a town-sponsored event, giving it more weight.

Recalling the time a landfill-closure robo-call announcement arrived past midnight, d’Errico urged caution while programming.

CANAL from page A1

almost like seeds that we’re planting,” Ellis said. “It provides the foundation for accessing that money.”

Allowing people to cross the power canal, and their waste products to be pumped back to mainland Turners Falls, may be two key factors in making the so-called Canal District more viable for redevelopment. Since the abrupt closure of Southworth Paper last August, there are now *two* hulking, abandoned 19th-century paper mills on the island.

Ellis reported that Tighe & Bond, the engineers contracted to study the near-total demolition of the town-owned Strathmore complex, have held a first meeting and are coordinating with FirstLight Power Resources, the canal’s owners.

“Representative Kulik’s office is advocating for money to demolish and restore the Strathmore building and site as part of an environmental bond bill,” Ellis said. “We don’t know the Governor’s office’s disposition towards either of these projects, but we know that they’re interested and intrigued by the

canal district.”

As for the fate of Southworth, Ellis was circumspect. “I’ve heard a number of different rumors about what may happen,” he said.

The town has liens on Southworth’s properties for taxes and sewer fees owed – seven documents filed in late May by tax collector Eileen Seymour amount to a total of \$298,154.83 in back taxes claimed – but since the company is no longer in bankruptcy proceedings, Montague is not directly receiving information about its plan.

“At this time, reluctantly, my sense is that it is very unlikely to have a next life as a paper company,” Ellis said. “There’s no manufacturing establishment that I’m aware of that is currently looking to the site as a base for operations.”


Still, the administrator hinted at reason for optimism. “Inasmuch as I know, the building has not formally sold yet,” he told the *Reporter*, somewhat cryptically, on Tuesday. “It does appear that we will have some resolution in the case at some point in time.”



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CRABTREE from page A1

supper and then sitting out front as the event wound down, so happy just to be able to finally sing while someone played guitar, calling out requests faster than he could finish the songs.

I'll also remember him several years later, happening across a show there: an out-of-town band was carrying out some kind of high-concept art rock commentary on hip hop; Mike mistook what was happening for actual hip hop, and grabbed the mic for "just one verse!" The conservatory-trained trio rolled with it pretty well, vamping along with surprised grins on their face as he rapped about his backpack and how cold the winter had been. Welcome to Turners!

I'll remember him bursting into the *Montague Reporter* office late one rainy night, frustrated and despondent and detailing harm at the hands of local police. (Montague police are also widely credited with being exceptionally tolerant and supportive of Mike; Matt Howe even recalled a time officers helped him out around the holidays with gifts of money.)

I'll remember him cooing over the baby raccoon a neighbor rescued, and the time he dropped by and handed my friends part of his prized baseball card collection for safekeeping – and the time in the laundromat he insisted on singing me *every verse* of "It's All Over Now, Baby Blue,"

eyes closed, trembling, tears running down his cheeks.

"What could he not get over?" Matt Howe asked. "Because there's an answer, and there's no medicine that can make it happen: You have to see that you're loved. You have to see that you're forgiven... We are good enough! We've just gotta know it."

Mike Crabtree died of an accidental overdose, Saturday afternoon on K Street. The police weren't called early enough to arrive on time. Nothing about the incident appeared in the media log the police gave the *Reporter* this week. I called them Tuesday to ask if I could talk with someone about the situation, but I was stonewalled and told we could file a formal record request.

I don't need to do that: people know what happened well enough, and it's beside the point, a bad accident. While the loss of a friend to so many, and the loss of someone whose personality and character has helped shape the neighborhood we live in, comes as a shock, it doesn't come as a *surprise*.

Mike has finally found release from his suffering, and now there is nothing to do but stock of the funny, intense, kind-hearted, and often joyful gift his life was to us.

The rest of this page is dedicated to memories of Mike Crabtree others have sent in. Feel free to send your own letters and stories.



When I was a bartender and owner of the Rendezvous, I had to yell at Mike Crabtree many times, and I hated it every time.

Mike was a joy and a nightmare, sometimes switching from one to the other within minutes. He was full of love, and music, and kindness, but also full of need, and very loud sadness.

In the early days of the bar in its recent incarnation, Mike would come in and want to play the Clash on the juke. "I have money, Jamie!" he'd shout gleefully as he burst into the room, and play and sing along to "Rock the Casbah."

Then he'd leave for a little bit, then come back, more animated, louder, and play it again, and again, and again, over the course of an hour, until eventually customers would become uncomfortable and I would try gently to get Mike to call it a night.

But, in part because of my own lack of any disciplinary skills, my requests would too quickly deteriorate into not so gently telling Mike to leave, and I'd often end up screaming at him to get out, as much furious at this sweet soul for putting me in the position where I had to yell at him as for his behavior itself. It was the worst.

One time, Seth Licata got Mike a guitar. Seth reminded me of the details the other day: he presented it to Michael as a prize for winning a songwriting contest; what it really was was a ploy to get Mike back playing the guitar. Mike was ecstatic – he played and sang for hours, and for one night became our town troubadour instead of what so many, fondly, knew him as, our town drunk. By the end of the night, though, the guitar lay smashed on Avenue A.

Mike's most saving grace, at least with me, was that he always took responsibility for his actions. He'd come find me, say, that day after he'd called me a Nazi for throwing him out of the bar (which I found kind of hilarious, but others were offended on my behalf), and he'd apologize, profusely, often tearfully, and give me an amazing Mike hug, and say "I love you, brother;" and most would be forgiven, if not forgotten.

If Mike could see all the love pouring out for him all over this little village these past few days, well, he'd probably go down to the river and cry like a baby. And then come tell us all about it.

Mike Crabtree was about to turn 50, but he always seemed so much younger than that, and he packed those years as full of intense living and loving and partying and laughing and crying and rapping and singing as I can imagine.

How can he be gone?

Jamie Berger



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN SYNK

In his final months, Mike Crabtree was mourning the loss of his beloved companion Debra Lane Gibbons, who passed away in March at her home in Ayer.

Mike was squatting in a garage on 3½ Street when I first got to know him. He had a small herb garden and would give me basil whenever I saw him. At night he would sing for the alley, usually Bob Dylan, Neil Young, or The Clash. He sang loud and with his heart.

I will miss Mike tremendously. I will remember him as a friend.

This place was his home. He loved Turners Falls, and we loved him back. It won't be the same without him.

(Name withheld by request)

Geoff Lagadec (Jaya the Cat)



LISA DAVOL PHOTO

Crabtree cradles a pup outside the Fab fashion show on Second Street on May 26.

This week Turners Falls lost an integral member of our community with the passing of Mike Crabtree.

Mike was a wonderful person. He had his complexities, but he was one of the most kind, genuine, and gentle-hearted people I have ever had the pleasure of spending time with.

He adored animals and good music – no matter what the circumstance, the presence of an animal or the sound of a Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young song would bring a distinct flicker of joy to his eyes. He would want you to know that he once met Joe Strummer.

He was wildly optimistic at times, and would never hurt a fly. Mike was a terrific gardener, and physical labor brought him pride and a sense of fulfillment. He helped keep my garden beautiful just because it made him happy. We spent many hard times together, but the good outweighs the bad. He never once judged me, even at my very lowest. He empathized and loved.

I saw Mike on the morning of the day that he passed. He was bubbly and excited to be back in Turners, and told me that he needed to make his way back here because he knew

the people here loved him.

I don't think anyone would disagree. He knew where his home was. It was here, with all of us, who appreciated him in all his forms and eccentricities.

I am so proud to call this place my home because of the way I've watched the community see Mike for the wonderfully lovable person he was, and meet that with so much care and generosity.

Mike spent the past two years telling me that he wasn't going to make it to age 50. When I saw him on Saturday we talked about his upcoming 50th birthday, and for the first time he didn't mention death. Instead we talked about how great a meal he was going to eat.

I think Mike had a hard time because his heart was so big and he had a little bit of genius that tormented him. This town is going to be a different place without the sound of his singing echoing against the buildings, but I will still hear him in my thoughts and my heart.

I loved Mike Crabtree. He was my friend, and I will miss him tremendously.

Ashley Arthur

that the well-seasoned and perfectly cooked medium rare steak with fresh corn on the cob, salad, and fruit cup that you carefully prepared at Unity Park was one of my favorite meals. Everything was just right.

I didn't get a chance to tell you how much it meant to me when you and your new girlfriend paid me a visit at my studio in Millers Falls, and with your limited resources, purchased one of my paintings for \$150, which showed me you also had a good eye for art!

I didn't get a chance to tell you there are many people in our community that hold much love for you. They could read your heart, too.

Brother Mike, I cried for you last night, and even though I ducked away from you the last couple of times I saw you downtown, you hold a special place in my heart forever.

Crabtree, I just want to say I love you.

Rodney Madison

OBITUARY

Michael J. Crabtree (1968 - 2018)

CRABTREE, Michael J. Of Turners Falls MA, and formerly of Westwood, MA, died suddenly on June 9, 2018 at the age of 49.

Michael graduated from Westwood High School in 1986 and went on to study at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. He was the beloved son of William and Carolyn Crabtree of Sarasota, FL.

Michael is survived by his brother Bill and wife Pam of Medfield MA; his sister Karen Synk and Glenn Yoder of Osprey FL; and his brother Chris and wife Chrissy of Wayland MA. Michael also leaves his nieces Gretchen, Caroline, Molly, Elena, and Noelle, and nephews William, Kevin, Steven, and Alex.

Mike was a dedicated sports fan who loved the New England Patriots, Boston Red Sox, and Boston



Celtics. In his teen years, he bought and traded baseball cards, which turned into an impressive collection. He loved health and fitness, and enjoyed the outdoors.

He became an avid bass fisherman while spending summers with his family on Cape Cod. Fishing with Mike was a learning experience. He was always guaranteed to

catch the most fish.

Mike had a true love for music. He was a bass player in a reggae band during his college years. He was a country and rock enthusiast, and a talented guitarist and piano player.

Michael was a generous and caring man. He had the biggest, kindest, and most loving heart, and will be missed by so many.

The family owes a special thanks to Pastor Matt Howe, who was an important person in Michael's life. His presence and acts of kindness will forever be appreciated.

Services and interment will be private. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Michael's memory to: Erving Evangelical Church, 4 East Main Street, Erving, MA 01344.

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ACCESSIBILITY from A1

things here where we can just fill a crack in a sidewalk, and that’s an important quality of life improvement from an accessibility standpoint.... There are things from the 2001 plan that are still undone, but a tremendous amount of work was accomplished... We can’t suspend reality and make everything we would like to do suddenly possible.”

“You are better protected if you have this list and are showing progress,” said Rhodes. “You are actually less liable, by having this plan.”

The issue was raised of providing alternative locations for meetings or events currently held in less-accessible spaces, such as the second floor of the Carnegie Library, often the site of programs for children. Hickman said the library some times holds children’s events outside, or at the town’s branch libraries. But she also noted that alternative locations could be of limited value, because one of the purposes of such programming is to expose children to books, and to

the atmosphere of the library itself.

Although the focus of the report was on town property, much of the public input concerned businesses and privately-owned buildings in downtown Turners Falls.

“We go strolling downtown to have coffee, but then we realize we can’t go have a pizza, we can’t go have our hair done,” said artist and gallery owner Rodney Madison, who assists wheelchair-bound residents. “The entire street is not handicapped accessible....You cannot say that downtown Turners Falls is accessible. These are not town buildings – these are the businesses.”

A downtown resident who identified herself as Laureen noted that Suzee’s Third St. Laundry did not have a “push button” to open the door. “It’s the only laundromat we have in town,” she said.

Rhodes said there are grants for businesses to deal with “façade upgrades and accessibility issues.”

Advocate Betty Tegel said there is a complaint form that can be filed

with the state Office of Disability, which automatically notifies the town building inspector and ADA administrator, “so there is some involvement by town officials.”

“This is ADA,” said David Jensen. “There is a legal obligation for all those business owners to have a plan.” He noted that there were certain situations where the remedy might not be considered financially realistic, but “they have to have a plan. That’s what we’re doing here – the town has a plan, and it’s updating it. It protects you, because it sets a schedule for compliance.”

Rhodes said that one thing that could be included in Montague’s transition plan was a list of resources that private business owners could “tap into.” “They may not be aware that there are grant or loan programs they could get,” she said.

“But they may not be interested,” said Madison.

“The ADA is federal law,” Jensen responded. “It’s enforced as a right.”



NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Gill Declines Northfield Ambulance

By GEORGE BRACE

The Gill selectboard meeting on Monday was a low-key affair, with a light agenda. The board reviewed the town’s capital planning report, heard from fire chief Gene Beaubien on several topics, but postponed discussion on several highway department items due to highway superintendent Mickey LaClaire unexpectedly being unable to attend.

Chair Greg Snedeker presented the 2018 report of the capital improvement planning committee (CIPC), on which he serves as selectboard representative. The committee was created in 2010 by town meeting, and is charged with studying proposed projects and improvements that cost over \$10,000, and meet several other criteria. The committee asks for requests from town departments, and provides recommendations.

The report contained both spending recommendations for FY’18, and a list of items it believes will need to be addressed within the next five years. The 2018 recommendations included the continuation of a 10-year plan to replace three fire department vehicles; the replacement of a police cruiser; work on a highway department snowplow; and assorted building maintenance projects.

Administrative assistant Ray Purington commented that the list of needed improvements did not feel as overwhelming as it once did, and that there will always be work that needs to be done, “... but at least we’re catching up.”

Board member Randy Crochier agreed, commenting that he chaired the CIPC in 2010, and “the list was daunting.”

John Ward credited the help of volunteers in securing Green Communities grants and other funding with aiding in the progress the town has made.

Fire Department

Fire chief Gene Beaubien reported that the fire department board of engineers was recommending that Gill continue to use MedCare ambulance services. The fire department had recently been contacted by Northfield EMS about the possibility of Northfield providing ambulance service to Gill. Beaubien said Northfield EMS was excellent, and the board had no

issues with them, but decided, “basically, if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.”

He then presented a proposal to purchase two new locks for fire department doors at the public safety building for \$3,968.01, which was approved. Ward said many keys for the old-style locks on the doors currently have gone out over the years, which presents control issues.

The new electronic locks will use programmable proxy cards or key fobs, giving the chief the ability to activate and deactivate keys himself. They will be funded partially with the remaining balance of an Emergency Management Performance Grant, and partially from other accounts.

Beaubien also informed the board that Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) applications should be coming out soon, and the board may want to begin thinking about what to apply for through the program.

Asked for his opinion on the need for a way-finding sign on Route 10 pointing out the turn to Main Road in Gill – such as “To Main Road, Gill” – Beaubien said the area was out of the department’s coverage area, but that as a citizen who uses those roads, he expressed support for the sign, saying the turn was easy to miss if you didn’t know the road.

Purington said several residents had pointed out the need for such a sign. Crochier also supported the idea, echoing the chief’s comments, and adding that a lot of vehicles go in and out of the area just to get to Mount Hermon’s athletic fields.

Purington and the board discussed how to go about requesting such a sign from the state, and Purington said he will work on the request.

Gill 225th Anniversary

Purington reported on the guided walks and talks tour in the Gill Town Forest on June 3, one of the events held in celebration of Gill’s 225th anniversary. He said it was a beautiful day and they had a great group of people for the 1½ hour walk along the trails, and that there was interest among the organizers in holding another event in the fall.

Crochier and Purington then noted some other upcoming 225th anniversary events, including “Music on the Common” with A Natural

Concert Band on Tuesday, June 26 at 7 p.m., and “Gill Conversations: Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Past, Present and Future,” a talk with Gill seniors, at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 23 at Slate Library.

Other Business

Purington presented a request from the federal government’s System for Awards Management (SAM) for a notarized signature from the selectboard chair in order to maintain access to the system. SAM is an online program for screening and registering people who have contracts, such as grant contracts, with the federal government. Purington said he believed the request was an effort to combat fraudulent use of the system. Snedeker provided the signature.

Purington notified the board that Gill will be receiving \$11.90 from the state Department of Public Utilities as its 50% share of a 20-cents-per-ride assessment on ride-sharing services, for rides originating in Gill in 2017. Purington said the money is supposed to be placed in a special fund to be used to address the impact of ride-sharing services on municipal roads, and a report must be filed with the state detailing expenditures from the fund. Because monies spent from a special fund fall under the spending power of the selectboard, a motion was required to authorize the expenditure.

The motion was made amidst a joke or two, and passed unanimously. Purington said he spoke with someone from the program, and an email stating that Gill spent \$11.90 on roads and bridges will suffice.

The board approved the use of the public safety complex as a water stop for the Wheeling for Healing fund-raising ride to benefit cancer care on August 19. “They’ve been perfect,” said Crochier.

The board discussed advertising to fill an upcoming job vacancy in the highway department in August, due to a retirement. Ray Purington will pursue the matter.

The Mill convenience store and gas station will hold a grand opening event this weekend, June 15 and 16.

The second part of annual town meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 19 at 7 p.m. at the town hall. It will be preceded by a special town meeting at 6:55 p.m.

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Montague WPCF, 34 Greenfield Rd., Montague, MA 01351-9522
(413) 773-8865

PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 138, Mass. General Laws, as amended, the Inhabitants of the Town of Montague are hereby notified that **Wild Child Cellars, LLC**, DBA Wild Child Cellars, April Dawn Woodard as manager, has applied for an annual Farmer Series Pouring Permit, Farmer – Wine License. The premise is located at 44 Canal Street, Turners Falls. The total public area will be approximately 7,900 sq. ft; 1,400 sq. ft. “tasting room” and approximately a 6,500 sq. ft. patio/deck. The public area consists of 3 entrances/exits and 3 emergency exits located on exterior of building. Estimated maximum capacity is 99 persons.

Date and place of hearing: **Monday, June 25, 2018**, at 7:10 p.m. at the Montague Town Hall, Second Floor Meeting Room, One Avenue A, Turners Falls.

Montague License Commissioners

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was June 12, 2008: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

School Nurse Leader
Position Funded

The Gill-Montague Regional School Committee voted 8-1 on Tuesday, June 10, to accept a Massachusetts Department of Public Health grant for \$250,000, at \$50,000 a year for five years, to establish a position of School Nurse Leader, and build infrastructure for delivery of health services to district students.

The grant-funded position, which requires an escalating local match, will coordinate policies and protocols for the full time nurses at each of the district schools, oversees data entry on student health records, and reports to the superintendent about the delivery of student health services.

The part time position will be advertised at \$22,500, with grant funded benefits of \$12,000. GMRSD policy requires full benefits for half time staff. The local match for this position will equal 20% for the first year, and graduate 20% a year over the five-year term of the grant, until the school district assumes the full cost of the position by year five.

Tanzer Guilty
As Charged

Jonathan Tanzer is guilty of setting the fire that burned the 19,000 square-foot, three and a half floor Building #10 of the Strathmore Mill on Sunday, May 26, 2007.

A jury of six men and six women, after deliberating for eight and a half hours on Monday and Tuesday, returned that verdict in Greenfield Superior Court against Tanzer, 44, formerly of 5 Chestnut Lane, Turners Falls.

The verdict came almost a year

to the day since Tanzer’s girlfriend, Amber Hewes, turned him in to the Montague police for setting fire to the mill building while his former employer, Jerry Jones, and Jones’s girlfriend, Christine Sherman, slept in an apartment in an adjacent building. The building was a total loss and nearby buildings were badly damaged. No one was injured in the blaze.

Tanzer will be sentenced on July 1 by Judge David Ford, who presided over the five-day trial. He faces 20 years on the charge of breaking and entering in the nighttime to commit a felony, ten years on the charge of burning a building, and three years for burning personal property. Tanzer could face up to 33 years if the judge imposes consecutive sentences, said his court-appointed lawyer, Barry Auskern.

The case depended largely on the testimony of Hewes, now a resident of Ludlow, who told the court she had driven Tanzer to the mill in the early morning of May 26, and agreed to act as lookout for him while he entered the mill complex through the tunnel that runs beneath the Southworth Paper Mill.

Once in the courtyard behind Building #10, Tanzer planned to force an easily opened door in that building, Hewes said. She said he planned to remove as much copper scrap as he could carry from a stash he thought was in Building #10.

Hewes said Tanzer felt entitled to take copper from the mill that night, because he had been badly burned in an electrical arc fire resulting from an attempt he made while under Jones’ supervision to strip copper from a live 13,800-volt wire earlier that month. That accident sent Tanzer to the hospital in Worcester with severe burns on his arms and face, requiring skin grafts, and deprived him of employment for several weeks.

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GMRSD from page A1

somewhat interchangeable and used for applications. Mahaney said the goal was to equip each student with a device that they would carry from year to year and then own after graduation.

Mahaney said that she had studied similar programs in the Frontier, Mahar, Northampton, and Amherst districts, and she presented the committee with Frontier’s policies as a reference. That district offers families the option to purchase a \$20 insurance policy, which covers a range of repairs that are otherwise paid on a fee basis, ranging from \$15 for a new key on the keyboard to \$200 for a replacement device.

The committee discussed the range of issues. Many expressed that they did not want to place any extra costs on families.

“It would be smarter for us to just pay the \$20 per unit than ask parents to,” Reipold said.

“I have a concern that they don’t become so attached to a computer that they are not taught cursive writing,” Smith said, relating an anecdote about a young adult – not from the Gill-Montague district – who had been unable to open a bank account because she did not know how to sign her name.

This led to a broader conversation about the decline of longhand. “That ship might have sailed,” superintendent Michael Sullivan told her.

Mahaney thanked the committee and said she would return with a draft policy later in the summer.

Other Schools

Sullivan reported to the committee that Tri-County Schools, the Easthampton school where Gill-Montague currently makes three out-of-district special ed placements, has unexpectedly announced it would be closing at the end of the school year.

Other local districts will also be left in the lurch by the unexpected closure, and Sullivan said he had been in contact with the Collaborative for Educational Services about the prospects of starting a new program in Franklin County.

Sullivan mentioned Gill-Montague’s own central office building as a possible place for such a program – “there’s a lot of space there,” he pointed out,

“and we have accessibility issues that make it not ideal at the moment.”

Sullivan also reported that he had met with the 14 Great Falls Middle School eighth graders who plan to switch to Franklin County Technical School in the fall.

Generally speaking, he said, they told him they knew people who had good experiences at Tech, wanted the practical education provided in shops there, and didn’t expect their experience at Turners Falls High School to be significantly different than their middle school years.

Other Business

Richard Widmer addressed the board during the time set aside for public comment, and announced that he has launched a crowdfunding campaign at www.gofundme.com/TurnersSoftballDocumentary to support production and editing of a documentary he has been filming about the Turners Falls softball team this season.

The committee reviewed a calendar of next year’s meetings, and set some agenda items for the summer. The issue of a new logo to go with the Turners Falls nickname, the Thunder, is “penciled in” for the August 14 meeting. The district is accepting design submissions on an ongoing basis.

The committee unanimously, and with little discussion, approved an updated policy on the use of restraint. “The use of mechanical restraint, medical restraint, and seclusion is prohibited,” the policy’s second paragraph reads. At a previous reading, school committee members had asked that this point be emphasized to avoid confusion.

Next year’s Turners Falls High School graduation may fall on a Thursday. Principal Annie Sullivan has a family member graduating from another school on the usual Friday, and, as Damkoehler noted, last week the graduation coincided with those of Greenfield High School and Franklin County Tech. The administration will poll parents on the idea.

The school committee’s next meeting will be held Tuesday, June 26 at 6:30 p.m. at the high school.

Opportunity 1 2018

The Brick House 5K
JUNE 16th 2018
10am

Unity Park Turners Falls, MA

Pre-register for \$20, \$25 on the day of the race
<https://www.runreg.com/the-brick-house-5k>
Walkers, rollers, skaters, etc. are welcome!

The Montague Reporter
is seeking writers to cover certain local board and committee meetings. Modest compensation and editorial guidance would be provided. For information, contact (413) 863-8666, or editor@montaguereporter.org.

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My First Time in Bohemia a european travelogue, part 3

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

CZECH REPUBLIC – I am sitting in my very contemporary second floor hotel room in Kuks, a rural spa town east of Prague. A resort-like hospital was built here in the 18th century adjacent to a natural spring known for its healing powers. It was built by a man named Sporck, who memorialized his enemies as stone dwarves, and who is thought to be the gay lover of the Lord of Valeč, the palace where we stayed before.

It is cool at dusk, and the waxing moon can be seen through the wisps of clouds against the pink-blue sky. The door onto the balcony is open, and I watch a scene that appears to be from the Pleistocene Era. In this hilly and green central European savannah, I see one hundred fallow deer, many with large racks of antlers, grazing peacefully around a pond. They are domesticated – I am fairly sure that I ate one of their number for dinner tonight – and the scene gives the impression of a prehistoric Arcadia by their willingness to graze without fear so close to the hotel, as if unaware of the close-by diners and their own presence on the menu.

Since the days at Palace Valeč, I have spent a week traveling with fellow scholars Kate and Dania. Using intuition, free association, and snap judgments, in addition to GPS, we navigated our extremely efficient silver Skoda Fabia around Bohemia.

During this time I made some observations. As I have little understanding of the culture and history of this country, these observations are not meant to be generalized or extrapolated upon in any way. As the most essential act of the tourist is *seeing*, these memories are akin to still photos, visual instants that lack the depth of real context or actual knowledge. This is simply a recording of things seen.

Boil and Gush

We depart the not-fun rental office in the airport with the thrill of newly licensed 16-year-olds, bound for the medieval World Heritage town of Český Krumlov. The streets and squares of the town boil over with gushing tourists from all over the world, who gape,



A castle bridge, which looks a lot like an aqueduct.

gasp, take pictures with abandon, and frequently act like models in a photo shoot.

I see the labyrinthine castle rise out of the rocky cliffs like a strangely weathered mesa, its white and pink tower rising into the sky, while its flying bridges connect the complex to various locales. Young men in formal wear paddle by in a raft, while their left-behind friend races along the bank and into the river nearly up to his waist.

The medieval streets of Krumlov writhe and undulate like a snake under my boot, its scales made of granite sets. These streets never intersect at right angles or come together in four-way intersections, and they seem to be put together from the small spaces left over between buildings that climb upon each other in a great jumble.

see **BOHEMIA** page B5

Chasing our Tales: The Fragile Thread

By LYN CLARK

TURNERS FALLS – Daniel Clark, born in 1623 in England, and Jacques Beauvais dit St. Gemme, born the same year in France, would never meet, but they would have had a good laugh if they'd been told that seven generations later, in 1885, their DNA would merge when Walton Clark married Louise Beauvais.

Have you ever wondered about the arbitrary chain of events that brings people together? The capriciousness of it? Have you ever considered how fragile the thread of life is? How much luck plays in our lives and the lives of our DNA? Do you know what a crap shoot it is that we are here at all?

Consider this: let us assume a generation is 20 years, and, for the sake of simplicity, that there are 170,000 generations – give or take – during which the first hominins and then homosapiens have inhabited our little planet. (Yes, I include all human ancestors, even the quite hairy, barely-upright-walking ones from whom we shudder to admit we are descended.)

That's 170,000 times that our particular progenitors have sur-



The author's Grandpa, Walton Clark.

vived childhood long enough to produce offspring; that they have survived animal attacks, famine, wars, disease, and natural disasters, *and* actually crossed paths with one another – “Well, hello there, what's your name?” – and then gone about the business of procreating.

That's pretty astounding in itself. One missed opportunity, one seemingly innocuous decision (“Not now, I have a headache!”), and for you, all would have been lost.

As if that weren't enough, consider the odds of a specific male sperm, out of all 300 million see **TALES** page B4



THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Real Life

THE AUTHORS' CORNER: BARRY LYGA

By IZZY VACHULA-CURTIS

TURNERS FALLS – Hi! This is Super Izzy Vachula-Curtis! Today I'm going to be doing a super-duper awesome book review of Barry Lyga's book, *The Flash: Hocus Pocus*. Then there will be a super awesome interview with Mr. Lyga himself.

I loved *The Flash: Hocus Pocus*! The book is about a new criminal coming to Central City, where the Flash lives, who has the power to control what people do, and reality. Team Flash has to stop Hocus Pocus before he can do any more damage to any other citizen of Central City.

This book was soooooooo good, and left you on the edge of your seat. It related a lot to the TV show on the CW, *The Flash*, which I loved. Hocus Pocus was such a great villain, and the ending was spectacular!

I recommend this book to anyone who likes *The Flash*, superhero books, or is a fan of Barry Lyga's work.

Izzy V-C: *Who is your favorite superhero or/and villain, and why?*

Barry Lyga: The Flash has pretty much always been my favorite. Superspeed is just an amazingly versa-

tile power – imagine if you could do anything in a split-second.

That would change everything about your world, even before you started imagining the other impacts of the power, like vibrating through walls, running up buildings, and stuff like that.

IVC: *What is your favorite type of books to write and why?*

BL: I just like writing books, period. If you look at my career, I've written everything from literary coming-of-age novels to crazy superhero adventures, and a whole lot of stuff in between.

Books let us unleash our imaginations in a completely unfettered style. I could never pick one kind of book that was my favorite. Usually my favorite kind of book is whatever I'm working on now!

IVC: *What inspired you to become an author?*

BL: I wish I knew! I've wanted to be an author since I was around six years old... but I don't know WHY. I didn't know anyone who was an author, after all. No one in my family was an author, and certainly no one



Our correspondent with Barry Lyga's The Flash: Hocus Pocus (2017).

would have suggested it.

So I don't know where the idea came from. It's the great mystery of my life. If I had a time machine, I would go back and follow little six-year-old me around to try to figure it out!

IVC: *What is your favorite book you've ever written?*

BL: I like all of them for different see **AUTHOR** page B3



Mutton & Mead Medieval Festival

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June 16th & 17th

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Pet of the Week

As they say, not all heroes wear capes – and not all supervillains drive laser robot mechs. But Michael does.

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“MICHAEL”

Senior Center Activities JUNE 18 TO 22

GILL and MONTAGUE
The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted.

Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

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

Monday 6/18:
8 a.m. Foot Clinic (by appt.)
12 noon Potluck & Bingo

Tuesday 6/19:
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga w/Jean
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Wednesday 6/20:
9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach
12:30 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 6/21:
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 6/22:
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 6/18:
9:30 a.m. Healthy Bones
10:30 a.m. Tai Chi
No Lunch Served

Tuesday 6/19:
Lobster Brunch Buffet

Wednesday 6/20:
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch
Noon: Bingo & snacks

Thursday 6/21:
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch
12:15 p.m. Bingo

Friday 6/22:
9 a.m. Quilting Workshop
9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling
11:15 a.m. M3 (Music, Movement, Mayhem) Fun!

Grand Opening: Looky Here!

By ANNE HARDING

GREENFIELD – The day-long grand opening of Looky Here’s latest incarnation at 28 Chapman Street in Greenfield will finally come on Sunday, June 24.

Originally opened as an art gallery, performance space and consignment shop in November 2017, Looky Here aims to provide a community oriented art space where participants can enjoy low- or no-cost workshops, make and share art projects, write poetry, and host music workshops. There will be art supplies on hand, with a goal of keeping useful goods out of the trash and putting them into creative reuse projects.

Since the November opening, Looky Here has reorganized and, with president Hannah Brookman and vice president Beverly Ketch leading the charge, applied for and received non-profit status.

On grand opening day, beginning at 9 a.m. you can expect to hear live music, enjoy the work of visual artists, swap art supplies, and maybe even get a tarot reading. There will be a gallery show featuring the work of Hannah Brookman, Jesus Vio, Sylvia Kaplan, Sam Gas Can, Loren Burke, Greta Svalberg, Omeed Goodarzi, as well as Danny Monster Cruz.

Music throughout the day will include performances by Na B, Viewer, Sam Gas Can, New Parents, and other artists yet to be announced. A full schedule will soon be published on their website: lookyheregreenfield.com.



The new, collectively run cultural space is located on Greenfield’s Chapman Street.

The space has already hosted several special events, including a pop-up vintage shop and a Spanish Film Festival. A group of tarot practitioners meet monthly, and artists have been meeting twice a month for free-drawing sessions. Groups of writers have also been using the space for writing gatherings.

This month, in preparation for the grand opening, the old suspended ceiling has come down and the beautiful original tin ceiling exposed – and there’s been a lot of painting going on. The space has been loosely divided into sections for art making or workshops, retail space, and a space for a future printing operation.

Looky Here has acquired a Riso Duplicator, more commonly called a Risograph. It’s sort of a hybrid printer that bridges the gap between a copier and an offset printing op-

eration. It has the capacity to print on a much wider variety of media than your standard office printer, and is much more economical than an offset printer. While the resident Risograph is not actually functioning just yet, the plans are to get it repaired and start an affordable printing operation.

There are plans for lecture series, film screenings, instrument building workshops, experimental music workshops, rug weaving, and much more. Looky Here is also looking for new members, as well as artists of all types with ideas for workshop offerings. They are taking tax deductible donations of art supplies, instruments, and music equipment.

The best way to get in touch with the group right now is via email at Lookyheregreenfield@gmail.com.

A-Pickin’ and A-Paddlin’ on the Massachusetts Walking Tour

From combined sources.

CONNECTICUT RIVER – Starting June 15 and ending June 27, the Ninth Annual Massachusetts Walking Tour (MWT) will be visiting towns along the western banks of the CT River and performing 11 community concerts.

The MWT will harness an additional form of human power this year by canoeing along the Massachusetts stretch of the Connecticut River Paddlers’ Trail, and then hiking into towns for the concerts. The Paddlers’ Trail is a series of primitive campsites spanning most of the 410-mile Connecticut River watershed.

Locals can join MWT when the group stops in Turners Falls for an acoustic concert in the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center this Saturday, June 16. The concert is free and runs from 6 to 8 p.m.

Since 2010, co-founders and folk music duo Mark Mandeville and Raianne Richards have organized over 100 coffeehouse-style concerts that showcase local musicians, artists and non-profits across the state, creating a quality evening program for all ages and an opportunity for talent young and old to be enjoyed by a listening audience. The MWT recently received recognition before Congress for these efforts, and were added to the Congressional Record by Senator Edward Markey.



Concert venues include public libraries, town parks, and historical properties throughout the state. This year’s tour received partial support from local cultural councils in Northfield, Montague, Deerfield and more, as well as ongoing support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, MWT supporters, and the Appalachian Mountain Club.

Carrying approximately 40 to 50 lb. of gear and instruments, the MWT Troupe including Mark Mandeville (guitar/banjo), Raianne Richards (ukulele/penny whistle), Mark Kilianski (guitar/banjo), Amy Alvey (fiddle), Vito Caccavelli (guitar), and Kristen Sykes (uku-

lele and director of operations for the AMC) will be paddling down the Paddlers Trail and hiking into towns along its western bank using recreational trails and exploring state reservations, Mass Audubon and DCR properties.

In addition to evening concerts, the troupe will also be organizing a series of short group hikes, which are open to the public. Daily routes can be found at masswalkingtour.org. All concerts will be from 6 to 8 p.m., and are free unless otherwise noted. Here is a complete listing of events:

June 15: Northfield Golf Club Pavilion, Northfield

June 16: Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls

June 17: Mt. Sugarloaf State Reservation, Deerfield

June 20: Skinner State Park, Mt. Holyoke Summit House, Hadley

June 21: Forbes Library, Northampton

June 22: Arcadia Audubon Sanctuary, Easthampton

June 23: Mt. Tom State Reservation Pavilion, Holyoke (5 to 7 p.m.)

June 24: Holyoke Canoe Club, Holyoke (\$5 for non-members)

June 25: South Hadley Public Library, South Hadley

June 26: Chicopee Public Library, Chicopee

June 27: Richard Salter Storrs Library, Longmeadow

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AUTHOR from page B1

reasons, so that’s a tough question to answer.

But I can tell you the one I’m proudest of, if that’s not too much of a dodge: *Goth Girl Rising*. It’s the sequel to my very first novel, and it was the first time I wrote from the point of view of a teenage girl. Everyone around me – my editor, my agent – was saying, “Don’t do it! You write good boy books and you should keep doing it!”

But I went ahead and wrote the book, and then I started getting emails from teenage girls saying things like, “How do you know what’s going on in my head? Are you eavesdropping on me and my friends?”

I felt good that I challenged myself and succeeded.

IVC: *Are there going to be any more books in the Flash series?*

BL: Yep! The third book comes out in October 2018. It’s titled *The*

Tornado Twins and it’s soooo much fun!

IVC: *What is your favorite topic to write about, and why?*

BL: Most of my work tends to be about outcasts and outsiders, people trying to figure out where they fit in. Or even if they fit in. I don’t know if that’s my favorite topic, but it’s certainly one I return to often.

IVC: *Can you tell us anything about your new Thanos book?*

BL: Yes! It will be out in November, and it’s basically the story of Thanos leading up to his appearances in the Marvel movies.

If you’ve ever wondered how a guy decides to kill half the universe... this is the book for you!

Thank you so much Barry Lyga, for making this article one to remember, and for being such a cool author!



MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Schools are winding down for the year and the weather is beautiful outside! Take a walk around town, check out Ron Edwards’ sculpture show at Nina’s Nook, then come home and check out what’s new on your local TV station.

The latest from MCTV is the kickoff of The Skate Show! See it at vimeo.com/273580694. And if you’d like to submit music, skate-

boarding clips, or give input on what you’d like to see, email skate-show413@gmail.com!

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.

Contact us at (413) 863-9200, infomontaguetv@gmail.com, or stop by 34 Second Street between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. We’re excited to work with you!

GARDENERS from page B1

The team walkers began in earnest. They can rest in their tents near warming fire pits, but the walking goes on all night until the afternoon of the next day.

The floral celebration of spring is lush in the yard. The lilacs and daffodils have stepped aside for a glory of beauty bush, peonies, beach rose and bush roses. The laurels, freed from the bondage of bittersweet, stand tall against the sky. Sweet honeysuckle vine tempts the tiny hummingbird.

The birds’ chorale is no longer territorial. There is a more gentle murmur and hum like a lullaby for the babies, and a celebration of family and home.

The last of Ken’s aunties just celebrated her ninety-second birthday. One of my grandsons and his wife have just had their second child. Kessa Magdalene was eager to join the world. She popped out one hour after her mom checked into the hospital. Her brother Hunter was equally eager to meet her. Another celebration at both poles of life.

Each day we can measure growth in the vegetable garden. The peas, which were slow to germinate, are now hardily climbing the chicken wire. The tomato plants are all a good foot and more tall, and all of the varieties have blossoms. The lettuce is yummy, as was the asparagus, which is now taking a well-deserved rest. We’ve mulched it with straw to keep down the weeds, and are hand-picking the occasional beetle. The corn and winter squash seeds are in.

The season of high school graduation celebrations has come and gone. What a pleasure to see remembered names and then, even better, to run into old students in the community and to hear what

they are doing with their new lives. Some well into careers, some running a business, others going on for more school or training. This news is a special gift for folks who have spent their work years in education. A huge celebration.

Of course, real life is not all happy, with wonders to celebrate. My Dad never walked with the survivors at Relay for Life. Cancer took him at the young age of sixty-one.

Not all that celebrates spring is beautiful. There are many weeds and they are as prolific as the beautiful things we choose to grow. Some crops thrive, others do not.

Sometimes we have the disheartening knowledge of a former student who shows up in the court news for a serious crime; some were kids we felt might already be on a wrong path.

But we don’t try to sugarcoat the bad news or the disappointments. They, too, are part of real life.

We do find, however, that overall life is very good and often presents us with moments of supreme happiness and pleasure. In a few days we will go to watch Ken’s granddaughter perform in a dance recital. We will be proud and will admire her talent for anything art related. We have also recently watched his grandson’s extreme agility at Ultimate Frisbee and karate.

Our young people are by and large strong and vibrant and full of hope for the future. We must support and nurture that hope, and their strength, as they mature into the new leaders of our world. We must teach them to relate the true news without embroidery.

There’s enough true drama in real life as it is.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Golf Balls Hit Into River; Eighth Seized; Men On Bridge Spotted With Phantom Gun

Monday, 6/4

7:21 a.m. Party from Bridge Street into station requesting to speak to an officer for her options regarding an ongoing issue with her neighbor’s dog.

1:41 p.m. Report from Park Street of a dog barking for the past twenty minutes. Animal control officer advising quiet upon arrival. ACO followed up with Town Hall; dog is not registered, and rabies vaccination appears to have expired. Message left for owner.

5:44 p.m. Second call regarding a continuously barking dog on Park Street. Caller called back several times; advised that delayed response time was due to call volume. Officer advised dog owner of complaint and reminded her to speak with the ACO. Officer also spoke to caller at his request.

9:04 p.m. Report of suspicious vehicle on Taylor Hill Road. Officer made contact with vehicle operator, who advised that he was lost after visiting friends at Taylor Heights. Officer will lead operator back to the main road.

11:24 p.m. Caller from Third Street reporting a battery that just occurred outside her bar. Female victim is now inside bar; other woman has left on foot heading toward FL Roberts. Female denying injury and refusing ambulance. Area checked extensively; unable to locate other female. Caller advised of options. This is simple assault at this time.

Tuesday, 6/5

9:33 a.m. Caller requesting detective to Turners Falls High School to retrieve 3.5 grams of pot that was seized on May 25. Services rendered.

6:46 p.m. Caller from Federal Street reports that a black four-wheeler was taken from his driveway sometime today. Vehicle entered as stolen into NCIC. Report taken.

8:05 p.m. A 27 year old Turners Falls man was arrested on a straight warrant.

Wednesday, 6/6

12:35 a.m. Caller reports that there is a man inside the Third Street laundromat after hours. Male left laundromat before officer’s arrival. Laundry door secure.

10:25 a.m. Caller from FL Roberts requesting removal of male party in the store who appears to be under the influence of heroin. Male is nodding in and out while reading a newspaper he did not pay for. Officers moved subject along.

11:26 a.m. Report of assault and battery on Avenue A. Victim declined ambulance but will be seeking medical attention on his own. Report taken.

12:13 p.m. Report of a baby, possibly a newborn, being driven around in a vehicle without a carseat. Last seen on Avenue A in front of Connecticut River Liquors. Area search negative.

3:04 p.m. Two consecutive 911 calls received from an Avenue A address. Upon callback, answering party advised that someone was learning how to use the phone and it was a mistake.

7:56 p.m. Caller advising that a white cat with a black head was hit by a vehicle in front of Kostanski Funeral Home and is beside the road not moving. Officer advises that animal has been removed and disposed of. Copy of call left for ACO.

9:05 p.m. Second call reporting barking dog on Grove Street. Officer advises all quiet upon arrival; he heard no barking while parked at the location for several minutes.

11:30 p.m. FL Roberts employee states that two female parties were fighting in the store. Investigated.

Thursday, 6/7

7:01 a.m. Two callers reporting angry-looking male party walking down the yellow line on Turners Falls Road near the police station. Party is wearing black pants and no shirt. Removed to hospital.

11:45 a.m. Caller from Second Street reporting that he was assaulted by one of his tenants a while ago and has been suffering neck and shoulder pain. Caller states that they are troubled tenants who don’t pay the rent and cause issues with his other tenants. Caller is going to court tomorrow regarding these subjects. Advised of options.

4:15 p.m. Accidental emergency call made from elevator inside town hall. Confirmed misdial.

4:43 p.m. Caller states that a dog she was walking jumped into the canal

and now can’t get out. PD and FD responding. Dog safely removed from water by caller’s husband.

Friday, 6/8

12 a.m. Caller from Marshall Street reporting fire in basement. TFFD reports fire brought under control. Electrical inspector on scene.

7:39 a.m. Report of dead skunk in travel lane at Canal and Second streets. Caller concerned that it may be a traffic hazard. DPW not working today. Officer checked area. Another resident had moved the skunk out of the travel lane and to the side of the road. Not a hazard.

8:33 a.m. Caller from Second Street reports that his neighbor is outside yelling and harassing him; ongoing issue. Quiet upon arrival; tenants had left residence to attend a court proceeding regarding their eviction from this address. Caller later called back and advised that the neighbor is yelling in the hallway again calling him names. Report taken.

3:14 p.m. Caller from Second Street states that the upstairs neighbor is making threats about calling DCF on her and calling her child racist names. Advised of options.

6:39 p.m. Caller inquiring whether somebody hitting golf balls into the Connecticut River from the dog park area on First Street is a crime or not. Caller states that a man comes down there on a regular basis and hits several golf balls into the river. Caller states that she does not need a police response; the male hitting the balls was just about done. She will try to find out on her own whether this is an environmental crime or not.

7:55 p.m. Caller from Grove Street states that a dog has been barking for the last 35 minutes. Officer spoke to dog owner. Dog is being brought inside for the night.

Saturday, 6/9

12:18 a.m. Anonymous caller states that an un-

wanted male party and his girlfriend are inside the Third Street laundromat; parties are charging their phones and not doing laundry. Female party, 35, of Turners Falls arrested on a default warrant.

1:39 p.m. Party into station asking for help from the FD with some spilled gasoline in her trunk.

3:10 p.m. Report of two calls reporting a younger male with no protective gear on a white four-wheeler going up and down the roadways at a high rate of speed around Randall Wood Drive and Randall Road. Area search negative; officer will be on lookout.

5:46 p.m. Reports of gunshots in area of Taylor Hill Road. Officer spoke to involved parties, who are target shooting. All parties have valid licenses to carry and are believed to be within the 500 feet from a dwelling rule. Advised to contact PD in future when they will be target shooting.

Sunday, 6/10

11:12 a.m. Shelburne Control advising that they received a call about two males, one white and one black, walking from Gill into Turners; caller believes that one of the males had a gun in the front of their hoodie. Officer observed two males, one Hispanic and one black, come off the bridge and head down First Street. One was carrying a black bag and the other was carrying a cell phone. Nothing suspicious observed.

7:17 p.m. Caller from Gill believes that she can see a dead dog in the water at Barton Cove. Information relayed to Shelburne Control.

9 p.m. Caller from L Street advising that a group of people are yelling, arguing, and threatening one another in front of her home. Caller advising that the two white males are not wearing shirts. Officer advises that this altercation was all verbal.

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TALES from page B1

possible swimmers, actually making it to the prize, not just once, but during all 170,000 generations!

Thinking about those odds makes my teeth ache. And what it boils down to is this: you shouldn't exist. A mathematician would place the likelihood of your existence at a virtual zero. You've won the lottery and never even bought a ticket!

Fanny Beardsley

There are two circumstances that bring this home to me.

Let's consider the aforementioned Grandpa Walton and Grandma Louise. She was a Louisiana native, daughter of a plantation owner, descended from Jacques Beauvais; and that ancestral line came to this country by way of Canada and then over the centuries hop-skipped on down the Mississippi River, not unlike other Cajun families.

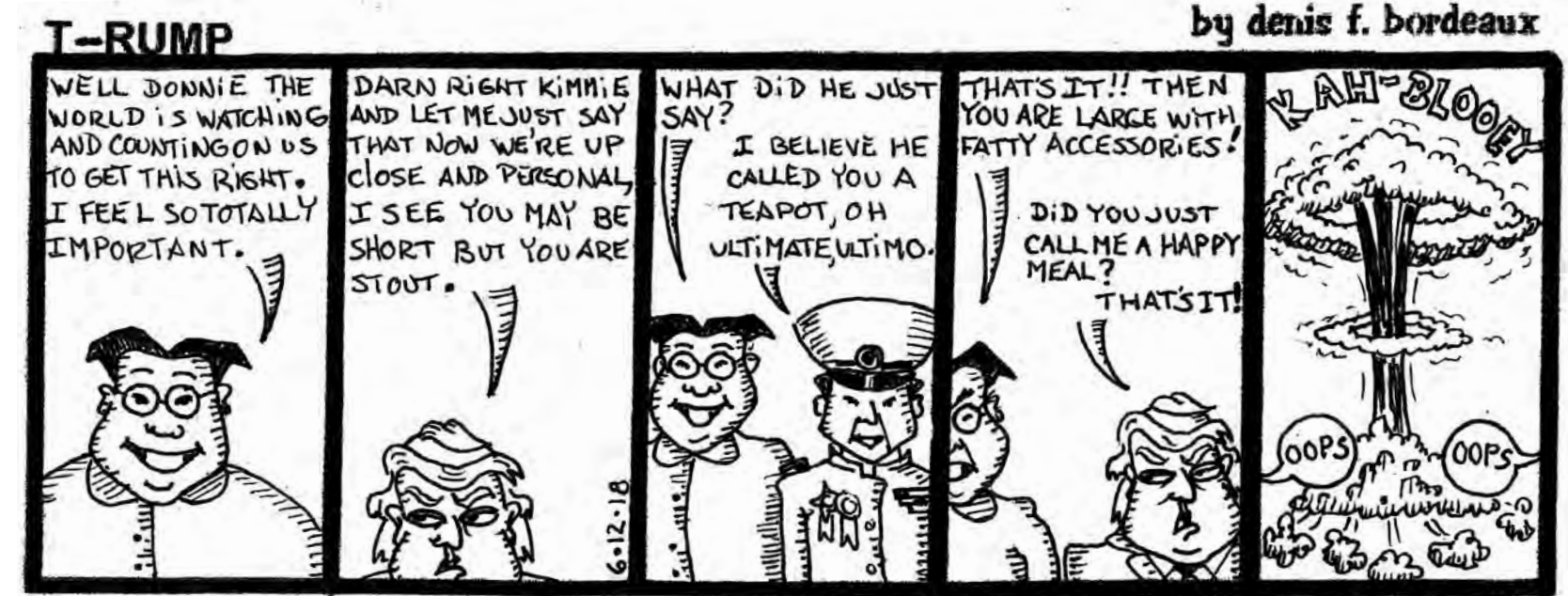
But what was Walton, from a long line of northern, buttoned-up Yankees, doing in New Orleans? To answer that question we have to refer back to his mother, great grandmother Frances (Fanny) Olivia Beardsley.

Fanny married great-granddad Erastus Clark, Jr. of Utica, New York. Her diary, written during the mid-1800s and presently kept in a Rutgers University library, reveals a woman frequently depressed, a woman who yearned to be a writer, unhappy with her lot as wife and home-maker, yet experiencing guilt that she should question her Christian responsibility to home and husband.

Sophia Clark, Erastus's older sister, had married and was raising a family in New Orleans, and since Fanny and Sophia were close friends, Fanny was invited to spend extended periods of time in that city for her mental and physical health.

While Utica had a population of only about 17,500, the same as Greenfield today, New Orleans at that time was home to about 116,000; a big city by contrast, and a port from which steamers and ships of all kinds came and went daily.

Sophia and her family lived in a large, three-story house on or near Canal Street in the French Quarter, and the house overlooked the river. There was hustle and bustle; there was warmth and sunlight; all kinds of flowers bloomed; there were



colorful parades and the food was pleasantly exotic.

Where Fanny had suffered from migraine headaches in Utica, in the south she found her health and her spirits much improved. She enjoyed her life with Sophia and her family, and her letters home – many of which I have – were filled with descriptions of that colorful and warm city. There she was happy.

When Fanny's own children were born, she took them south with her for long vacations, and they, too, grew to value the less restricted life they could enjoy there. It should not surprise, therefore, that when Walton grew to adulthood, he chose to stay and find employment in New Orleans.

Had Fanny been content in Utica, Walton would never have met Louise and the chain of events that led to me being me, or to me simply *being*, would have been broken. Lives are peppered with what-ifs and near-misses, and despite it or perhaps because of it, we are who we are.

Walton Clark

Let's back up a bit and take, as another example, Grandpa Walton. He was born in the spring of 1856 in Utica, an easy baby with a sunny disposition. Unfortunately, at only 10 months old, he fell victim to whooping cough (pertussis).

Whooping cough killed 1,400 children out of every million in 1850, and it was particularly dangerous in babies. It was in the early 1940s that I, myself, was vaccinated for it. The vaccine was not, even then, given routinely, but my brother had developed the dread disease

THEATER PREVIEW

Road to Mecca Makes Greenfield Premiere

From combined sources.

GREENFIELD – Silverthorne Theater Company is getting ready to open *The Road to Mecca*, by Athol Fugard, next Thursday evening, June 21. Winner of the 1988 New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Foreign Play, *The Road to Mecca* is set in 1970s South Africa. It was first staged in the United States in 1984 at Yale Rep, had an off-Broadway run in 1988, and saw its Broadway premiere in 2012.

Fugard is best known for his overtly political plays, mostly set in his native South Africa in the days of apartheid. While this drama's focus on the life and work of an artist might seem like a departure for the playwright, in the words of New York theater critic Ben Brantley, the play "throbs with a despairing awareness of the South Africa of the 1970s as a broken and corrupting nation, a spiritual prison for those who inhabit it. Set in the remote village of New Bethesda, in the Karoo desert region, this play considers the nature and possibilities of freedom within such a place."

Based on a real-life individual, Fugard's story of Miss Helen, an aging Afrikaner widow who creates unusual sculptures in order to escape the crushing reality of her isolated life and the social expectations that accompany that life, brings together two social and politi-

cal opposites who consider themselves her friends, and take a strong interest in her welfare according to their own conflicting views about artistic creativity and the challenges of aging.

Her very conservative minister, Marius, wants to send Helen to an old folks' home, where she will be "safe" from both criticism and harm. Her young friend Elsa, more politically engaged than Marius, wants Helen to have the independence as a woman and an artist that society seems to find so dangerous.

Marius and Helen embody the tension between the austere Afrikaner culture of conformity, obedience to governing authority, and racial separation, and the drive for self-actualization and freedom to choose how and where one will live. That this tension comes alive in the relationship between the protagonists – both white – intensifies our awareness of the struggle for equality, freedom, and racial harmony on the part of both blacks and whites that continues in South Africa nearly a quarter century after legal apartheid was abolished in 1994.

Called by the script's publisher "a penetrating study of the role of the artist in any society," *The Road to Mecca* also speaks to larger hopes and fears about aging and independence. Directed by Rebecca Daniels and performed June 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, and 30 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, June 24 at 2 p.m.

He is very playful and quite bright after he recovers from the spasms, but seems exhausted for a little time after.

The weather has been so horrible that I have been unable to take him out. Exceedingly cold, then a sudden change and uncomfortably warm, foggy and rainy. Today it is snowing again and quite cold. If I could leave home I would take him somewhere for a change of air.

John Doolittle's children have the whooping cough very severely. It is very prevalent. Louise B. is so fearful of her baby getting it. She was here the other evening and heard W cough, and was so excited that she cried and when he coughed again, ran into the kitchen and stopped her ears.

Mr. Camp called here one evening and was so distressed that he could not finish telling us a story that he had commenced. He said he could not talk anymore after hearing him.

Mr. and Mrs. Hinman came in last night and left immediately after hearing him once. I sometimes am afraid he will never recover – that it will wear him out – but I try to hope for the best. Mary is very much distressed about him and asks twenty times a day, "Mother, do you think he will die?"

Every time he coughs, Arthur says, "Mama, will he die?"

Well, I, of course, am proof that he didn't.

(The "vaccine" she wrote of couldn't have been the one routinely given today for whooping cough, as that was not available until the 1930s. The smallpox vaccine was the only vaccine available in 1857, so it is unclear what the family sawbones, Dr. Bigg, gave to baby Walton.)

In his twenties Walton again fell ill, this time with yellow fever. It was during the 1878 epidemic in New Orleans, when so many became sick and died. When he recovered – whew, another near miss – he as-

sisted in caring for the ill. The doctor who had cared for him, and for many others, died of the fever. Those were certainly dangerous times.

Some years after Walton had married Louise Beauvais, they moved briefly to Chicago where my father was born – oddly enough, in a house on the corner of Walton and Clark streets – and then to Philadelphia.

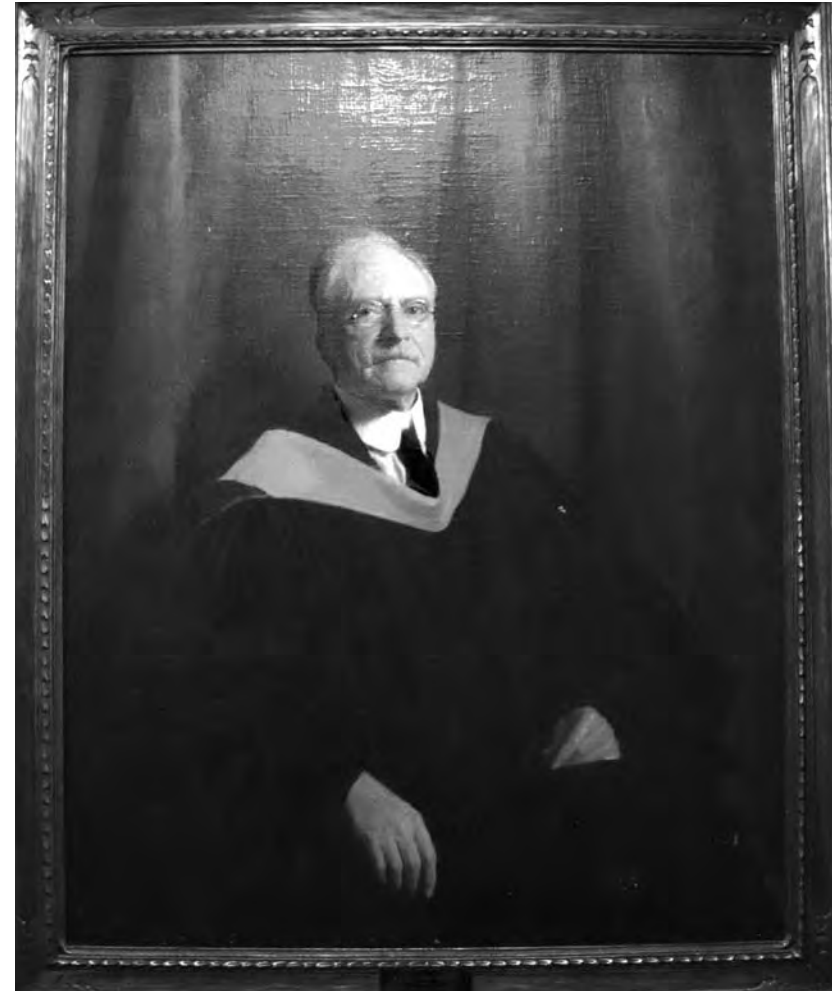
Grandpa was a natural gas expert, an engineer and inventor. He served as president of the Franklin Institute from 1907 to 1924, and just a month after I was born, he died of *paralysis agitans* (now known as Parkinson's disease). His papers are housed in the Special Collections Research Center at Temple University.

By all accounts, Grandpa Walton was an extrovert, a sweet-natured man who enjoyed sailing and writing poetry. I owe my life to him and to his will to survive.

We owe our lives to all of them, to the millions of our ancestors, men and women who managed to bear children and pass their DNA down the line. Such powerful lust for life! The random nature of fortune and fate, and all the little and big decisions our ancestors made or failed to make, all day, every day, altered the trajectories of their lives like a pinball descending willy-nilly through a mine field of obstacles, ding ding ding. Jackpot!

It takes my breath away.

Tell us about your ancestors, recent or distant. In the humblest of lives there are remarkable moments. Let us print their stories. Send questions, requests and information to Lyn at genealogy@montaguereporter.org.



Lyn's grandfather Walton Clark made it through whooping cough in 1850 and yellow fever in 1878. (Painting courtesy of the Historical and Interpretive Collections of The Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, P.A.)

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Franklin County Technical School Class of 2018

TURNERS FALLS – The Franklin County Technical School graduation was held Friday, June 1 at Greenfield Community College. Guest speaker Dr. Lindsey Cole (FCTS ‘04) called the school “a haven, a home, a sanctuary,” when she was a student there. She urged the graduates to treasure every experience and not be afraid to choose their own path.

Here is a list of this year’s graduates, by department:

Electrical: Devon Brown (Colrain); Cameron Chase (Conway); Jacob Desbiens (Erving); Jacob Farrick (South Deerfield); Brandon Jenks (Orange); Karaghen McBurnie (Orange); Amber Merritt (Bernardston); Ben Pearson (Montague); Dylan Robinson (Orange); Jaxon Rollins* (Erving); Mitchell Wells (Greenfield)

Automotive Collision Repair and Refinishing: Kyle Avery (Colrain); William Berry III (Orange); Alexandra Bogusz (Turners Falls); Elias Collins (Greenfield); Travis Cutting* (Bernardston); Michael Dobias, Jr. (Erving); Dylan King (Bernardston); Christian Smith (Greenfield); Jackson Smith (Greenfield); Matthew Sullivan (Montague); Hunter Taylor (Ashfield).

Carpentry: Samuel Adams (Turners Falls); Samuel Bobala (Millers Falls); Korey Bousquet (Turners Falls); Dakota Deane (Ashfield); Devin Marz (Orange); Daniel Rice (Greenfield); Valarie Speegle (Shelburne Falls); Samantha Vatalaro (Greenfield); Leah Wozniak (Heath)

Machine Tool Technology: Noah Chase (Greenfield); James Craig (Montague); Jack Fuller (Conway); Calin Giurgiu (Greenfield); Matthew Huber (Northfield); Zachary

Koncal (Northfield); Kurtis Kuenzel (Leyden); Christopher Ludwig (Orange); Cameron Richardson-Ellis (Erving); Tyler Sicard (Bernardston); Orion Tarr (Greenfield); Ashlee Townsley* (Ashfield)

Culinary Arts: Elizabeth Chappel-Perkins (Warwick); Ryan Cypher (Greenfield); Matthew Dubino (South Deerfield); Courtanie Howe (Northfield); Aengus Maloney (Greenfield); Evelyn McCassie (Northfield); Erin O’Neil (Bernardston); Christian Smith (Greenfield); Joshua Stuart (Orange); Sohan Tyner (Leverett)

Programming and Web Development: Kevin Cardona-Cruz (Greenfield); Ralilah Culver (Northfield); Grant Gorzcoski (Northfield); Patrick Monaghan* (Amherst); Nathaniel Paige (Sunderland); Jaden Sadlowski (Northfield); Charlotte Shepard (Fitchburg); Kevin Shimeld (Sunderland); Paul Vinton (Turners Falls); Douglas Wickline (Leyden)

Welding and Metal Fabrication: Lynn Arsenault (Millers Falls); Lukas Bird (Heath); Kyle Bry (Sunderland); Isaac Gravelle (Turners Falls); Kaylee Jackson (Colrain); Gage Ovitt-Hoyt (Shelburne Falls); Cody Picard (Warwick); Jared Taylor (Ashfield); David Walker III (Greenfield)

Plumbing: Ryleigh Barton (Leyden); Jocelyn Holloway (Northfield); Ian Lesko (Sunderland); Matthew Lively* (Heath); Daniel Momaney (Turners Falls); Sergio Perez (Greenfield); Riley Staiger (Turners Falls); Spencer Telega (South Deerfield); Brian Zamojski* (Turners Falls)

Automotive Technology: Nicholas Baronas (Leyden); Matthew Brooks (Heath); Adam DePretto (South Deerfield);



Tyler Facey (Greenfield); Maxx Hagen (Greenfield); Timothy Hutt (South Deerfield); Tyler Raymond (Bernardston); Hunter Sessions (Buckland); James Waldron (Heath)

Cosmetology: Krystal Finn (Buckland); Bryanna Fisher (Turners Falls); McKenzie Gancarz (Charlemont); Thalia Garcia (Greenfield); Cheyla LaFountain (Orange); Hannah Lyman (Warwick); Tammy Motyka (Greenfield); Haleigh Paul (Athol)

Landscaping and Horticulture: Seth Aldrich (Greenfield); Martin Given (Northfield); Sawyer Hale (Northfield); Nicholas LaCoy (Bernardston); Scott Martin (Rindge); Kurt Shippee (Rowe); Kaeden Socquet (Greenfield)

Health Technology: Cobi Hardin (Greenfield); Kailynn Mason-Emond* (Greenfield); Haylie McQuade (Greenfield); Emily Mills* (Turners Falls); Kristin Slowinski* (Colrain); Lindsey Watson (Orange)

* National Honor Society



Santini’s Chapel might be constructed according to some secret numerical code from the mystical Jewish Cabala.

BOHEMIA from page B1

The street performers sing a *cap-pella*, as if they were spontaneously moved to sing out; and in a deep valley with no escape under a castle bridge, I see a living bear – a national heraldic symbol come to life. I sleep in a hostel in the town gate for \$18 per night run by an expat from Oakland, and decline his invitation to his Czech-hating Honduran friend’s secret bar.

A drunk Australian sleeps in the bathroom because she cannot find her key to the dorm, and there is a man that for days I never see, but only hear at night. I know that he exists because he snores.

Gangs and Preppers

There is moldavite in the land here, subterranean silicate sprung free by the meteorite impact a hundred miles away in Austria. As missiles of liquid stone, the silicate is transformed by the forces of flight into the spiny, lemon-lime-colored rock that adventurous people hunt for.

In the Moldavite Museum, one can experience the thrill of digitally forming a meteor in one’s hands and hurling it, like a deity warming up in the bull pen, at the Earth.

Outside, I watch the motorcycle gang lustily devour food and drink.

They wear leathers that say things like “NRF” and “Worth,” and I wonder if they are Nazis, or one of the Eastern European motorcycle gangs that they fear in England.

We drive through a mountain pass full of unnecessary hairpin turns to the old salt-route town of Prachatice, where, just off the Renaissance main square, we discover a small but unique outdoor store called Prepper’s Shop:

“ANI OUTDOOR, OR ARMY, WE ARE PREPPERS! WE SURE IT WILL BE PREPARED. FOR EVERYTHING! That’s how we can summarize the focus of our business. We strive to introduce and offer products to help you reliably fulfill the above-mentioned idea of home comfort for a good feeling of security and your safety or your family from being unpredictable.”

They sell interesting products, like the 200,000 Volt Paralyzer Power 200 (“The POWER paralyzer is the perfect and safe personal defense of today”).

Songsters, Battles, and Follies

I drive to a campground offering cabins a few miles out of town, where we brace for the prophesied invasion of a stag party. (“27 males are coming,” says the young

Czech man who, reluctantly, finally checks us in.)

But neither the campground, nor the event, is anything like I expect. The advertised pool, which I had looked forward to, is actually growing weeds and wildflowers in the cracks in its concrete, and is the largest abandoned pool I’ve ever seen. It takes six or seven minutes to walk around it. And instead of raging men, a bus full of singing, celebrating seniors arrive.

Next, the restaurant refuses to serve us food, but at least gives us a round of drinks on the house. The overhead flush toilet leaks water from its reservoir, which then runs across the floor of our kitchen. I eat a bag of “Fromage” potato chips for dinner, and regret not choosing “Classic.”

In České Budějovice – or Budweis, the old-world home of Budweiser – I drink espresso on a charming two-story houseboat cafe. Single shots are standard, and neither drip coffee nor half-and-half exist here, but I get by.

I watch people in the park wearing large semi-transparent pink and blue globes battle each other, like sumo wrestlers who accidentally became so immense that their arms were rendered ineffective.

From the clock tower on the square, I can see, on a forested hill west of town, the shining and opalescent Castle Hluboká, a Romantic castle, framed by the cooling towers of the contentious Dboule Temelin Nuclear Power Station, the largest in the country. A year ago, in a Trumpian controversy, this plant was criticized for hosting a bikini contest in one of its cooling towers as its search for a new female intern.

I drive the winding country roads to Telč, taking evasive action whenever a car comes the other way. A naturalistic park wraps around three sides of this village, with long, serpentine lakes on either side, giving it an islandlike quality.

People ask why I came here, but there is no real answer to this question. I stay right on the square.

As I drive the Czech highway, a theater of strange accidents and futuristic features is revealed. I see a car off the road, dirty and smashed. Men sway and stagger through the cerulean field of wheat, as if they’re looking for something they lost. I see two cars folded together in the middle of the road, no police or emergency responders around to direct traffic. I

see a car nose down in a dry ditch, looking like a sinking ocean liner.

On a typical 18-foot road I see two big trucks spinning like contra dancers, backing and filling over and over, struggling to untie their tangled mirrors. Driving by, I witness a motorcycle on the ground, under the back of a car, its rider lying on the sidewalk with blood on his knees and arms. In a vacant lot, I see a warning message to drivers of the highway – six cars stand like tombstones in a family graveyard, their noses buried up to their windshields in the ground.

The car passes under concrete arches of trees and shrubs, like rainbows of plants. These wildlife bridges encourage animals to cross the road safely, reconnecting natural spaces.

Saint’s Tongue, Femur Angels

Pressing on through the chaotic weather of highway events, our car impresses us with features like a

the Cabbalistic theory of the number 5. In the center of the dome’s white ceiling, inside a sunburst surrounded by a ring of flames, is a tongue: giant, pink, and muscular. The incorruptible tongue of St. Jon is stored elsewhere in the church.

Afterward, as we walk the boardwalk around the wetland next to the monastery, Dania is bitten by a masked swan.

At the Church of Bones in Kutna Hora, I see tourists contemplating huge pyramids of skulls. In the center hangs an ornate chandelier made of bones, and high on the walls are the supposed skeletons of angels. They are tall, like basketball players, with wings made of femurs. Archaeologists are actively excavating bones from just outside the walls of the church. The literature explains that the Bone Church is not meant to be creepy or macabre.

Dirty and tired at the Czech University of Life Sciences, I stoop down and stare steadily and without



The author in Český Krumlov, in the Bohemian region of the Czech Republic.

push-button emergency brake that sometimes does not turn off, window shades, and airplane-style folding trays for eating.

I pay a visit to the architect Santini’s great and surreal masterpiece, the Pilgrimage Church of St. Jon of Nepomuk. As we drive past the socialist housing of the town of Žďár, this small, white and blue chapel appears on the hill above the monastery like the head of an aquatic lizardman breaching the surface of the water.

Santini’s chapel honors St. Jon, who was killed by King Wenceslaus of Bohemia for not divulging the confessional secrets of the King’s wife. The chapel is a fusion of gothic and baroque styles, and easily could be evidence of visitation by bio-technic aliens. Its architecture is based on

fear into the shower’s red electric eye. The laser, acknowledging me, eventually burns steady – the shower is activated.

Driving back to Prague to rejoin the group, I glance out the window, over a low valley at the next rounded hill. From this distance, individualized puffs of trees look like Ice Age megafauna, slowly grazing the first grasslands of a new geologic era, chasing the retreating glacier.

Thanks to this journey, I can now say with conviction and personal experience that “La Vie Bohème” is not just a song from *Rent*. It is as real as the barefoot girl who delivered my espresso to me in the run-down courtyard of the Summer Palace at Jičín.



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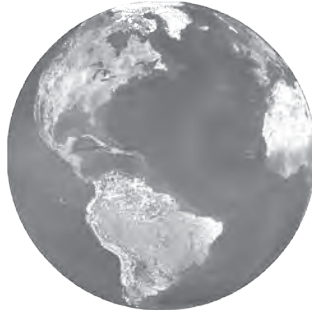
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Aquí se habla español

Esta es la página en español del periódico *The Montague Reporter*. Aquí podrán encontrar cuestiones acerca de la comunidad hispana, eventos de interés, curiosidades, y noticias en español. Si quiere colaborar o compartir alguna sugerencia, envíenos un correo electrónico a: spanish@montaguereporter.org. Esperamos su participación.



Baile de cifras en Puerto Rico: Nuevos informes hablan de 4.645 muertos por falta de recursos en ayuda local y federal



Puerto Rico devastado después del paso de María.

Por **KEVIN MOISÉS CARDONA-CRUZ**

PUERTO RICO - Tras el paso del huracán María, el gobierno de Puerto Rico comunicó a su pueblo que la cifra de muertes causadas por el huracán María era de sesenta y cuatro.

Pero cuando han pasado más de 9 meses del huracán, la Universidad de Harvard publica ahora en la revista *New England Journal of Medicine* (Diario de Medicina de Nueva Inglaterra) un estudio en el que se asegura que las muertes relacionadas con el huracán María estarían entre 793 y 8.498, y basado en eso se ha adoptado la cifra de 4.645 (el término medio entre 793 y 8.498) para representar a los muertos a causa del huracán.

¿Y cómo fue que la Universidad de Harvard llegó a esta conclusión? Los investigadores fueron puerta por puerta y entrevistaron anónimamente a 3.299 residentes de la isla, y también utilizaron información sobre las muertes ocurridas en años anteriores para determinar si las personas murieron por alguna razón relacionada con el huracán María.

Los datos sobre las muertes relacionadas al huracán fueron solicitados al gobierno de Puerto Rico, pero el ac-

ceso a dichos datos les fue negado. Al ser cuestionado por esto, el gobernador de Puerto Rico, Ricardo Rosselló Nevares manifestó a CNN que había firmado una orden ejecutiva por la cual esos datos estaban disponibles. Añadió que habían abierto los libros y que en febrero anunció esa orden ejecutiva y la colaboración con la George Washington University.

Rosselló dijo también que lo que era importante saber es que los datos y algunos de esos certificados de muerte y el proceso de evaluación no fue el mejor proceso y que los mejores datos no estaban disponibles. Explicó que esa era la verdadera razón por la que (la universidad) George Washington había tardado un poquito más de lo esperado. La universidad de George Washington fue escogida por el gobierno de Puerto Rico para investigar las muertes relacionadas con el huracán María, y dicha universidad todavía no ha publicado la cifra de muertos a causa del huracán que azotó a Puerto Rico en septiembre de 2017.

Al enterarse de la alta cifra de fallecidos a causa del huracán María muchos puertorriqueños recordaron a los estimados cientos de muertos de una manera única. Más de mil pares de zapatos fueron colocados al frente de La Fortaleza, la sede de la gobernación de la isla para simbolizar a todos los fallecidos. Incluso un estudiante de Harvard colocó un par de zapatos frente a la universidad y le agradeció a la misma el trabajo relacionado con la verdad sobre las muertes.

Muchas de estas muertes fueron causadas por la falta de electricidad para personas que dependían de máquinas para sobrevivir, falta de acceso a servicios médicos y calles obstruidas que impedían el paso a ayudas externas.

Kevin Cardona-Cruz, originario de Puerto Rico, es un reciente graduado de FCTS que colabora habitualmente con “Aquí se habla español” en The Montague Reporter.

OPINIÓN Aquí, en los Estados Unidos, también se habla español

Por **VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA**

Si ustedes tienen redes sociales o leen habitualmente las noticias, estoy segura que habrán visto el vídeo viral del abogado de Manhattan, Aaron Schlossberg, dirigiéndose con duras palabras a los meseros y a unos clientes que estaban hablando en español en un restaurante de la Gran Manzana.

Unos días antes se había difundido también el vídeo de un agente de aduanas en el estado de Montana en el que dos ciudadanas estadounidenses fueron interrogadas y detenidas por hablar español dentro de una estación de servicio.

Paradójicamente, Estados Unidos es un país en que se pueden ver comerciales de grandes marcas en español en la televisión, un país donde la publicidad de muchas marcas de comida rápida se escribe en ese idioma, y donde muchos servicios de atención al cliente por teléfono tienen una tecla especial para poder hablar en español, y es al mismo tiempo un país en que por hablar otra lengua en público nos sentimos discriminados.

En el caso del vídeo de Montana, el agente les explicó que fueron detenidas porque en esa parte del país es raro escuchar hablar en español y que no tenía nada que ver con su apariencia física ni su raza.

Una de las personas detenidas, Ana Suda, nacida en El Paso, confesó que cuando llegó a su casa su hija pequeña le preguntó si ya no podrían seguir hablando esta lengua en Estados Unidos. La madre le contestó que por supuesto que sí y que hablar dos lenguas nos hace más inteligentes.

En el vídeo del Sr. Schlossberg, un abogado afín al partido Republicano, se le escucha no solamente decir que no pueden hablar español en Estados Unidos sino que además les acusa de ser inmigrantes indocumentados y les amenaza con hacer una llamada a la policía de inmigración.

Nada más hacerse viral el vídeo, se inició una campaña de recogida de firmas a través de *Change.org* que consiguió más de 10.000 firmas con el propósito de inhabilitar al abogado. Se hizo también otra petición para enviar bandas de mariachis para cantar en español delante de su despacho, una convocatoria que tuvo un éxito inesperado y a la que acudieron incluso vendedores de tacos.

Cuarenta y dos millones de hispanos hablan español cada día en sus casas en distintos estados del país. Esto supone que hay más hablantes de español en Estados Unidos que en España. Aun así en algunos trabajos no se permite utilizar otra lengua a sus trabajadores, ni siquiera en el baño o en los descansos. El Instituto Cervantes impulsó la creación de la Academia Norteamericana de la Lengua española, así como el Observatorio de la Lengua Española en Harvard que junto con centros de enseñanza de todo tipo hacen lo posible por conservar la lengua española en Estados Unidos. Aquí un total de 8 millones de personas hablan español como segunda lengua.

Incluso instituciones locales o periódicos, como este mismo, tratan de proteger su uso y las escuelas públicas con más recursos están poniendo en práctica el sistema de educación bilingüe. Miles de estudios académicos y científicos avalan la importancia de hablar dos o más lenguas no solamente a nivel cognitivo, sino también para frenar el avance de algunas enfermedades como el Alzheimer.

Pese a todo esto, en los últimos años se han recrudecido los ataques contra personas que hablan otra lengua que no sea inglés en público, y yo misma los he sufrido en persona en un parque de esta localidad.

Les recomiendo que no traten de confrontar a la otra persona si esto les sucede, en la mayoría de los casos, sus explicaciones no serán escuchadas, pero sí quieren hacerlo, estos son algunos consejos que pueden ustedes seguir:

- Explíquele en primer lugar que en este país no existe una lengua oficial, y aunque algunos estados obligan a publicar todos sus documentos oficiales en inglés, no hay nada ilegal en usar su propio idioma en público.
- Dígame que el español se habló en este país antes que el inglés, puesto que fueron los españoles los primeros europeos en llegar a las costas de Florida. En cualquier caso las lenguas nativo-americanas estaban mucho antes.
- Y por último, que si no entiende español, sería buena idea empezar a aprender esa u otra lengua que le abrirá las puertas un conocimiento del mundo mucho más flexible.

Así pues, como siempre decimos en esta su página: **¡Aquí se habla español!**

Noticias del mundo hispano

Por **VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA**

Nicaragua: El régimen del presidente Daniel Ortega se enfrenta a grandes protestas que empezaron en el mes de abril como respuesta a su iniciativa de recortar las ayudas a la Seguridad Social.

Todo empezó con el incendio Indio Maíz una reserva en la selva. El fuego quemó más de 5.000 hectáreas y que fue la chispa para el inicio de las protestas estudiantiles espoleadas después por la decisión del presidente Ortega de reformar las pensiones incrementando las contribuciones de los trabajadores. Esta medida impopular tiene detrás la cabeza pensante de la mujer del presidente ortega y a su vez vicepresidenta del gobierno, Rosario Murillo.

Los manifestantes de uno y otro lado se dieron cita en las calles de Managua y dieron lugar a enfrentamientos con centenares de muertos y heridos (las cifras exactas no se conocen). En otras ciudades del centro del país como Granada también se produjeron disturbios, así como en todas las universidades del país.

Ortega decidió ejercer la censura y cortar la emisión de dos cadenas de televisión no afines a su régimen, y eso hizo que los nicaragüenses usaran las redes sociales como medio de comunicación. Diversos organismos no estatales se posicionaron a favor de los manifestantes y en contra del ejercicio de la censura.

Otro estamento que ha mostrado su oposición a Ortega es la iglesia católica, hasta ahora firme apoyo

del gobierno. La semana pasada se inició otro intento de reunión entre Ortega y los obispos, después de un inicial acercamiento que fue suspendido por los obispos ante la violencia desatada por Ortega contra una marcha pacífica convocada para homenajear a las víctimas de las manifestaciones del mes pasado.

Guatemala: El domingo 3 de junio el volcán de Fuego al sur del país, en la provincia de Chimaltenango explotó con una violenta erupción dejando una gran destrucción en el país centroamericano. En el momento de escribir estas líneas van ya contabilizados 109 muertos, una centena de heridos y más de doscientos desaparecidos.

La lava y las cenizas del volcán destruyeron la pequeña población de El Rodeo de Escuintla y pequeñas poblaciones cercanas, y se tuvo que desplazar a más de 3.000 afectados. Las cenizas y la lava del volcán se podían ver desde distintos puntos del país, el aeropuerto internacional de La Aurora fue cerrado y la turística ciudad de Antigua sufrió una lluvia de cenizas de 3 cm. de espesor.

La erupción del volcán ha puesto de manifiesto una vez más las diferencias entre clases sociales, la descoordinación entre los servicios de ayuda del gobierno, la falta de medios e incluso la indolencia hacia ciertos estamentos sociales. Asociaciones comunitarias y sin ánimo de lucro han criticado abiertamente en las redes sociales la dejadez del gobierno y la falta de avisos antes de la tragedia que habrían

evitado muchas víctimas.

A la hora de escribir estas líneas en volcán sigue activo y expulsando grandes cantidades de lava que hacen más difíciles las labores de rescate.

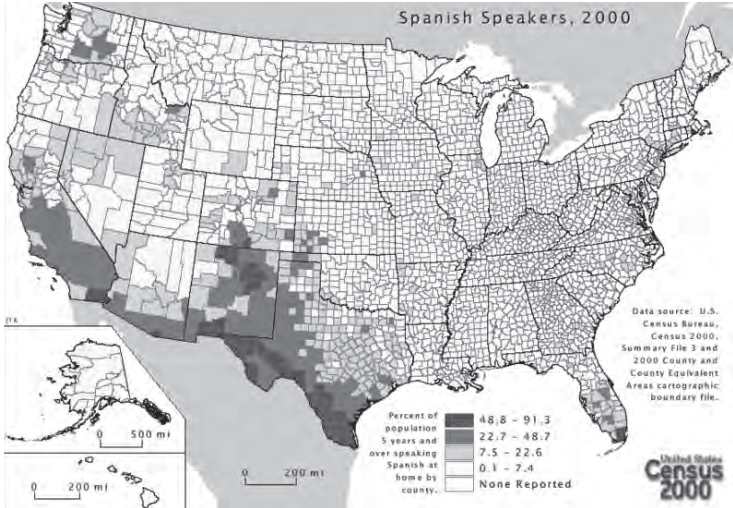
España: La última semana de mayo marcó un hito en la historia política de este país mediterráneo. Por primera vez un presidente del gobierno era cesado de su cargo como resultado de una moción de censura presentada por la pérdida de confianza del parlamento.

Todo empezó cuando el pasado 26 de julio el presidente del gobierno español, Mariano Rajoy, fue llamado a declarar por el llamado caso Gürtel, uno de los casos más graves de corrupción de la democracia en España y en el que se ha visto afectado el Partido Popular que preside el ex-presidente Rajoy.

La moción de censura fue lanzada por Pedro Sánchez, líder del PSOE (Partido Socialista español) y secundada por todos los partidos nacionalistas (excepto Coalición Canaria) y Unidos Podemos. Votaron en contra de la moción el PP, Ciudadanos, UPN y Foro Asturias. En total 180 votos a favor y 169 en contra de la moción.

El sábado 2 de junio, Pedro Sánchez prometió su cargo antes el rey de España, por primera vez sin Biblia ni crucifijo. Pedro Sánchez ha formado el primer gobierno de la democracia en España con mayoría de mujeres entre sus integrantes, once de un total de 17 ministerios.

La primera acción del nuevo presidente ha sido tender la mano para un intento de dialogo con los independentistas catalanes.



Mapa con datos de hablantes de español en Estados Unidos.

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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 THIRD SUNDAY

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Traditional Irish Music* in the Wheelhouse. 7 p.m.

EVERY MONDAY

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

2ND AND 4TH MONDAYS

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

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*.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Great Hall Art*



Bella's Bartok plays a mesmerizing mix of Eastern European, Americana, punk and pop music. Their live shows are theatrical, "a mix of *The Nightmare Before Christmas* and the *Rocky Horror Picture Show*," says frontman Asher Putnam. "We are the night and you are bound to boogie." Warm-up act Home Body ignores convention with their vivid blend of new wave, industrial and electronic music, performed from the gut with wild abandon and art-school-cool theatricality. At Hawks & Reed this Saturday night, 8:30 p.m.

Exhibit: Flora and Fauna Quilts. Leslie Cook and Anneke Corbett celebrate Nature's bounty through traditional and contemporary quilts. Through June.

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.

Greenfield Community Television Studios: *PRECARIOUS*, paintings by Alice Thomas. Poems, art, and Artist Statement about her research and methods concerning the precariousness of nuclear weapons. Reception and talk: Friday June 15 at 5:30 p.m. Through August 31.

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, Shel-

burne 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 with other gallery members. Through August.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Magical Shelburne Falls*. Photographs by Marty Yaffee. Evocative images of area landmarks. Reception Saturday,

FRIDAY, JUNE 15

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Butterfly Swing Band*. Fun, danceable, joyous music with a classic swing groove. 7 p.m. \$

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Skell Entertainment Presents Metal and Hardcore*. 7 p.m. \$

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Rumba Psicodelica*. 9 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Golddilocks and the Three Bears*. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 16

Gill-Montague Senior Center, Turners Falls: *The Making of Rock Paper Scissors*. Artist talk by Tim DeChristopher about his public sculpture commission honoring the history of Turners Falls. 5:30 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Massachusetts Walking Tour Concert*. Free concert featuring musicians who are paddling and hiking the length of the Connecticut River in Massachusetts. Mark Mandeville (guitar/banjo), Rianne Richards (ukulele/penny whistle), Mark Kilianski (guitar/banjo), Amy Alvey (fiddle), Vito Caccavelli (guitar) and Kristen Sykes (Ukulele). 6 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Bloomsday Festival*. The Literacy Project is hosting its 9th Annual Bloomsday event, pub-style, along with multitudes around the globe. 6:30 p.m. \$

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Dave Alvin & Jimmie Dale Gilmore*. Americana legends have released a new album. 7:30 p.m. \$

Wendell Free Library: *The Last Witch Hunter*. The last witch hunter is all that stands between humanity and the combined forces of the most horrifying witches in history. Part of the monthly series of Science Fiction/Fantasy and Horror/Monster movies 7:30 p.m.

Montague Book Mill, Montague Center: *Henning*. 8 p.m. \$

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Bassett & Lubelski, Scratch Ticket, Beige, Belltone Suicide, Tarp*. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Barrett Anderson Band*. Hypno Boogie Blues. 8:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Bella's Bartok CD Release with Homebody*. 8:30 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sunshine Brothers Inc and Jake Slater*. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 17

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center: *Steve Gerberich*, tinkerer extraordinaire and creator of current exhibition entitled "Best of 'Springs, Sprockets & Pulleys,'" will give a free hands-on guided tour of kinetic sculptures. 2 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Today Junior, The Tins, Big Sky*. 7 p.m. \$

THURSDAY, JUNE 21

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Junior Reid*. Legendary reggae artist. 8:30 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Silverthorne Theater presents *The Road to Mecca*. Award winning play set in the 1970s in South Africa. 7:30 p.m. \$ Repeats June 22, 23, 28, 29 and 30 at 7:30 p.m. and June 24 at 2 p.m.



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June 20 and 21: UMass-Amherst Sunwheel and Sky-Watching Events Mark the Summer Solstice

AMHERST – The public is invited to witness sunset and sunrise of the shortest night of the year among the standing stones of the UMass-Amherst Sunwheel on Wednesday, June 20 at 7:30 p.m. and Thursday, June 21 at 5 a.m.

The actual moment of the solstice will be 6:07 a.m. on June 21 when the sun’s position relative to the stars reaches its northern extreme. This marks the astronomical start of summer in the Northern Hemisphere and winter in the Southern Hemisphere.

On the dates closest to the moment of the solstice, nights are shortest and days are longest in the Northern Hemisphere, and the sun rises and sets at its most northerly spots along the horizon, marked by tall standing stones in the Sunwheel.

At the hour-long gatherings, UMass-Amherst astronomer Stephen Schneider will discuss the astronomical cause of the solstice. He will explain the seasonal positions of Earth, the sun and moon, and the design of the Sunwheel and other

calendar sites at Stonehenge and at Chankillo in Peru. He will also be available to answer other astronomical questions.

While the Sunwheel events mark the northernmost sunset and sunrise of the year, the sun’s northerly position changes so gradually around the solstice that it rises and sets at almost the same position for more than a week. This is the origin of the word *solstice*, which means “stationary sun.”

Sunwheel visitors who stop in on their own will be able to see the sun rising and setting over the summer solstice stones from roughly June 16 to June 26.

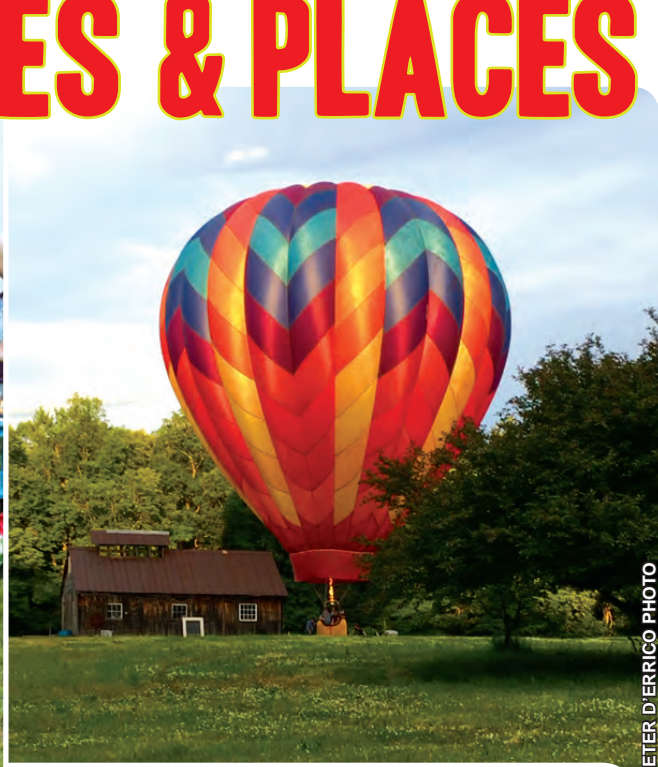
If it is clear for the evening session, telescopes will be set up to safely observe the surface of the sun before sunset, and to observe the moon, Venus and Jupiter after sunset. Visitors to the Sunwheel should be prepared for wet footing and mosquitoes.

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

Donations are welcome to help with the cost of additional site work and future events. The events will be canceled in the event of heavy rain. More information is available at www.umass.edu/sunwheel/pages/gatherings.html.



Top left: Priscilla Stevens Gagnard, Genevieve Gagnard, Eva Linnea Winter, Donna Horn, and Amanda Plaine, all dressed up for last week’s Wendell Misfit Prom, with the theme “Alice in Wendelland.”



PETER D'ERRICO PHOTO



CHARLSIE GORSKI PHOTO

Above: Donna Horn’s “Jabberwocky,” part of a large movable sculpture that the artist built and rode in the Wendell Misfit Prom.



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