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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 16 – NO. 31

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 24, 2018

THUNDER AND TAXATION

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL and MONTAGUE – A year after a non-binding referendum showed a majority of Montague residents would have favored keeping the high school's Indian nickname, voters in both district towns elected four candidates for the regional school committee who indicated the change would be final.

Monday's annual town election returned incumbents Valeria "Timmie" Smith and Michael Langknecht to the committee, where they will be joined by political newcomers Jennifer Lively and Haley Anderson. The vote was

geographically polarized, with a slate of four candidates endorsed by the "Save the TF Indians Mascot" group winning in Turners Falls' Hill neighborhood, but falling short districtwide.

Last week, a taskforce charged with selecting a replacement team name made their final recommendation, "the Turners Falls Thunder," after tallying student and community votes indicating a clear preference for that name over two other finalists. The new name was approved by the school committee on Friday.

Montague voters also agreed, by a narrow margin, to allow the town

to borrow in excess of its levy limit to fund construction for a new highway department facility on Turners Falls Road, which could cost up to \$11.15 million.

In the only other competitive race in either town, Chris Boutwell defended his seat on the Montague board of health against a challenge from Melanie Zamojski.

Eight Enter, Four Leave

While the turnout of 25% of Montague's registered voters did not match last year's 32% level, town clerk Deb Bourbeau described that figure as "great." "Usually, we get 8 to 10%," she said, in spring elections when no state or federal races are in play.

Bourbeau reported no voting irregularities, other than several instances of the town's vintage voting boxes jamming.

Gill town clerk Lynda Hodsdon Mayo described her town's 23% turnout as "exactly what we usually

see **THUNDER** page A6



JACKSON PHOTOS

Left to right: Jennifer Lively, Haley Anderson, Timmie Smith, and Mike Langknecht.

Despite Prior Misgivings, Selectboard Opts To Keep Police Chief Under Civil Service

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – The Montague selectboard has decided to hire a new police chief under the state civil service system, despite previously expressing concerns that the civil service process influenced the town's settlement agreement with former chief Charles "Chip" Dodge.

At its meeting on Wednesday, May 16, the board voted to direct town administrator Steve Ellis to "start the process to hire a new police chief under the existing civil service." This will mean hiring an

assessment center to evaluate potential candidates.

The motion did not state which civil service process was being utilized. At the board's April 30 meeting, Ellis had presented a memo to the board outlining two hiring scenarios under civil service: one restricted to candidates within the department, and the other involving a "lateral transfer" from another department. The two processes were portrayed as mutually exclusive.

Ellis told the *Reporter* that the "unequivocal" assumption behind the board's May 16 motion was that

the Montague police chief would be hired from within the department.

The decision to keep the police chief under civil service represents an apparent turnaround for board members. According to minutes of a February 12 executive session, town counsel Timothy Zessin had spoken of "uncertainties with regard to Civil Service and how long the process [if Dodge appealed a decision] could take."

Dodge, who resigned last February after an internal town report highly critical of his handling of a

see **CIVIL SERVICE** page A7

TFHS Sports: The Week In Review

By MATT ROBINSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – The Turners Falls High School softball team hit their late-season stride this week, winning five games in seven days.

Turners Falls seniors went on their class trip to Hershey, PA for part of the week, leaving holes in the lineups of every spring sport. The softball team alone lost three players, almost a third of their starting lineup. (There's a DH.) While the seniors were enjoying Chocolate Town, their younger teammates got their chance to step up, giving us a chance to see what the world will be like in 2019.



DAVID HOIT PHOTO

Thunder and lightning: Jade Tyler had a stellar game against St. Peter-Marian, striking out 10 and smashing two home runs.

Also this week, the Franklin County track team competed in the D2 Western Mass meet, and went to Canton for the State Vocational meet. The Turners girls' tennis team ended on a positive note, the boys' team swept up, and Baseball thundered in the cellar.

Softball

TFHS 13 – Athol 1 TFHS 8 – Mahar 0
TFHS 2 – Greenfield 1 TFHS 13 – Mohawk 2
TFHS 13 – Frontier 7 TFHS 5 – St. Peter-Marian 0
TFHS 26 – Mahar 0 TFHS 23 – Granby 0

After losing to Wachusett on May 8, the Turners Falls softball team reversed their fortunes by winning the next eight straight games, and outscoring their opponents 103 to 11. Their record now stands at 16-2.

On May 9 they hosted the Athol Red Raiders and defeated them 13-1. It took a little while for Blue to get started in this one, but they made up for it in the third. In that inning, Olivia Whittier and Taylor Murphy reached base, followed by RBIs from Aly Murphy, Hailey Bogusz, Abby Loynd, and Lindsay Whiteman.

A bunt and a couple of bad throws gave Red their only run of the game in the fourth. but Turners piled on three more off a Bogusz double and a triple by Cassidy Wozniak. In the sixth, Turners scored the necessary runs to end the game via the mercy rule.

Lexi Lacey, Sienna Dillensneider, Caitlin Reynolds, and T. Murphy all had RBIs in the final frame. Jade Tyler pitched the entire game. She allowed one hit, two walks, struck out eight, and gave up no earned runs.

On Thursday, May 10, the Green Wave of Greenfield came to town. Greenfield and Turners have a traditional rivalry in every sport, but in softball, they

see **TFHS SPORTS** page A5

NEWS ANALYSIS

Operating License Required



MEYER PHOTO

The Rock Dam, primary spawning and nursery site of the endangered shortnose sturgeon, on Mother's Day. The "bypass" stretch of the Connecticut River at Turners Falls is alternately starved of water and inundated according to power generation needs.

By KARL MEYER

NORTHFIELD – Is FirstLight Power Resources attempting an end run around the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing process for its Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage station on the Connecticut River?

FirstLight's parent owner, Canada's Public Sector Pension Investments, is now offering up use of the giant power re-generation and transfer machine in a bidding process that won't begin delivering electricity until 2023. The actual bidder is Deepwater Wind, in a partnership with British energy giant National Grid. One option included in their proposal is to relay clean, renewable wind power generated off Martha's Vineyard, 125 miles across New England to be stored for peak-price regeneration back into the grid at Northfield.

This offer is being floated despite the fact that NMPS won't have a new FERC license, requiring long-overdue river protections under federal and state environmental law, until at least mid-2019.

For 46 years Northfield Mountain

has lived off the Connecticut River, its operations subsidized at public expense by the host of deadened aquatic life it chokes from a four-state ecosystem. Massachusetts officials are in the midst of choosing among a handful of proposals for the future delivery of up to 1,600 megawatts of "clean, renewable" wind power.

But would an agreement including NMPS be legal and binding without a full vetting and understanding of those future license requirements for coming decades? Wouldn't it be subject to litigation by the state and federal agencies now working on studies and agreements for that license? Is there any connection to this proposal with the all-but-secret Valentine's Day visit by embattled EPA chief Scott Pruitt and FERC Commissioner Neil Chatterjee with NMPS officials?

There's great irony in this proposed "clean energy" marriage-of-convenience, given that NMPS virtually kills all life it encounters by sucking the Connecticut backward, aside, and uphill at the ponderous rate of 15,000 cubic feet per second.

see **LICENSE** page A5

Franklin County Technical School's "Busiest Student" Wins Top Honor

By JOE KWIECINSKI

TURNERS FALLS – Superintendent Richard Martin shakes his head in amazement as he reviews the four-year scholastic and vocational career of Kristin Slowinski of Colrain.

"She's a very special young lady," said the Franklin County Technical School's top administrator, of the

recipient of the Outstanding Vocational Technical Student (OVTS) Award. "Kristin is the busiest student we have in the building. We encounter these extraordinarily talented individuals now and then, and we're always amazed how they're able to accomplish so much.

"It's remarkable how Kristin balances academics both here and as a dual-enrolled student at Greenfield Community College. Also, she was fully involved in our Health and Technology Department, played field hockey and basketball, competed in track, while volunteering for the Adult Day Care Center, serving as class treasurer, and so much more."

How is the winner of the OVTS Award determined? Well, first you start off with 110 members of the senior class, who will graduate next Friday night, June 1. Franklin Tech's administrative team then culls that list to an elite roster of 10 students. Next, Superintendent Martin interviews each of those pupils before making his final decision.

"It was clear after the interviews," stated Rick, "that Kristin stood out

see **AWARD** page A3



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Graduating FCTS senior Kristin Slowinski poses with her Outstanding Vocational Technical Student award.

The Montague Reporter

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Ships In The Night

Now that it’s finally over, will it be possible to discuss what all the rancor and division over the Gill-Montague school committee is actually *about*?

Two years ago the committee agreed to consider the merits of an unpopular proposal, and in doing so set off a chain of events that would put it at the center of a frustrating and bitter local culture war.

What’s right and what’s popular, are two separate questions. And so, very early on in the “process” it became clear that the strategies of these elected administrators and the people they represented were operating at complete cross purposes.

Every time they spoke of education – of creating a context for the kind of exchange of ideas that can change minds – they were met with demonstrations of numbers, of volume. And so one side became more focused on transformation, and the other on appeals to primacy, majority, and authenticity.

And maybe this kind of conflict is baked into the foundations of schooling. The old-fashioned model in which a small number of trained specialists transmit knowledge to a large number of empty vessels may have been replaced by one in which the specialists *facilitate* and *create space for* and *encourage* students’ own innate and unique learning processes, but at the end of the day, there are still the educators on the one side and, on the other, the beneficiaries of their skills.

The system has descended into conflict because education is less and less able to guarantee success.

Surrendering one’s children to the authority of well-paid idea professionals is still in a practical sense mandated, but it no longer makes it likely they will themselves ascend into the ranks of well-paid idea professionals. Where do they get off acting like such authorities?

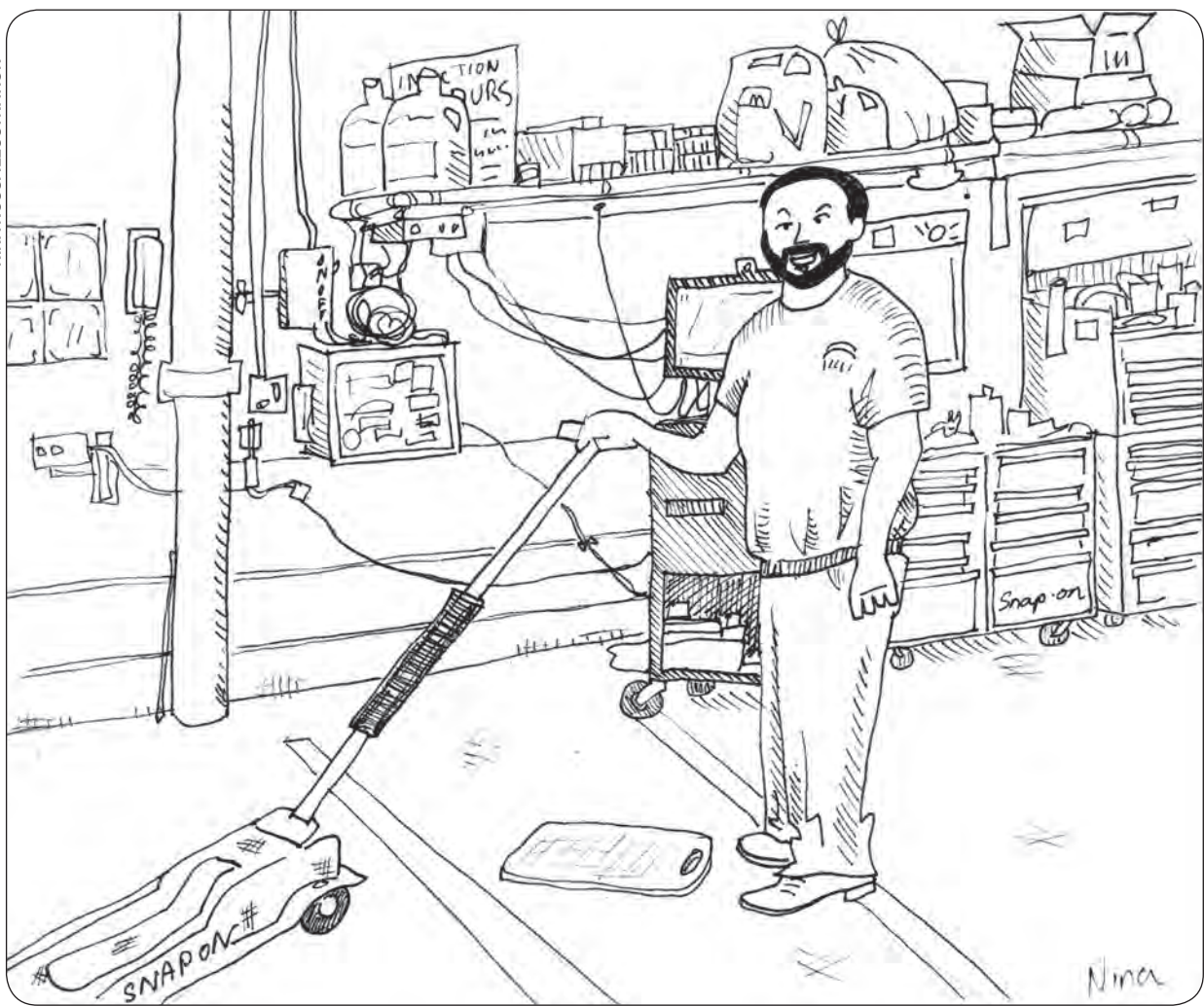
The mascot/nickname was such a triggering issue not because there is a wide rift between dedicated colonial and anti-colonial factions in Gill-Montague, but because it was, for most people, such a pure example of dominant ideas shifting over time completely independent of any shared material experience.

After all, crunchy-granola whites were *until very recently* playing Indian left and right in Franklin County, and when *they* finally got the memo that it was uncouth, they wasted no time involving themselves as educators on the matter.

So we had a group of people in town who acted elitist... and then, a second group of people who hated them enough to invest in a competing form of elitism. Most people stayed out of it.

The fact that less than half of last year’s Yes votes actually translated into votes for this year’s throw-the-bums-out slate probably isn’t a sign of mass education as much as people just wanting to be done with the whole embarrassing mess.

What’s worrisome is that, given how separated some of these groups have become from each other, there are likely to be more divisive, triggering issues down the road – and no plan on the table about how to start bringing people together.



Brandon Stafford strikes a pose in front of the inspection machine at Bob's Auto Body in Turners Falls, where he has worked for 19 years. The Savinski family has operated the business since 1955. At one time they sold Texaco gas at their current location on Avenue A.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Now Focus On Education

By CASSIE DAMKOEHLER

GILL-MONTAGUE – When I took a position on the School Committee, and during my campaign, I tried to remain neutral to the mascot/logo debate. I appreciated the nostalgia and pride that our town had in its heritage. My greatest concern and reason for running was to try to help heal our divided community. I wanted to figure out how we could appeal to new families and families here who sent their children elsewhere.

I was present in our schools. I knew firsthand what a great learning environment was being created by our principals. Principals who want to be here, and have committed to staying. Significant investments have been and are being made in our schools. This was and still is my motivation.

The mascot is not something I have wanted to discuss, but I worked hard to listen to all sides, remaining neutral and sympathetic.

A year later, I am still hearing the same complaints about the process. There are people still holding false hope that their beloved “Indian” mascot will remain. I am not sure those people will ever be happy with the process unless it ends in their favor.

A few months into my term, I had received enough emails from appreciative families and local tribal leaders to be confident that what was happening was necessary. Initially, I had a difficult time understanding why someone would find the “Indian” offensive, but this did not mean it should stay. If it offends one family in our district, it offends too many.

I feel it is important to support the previous vote, stay the course, and get to a point where we could focus our energy on bigger, more important issues, like enrollment and sustainability.

Since taking my seat, I have been yelled at while pumping gas in town. I have had people that were once considered friends completely ignore me in the grocery store. I have close friends that I cannot even have this conversation with.

I took a volunteer position that often equals 15 to 20 hours a week. It has cost me a lot in my everyday life. Even the most supportive partner would be upset watching their other half devote time, energy, and emotions to something they feel passionate about, only to return looking defeated and beat down. I have shed many tears and lost a good amount of sleep.

Being an active and social member in our village has always been important to me. I find myself steering clear of public events for the simple fact comments will be made. I worry about people treating my children differently because of my position. I have a child at every school, and I know there are staff that don’t feel we are doing a good enough job.

I am not telling you this so you will see me as a martyr, but more so to paint a picture of what this year has been like.

The new mascot/logo has been decided. We will now be the Power-town Thunder. I am appreciative of the task force that stepped up to organize this. These people spent time away from their families, and I’m sure caught a lot of slack for being part of this process.

I was happy to hear that 80% of our high school and middle school students voted. The 20% who did not included dual enrollment and absent students. Voting was optional, yet most of them cast a vote. It’s obvious to me that even they feel it is time to move on.

I worry about whether they felt comfortable telling their parents they voted. With the way I saw many adults act, would these children feel ashamed to tell their parents that they were actually excited?

This brings me to the point of this letter. Those people who immediately found offense in the new logo, and those who argue they will never support it and will continue to fight, I want you to ask yourself a few questions:

Did this mascot/logo take food out of your children’s mouths? Did you lose your job over this issue? How will your quality of life be changed because your child will wear a different logo on their jersey than you did decades ago? Ultimately, does this really affect your life?

This is what will affect your life: not having quality schools for our children.

Regionalization is right around our corner for our district, and every year it becomes harder to find sustainability. I don’t want to put my elementary school student on an hour-long bus ride to school. I don’t want my middle schooler to struggle to get into college because our district can’t provide courses that colleges want to see on applications. These are real life concerns for our district.

I encourage you to take your energy and focus it on something productive that will improve our schools. As a mother of three children in this district, I will always cast the vote that I think will be best for all of our children, and I will wear whatever logo/mascot is on their jersey.

In the end, it is the quality of education our children receive that is important, not what’s being chanted at a high school sports rally.

Cassie Damkoehler serves on the Gill-Montague regional school committee. She lives in Turners Falls, and is a parent of three district students.

Missing Mike Markol

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – Recently, one of my sources whispered to me that (Thomas) Mike Markol was ill, so I wasn’t surprised when athletic director Adam Graves announced it formally at the Green-field baseball game.

At the St. Peter-Marian softball game, I was told that Mike had succumbed.

I’ve known Mike for years, and the Markol family forever. I first met Mike when his son Brody was the catcher for the little league championship team. Mike was one of the coaches. It was my first assignment for the *Montague Reporter*, and I built up quite a camaraderie with the team as they played all over Massachusetts.

Years later, Mike reintroduced himself to me, and gave me the ultimate compliment. He planned to put all my football articles in a scrapbook and give it to Brody for Christmas.

After Brody graduated, Mike remained a visible fixture at Turners Falls sports events. He frequently shared his scouting reports with me, and was always open with his predictions.

You’ll be missed, Coach. Keep watching – and reading.

Matt Robinson is our regular Turners Falls High School sports correspondent.

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Compiled by DON CLEGG

The United Church of Bernardston’s 42nd Annual **Gas Engine Show and Flea Market** will be held on Memorial Day weekend, May 25 through May 27, at Pratt’s Field in Bernardston.

Gill Memorial Day services will be held Sunday, May 27, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Gill Church.

Following the service, folks will gather across the street at the Veterans’ monuments where a rose ceremony, flag raising, gun salute, and Taps will take place. All are welcome.

Gill veterans will receive a free

“Gill Veteran” baseball cap.

Montague Center Memorial Day ceremonies will also be held on Sunday, May 27, starting at 10 a.m. on the Montague Town Common.

Erving’s Memorial Day ceremonies will start with a wreath laying at Fire Station 1 in Erving Center at 10 a.m. on Monday, May 28. At 11 a.m. people will gather at the corner of Bridge Street and River Street, where a wreath will be floated in the Millers River.

The town’s parade will begin after the wreath is given to the river. The parade will proceed up Lester Street and Moore Street until

it reaches the Veterans’ Memorial monuments, where a Memorial Day ceremony will be held.

Turners Falls Memorial Day ceremonies will also be held on Monday, May 28, starting at 10 a.m. at the Veterans’ Memorial on Avenue A next to the Carnegie Library. There will be no parade this year.

Everyone knows someone who has a **cougar or mountain lion sighting story**. These beautiful cats once roamed free all across the Northeast, but supposedly have been gone from our area for decades. Why do so many people see them?

On Tuesday, May 29 at 6 p.m. at the Greenfield Public Library, Robert Tougias will talk about “The Quest for the Eastern Cougar,” and discuss the future of the large carnivore here in New England.

Dog licenses are now available at the Montague town clerk’s office. A license is \$5 for a neutered/spayed dog and \$10 for an unaltered dog. The clerk’s office requires proof of rabies vaccination and proof of spaying or neutering. **There is a late fee of \$20 after May 31.**

If you no longer have your dog, let the town clerk know by calling 863-3200 ext. 203. License renewals may be obtained through the town’s website, only if the rabies vaccination that was used for last year’s registration has not yet expired.

The **13th Annual Family Fish Day** is Saturday, June 2, held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event is held at three locations:

The Great Falls Discovery Center will host fly lure tying demonstrations and fly casting lessons, along with a few surprises. The GFDC will also provide a free shuttle bus to and from Barton Cove from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., leaving on the half hour or as needed.

Barton Cove campground will host free fishing, where all equipment is provided. Feel free to bring

your own.

And fish printing will be done at the Turners Falls Fishway from noon to 2 p.m.

No fishing license is required in Massachusetts for the entire week-end. This has been a Mass Wildlife effort to get folks out and enjoy a day of fishing. Other local supporters of events include Mass DCR, Western Mass Fly Fishermen, the Montague Public Libraries, the Turners Falls Fishway and the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center.

CISA’s **Senior FarmShare program** offers low-income seniors access to low-cost, fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables at the height of the growing season. The application period for participation is open until June 1.

Eligible seniors can apply to participate at one of thirteen distribution sites throughout the Valley, and participants will be chosen by lottery when the application period closes. The program is based on the community-supported agriculture (CSA) model: participants receive a “share” of produce, delivered weekly by a local farm for pick-up at a set time.

Participants pay a \$10 cost share and receive \$125 worth of produce. The program runs for 10 weeks beginning in July.

Eligible seniors must be over the age of 60 and have an income below \$24,280, or a total household income below \$32,920. There will be local distribution sites in Greenfield, Turners Falls, Athol, and Shelburne Falls. To find contact information for each site in order to request an application, visit buylocalfood.org or call Brian Snell at CISA, (413) 665-7100.

Senior FarmShare is part of CISA’s commitment to making local food available to everyone in our community. Now in its 14th year, Senior FarmShare will distribute over \$50,000 in vegetables to 420 seniors in 2018.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Help Put Medicare For All on the Ballot

By JUDY ATKINS

The members of the Single Payer Task Force of the Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution (FCCPR), and Western Mass Medicare for All, are collecting signatures to place a non-binding ballot question in front of voters in the November election. If successful, the question would appear on the ballot of six different representative districts in western Mass.

The question reads:

“Shall the Representative from this District be instructed to vote for legislation to create a single-payer system of universal health care that would provide all Massachusetts residents with comprehensive health care coverage including the freedom to choose doctors and other health care professionals, facilities, and services, and that would eliminate the role of insurance companies in health care by creating a publicly administered insurance trust fund?”

The issue of access to affordable health care coverage is making news across the country. Teachers are protesting and striking across the country because of low pay and high health coverage costs. They, among many others, have had no pay increases while their health insurance coverage costs have gone up. In addition, education budgets are strapped in order to pay for the increased cost of health insurance premiums and the state has not kept up with increasing aid to education.

It used to be that full-time employees were 100% covered by their employers.

Then gradually over time workers were asked to pay copayments for doctors’ visits, were restricted on what doctors they could use, and then made to pay 10%, 15 %, 25% and even 50% of their premiums, while they saw only small wage increases.

This is called *cost shifting*, and it is what employers, both private and public, are doing.

While the Affordable Care Act (ACA) made some improvements, especially for low-income workers and workers who had no coverage, the middle-income workers got little relief on their health insurance costs.

Health insurance costs keep increasing.

All in all, we have a healthcare system in this country that discourages people from going to the doctor in order to keep costs down. And this contributes to health and wealth inequality.

If we had a single-payer system, or Medicare for All, everybody is in and nobody is out.

A huge added benefit is the savings we would all see from a universal publicly funded system in which insurance company profits and overhead costs are eliminated.

FCCPR’s Single Payer Task Force has looked at several towns in Franklin County, as well as two school systems. Health insurance premiums are a big item for schools, towns, and employees in general.

Passing a Medicare for All bill in Massachusetts would cut out the cost of premiums, deductibles, and copays, and replace those costs with a 10% payroll tax, paid 7.5% by employers and 2.5% by employees. The cost savings would be huge, and would provide towns and schools savings to spend on improving education and town infrastructure.

Your friends and neighbors will be collecting signatures to put a non-binding ballot question on the November ballot in the First Franklin and Second Berkshire districts.

Please consider helping us win Medicare for All in Massachusetts by signing the petitions, and voting for the Single Payer Ballot Question in November.

Judy Atkins is a member of FCCPR’s Single Payer Task Force. For more information, visit fccpr.us/taskforces/single-payer-healthcare/.

AWARD from page A1

for this award. She’s mature beyond her years and much of her success comes from extremely hard work.”

Slowinski has a 3.9 grade-point average overall. Other factors in her selection were leadership qualities, community involvement, vocational aptitude, extracurricular activities, vocational-related work experience, work ethic, and school attendance, plus other accomplishments and contributions to school and society.

Martin himself is the embodiment of the work ethic and dedication that FCTS inspires. He combines the two skills so necessary to a productive career: mastery of the abilities needed to carry out the position’s requirements, and strong interpersonal dexterity.

“I enjoy the kids here at this school and look forward to interacting with them,” he said. “Whether it’s just a ‘fist-bump’ or a ‘high-five,’ it’s great to interact with our students in a positive way.”

Since 1976, Franklin County Tech’s overall mission is “to prepare students for success through technical and academic education.” Open to all in the region, the school accepts applications from March 1 through September 30.

Jocelyn Croft, who serves as vocational curriculum director, is proud of FCTS’ practical emphasis. “We have 13 technical programs that are taught by industry professionals who

are passionate about their trades. Kristin Slowinski brought her own motivation and was also an excellent fit in our Health and Technology program. She did well in all she attempted,” Croft said.

The school’s academic portion consists of theory and actual practice along with testing. In addition, Health and Technology provides hospital beds, gurneys, medical equipment, blood pressure and heart monitors, stethoscopes, simulator dummies and other materials – each to enable students to practice their specific skills.

And don’t forget the kitchen, model hospital room, computer lab, wheelchairs, and scales.

“We have incredibly successful programs,” said Croft. “Many of our graduates go on to college, some in medically related fields.”

Health and Technology instructor Gretchen Werle (pronounced *WHIRL-ee*) has watched Kristin Slowinski blossom as a student and as a person. “I’ve known Kristen since she was in the ninth grade. She’s upbeat and enthusiastic,” said Werle. “Right from the start, she involved herself in lots of school activities, including SkillsUSA.”

SkillsUSA is a national group for vocational students that encourages participation in vocational excellence. The organization serves more than 350,000 students across the country every year, teaching

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Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

Week ending May 11:

Grade 6

Jacob Reich

Grade 7

Matai Barre

Ethan Drescher

Tommy Hall

Ashley LeBlanc

Grade 8

Hannah Warnock

workplace and personal skills that complement abilities developed in the technical classroom.

Instructor Werle notes that Kristin is a popular person. “She’s friendly, just a down-to-earth human being,” said her teacher.

As a junior, Slowinski was admitted into Baystate Franklin’s Student Ambassador program. Although she had planned to be a physical therapist, the hospital’s hands-on internship and mini-medical school encouraged Kristin to think about becoming a doctor. She will enter UMass-Dartmouth this coming fall in the honors program, majoring in biology.

“I was fascinated by my mentor at Baystate Franklin, Dr. Patel, a gastroenterologist,” said Kristin. “He explained complex issues in a very understandable way. I’m really excited about the future and would like to stay with the path I’m on, but will base any decisions on my experiences.”

Slowinski, ranked number one in her graduating class, is the daughter of James and Nicole Slowinski of Colrain. Kristin’s brother, Robert, was the recipient of the OVTS Award in 2013. Robert now works at Greenfield Community College.

The honor is sponsored each year by the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators, a statewide organization.



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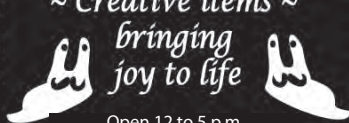
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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Rising Costs of Schools, Highways Edge Wendell Toward Legal Tax Limit

By JOSH HEINEMANN

When the Wendell selectboard met on May 16, the annual town meeting warrant was still in draft form, with some expenses unsettled. Board members talked with finance committee members Al McIntire and Doug Tanner, spending more time with them than with any other issue of the evening.

The town meeting warrant must be signed and posted by this Friday, May 25, and with no scheduled meeting before that, board members will have to come to the office individually to sign.

Tanner's message was that he would like to give the good news and the bad news, but there is no good news. The projected tax rate will be \$23.49 per thousand dollars in valuation, \$1.51 below the levy limit.

Wendell's share of the Swift River School cost is up \$80,000, driven mostly by the number of students Wendell sends to the school compared to New Salem, calculated on a five-year rolling average. Wendell's Mahar cost is up \$40,000, and its Franklin County Technical School assessment is up due to increased enrollment.

One Wendell student wants to attend Smith Vocational School for a program not available at FCTS. His tuition and transportation is another town expense. Tanner said the school committees have worked diligently to contain costs.

The highway department is looking to replace the payloader next year, and is considering a new tractor, and a hot box, the tool used for mixing asphalt. Wendell had a trading agreement with the Orange highway department through which Wendell used the hot box from Orange and Orange used Wendell's roller, but Orange does not want to continue that arrangement. Town crews generally prefer not to lend equipment to other towns' crews because it is not always returned in the same condition.

Tanner suggested a large meeting with the highway commission, the selectboard, and the finance committee. He said the road crew has been doing a great job with good equipment, but they may need to do a great job with not-so-nice equipment.

He listed town building maintenance expenses, including a newly dedicated internet connection at the fire station, \$1,000 for WiredWest membership, and the regular annual town building maintenance account.

Paint is chipping off the bottom two feet of the entire perimeter of the office building, due to rainwater splashing up when it hits the pavement and even the grass.

The building design avoided gutters, and instead has a perimeter drain in a gravel bed below the ground's surface. That system sends water through a pipe under the parking lot and out towards the community garden, and it has worked well preventing water from collecting around the building. It has not prevented the splashing. Tanner suggested a decorated metal perimeter up a foot or two, like wainscoting.

The selectboard approved an 1.4% COLA raise for town employees.

Growing Pains

Although not on the agenda, the citizen who had previously spoken with the selectboard about a legal craft marijuana growing facility came in because he has run into a roadblock in state-mandated requirements. He needs a host community agreement, with a plan for any impact the growing has on the host community. There is no boilerplate form for him to use or modify, and he called this a disproportionately large expense.

Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser suggested that he look for someone further along in the process for a model.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard asked if he had talked with anyone, to which he responded that the answers were vague, useless. She asked him to come to the next meeting in two weeks, and to call the town coordinator to get a scheduled time.

**Fin com member
Doug Tanner
said the school
committees have
worked diligently to
contain costs.**

Other Business

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich mentioned a state program, adopted by 310 of the 351 towns in Massachusetts, through which a senior citizen whose annual income is less than \$20,000 may defer a part of his property taxes. Interest is accrued at 8% annually, until it is paid off, either by the senior in better circumstances, or by his heirs. Town meeting may change the interest rate and the cutoff income level.

Board members agreed that plan information came too close to the annual town meeting to add to the fin com's workload.

The annual town election left one school committee position vacant, with several write-in candidates getting one vote each. Active school committee members have a possible candidate in mind for a one-year appointment, but that name did not come before this meeting.

The fee schedule for electrical inspections allows \$10 for the town, with the electrical inspector keeping the rest. This schedule was created to simplify accounting and it was established with the scale of home inspection expenses in mind.

The large solar arrays, one being built and one still in planning, call for an inspection fee of over \$5,000, and board members feel that the town's share should reflect the higher fee. A discussion of that awaits a meeting with the fin com and the inspector.

The farmers market begins officially June 2, and board members allowed that the sign may stay on the north common for the market's duration.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving Sets Action Steps For Open Space

By KATIE NOLAN

Megan Rhodes, transportation and land use planner for the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, presented the town of Erving's draft Open Space and Recreation Plan to the selectboard Monday night.

The plan describes Erving's natural resources and recreational opportunities, and lists goals for the town.

According to Rhodes, during the public hearings and in surveys, residents listed Laurel Lake, Northfield Mountain Environmental Center, Erving Public Library, the Millers River, and Riverfront Park as their favorite recreational locations. She said that respondents suggested a bike path and a dog park as ideas for future facilities.

The goals include raising awareness of the town's recreational resources, increasing parking at popular recreation sites, improving access to recreational facilities, supporting the recreation commission, and identifying, promoting and protecting historical resources. The seven-year plan includes practical steps to work toward those goals.

"Each action has a person, committee or board responsible," said selectboard chair Scott Bastarache, the board's representative on the open space committee.

The current open space and recreation plan, written in 2007, expired in 2014. The selectboard appointed a committee in April 2017 to write the new plan. According to Rhodes, once the draft plan is completed, it will be submitted to the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs for review. Once the state accepts the plan, the town will be eligible for recreation and open space grant funding.

The draft plan is available on the town's website, and Rhodes said public comments are welcome.

Chicken Barbeque

The selectboard authorized the recreation commission to have alcohol served at a chicken barbeque at Riverfront Park on August 18. Donna Christenson and Laura DiLuzio of Erving Station, a gourmet candy and gift store on Main Street, are organizing the event and Lefty's Brewing Company of Greenfield will be serving the beer.

"We want it to be a town barbeque," Christenson said. "We want people to volunteer – we want community." She said that profits will go to the recreation commission.

Ford F550 Bid

At their previous meeting on May 14, the board had accepted a bid from MHQ Municipal Vehicles for a Ford F550 chassis and cab as the lowest of the four bids received by the town, although MHQ's bid did not include the specified chrome grille, which MHQ and one other vendor stated was not available for the F550.

Administrative coordinator Bryan Smith consulted with town counsel after that meeting and was told that the town should reject the bids from MHQ and the other bidder that did not include the chrome grille,

and accept the lower bid of the two vendors who did agree to supply it.

Therefore, on Monday night, the board decided to award the bid to Place Motors of Webster, MA, the lower of the two grille-including bidders.

Special Town Meeting

The board considered four articles for a special town meeting, tentatively scheduled for June 25. The proposed articles include funding the capital improvements stabilization fund, funding the codification of town bylaws, transferring money to the general stabilization fund, and instituting a 3% tax on retail marijuana sales.

Library director Barbara Friedman and library trustees Rupert Roy-Clark, Mackensy Bailey, and Daniel Hammock discussed including funding for extra staffing at the library on the warrant. The trustees presented a plan for additional library staffing during the construction of the new library and for the transition to the new library building.

Bastarache said that it wouldn't be appropriate to add staffing funding at this meeting, because the library item was not part of the official agenda.

The selectboard agreed to review the request and consider it as an agenda item at their June 4 meeting. The trustees present agreed to provide a detailed plan by June 1, allowing the board to review the information before June 4.

Flags on Utility Poles

Smith told the selectboard that the utility poles in Erving are owned jointly by Verizon and National Grid. Both utilities require the town to obtain a permit before placing American flags on their poles.

According to Smith, Verizon would grant the permit as long as they feel the flags are not a hazard. National Grid, however, was requiring \$2 million worth of extra insurance.

Smith told the board that town counsel Donna MacNicol had concerns about buying the extra insurance, because the liability of towns is capped at \$200,000 by state law, and because obtaining the extra insurance could possibly lead to litigation. Smith reported that the highway department has put flags up on the light poles owned by the town, and that residents who have spoken to him have been pleased.

The board decided to put additional flags up only on town-owned fixtures.

Other Business

The board voted to increase wastewater operator Peter Walsh's hourly rate by \$1.50 per hour to \$19.58 as of May 14. POTW#1's chief operator Peter Sanders said that when Walsh was hired, he was promised a raise if he obtained a Grade 4 operator's license within a year.

Sanders said that Walsh "took the initiative" and obtained a Grade 5 license on May 10, just eight months after being hired. Sanders said that the town is well served now, with three Grade 5 operators on staff.

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TFHS SPORTS from page A1

were vying for the top rung of the Franklin Conference ladder. Greenfield had won the season’s first matchup, a 1-0 pitchers’ duel which gave Turners a bad taste in their mouths, and a thirst for revenge.

Blue shirts and caps lined the home side, while Green coats stretched beyond the right field fence. MassLive and other newspapers were there, and the game was broadcast live on Bear Country. Spectators hung on every pitch.

Jade Tyler struck out the side in the first inning, and judging from the Blue Ladies’ first at-bat, I thought it would be a blowout. Turners hit three huge bombs to the fence: T. Murphy’s was caught at the fence, but A. Murphy hit one over for a 2-run homer, and Whittier clocked a high fly, snagged at the warning track.

But that was all the offense that Turners would generate. They took their 2-0 lead into the sixth inning when, with two down, Greenfield’s third batter reached on an error, advanced on a passed ball, and scored on a base hit. Tyler retired the side on a swinging K, but the damage was done, and Green was within a run. Peyton Emery came in as relief in the seventh. She let up one hit, but nailed the save shut.

Then on May 14 the Blue Ladies went to South Deerfield to take on the upstart Frontier Red Hawks. The Hawks had nosed their way back onto MassLive’s Top 20, and came out of the gates swinging, ready to prove they could play with the big girls.

So how does a team go from a 2-1 pitcher’s duel to a 13-7 football score? Errors and walks, and the long ball. In the top of the first, Wozniak walked and T. Murphy cracked one over the fence for a 2-run lead, but it wouldn’t last long. Tyler let up three doubles and a homer in the bottom of the first, putting Red ahead 3-2.

In the second, T. Murphy parked another one over the fence, and Turners added three more runs before Frontier was able to get the last out. Turners was up 6-2, but Frontier didn’t just go away. A 2-run homer put the score at 6-5.

In the third, A. Murphy came to the plate with the bases loaded, and drew a walk for the free RBI. Whittier, Bogusz, Emery, and Abby Loynd batted runners in, and Turners took an 11-5 lead. Errors gave Frontier a run in the sixth, but Turners added two more in the seventh off an A. Murphy double and a sacrifice.

Red got one last run in the last inning for a 13-7 final score.

Last Wednesday, May 16, they went to Orange and shut out the Mahar Senators 26-0. Turners scored 8 runs out of the gate, and led by 20 after four innings. Blue amassed an amazing 20 hits in the five-inning game, and more importantly, committed no errors.

The next day, they played host to the visiting Senators. This game was much closer, but pitcher Emery was on her game, as she held the Politicians to just 2 hits in seven innings.

In the bottom of the first, Whittier clocked a 1-out double and was batted in by A. Murphy. Emery got the

second out but advanced the runner to third base, and a Bogusz base hit knocked the second run home.

Turners scored their third run in the second inning, when Lacey hit a standup double and scored on an error. Another error in the third helped Loynd reached base; she advanced on a couple of wild pitches and scored on a Sienna Dillensneider RBI.

In the top of the fourth, after Emery struck out her second straight batter, the home plate ump took off his mask, turned around and said to no one in particular, “I’ve never seen so many changeups!”

Turners quietly scored three more times in the bottom of that inning to make it a 7-0 runaway. Wozniak led off with a walk, and Whittier doubled her home. Emery batted in Whittier, and Bogusz next hit the fence, sending courtesy runner Katherine Garcia home. Turners scored a final run in the sixth and finished with a 8-0 victory.

Then on May 18, the senior-less softball team played a home game against the Mohawk Warriors. It was an interesting lineup for Gary Mullins’ underclassmen. Aly Murphy was moved to first, while Mercedes Morales took the catching duties. Mullins had to shuffle around his other players to compensate for the loss of Loynd, Dillensneider, and Emery.

Passed balls, a RBI sac by Jade Tyler, and a Whittier double were all the team would need as they led 4-0 after 3. Turners won the game with the long ball, but the highlight in this game was their fielding. Terrific catches by Eliza Johnson and Lexi Lacey limited the Warriors scoring.

On Sunday, the skies cleared enough in Montague for Blue to take on Saint Peter-Marian. SPM were ranked #5 in last year’s D1 Central playoffs, and in 2015 they were the D1 state champions. Declining enrollment has decreased their potency, but they’re still a terrific team, especially defensively.

In fact, both teams played crisp defenses, and pickoffs by both teams kept the score low. But offensively, Turners Falls cleaned up. The team that St. Peter played on Sunday is next year’s team, but the underclasswomen were up to the task.

Freshman Jade Tyler retired the side in order in the first inning. Turners almost followed suit: a walk, a high fly out, and a fielder’s choice gave Blue 2 outs with one on.

Tyler then came up and broke the double goose egg with a 2-run homer. Whittier followed with a hard single, and Bogusz got her home with a double. But St. Peter ended the rally, and the inning, with a pickoff. Both teams came up empty in the second, and in the third, Tyler hit a second 2-run homerun to put Turners up 5-0.

According to baseball lore, never tell a pitcher that she has a no-hitter during a game – it’s bad juju. With two gone in fourth, Tyler’s no-hitter was spoiled with a blooper just over the infielders’ heads.

Throughout the game, Coach Mullins played chess. Standing near the dugout, he would raise his hands, and as he pointed, waved and wigled his fingers, his players would

shift in the field. And with the pitcher, he was spot on, telling Jade when to throw the funny one, the hard one or simply when to put a wiggle in it.

On Monday, with their seniors back on the bus, the team went to Granby and shut out the winless Rams, 23-0. This was another quick one for Blue, as they cracked 16 hits in five innings, and were back in time to cheer on the baseball team.

Baseball

South Hadley 9 – TFHS 4

Frontier 9 – TFHS 2

TFHS 5 – Hopkins 1

TFHS 7 – Franklin Tech 6

At the beginning of the 2018 season, the Turners Falls Baseball team won two of their first four games. It would be a month to get their third win, and a day to get their fourth.

Last Wednesday the team traveled to South Hadley to take on the Tigers. Turners scored two runs in the sixth and two more in the seventh, but that wasn’t enough to erase Hadley’s 9-0 lead.

On Thursday, they went to South Deerfield to play the 13–1 Frontier Red Hawks. Turners scored in the first inning and then took a 2-0 lead in the second, only to see it evaporate into a 2-2 tie. Then they had their one bad inning – as they put it – giving up 5 runs in the fourth for a 7-2 deficit. Frontier got two more insurance runs in the fifth to win the game 9-2.

Then on senior night, Monday May 21, the league-leading Hopkins Golden Hawks came to town.

Hopkins was not expecting a competitive game. They’re leading the Hampshire West Conference, vying for the top seed in the D4 West playoffs. Coming into the game they sported a record of 11–2, while Turners was 2–11 and winless in the conference. Two weeks ago, they had beaten Powertown by 20 runs.

After warmups, the Gold coach warned his team, “23 to 3 does not mean we’ll win 23-3 again.” Nevertheless, he rested his ace. I met Jon Morrison’s father before the game. He told me that Jon is committed to pitch at URI next year, but for tonight, he was relegated to right field.

Hopkins also rested their number 2 pitcher. After all, they would need those aces against Frontier and other tough schools to finish the season with the best record possible.

Senior Hayden Patenaude got his picture taken, accepted his flowers and senior night presents, and went to the mound to warm up. In the first, he let up one hit, but a crisp pickoff ended Hopkins’ hopes for a rally. Hayden then escaped the second inning with no damage done.

In the second, Blue put 4 runs on the board. Ryan Campbell hit a 1-out base hit, Jakob Burnett reached base, and Patenaude loaded them. Jaden Whiting batted in Campbell, and Jake Dodge drew a RBI walk. A passed ball scored a third run, and Kyle Dodge hit a sac fly for a fourth.

Turners never had their “bad inning” in this game. Patenaude and the Blue 9 kept the Academy scoreless. An insurance run came in the fifth when Burnett hit a bases-loaded RBI, but a throw to home limited the

LICENSE from page A1

Think 15,000 milk crates each second for hours at a time. Everything from tiny fish eggs to adult resident and migratory fish get sent on a two mile-long Northfield Mountain sleigh ride, twice through the turbines. The accepted term for everything drawn into that suction cone is “functionally extirpated.” Dead.

In 2010, Northfield sat stilled and broken for over half a year – sanctioned by the EPA for gross violation of the Clean Water Act and its FERC operating license. The region’s electric grid held together just fine, while American shad passage success skyrocketed at Turners Falls dam toward Vermont and New Hampshire.

That migration run, profoundly impacted by NMPS operations, soared to 700 percent above the decade’s yearly averages.

Northfield’s extreme environmental downsides should render it an ineligible option for long-term wind power storage at this time. A half decade from now, new distributed electricity generation and state-of-the-art micro-grid storage options will be standard configurations for combating the security risks of bulk grid power storage and climate disruption in energy delivery. Unlike pumped storage, these options will feature the instantaneous, millisecond reaction and response times necessary to balance computer-age power glitches.

Northfield, a one-trick pony, is a bulk system designed long ago to profit from a buy-low/sell-high scheme by running off the cheap, overproduced megawatts cranked out by the now-closed Vermont Yankee nuclear plant.

In 2016, in the midst of relicensing, Canada’s PSP Investments became NMPS’s third venture capital purchaser in just over a decade. Today it runs on fossil fuel-produced electricity as it sucks massive gulps of the Connecticut into its 5-billion-gallon reservoir.

A hike to that reservoir will illustrate what the stilled-water sound of a silent spring is.

Little was known about Northfield’s deadly future when its con-

struction began in 1967, in tandem with Vermont’s only nuclear plant. Despite that black hole, this plant that can literally suck the Connecticut into reverse for a mile downstream under low flow conditions began operating just 10 miles from the Vermont/New Hampshire border in 1972.

The Federal Power Commission granted it what became a license to kill at public expense – without a basic knowledge of its crippling impacts on shad and blueback herring under the 1965 Anadromous Fish Conservation Act, or its role in imperiling the spawning success of the federally-endangered Connecticut River shortnose sturgeon under the Endangered Species Act.

When demand and prices are high, NMPS sends its deadened river water back downhill through the turbines again, cranking out a few hours of peak-priced, second-hand electricity in a final juicing of all it’s inhaled. That net-energy-loss process is wholly subsidized by mining the life from critical reaches of a four-state ecosystem. Once its reservoir is emptied, NMPS itself is literally dead in the water, and must import new, virgin electricity to begin the process again.

Northfield is an energy consumer, and will never produce a single watt of its own power. The more often it runs the more river life it will kill into the future.

FirstLight/PSP Investments would do well to understand their giant electric appliance cannot be relicensed without stakeholders – from federal and state fisheries agencies to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission – ensuring a new license adheres to all federal and state environmental laws of the United States. Without a signed license, Bay State officials should leave this proposal on the table.

There are other fish in the sea.

Karl Meyer has been a stakeholder and member of the Fish and Aquatics Study Team in the current FERC relicensing process for the Northfield Mountain and Turners Falls projects since 2012. He is a member of the Society of Environmental Journalists.



damage to one run.

Hayden was pitching a shutout going into the seventh inning, but Hopkins refused to go away. A walk, a couple of base hits, and an error gave the Hoppers a run, two runners in scoring position, and new life. Then with an out in the pocket, K. Dodge came in to pitch.

By this time, the softball team was back from Granby, their blue shirts dotting the Turners sidelines. More than that, it was the noise they brought. They screamed and cheered, and when Turners got the second out, they yelled “two” in unison.

And when Dodge got the last batter to swing on a full-count pitch, the girls, and the rest of the home crowd, went crazy. As the teams shook hands, the loud speaker blasted AC/DC’s “Thunderstruck.”

One day later, Powertown took

on crosstown rivals Franklin Tech. Tech had trounced Turners 8-3 in their first meeting and came into the game with a record of 11–6, first in the Tri-county South. But Turners was coming off a pretty good win and they were eager to even the series against Tech.

The game was not pretty. Each team committed six errors, but K. Dodge was fresh enough to pitch the entire game. He finished with 6 strikeouts, one base on balls, let up 6 runs on 7 hits, and came away with the all-important win. J. Dodge had the hot bat for Turners, going 3 for 5 at the plate and scoring three runs.

The 2-and-2 week leaves Turners a 4–12 record, with one game remaining in the season.

Next week: The regular season winds down.



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THUNDER from page A1

have for our annual town elections.” All told, 1,724 ballots were cast across the regional school district.

The day’s clearest winner was Jennifer Lively, a third-generation alumnus of Turners Falls High School, who racked up 1,053 votes in a four-way race for a three-year Montague seat on the school committee. Lively led in that race in Gill and in five of Montague’s six voting precincts.

“I’m incredibly thankful for the support I received,” Lively said. “I have deep roots in the community, and I worked really hard to connect with the voters.”

Haley Anderson, a Patch resident and a current district parent, secured the second three-year seat with 834 votes. “I want to thank those who supported me,” Anderson said after the election, “and for those who didn’t support me, I’m working for them nevertheless, and I want them to know that. We all want the schools to be strong.”

Christopher Pinardi, an outspoken opponent of the team name change who stormed out of a January school committee meeting after informing the seated members that “four of [them] would be out on [their] asses” after the election, fell short of the mark with 679 votes, as did Heather Poirier, who garnered 590.

Michael Langknecht, who had lost his seat last year only to be selected by the committee to fill one vacated early by Marje Levenson, was successfully elected to remain in it for the final year of the term. He defeated another longtime member, Joyce Phillips, 919 to 698.

“I want everyone who had a different vote to understand that we represent you, and we’re still interested to hear your concerns and interests,” Langknecht said of his victory.

For the Gill seat, Timmie Smith earned 917 votes to Robert Whittier’s 614. “I’m honored to be seated again,” she said.

Polarization

The conciliatory tone struck Tuesday by the race’s winners was not shared by all who had joined it. “The establishment has won and will continue to support the current direction our district is headed,” Pinardi wrote on his campaign Facebook page after the results were announced. “They alone will be responsible for the outcome.”

“They played dirty, spread lies and dragged our names through the

mud even though they didn’t know anything about us,” Poirier wrote on hers. “And they won – and they will now be running our district.”

And Phillips accused the committee of “hypocrisy and double standards” for recognizing Monday’s election while not honoring last year’s non-binding referendum on the Indian logo. “My heart truly breaks for this District,” she wrote.

Monday’s precinct-by-precinct results portray Montague as a town polarized geographically overschool district governance. The town is divided evenly by population into six voting precincts. Voter turnout was highest in Precincts 1, Montague Center, and 3, the eastern section of Turners Falls’ Hill neighborhood. Those two precincts leaned toward opposite slates of candidates.

If the votes from his own home Precinct 1 were excluded from the district totals, Pinardi would have edged out Anderson for a seat on the committee. Excluding Precincts 1 and 5, downtown Turners Falls, would have allowed Phillips to join him, and subtracting Gill votes would have placed Whittier on the committee.

And if the school district were reduced to Montague Precincts 2, 3, and 4, the entire outcome would have been flipped on its head, with Pinardi, Poirier, Whittier, and Phillips in the lead.

Overall, Montague’s precincts appear to have voted for candidates along a spectrum, 3-4-2-6-5-1, identical to the proportions of “Yes” votes cast in last year’s referendum in support of the Indians nickname. *(See chart on this page.)*

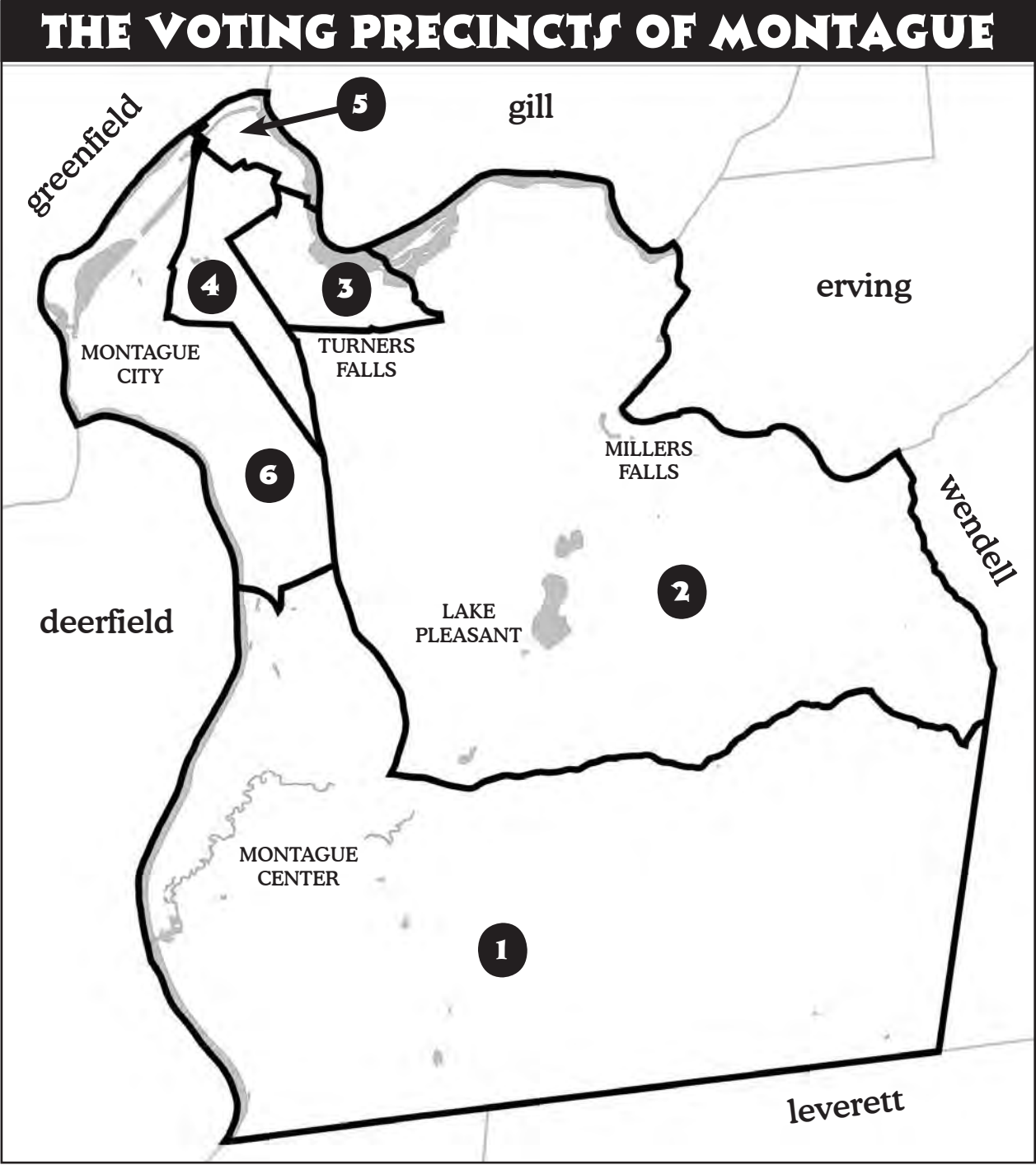
Welcome to the Thunderdome

The 2017-2018 school committee presided over a year in limbo, with two major issues hanging over the district since the previous spring.

The first was the matter of \$936,000 in Medicaid reimbursements found to have been erroneously granted by the state over the course of a decade. Last month the state has agreed that this can be repaid, with no interest and no fees, over the course of 20 years, at \$47,000 a year.

The other was the high school nickname and logo, abolished without replacement in February 2017. Last week, a taskforce of community volunteers tallied up the votes from among three finalists, the Chargers, the Raptors, and the Thunder.

Votes were received by email and online, in ballot boxes left at senior



centers and libraries, and from all district classrooms grades 5 through 12. 439 students, including 80% of those at the middle and high school, voted, as did 545 other community members, a figure reached last week after the taskforce spent time culling 51 duplicate, obscene, or otherwise suspicious names from the list of online voters.

Thunder won overall, with 48% approval from students and 51% from non-students. Raptors came in a distant second.

After the votes were counted, the taskforce discussed the town’s broader political landscape for the first time. Three members expressed worry that the voting and recommendation process was rushed in order to finish the process before the school committee election.

Mike Mackin complained that the criteria set by the committee had limited the taskforce’s options. “All

of a sudden they started trimming down what we could have. ‘Tribe’ was a great medium – they kicked that right out,” he said.

“We’re forwarding this to the school committee, but I feel like we’re doing so under duress,” said Alana Martineau. “I don’t dispute that Thunder is the winner,” she added.

“I’m not happy with the rushing,” Chad Cadran said. “Because of all this, we might end up with four people that might not be as qualified to run the goddamn school systems for our children, because we rushed this.”

“We’ve been doing this for five months,” Thomi Hall argued. “If we have people getting on the school committee who are unqualified, shame on them.”

“I think people are going to vote what they’re going to vote, whether or not we hand this over or we don’t,” said Elyssa Serrilli. “I think people have already made their decision.”

The taskforce voted to recommend it, with five votes in favor and three abstentions, and then unanimously voted to disband.

Last Friday, a special meeting of the school committee was held to officially ratify the decision. “Thunder” was approved 7-0, with Reipold and Hubert absent. The next step in the process will be to select a logo design.

Reorganization

The committee convened Tuesday night for a short reorganization meeting. All members attended except Shawn Hubert, absent for his fifth consecutive meeting. “Anybody hear from him?” Langknecht asked during roll call, but no one said they had.

April Reipold nominated Jane Oakes as chair, and Heather Katsoulis seconded her motion. No other nominations were made, and Oakes was elected by an 8-0 vote.

“I like to see the position of chair as a facilitator, basically, whose job

it is to help lead the school committee as a group through the work that we need to do,” Oakes said. “I think we have a strong committee, and we all do our part. I think together we’ll do a great job.”

Langknecht nominated Katsoulis as vice chair, and Smith nominated Cassie Damkoehler. The nominees praised each other, and in fact voted for each other, though Katsoulis won the position by a 5-3 margin.

The committee then named Reipold as secretary, and appointed her, Katsoulis, and Damkoehler as the warrant subcommittee, with Oakes as a backup member. Reipold also joined Damkoehler on the Unit D (custodial staff) bargaining subcommittee, filling a position vacated by Lesley Cogswell, who did not seek reelection this year.

The committee’s next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 29.

Other Town Votes

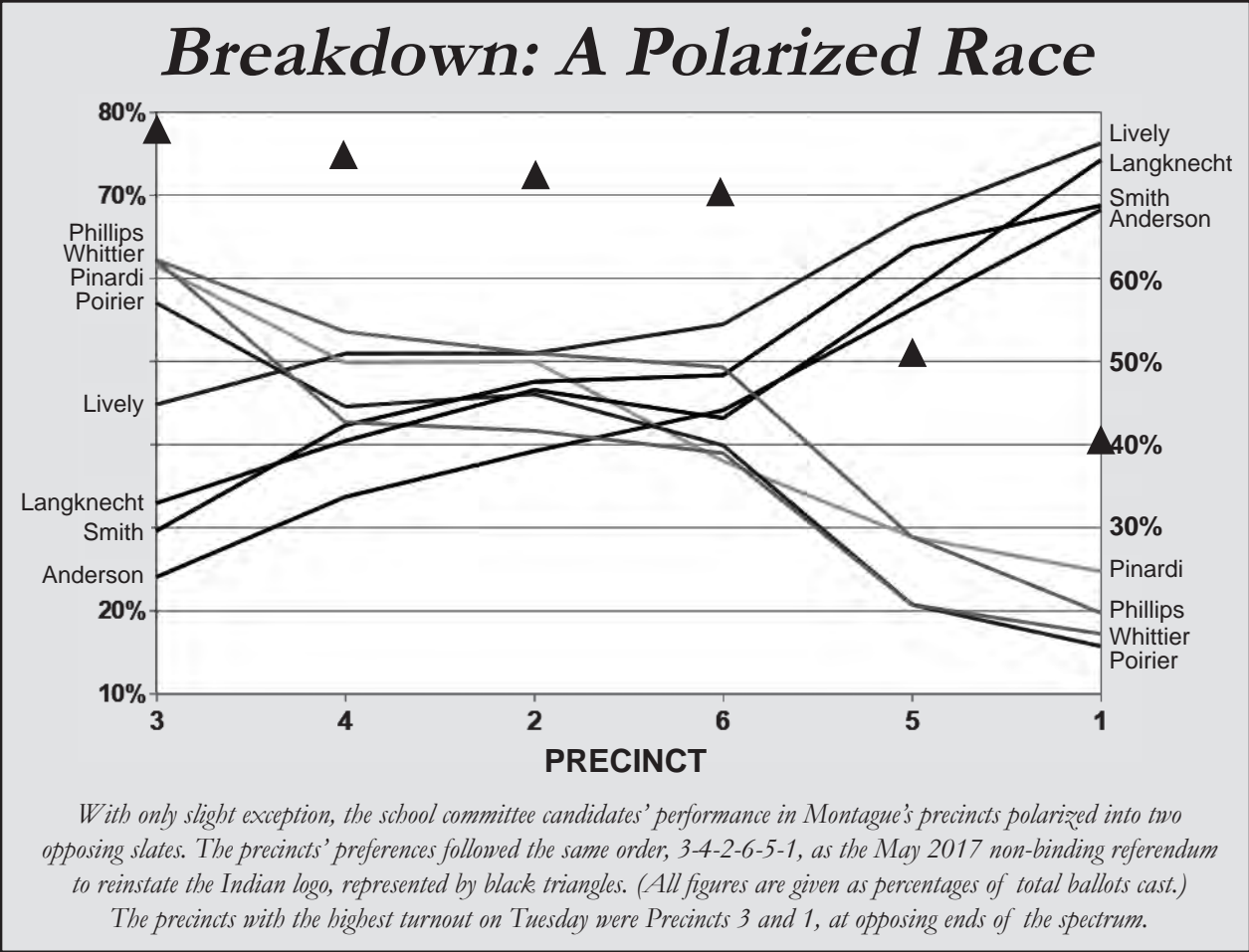
There were no competitive races in Gill’s town election. John Ward was returned to the selectboard, Randy Crochier to the board of health, and Lynda Hodsdon Mayo as clerk.

Isaac Bingham ran unopposed for moderator, and though no one appeared on the ballot for the board of assessors, Tim Storrow won 50 votes in a write-in campaign.

In Montague, the Proposition 2-1/2 debt exclusion vote passed by a narrow margin, 688 to 649.

Borrowing for the highway garage project is expected to add \$75 to homeowner’s annual tax bill per \$100,000 in assessed property value. The project had come under criticism for its high price tag, but it was passed by a special town meeting in March.

Chris Collins ran unopposed for Montague moderator, and Rich Kulewicz was re-elected to a second term on the selectboard. Chris Boutwell defended his seat on the board of health with 702 votes to Melanie Zamojski’s 486.



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CIVIL SERVICE from A1

prescription drug drop box at the police station, was granted a year’s leave with full pay and benefits.

At a March 19 meeting, select-board member Michael Nelson stated that “I definitely recognize that civil service made our discussions go a certain way ... that may have gone a different way, had we not had civil service.”

Ellis’ April 30 memo noted that the number of cities and towns with civil service chiefs had declined in recent years. It also stated that, due to the “just cause” provisions of a “modern” contract, taking the chief off of civil service “would not make it substantially easier to dismiss a chief.”

At the April 30 meeting, Nelson expressed concern that removing the chief position from civil service,

which would have to be approved by a fall special town meeting, might take a year. More recently Nelson said that “I think the best person is already there [in the department].”

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz, who had previously expressed doubts about civil service because it narrowed the potential candidate pool, echoed Nelson’s concerns last week. “The concern I have now is the length of time it would take,” he said.

Board member Chris Boutwell said he had spoken to Orange police chief Craig Lundgren, who “took the whole department out of civil service...”

Kuklewicz responded: “I think we need to get some stability, find the right person...and then have [the civil service discussion] at the appropriate time.”

The final motion, passed unanimously by the board, stated that “civil service will be reviewed again in the future once we have a permanent chief in place.”

The board did not discuss the hiring criteria under civil service. Civil service traditionally has focused on taking public hiring out of the political process through an examination system.

However, the state no longer administers a police chief exam.

In 2012, when Dodge was named police chief, he was the candidate who had received the highest score on an exam administered by the assessment center BadgeQuest.

Ellis told this newspaper that the process for hiring Montague’s next chief would involve a “kind of exam,” but would be more “qualitative.”



NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

MPD Dispatchers Track Man to Kansas

By JEFF SINGLETON

A school committee candidates’ forum and townwide election caused the Montague selectboard to break from their regular Monday night schedule. The board met Wednesday, May 16 and Tuesday, May 22. The Tuesday meeting began with the board “reorganizing” after the election, which saw the reelection of Rich Kuklewicz without opposition.

The board voted to continue the present structure, in which Kuklewicz serves as chair and Mike Nelson as vice chair. Nelson said he would like to serve as chair in the future, but this year faces “challenges at work.”

Acting police chief Christopher Bonnett read a letter commending Lynne Bellucci of the dispatch department and sergeant Joshua Hoffman. The letter described how Bellucci and Hoffman had tracked and located a mental health patient who had been threatening to attack police officers and others with an assault rifle.

Bellucci had received a call from Crisis Services in Greenfield indicating that a “mental health protection order” had been issued for an individual who had “been making statements about harming others, harming law enforcement officers, making specific threats to a named officer and his family, and statements in regards to using an AK-47 to carry out the threats.”

According to the letter, Bellucci and Hoffman used cell phone coordinates and Google Maps to locate the individual on an Amtrak train heading west through Illinois. Eventually Amtrak and local police in Lawrence, Kansas were able to take the patient into custody and transport him to a hospital.

Bonnett told this newspaper that a mental health restraining order, based on MGL Chapter 123 Section 12, carries the weight of a warrant, but does not lead to an arrest based on criminal activity. The agency Crisis Services coordinates responses to mental health emergencies with local police, service agencies and hospitals. The individual in question had recently lived in Montague, and had threatened a member of the Montague police department.

Bonnett said he had no information on the individual’s current status, due to privacy restrictions.

Dispatcher Kyle Walker, who assisted Bellucci and Hoffman, also

received a commendation. The selectboard voted to place copies in the files of the officer and dispatchers.

The board also approved a request from Bonnett to begin the process of hiring one regular police officer and two reserve officers. Bonnett said the department is currently staffed with 15 officers and six reserve officers. The “ideal” level, he said, was 17 regular officers and nine or 10 reserve officers.

Climate Change and Planes

The board approved a request from town planner Walter Ramsey that the town apply for two state grants under a program designed to fund projects that improve local “resiliency” in the face of climate change. The grants would fund designs for a project to address flooding on Montague City Road and a “flood plain culvert” to reduce damage to the South Street bridge in Montague Center.

Bryan Camden, director of the Turners Falls Municipal Airport, came before the board seeking approval of three “assurances” for grants from the state Department of Transportation: for the construction of a new “wind cone structure,” the removal of “vegetation obstruction” (trees), and for the purchase of a tractor and attachments.

Camden reported on reductions made to the airport budget required by a \$2,500 cut voted by the annual town meeting. The cut will be covered by reducing the hours of the airport manager and the electricity and legal line items of the budget.

The board voted to support bus route changes in Montague proposed by the Franklin Regional Transit Authority, but also expressed concern that the changes were proposed without sufficient time for discussion and evaluation by the town. The motion also endorsed making the expansion of Route 23 to Sunderland and Amherst a priority in the future.

The board voted to execute a \$6,777 state Urban and Community Forest Challenge grant, which will be used to fund the planting of trees in the center of Millers Falls. The motion “extended gratitude” to the Montague tree committee, which helped write the grant.

Bridges and Sculpture

The selectboard voted to enter into an agreement with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments to implement a “collective bidding process” to obtain “highway prod-

ucts and services.” Town administrator Steve Ellis said that the products might include sand and salt, and the service could include elevator inspections.

Ellis reported a number of “concerned calls, I guess is a great way to put it politely” about the closure of the White Bridge across the Connecticut River off of Canal Street. He said the work on that bridge may be done by the end of June because the state does not have enough money to do more.

Ellis noted that “there is attention being paid” to the shorter bridge over the canal which leads to the White Bridge. That bridge has a “lovely hump which challenges everybody’s vehicle clearance.” Ellis said that there are no specific plans to fix this bridge, but “it feels as though they recognize that’s a problem, and they are looking for a deck to replace it.”

The board approved a plaque to be attached to the “Rock Paper Scissors” sculpture on Avenue A in Turners Falls suggested by RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto. The plaque will identify the creator of the sculpture, Tim de Christopher.

Other Business

The board approved the appointment of John “Abe” Rathbun to the position of lead operator at the Water Pollution Control Facility. Ellis said Rathbun is on the verge of passing the exam for his Grade 5 license, a prerequisite for the position.

Ellis was appointed by the board to serve on the Montague Retirement Board, replacing former town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio. Ellis said he had been to a Retirement Board meeting earlier in the day and it was “pretty fascinating.”

A \$51,548.33 state Green Communities grant was executed for HVAC units on the Sheffield School roof, as was another state grant of \$34,945 to upgrade the town’s tax software.

The board voted to rescind a previously approved agreement with employee unions to mitigate cost increases associated with changes in health care plans. Ellis said this was necessary because the town’s health insurance group, Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust, was unable to implement the changes that needed to be mitigated this year.

The board voted to approve its summer schedule, during which it will meet every two weeks. Their next meeting will be on June 4.



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LOOKING BACK:

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was May 22, 2008: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

The Box Car is Back

Sharon Porlier said there’s not much point in changing the name of the Box Car restaurant along Route 2 in Erving Center. “It’s been this way for 100 years, and it’s a landmark,” said the new business owner, who plans to reopen the historic café the first or second week of June.

There will be one family-focused name change though – Porlier’s adoring 11-year-old grandson Cody suggested she call it “Mema’s Box Car.”

“I have 11 grandchildren, and I live just up the street. I could walk here in five minutes,” said Porlier, who has lived in Erving for almost 30 years and wouldn’t do a thing to change the small, rural community that she loves.

MAC Director Welch Resigns

Executive director Robert Welch of the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission (MAC) has resigned, effective June 4. Klark Jessen, director of communications for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation, made the announcement and could not comment on the reason for Welch’s resignation.

On April 4 of this year, Welch, a retired colonel who served as the deputy chief of staff for safety and aviation for the Massachusetts Army National Guard prior to his appointment as the executive director of the MAC in September of 2005, attended an informal meeting with Turners Falls Municipal Airport commissioners and TFMA airport manager Michael Sweeney at the airport administration office.

At that meeting, Welch made the comment that construction on the planned runway expansion project was ready to go, but, “The only thing holding it up is those tree-hugging Indians.”

This comment led to an investigation conducted by EOT director of interagency affairs Susan Quinones, which involved inter-

views, on the phone or in person, with all the people who were identified as being present at the administration office on April 4. Jessen confirmed that the investigation had been concluded, and placed in Welch’s personnel file.

Jessen would not say whether Welch’s resignation and the conclusion of the investigation into his remark about “tree-hugging Indians” were linked.

On April 25, Welch sent a letter to the *Montague Reporter* denying he had made the remarks about “tree-hugging Indians” as quoted, saying his remarks had been quoted out of context, and apologizing for any offense given by any remarks anyone at the meeting may have made. In the letter, he said he had the “greatest respect” for Native Americans.

Art Pathways Envisioned

Sixteen people gathered at the Great Hall of the Discovery Center on Tuesday to talk about the potential for creating artistic pathways between the Hill and downtown Turners Falls, in a community visioning session sponsored by Turners Falls RiverCulture.

RiverCulture, an arts-based economic development project funded by the Mass Cultural Council and local businesses and organizations, has set aside \$5,000 for the Art Pathways, and partnered with community groups including the Brick House, the Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board, and School Based Services.

The go-round started with Diane Ellis, of Stevens Street, who came up with the idea of spiffing up the two old concrete pathways the town owns that run between Seventh Street, L Street, and the Hill. Earlier this year, in honor of Earth Day, she and her husband Steve organized a dozen school children to clean up the litter around the walkways and in the nearby woods.

Ellis said, “It hit me one day these pathways could be more than what they are. They could be transformed. Now, so many creative things are happening in this community, the time is right for this project.”

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Local Bank, Nonprofit Launch Alternative to Payday Lending

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE – According to a report released this month by the United Way, while 13% of US households are below the poverty line, another 30% of US households are “asset limited, income constrained, employed,” or “ALICE,” a cute new acronym for working poor.

“That’s one huge sea of misery,” journalist Barbara Ehrenreich wrote last Thursday in response to news of the report.

Many of these households can tread economic water at the threshold, but have no savings to cover unanticipated expenses: doctor or vet bills, auto repairs, kids’ program or childcare fees.

This creates a huge demand for relatively small, short-term loans – a demand that is mainly being met by so-called “payday loan” companies, which often charge exorbitant fees and interest rates. According to recent research by Pew Charitable Trusts, the average consumer of these products borrows \$375 over five months, and pays an extra \$520 for the service.

According to Denise Coyne, executive vice president and chief operating officer at Greenfield Savings Bank, the problem comes down to

bank regulation. “We can’t loan under \$500,” she explains.

This year, her bank is partnering with a local nonprofit to launch a pilot program aimed at helping families that fall into this gap. It is giving a \$10,000 grant to Community Action Pioneer Valley to administer an experimental “community loan program” aimed specifically at residents of Montague.

“Their Turners Falls branch manager, Linda Ackerman, saw that there was a need in the community,” said program coordinator Shannon Martineau. “People are looking at short-term financing, so they’re reaching out to online payday cash advance retailers.... Greenfield Savings saw a need, and took action to meet it.”

Under the program, Montague residents with a regular payroll job who meet a certain income threshold will be eligible to ask Community Action for up to \$500 to pay an emergency expense. The loan has no interest, but comes with some other strings attached: participants will receive financial counseling from the agency, and must pay the loan back within 12 months to become eligible to borrow again.

Martineau said the new fund complements Money Matters, an existing counseling service she coordinates.

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“The nice thing is that Community Action is a strong referral source to many different programs, so first we would identify if there’s another program that already exists to serve that need,” she said. “If they’re looking for assistance with fuel or energy needs, we would exhaust any referral sources first.”

“If it’s simply that their childcare fell through for the week and they have to pay unexpectedly for childcare, we would help them meet that need by paying for the camp, or whatever it is.”

Martineau said that if the fund is successful, the organization hopes to expand it to other communities. Another benefit, she says, is that the pilot may help Community Ac-

tion “uncover what the community is getting those payday loans for, and see what we can do with that information as well.”

If the loans are paid back and the money stays in rotation, Greenfield Savings Bank is hoping other local lending institutions will be willing to jump into the pool. “We’re hoping it’s sustainable,” Denise Coyne said. “If it is, then maybe we can get other banks to join in, and maybe we can bring it out to other towns.”

To apply for a loan from the Montague Community Loan Program, contact Shannon Martineau at (413) 376-1179. The program is currently only open to residents of the five villages of Montague.

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is seeking writers to cover local board and committee meetings.

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WEST ALONG
THE RIVER

THE TIME
OF LILACS

POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

By DAVID BRULE

ERVINGSIDE – *May 13.* It’s too cold out here, no birds sing. The Baltimore oriole hunkers down over the orange sliced in half and set out on the flat feeder. Orange attracts orange of the oriole, and he doesn’t stray far from this fruit that keeps him going during this cold snap.

The hummingbird, having come north to keep her date with the flowering quince, too finds her familiar sustenance among the orange-rose-colored flowers.

Lilacs had begun barely to open before yesterday’s day-long steady rain that was halfway between a heavy mist and a shower. They will likely accept to fully flower in tomorrow’s promised sunshine. For now this Sunday morning, all is holding, suspended, waiting it out for better weather.

There will be a brief week of flowering, like the brief week of constant bird song, both passages mark an ephemeral rendezvous with early spring. We all know that spring season passes on, as did the lives of friends this year, maybe to turn into other loveliness or, in spring’s case, lusty summer. Life does go on.

Indoors this noon, we’ll light the Glenwood cookstove once again, maybe for the last time of a waning winter season this cold May day? A fire will take the chill off the downstairs rooms and will be just the thing for roasting a Sunday chicken. Nothing cooks better than the inside of a wood-fired oven.

May 15. Wood warblers have passed through the yard on the way north, just before the promised violent afternoon storm. We’ll see if that actually happens.

A loud, unfamiliar and insistent call from a wee bird in the Baldwin apple tree turns out to be a Tennessee warbler. Why Tennessee? This is Massachusetts. No bright colors like other New England warblers, just a really loud voice that penetrates the ear and pries me from my morning book.

The day before, a parula warbler, more colorful, came through the yard too. Buzzing little song, beautiful burnt orange chest and blue back. Others, like the black-

throated blue and blackburnian, have not dropped in this year, and I won’t be chasing them up in favorite warbler places on Mineral Mountain.

They’ll come down here along the river in person or I’ll just have to remember them, their songs and colors from past years.

Ah, finally the Tennessee warbler has stopped singing, but my ears are still ringing!

May 20. I sit here idly catching whatever the flowing breeze causes to drift by. This is the morning after another day-long soft rain. Guess I’ll think about the lilacs, now in full bloom.

Others have been advised to consider the lilies of the field. For me, it’s the lilacs I’m pondering. Their flowers have now opened into their brief lives just two days ago, and have been spared the damage that can be done by the rain that would rust their bloom.

A distant blackpoll warbler calls. That species has always been the last migrant through here, following all the other brilliant jewels of passing warblers. His call means we are about to enter early summer.

But back to the lilacs.

This time of year, I savor my birthright that, in addition to the land along the west-flowing river come down to me through the generations, is the lilac bower planted by my great-grandfather Judah back around 1882. He’s long gone, of course, dust to dust. He lies up in the Highland Cemetery almost ninety years ago now, beside his wife Elizabeth. But his lilacs are still here, and thriving.

His are the pale mauve variety, but next to them we transplanted deep purple-blooming ones that belong to his son, the ballplayer, born in this house in the 1890s. Grand-uncle Douglass pitched for the Boston Red Sox one memorable July in 1912, before the Sox found out that he was of mixed race. You can read that as not being lily white. So they dropped him from the team like a bad penny.

Regardless, he lived a long life in the village of Millers Falls, centered on his home and baseball. And when he passed away, as is

see **WEST ALONG** page B5

KAREN CHAPMAN:
PORTRAIT OF A VALLEY ARTIST

By DK KNAUER

MONTAGUE – There may be many reasons why so many artists have settled in the Pioneer Valley, but the fact remains that there is an amazing array of them practicing their craft through every conceivable medium. To find out what motivates one of so many, I talked to Karen Chapman.

Karen is a long-time Massachusetts resident and has been living in Montague for twenty years. She is a visual artist working primarily in oils and charcoal, although some of her pieces incorporate acrylic paint as well as pastels. Her work is abstract and often contains elements resembling human or animal forms and is done on canvas or paper.

Karen’s interest in art began to take form when she was a student at Mount Holyoke, where she studied art history and had hands-on experience while taking studio art. After graduating from Mount Holyoke, she had a semester at the University of Massachusetts where she also studied art history. But it was her time at Greenfield Community College that clarified her desire to paint as her form of expression. She found the studio work there to be very inspiring as well as instructional.

Another art form that has influenced her painting was weaving. Karen had a shop at the Montague Bookmill that was called Room with a Loom. Weaving fabric required her to focus on color and texture, elements now very integral in her painting. She has had an affinity for the Bookmill for a long time and when the chance arose to have a shop there she took it. Her weaving shop was open for about seven years, at which time she felt she wanted to do something more creative that was not dependent on business-oriented concerns.

Her love of the Montague Bookmill did not end,



“Pegasus,” 2017. Oil and charcoal on paper by Karen Chapman, 30” x 46”.

though, because she continued working there in the book store. She finds working in the used book store in the converted 1842 gristmill to be very fulfilling and is rewarded on a daily basis with the customers, who she says are “so happy to be there, which makes it a great place to work.”

While not eschewing the opportunity of some form of commercial success, Ms. Chapman’s primary focus is on her process and following it to see where it leads. She finds that starting a new piece with an open mind and without preconceptions allows her to express the state of her emotions and thoughts as they are in that very moment.

The results of this “letting go” can be quite surprising and enlightening. As she said, “All of the challenges of making art, doing art, all of it relates to the challenges of being a human being, for me. All of the things that are in my way as a person show up in my way as an artist.” So, as she works through the issues that come up creatively she is also addressing some

see **CHAPMAN** page B5



SUBMITTED IMAGES

“Resolve,” 2017. Oil on paper by Karen Chapman, 30” x 22”.

Designs of Power
a european travelogue, part 1

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

VALEČ, CZECH REPUBLIC – Like a green dragon, the Boeing 757 roars and lifts off from Bradley International Airport, the plane racing down the runway across from fields and wooded hills. It is 6 p.m., the sun was into the yellow part of the spectrum, and I am happy to trade my land-bound combustion vehicle for expensive jet propulsion. I am on my way to Prague, by way of Dublin.

As my mechanical flying serpent leaves the ground and enters its natural element, I can feel my minor existential problems melting into the more concrete ones of life on the road. This feeling would prove to be a clairvoyant one. While a banal Irish voice explains what to do during the unmentionable occurrence of air travel, I am unknowingly sending my girlfriend my last and final text on an archaic cellphone that I consider to be, basically, a counter-intelligence device.

Though I don’t entirely listen to the flight attendant’s speech, I am fairly certain that first class passengers receive different emergency instructions. Are they saved first, I wonder?

My far-off destination is Valeč Palace in the former Sudetenland, a part of the Czech Republic close to the German frontier. I am on my



WACKERNAGEL PHOTO

The village of Valeč, in the northwest corner of the present-day Czech Republic.

way to join a group researching the ruins of the Baroque period gardens of this noble estate.

Led by Professor Elizabeth Brabec of UMass-Amherst, our research focuses on the garden’s spatial, cultural, and astrological components. We will also be studying the aesthetic lines of power that the ruling class projected over the Bohemian countryside in the 17th and 18th centuries. These lines, connecting political and sacred spaces across great distances, created the form of the countryside we still see today.

Baroque architecture and garden architecture was about symmetry

and axis, the axis being the line of symmetry: the center line. In this period, because of Descartes’ revolutionary geometry, the concept of infinite-but-knowable space, garden designers began extending their axes out of the formal garden and miles away into the landscape. Sometimes these designers would orient the garden so that the axis faced a landmark, like a mountain peak or a distant church. Sometimes they would have a landmark built at this horizon point. Suddenly, the garden was no longer a few hundred feet, but many miles long.

see **DESIGNS** page B4



LOUIS AGGASIZ-FUERTES ILLUSTRATION

Parula warblers (formerly Parula americana, now Setophaga americana)

Pet of the Week

I decided to fly through the air and live in the sunlight and enjoy life as much as I could.
– Evel Knievel

Although many of us may never feel the biting wind on our fur and whiskers, this is not the fate of Marlowe.
Some cats are simply born to

live life at a faster pace, and this Georgia-born firebrand was born to fly. She has raced across the country and performed countless feats for an adoring audience.
Welcome this itinerant daredevil into your home today. Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at info@dpvhs.org.



“MARLOWE”

Senior Center Activities MAY 28 TO JUNE 1

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
W, F 10:10 a.m. Aerobics;
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Monday 5/28: *Closed Memorial Day*
Tuesday 5/29:
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga w/Jean
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Wednesday 5/30:
9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach
12:30 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 5/31:
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 6/1:
12 noon. Pizza Party
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 Betters, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.
Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.
Monday 5/28: *Closed Memorial Day*
Tuesday 5/29:
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch
Wednesday 5/30:
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch
Noon: Bingo & snacks
1 to 3 p.m. Fun Shingles Vaccine
6 p.m. Pitch Night
Thursday 5/31:
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch
12:30 p.m. Create 2 Donate
Friday 6/1:
9 a.m. Quilting Workshop
9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling
11:15 a.m. M3 (Music, Movement, Mayhem) Fun!

By FINTAN ANDREW JONES

GREENFIELD – This time I won’t be writing about a place I have been or a thing I have done. I will be writing about something called Exponents.
I’m very interested in math. I’ve even started my own math club at school. Ever since I was a little baby, I have loved math. Right now, I’m fascinated by Exponents.
The website mathforyou.com told me that “Exponents are a shorthand method for writing the multiplication of a number or variable by itself multiple times. In working with numbers (or variables), we frequently need to multiply things by themselves multiple times.”
That makes sense to me, but maybe it doesn’t to you. Below is a chart of positive exponent examples. That means you are going to go up in value. The large numbers in the chart are called the base, and the top one is called the exponent.

$$\begin{aligned} 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 &= 2^5 = 32 \\ 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 &= 2^4 = 16 \\ 2 \times 2 \times 2 &= 2^3 = 8 \\ 2 \times 2 &= 2^2 = 4 \end{aligned}$$

A practical example: Think about Facebook. If one person writes something to 10 people, and those people write to 10 people, etc., you are going to have a lot of people knowing about it.
And another example, is about my family: my Mom

has two children. If my brother and I have two kids each, and they all have two kids each when they grow up, etc., then there will be lots of people in my family on Ancestry.com.
This is a great website for Exponents: <http://passy-worldofmathematics.com/exponents-in-the-real-world/> If you go to the website, you will see an awesome math rap song about exponents. Listen to it, and you’ll also find other examples.
Now, negative Exponents can be hard; it depends on which kind of person you are. If you put a negative sign before the Exponents in the chart above, you get a negative value.
Now let’s get started. Let’s do an easy example, like 2^{-3} . That means you are going to go down in value. First thing is that you break apart the problem: make 2^{-3} into $1/(2^3)$. You can see that the minus is now a plus. And so the Exponent is a three, so it’s $1/(2 \times 2 \times 2) = 1/(8) = 1/8$. And that’s that.
For a math geek like me, Exponents are a good thing to know. There a ton of people who need to know about Exponents for their jobs, like engineers, bankers, computer programmers, chemists, insurance agents, and more.
Thank you for reading this article. I hope you enjoyed it, and I hope you learn more on Exponents by yourself.
Watch for my next one – it will be about my trip to New York City on Memorial Day weekend. That will be exciting, won’t it! I’m going to take along a notebook with me, so I don’t forget anything for my next article.

FACES & PLACES

PHOTO AND TEXT BY NINA ROSSI

Geologist Richard D. Little, professor emeritus at Greenfield Community College, presented the Carnegie Library last week with a slice of sedimentary rock that shows two of the armored mud balls he discovered in Turners Falls in the 1970s.

Found in blocks of stone from a Turners Falls quarry forming the Old Red Bridge suspension anchor points located in Unity Park, these local mud balls are so far the only ones discovered that were formed by streams.



Armored mud balls are formed when hardened chunks of mud fall into the water and are tumbled into balls whose softened exterior picks up pebbles from the stream bed. The formation then must be buried in sediment while still intact. The armored mud balls in Turners Falls were formed during the Mesozoic era, 225 to 65 million years ago. The mud balls now reside in the Carnegie library’s artifacts loft, open to visitors by request. For more information on Little and his discovery, go online to earthview.rocks.

PHOTO AND TEXT BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE



These words the Old Man speaks reflect the many stories, emotions, and experiences of actual survivors. With the small space and Langsdale’s intense performance, the theatergoer’s experience is one of being alone in a room with an old man who shares intimate moments and memories of his life, however horrific and mundane, secrets that must be told.

Actor Keith Langsdale captivated the audience with his riveting performance as the Old Man, who tells a story of survival at the Auschwitz internment camp during World War II, in the play The Tattooed Man Tells All. The Silverthorne Theater Company production, written by playwright Peter Wortsman, ran May 3 through 6 at the Pushkin in Greenfield.

The Tattooed Man Tells All is based on interviews Wortsman did in 1975 with aging survivors of the Holocaust in Vienna, Eastern Europe, and Israel. He collected and held the interviews until years later when he realized the words could be made into a play.

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MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

We hope you're getting some time to fully enjoy the warmth and trees in full bloom! Montague TV has been busy preparing the following videos for your viewership online or on TV:

- The Pass, April 18 production at the Shea Theater – by Eggtooth Productions. The Pass is a new performance work by Terry Jenoure: “Through the allegory of a canary disguising himself as a cat, The Pass looks at all the ways we pass for something other than we are at the cost of that deception.”

- Pioneer Valley Symphony Orchestra, performing at Smith College, with Jonathan Hirsch as guest conductor and Jonathan Harvey chorus director.
- Gill Montague Regional School District Mascot meeting, 5/18/18.

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, infomontaguety@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!

June 2 at the Shea: Awesome Art In Motion

TURNERS FALLS – On June 2 at 2 p.m., the Shea Theater will open its doors to Awesome Art in Motion, a children's creative dance company from Turners Falls run by Great Falls Creative Movement.

Awesome Art in Motion will present a variety of original dances created and performed by its 12 members, ages 6 to 12.

Some of the dances you will see on June 2 include a multimedia retelling of the favorite children's story, *Stella Luna*; a stunning solo to pop singer Sia's "Move Your Body" by

Turners Falls resident Bellasky Picone-Louro; a dance to David Bowie's "Life on Mars" choreographed by Awesome Art in Motion veteran Sofia Pawell; and a dance based on a collaboratively written poem on the subject of – what else... dance!

See the amazing and unique imaginations of Franklin County children come to life through movement. Tickets are \$1 to \$10, sliding scale, and will be available at the door. Children get in free!

The public is also invited to a reception after the show.

Greenfield Public Library: May Photo Exhibit



Joe R. Parzych's photograph of construction on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge, one of the photos on display at the Greenfield Public Library during the month of May.

GREENFIELD – Joe R. Parzych is part of the United Arc, and an artist of the Arc along with many others. This month, his photographs are on display at the Greenfield Public Library.

The display is free. Joe writes: "It's about a photographer's eye and vision, of a person with a form of Autism."

Joe is a freelance photojournalist, and a *Montague Reporter* contributor. He went to Gill Elementary School and Greenfield Community College, among other schools. He works at Riff's North.

Joe's grandfather, Joe A. Parzych, is also a local freelance writer and photographer, the author of the memoir *Jep's Place* and a contributor to the *Reporter* since 2002. He

is turning 89 this month. He taught his grandson about photography 20 years ago at the age of 8 using a darkroom and camera for film photography, and he has encouraged him to keep up with learning it.

Joe R. Parzych has displayed his photography at United Arc art shows in the past, and donated photos to the Arc Annual Gala & Auction in honor of his late grandmother, Edna Parzych. Edna was an Arc volunteer 40 years ago, and worked in hospice as well as bookkeeping for the family construction business.

Joe encourages others, and supports them. He likes to see other people's work and learn from them. Feel free to ask how to display your own artwork at the Greenfield Public Library!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Repo People Spurned; Package Hijacked; Bat In A Butter Dish; Several Hubie's Calls; Homeless Encampment; Freestyle Rap

Monday, 5/14
7:13 a.m. Report of past breaking and entering with forced entry at Carnegie Library. Glass is broken on rear handicapped accessible entrance. Report taken.
7:50 a.m. Report of several unregistered vehicles on Thirteenth Street. Officer checked residence and advised that three registered vehicles are parked on the street, but no unregistered vehicles were found at the front or rear of the residence.
9:10 a.m. Repossession agency requesting permission to offload a repossessed vehicle in MPD's parking lot and leave it there for a few hours while they pick up additional repossessions. Vehicle was towed from Springfield, but they want to redirect that driver to pick up additional repossessions in Pittsfield. Confirmed with officer that MPD cannot accommodate that request. Relayed options from officer.
3:44 p.m. Caller is concerned that a man who is panhandling in the Food City parking lot is just trying to get money for drugs. Area checked; no one found.
4:28 p.m. 911 caller reporting a single vehicle accident involving a motorcycle on Industrial Boulevard. Unknown injuries. Caller transferred to MedCare; PD and FD responding. MedCare called back to advise that they don't believe it was a motorcyclist down, but someone having an allergic reaction to a bite. PD and FD units on scene confirming it is a motorcycle accident. Removed to hospital.
9:44 p.m. Officers attempting to serve warrant on K Street. A 27-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a default warrant.

Tuesday, 5/15
12 a.m. Caller from G Street states that she would just like it on record that a male party walked by her apartment earlier this evening and said some harassing words to her; states that he called her many names and said he has everything on camera, so she is going down.
12:21 a.m. Following a vehicle stop at Fifth and K streets, a 45-year-old Montague man was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.
2:50 p.m. Caller reports seeing a male forcefully pulling on a dog's leash in front of the Turners Falls post office around 2

p.m. today. Caller is concerned for dog's welfare. Unable to locate.
6:36 p.m. Officers attempting to serve an active warrant on Hillside Road. A 47-year-old Montague man was charged as a fugitive from justice on a court warrant.
8:38 p.m. Caller would like to speak to an officer about getting permission to leave a broken-down vehicle in the parking lot of a private business in another town.

Wednesday, 5/16
9:38 a.m. Caller states that she was harassed by an elderly male on a motorized scooter on Fourth Street; male swore at her and made her feel unsafe. Unable to locate.
10:10 a.m. 911 caller from Fourth Street reporting that a man against whom he has a no trespass order just showed up and started threatening him. Male left in black Dodge Durango. Report taken.
11:51 a.m. 911 caller reporting two black males yelling loudly outside of a building at Fourth Street and Avenue A. One male party arrested.
3:43 p.m. Caller reporting disabled vehicle on Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. Gill PD advised and *en route*. Officers able to get vehicle across bridge to Gill side.
4:14 p.m. Party into station reporting that as USPS was delivering a package today, a female party stopped the carrier at the corner of G Street and advised she was the addressee. (She was not.) Carrier allowed party to sign for package, and she left area with it. Report taken.
8:59 p.m. Caller complaining of a red vehicle entering an alley off Avenue A at approximately 30 miles per hour, which caller felt was excessive and dangerous. Caller stated several people from the bar came out to see what the noise was. Area search negative. Officer *en route* to Hubie's to speak to the possible owner of the vehicle. Spoke with owner of bar; he was advised of complaint. Officers observed no signs of impairment.

Thursday, 5/17
11:38 a.m. 911 caller reporting hearing loud crash and horns blowing on Millers Falls Road; possibly an accident. PD and FD *en route*. No injuries; tow needed for both vehicles.
2:07 p.m. Caller from Turnpike Road believes someone has tied a dog to a sign post outside her

home and left it there. PD and animal control officer *en route*. Appears that dog got loose from somewhere. Dog transferred to shelter.
3:46 p.m. Caller advises that 3 to 5 homeless people are camping over the embankment at the end of Eleventh Street, and that they may have children with them. Caller was informed by a neighbor that they have been on her porch stealing cigarette butts. Caller thinks she witnessed them rummaging through trash cans at 9:30 last night. Officer located campsite and advises that it is [redacted]. Area was clear at time of arrival and appears not to have been inhabited for a day or two.

Friday, 5/18
12:08 a.m. 911 caller from Hubie's reporting that he was threatened with a knife by the male owner of this bar. Officers clear; not as reported. Situation mediated. All parties advised of options. Caller verbally trespassed by male owner of establishment.
3:44 a.m. Officer checking on vehicle near TFHS football field. Clear; party is waiting to leave on class trip.
7:18 a.m. Caller requesting police escort to move along a group of homeless subjects who have been camping out on First-Light Power property off Migratory Way. Caller advised the subjects yesterday that they had 24 hours to leave, but they have not complied. Area searched extensively. Located belongings, but not subjects. Advised of options.
10:28 a.m. Report of male party aggressively pulling on his dog's leash behind the Turners Falls post office. Caller concerned for dog's welfare/safety. Area checked; unable to locate. Will be on lookout.
8:05 p.m. Caller advising that she can see a male party trying to open the doors and looking through the windows at Sheffield Elementary School. Party located; advises that he was flying a remote control airplane. Officers clear.
8:21 p.m. Report of cooking fire at a location on Unity Street, where two men are also reportedly firing a BB gun in close proximity to two young children. Caller concerned for children's safety. Parties advised of complaint.

Saturday, 5/19
1:36 a.m. 911 caller from Vladish Avenue reporting what sounds like a bear

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DESIGNS from page B1

The axis of Valeč Palace is 30 km in length. This organized space is farther than one can see – it is two horizons in length.

It is many hours of flying at cruising altitude before we leave North America behind. We pass silently over New Brunswick’s little towns; Newfoundland, with its mammoth rivers and deltas that seem to wink slowly at me, acknowledging me as a lonely observer. Soon, over this land of many rivers, I notice that ice is forming on the inside curves of the waterways. Eventually we are over Labrador, and all trees and the etchings of humans seem to vanish from the surface of the land.

I cannot help but imagine being on that cold surface of gray and white, and I savor this eerie feeling while I eat my complimentary in-flight meal of Irish beef stew, salad, a multigrain roll, and chocolate gateaux.

At dawn, my stomach is popping and discharging like a single piston engine at the Cummington Fair, yet I do not blame the Aer Lingus dinner. I instead question the faithfulness of the two rainbow trout and refried beans I ate for lunch the day before. Below, I see Ireland – a green scaly mosaic of irregular 4-, 5-, and 6-sided shapes, all forced together like the scales on a green mamba, sliding slowly by. It is a cold and misty day in Dublin.

A Journey Home

Professor Elizabeth Brabec has been researching the landscape of Valeč Palace for eight years. It is a personal quest for her.

In 1945, after Berlin fell to the Allies, revenge-seeking Czech militia entered the Sudetenland, a predominantly German-speaking region that had been annexed by Germany during the Second World War. The Czech forces killed some, and then expelled everyone with a German last name. Entire villages were left virtually empty. Three million people were forcefully removed, including Prof. Brabec’s family.

This ethnic cleansing is, to this day, not acknowledged by the American, British, and European forces that sanctioned it. Following this national trauma, the rest of the country turned its back on the region, both literally and metaphorically. It remains depopulated, economically underdeveloped, and culturally undervalued to this day.

Prof. Brabec possesses a kind energy, a stately presence, and the edge that comes with a passion-

ate, over-specialized intellect. She shares traits with a person created by an unholy merger of Hillary Clinton and Princess Leia Organa. Prof. Brabec inspires much loyalty in her students through an endearing combination of compassion and endless courageousness.

(This courage would, in fact, be put to the test during our trip. Bitten by a poisonous fly that nearly prevented her from walking, she would manage to hike up to the hermitage to fix the marker stakes before flying to Australia to give a keynote address.)

Prof. Brabec’s partner in her work at Valeč Palace is Professor Kristina Janečková, a Czech who specializes in medieval landscapes at the Czech University of Life Sciences. Prof. Janečková explains that “the story I grew up hearing was that bad Germans – and that means anyone from Sudetenland, ethnic Germans – they voted for the Nazis, and then they got what was coming: they were removed.” Both of Prof. Janečková’s grandparents were Partisans – resistance fighters during the war. Her opinions on the Sudetenland and the expulsion began to change after beginning to work with Prof. Brabec. “I had to rearrange things in my head, and decide that things weren’t what I learned growing up,” she says.

Of the twelve UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the Czech Republic, none are in the former Sudetenland. Prof. Brabec believes that this is an expression not of a lack of important sites, but of the cultural bias that exists against the region within the Czech Republic. In her role as a visionary scientist, it sometimes seems like Prof. Brabec has to not only advance a theory, but change the belief system of a people.

During the expulsion, Prof. Brabec’s immediate family – her mother, father, aunt, and grandparents – moved to West Germany, while other family members were moved to East Germany or stayed in Czechoslovakia. It was an artifact of this time of turmoil that families were separated.

Her father was of Czech heritage, but living in the wrong part of the country meant that he and his family had to be expelled. Her mother’s family, with a Germanic last name, was moved without question. In postwar Germany, with few options as refugees, they moved to Canada – first to Montreal, and then to Ontario, where she was raised on a sheep farm.



Heading westward on the highway Valeč.

“My grandmother took us out into the woods,” she recalls. “Five years old: learned to snare a rabbit. Cut firewood; picked herbs. The landscape was very important to me.” Beyond the connection to the landscape, Prof. Brabec sees gardening as the main inspiration for her life’s work. “I wanted to have my own garden plot, and I did from the time I was five years old,” she explains. “Planting a seed became central to my understanding of the world.”

Since then, Prof. Brabec has traveled around the world doing landscape heritage work. Her work requires her to be a highly-educated factotum: at different times she must be an anthropologist, a scientist, and an explorer, in addition to being a landscape architect. She has done research and design work in the US, Canada, Belize, Guatemala, the Bahamas, and here, in the Czech Republic.

Our Arrival

We drive on the western highway out of Prague in our silver nine-passenger Renault Trafic. Our destination is the village of Valeč, and the fair-to-middling palace that would be our home. The new car smell is particularly strong on this hot day, and the intelligent vehicle makes four different electronic tones, three of which would remain mysterious to us.

In minutes, Prague is behind us and we are in well-defined country. The Czech countryside is a harmonious, tessellating carpet of colors. On this sunny day, it vibrates and

shimmers with the electricity of life. As we drive west, the dark forest marks time and watches over the meadows while the winter wheat, a deep aquamarine, flows in the wind like the tufted hair on a Rhodesian ridgeback.

The canola is crayon yellow and smells of sulfur when it rains. And the fields of peas flower in four dimensions and two colors, a violaceous plum and a transdimensional lavender, and they are my favorite.

I am tempted to just
step off the edge
of the road, and
begin walking through
the grassy fields to
the line of the
horizon, and then
the horizon beyond.

As we move further west, the soil turns from dark brown to a rusty red. In this ochre land, our highway passes through an army of migratory giants, their 12-foot-tall trellis legs striding in time in arrayed formation, trailing their green vines of hops behind.

There is a great sense here of the land’s enfolding presence, an unbroken continuum of field, forest, hill, and time. In the Czech Republic, trespassing almost does not exist – that crime only pertains to fenced areas. There is a cultural predisposition toward walking over great pastoral expanses, and look-

ing for green moldavite in newly-tilled fields.

The expansiveness of the land here beckons to those who like to wander. I am tempted to just step off the edge of the road, and begin walking through the grassy fields to the line of the horizon, and then the horizon beyond.

The van pulls off the road. We are stopping at a favorite attraction of Professor Brabec’s, which it appears may have fallen on hard times. We are at a dusty highway-side garden gnome store. The store is housed in the open loading dock of an old warehouse, hundreds of gnomes arranged on wide steps like a silent chorus.

The proprietor, whom I find startling, appears to be the kind of man who is quiet and still, and I initially mistake him for an old manikin. Gnomes, also known as the “Little People,” have a large role in Bohemian culture because of the ancient Celtic influence, and I am not sure exactly what the disrepair of the establishment means about the state of their traditions.

The van rolls onward until we pause to buy strawberries in a medieval village, where I learn that, basically, all the villages in the Czech Republic are medieval. The pattern of these towns has not changed much over the centuries, nor has population growth swallowed these districts with new development. Land use laws similar to those in much of Europe restrict development outside of the village. Consequently, the villages of the Czech countryside are well-preserved living communities, defined by the spaces between, which are mostly managed for agriculture and forestry.

Farther west, we reach the foothills of the mountains that ring the country like a crown of stone. The village of Valeč is in a region of pastoral hills known as the Doubovske Mountains. Beyond these, marking the borderland with Germany, are the higher, snowy Krusne, or “Ore,” Mountains.

As we motor onward into the rising foothills landscape, pasture for sheep and goats mixes with fruit orchards. Higher up the slopes, woodlands of beech and scotch pine predominate. Indeed, the wealth of Valeč Palace was its orchards of pear, apple, plum, and cherry.

At the far edge of my vision, I can see our palace.

Return to this section next week to learn more about the palace and gardens with our correspondent, Pete Wackernagel.



WACKERNAGEL PHOTOS

The roadside gnome store.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Nine Calls For People On Bridges, Including Naked Guy; People Driving Like Idiots; A Floating Deer Carcass

Friday, 4/6
8:04 a.m. Motor vehicle struck the Turners Falls-Gill bridge. No injuries.
4:08 p.m. Caller would like to report fraud.

Saturday, 4/7
9:49 p.m. Complaint of small sedan speeding erratically and using cell phone on the French King Highway.

Sunday, 4/8
11:57 a.m. Complaint of Subaru following caller closely on French King Highway. Same pulled into “The Mill” gas station.
2:22 p.m. Checked on vehicle parked at French King Bridge, empty with driver’s side door open.

Monday, 4/9
4 p.m. Highway department reports two more street signs stolen.

Tuesday, 4/10
9:40 a.m. Officer wanted: Caller reports naked male standing on the west side of the French King Bridge parking area, near a red Subaru.
3:55 p.m. Low-impact accident on the French King Highway. No injuries.

Thursday, 4/12
11:03 a.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with suspicious activity on Raymond Drive.
9:08 p.m. Disturbance on River Road.

Friday, 4/13
3:50 p.m. Observed male party urinating adjacent to motor vehicle parked off Barney Hale Road.

Saturday, 4/14
5:01 p.m. Follow-up investigation at station regarding past sexual assault case.

Monday, 4/16
9:32 a.m. Accident at Pisgah Mountain Road and French King Highway. No injuries.
11:49 a.m. Accident on Green Hill Road. No injuries.
12:16 p.m. Lifeline activated on West Gill Road.

Tuesday, 4/17
3:09 p.m. Accident with injuries on Route 2 in front of gas station. Gill FD and two ambulances requested. Medcare and Northfield EMS dispatched.
3:45 p.m. Assisted Erving

PD for report of suspicious person at French King Bridge.

Wednesday, 4/18
10:29 a.m. Brush fire on Mountain Road. Found to be a permitted burn.

Friday, 4/20
8:29 a.m. Caller reports a tractor trailer unit stuck at the top of the hill on Main Road.
4:01 p.m. Report of unwanted person visiting a resident.

Saturday, 4/21
9:57 a.m. Complaint of grey Mazda driving all over the road since Greenfield, turned onto Myrtle Street.
12:27 p.m. Assisted subject at Gill Elementary with disabled vehicle.
4:27 p.m. Subject reporting object floating in water at Barton Cove rec area. Located and determined to be deceased deer.

Tuesday, 4/24
4:51 a.m. Medical emergency, North Cross Road.
12:45 p.m. Assisted subject with firearms paperwork at station.
1:15 p.m. Subject trying to push a disabled car uphill on the French King Highway.

Wednesday, 4/25
2 p.m. Report of suspicious activity on Tremholm Way.
10:49 p.m. Welfare check on French King Bridge. Taken for evaluation.

Thursday, 4/26
4:13 p.m. Assisted resident at station with no-trespass order options.

Friday, 4/27
5:10 p.m. Follow-up investigation, Munn’s Ferry Road.

Saturday, 4/28
12:09 p.m. Resident found an iPhone on the side of Main Road, turned same in to officer. Returned to owner.
1:22 p.m. Medical emergency, Speer Way.
4:44 p.m. Report of possible suicidal subject heading to the French King Bridge.
6:22 p.m. Passerby stated two people in a canoe near the French King Bridge, concerned the current was too fast. Located same at Barton Cove. All

appears OK.

Sunday, 4/29
10:29 a.m. Report of tailgating and marked lane violations on the French King Highway.
2:29 p.m. Assisted Erving PD on Papermill Road.

Monday, 4/30
5:32 a.m. Complaint of loose cows on North Cross Road.
5:28 p.m. Hit and run reported at the Gill lights. Vehicle located in Greenfield by state police; criminal charges filed.

Tuesday, 5/1
4:01 p.m. Complaint of white Jeep with CT plates traveling over 80 mph on the French King Highway.
6:39 p.m. Vehicle struck a dog on Main Road.

Wednesday, 5/2
3 p.m. Caller reports a television and DVR stolen on Main Road.
4:23 p.m. Caller states he is following a vehicle who “came out of nowhere speeding” on the French King Highway and is passing in a no-passing zone.
8:17 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with suspicious activity on Raymond Drive.
8:47 p.m. Despondent person reported on Turners Falls-Gill bridge. Montague PD located near the Discovery Center.
9:29 p.m. Welfare check at French King Bridge. Driver taking a break, all appears OK.

Thursday, 5/3
12:26 p.m. Motor vehicle ran over light post on French King Highway. No injuries.
12:56 p.m. Report of vandalism on Oak Street.

Friday, 5/4
1:28 p.m. Suspicious note in Main Road mailbox.
3:05 p.m. Caller reports a black Nissan sedan with CT plates following too close and making lane violations on the French King Highway. Reports operator is texting.
9:05 p.m. Power or phone line down on River Road.

Saturday, 5/5
3:58 a.m. Officer wanted to deliver an emergency message on the French King Highway.

6:30 a.m. Main Road caller reports a hunter trespassing on her property.
1:01 p.m. Assisted Montague PD on Avenue A.

Sunday 5/6
1:13 p.m. Caller reports a verbal altercation inside a French King Highway business, involving one female and two males.

Monday 5/7
8:58 a.m. Warrant served on Main Road.
10:10 a.m. Caller reports a backhoe removing guardrails in roadway on South Cross Road without signs.

Tuesday, 5/8
4:51 p.m. Caller on French King Highway says she is following a vehicle doing 80 mpg who almost ran two cars off the road while passing.

Wednesday, 5/9
6:30 p.m. Suspicious person on Ben Hale Road.

Thursday, 5/10
3:46 p.m. Calls into station reporting a mile-long traffic backup at the Gill lights. Placed call to MassDOT re: changing cycle times due to months-long detour.
5:38 p.m. Medical emergency, Mountain Road.

Friday, 5/11
11:30 a.m. Assisted Northfield PD with traffic control around three-car accident on Route 10.
6:42 p.m. Medical emergency, West Gill Road.
10:26 p.m. Illegal raccoon hunting on River Road.

Saturday, 5/12
9:52 a.m. Assisted with landlord-tenant dispute on French King Highway.
10:54 a.m. Assisted with business dispute on Main Road.
1 p.m. Oak Street caller reports fear for the safety of migrating Canada geese. Advised to contact environmental police.
2:49 p.m. Call reporting male party on French King Bridge. Silver vehicle with open door parked on Gill side.
6:53 p.m. Lifeline activated on Main Road.

Sunday 5/13
1:57 p.m. Officer called to the French King Bridge for a despondent person. Same taken for evaluation.

WEST ALONG from page B1

the custom in many old New England families, we inherited some of his furniture, and his lilacs.

So where is this taking me this Sunday morning after a soft rain? Nowhere special I guess, just reflecting on that ephemeral lilac season, how quickly it passes like the lives of those who have come before, or like those who have recently left us all too soon.

A 1930s song in French by Charles Trenet comes to mind:

Longtemps, longtemps après que les poètes ont disparu, Leurs chansons courent encore dans les rues...

(A long, long time after poets have passed on, Their songs linger still along our streets...)

The poets of Montague that we know, Patricia and Chris, have lent us their words and song; Frank has provided the streets.

The same can be said of the planters of lilacs. They’re still here, lingering after a long, long time **PASSING.**



Karen Chapman of Montague is an abstract painter who also enjoys her job working at the Montague Bookmill.

CHAPMAN from page B1

of the issues to work on as a person. No surprise, then, that her art and her life are intricately entwined.

In recent months Karen has found charcoal, both the black and the white, allows her a certain kind of freedom she hadn’t found with oil paint. She finds a simple stroke of black charcoal on paper is, of itself, the start of an abstract expression of emotion that she can then build on. She lets the piece take form and follows the intuitive process until the work feels it is at its strongest.

The trick then, she admits, is recognizing that peak, and being able to stop and let the piece just be.

Some of the well-known artists Karen admires are Willem de Kooning, Susan Rothenberg, and Richard Diebenkorn. Their influences can be seen in her work, in her use of color and form and her fragmented images. All of her work carries a strong emotional content. Emotion is her “ignition” that starts the process and carries it to its conclusion.

As for living in the Pioneer Valley as an artist, Karen feels fortunate to have such a large community of artists and friends to be inspired by, and with whom she can share her work. Some of the venues she has shown her art at include Westfield State University’s Arno Maris Gallery, the Forbes Library Hosmer Gallery in Northampton, and at Gallery A3 in Amherst.

The consistent challenge she faces is how to reach an audience. She doesn’t have gallery representation at this time, and does not yet have a website. In addition, she finds that there is an added difficulty if your work is of a larger size and non-representational – it’s not the kind of art places like restaurants are typically looking to show.

For now, her process, and the results it produces, will remain the content of her personal domain.

T-RUMP

by denis f. bordeaux

SIR, STORMY IS NOW SUEING YOU FOR DEFAMATION.

I GUESS BY TELLING OUTRAGEOUS LIES ABOUT HER.

HOW CAN YOU DE-FAME A WOMEN WHO CALLS HERSELF A SUCCESSFUL WHORE.

LIES! WE ALL LIE! DEMOCRATS, REPUBLICANS, LIBERALS, CONSERVATIVES, D.C.'S A DAMN LIE-FEST. HELL IT'S HOW I GOT ELECTED.

ASIDE FROM ACTUALLY GOING TO CHURCH, MAYBE WE SHOULD STEP BACK AND THINK ABOUT SERIOUS CHANGES TO CLEAN OUR ACT UP. YOU KNOW, TURN OVER A NEW LEAF.

GIVE UP THAT FLOATY, FRESH BRIBE FEELING, OR THAT TRINGLY, BACKDOOR SEX SENSATION. VERY TOUGH. SO TOTALLY STEAMY.

THEN THERE'S THE NAPALM-LIKE SMELL OF SWAMP GAS IN THE MORNING. GOD HELP ME, BUT I DO LOVE IT SO.

BUT THERE REALLY IS A BACKLOG OF LIES, LIES, CRAFT AND CRONY-ISM!

UH, THAT'S TWO DIFFERENT MOVIES, SIR.

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It is difficult
to get the news from poems
yet men die miserably every day
for lack
of what is found there.

- William Carlos Williams

edited by Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno
Readers are invited to send poems to the
Montague Reporter at: 177 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376
or to: poetry@montaguereporter.org

May’s Featured Poet: Al Miller

This month’s poetry page is devoted entirely to Al Miller’s remarkable long poem “A Black Pony.” Al, who lives in Montague Center, is a long-time contributor to the poetry page. Two of his recent poems were published in War and Moral Injury: A Reader, edited by Robert Emmet Meagher and Douglas A. Pryer (Cascade Books, 2018).

A Black Pony Palimpsest

“The past is never dead.
It’s not even past.”
- Wm. Faulkner

*Crows, barking from the blue tree line swearing to the truth of witness,
their black wings rowing the air, flying those water moccasin rivers, gar fish
their gator toothed smile, humans flying on the backs of
horses and fire, their stories, the watchers*

Vernie, the Master’s family’s only child, led the pony
Claude his father had given him into the river’s history of silt,
on the south bank of the North Fork of Spring River, on the road
to Medoc. A rare occasion the sun reveals a napped arrow head, in the gravel
loam
after a plow and the rain, willows near the river’s turn, nettles in the shadows.
A softball diamond near the small church in Medoc, built during the great war
before the Korean War
on the old militia training grounds of the Civil War
five miles from a slave’s escape, the Kansas border.
The gift of a journey, the speed and flight, the endurance of a horse,
Claude gave his son, before he vanished to the Indian territories.

This field
the duration of a horse
a sycamore older than settlement in the east
one-mile north of Shirley’s Ford at Galesburg;
Colonel John Shirley’s mill built by slaves. No longer throws a shadow
where the river leaves the stone arches of its foundation.
His son “Bud” Allison Shirley, Myra Maybelle’s mentor and brother,
scout for Quantrill and Bloody Bill Anderson, “Bushwhackers”
Bud would die by ambush at Sarcoxie. Myra Maybelle became Belle Star
a horse thief wanted for murder: Shot in the back she fell from her horse,
shot again from the front as she lay on the ground by someone she knew
with a shot gun, maybe her own, in the territories.
Fallen from her favorite horse, the one she had beaten
her son for riding too hard, Eddie a suspect in her murder, died from two
shotgun blasts in a bar in Claremore, Indian Territory.

The plowed ground,
the black pony, five miles west from Carthage and the skirmish line
of the first battle of the Civil War, blood in the bedrock limestone calipers,
July 5th 1861.
The second battle in Jasper County, where the ball diamond is, August 1861.
Claude traded paint horses before the black pony. This ground, spring rains,
muted light
north a day’s ride from the farm of Moses Carver. The first home of the slave boy
scientist George Washington Carver. Moses bought George’s mother Mary, to
be his wife’s slave.
The arc of the Trail of Tears rises from Nashville to Springfield passing
persimmon groves, descends to the government territories, blue stem edges,
cat tails where the earth seeps, and springs surface, head waters of the River
making its way to the Territories.

Forced onto the trail some die from grief, others starvation, a freezing winter,
exposure,
buried shallow, forced from ancestral land, a thousand mile walk from
communal
land, holding in their softness collective memories.
They’d slip like shadows from oaks to elms, sycamores to sassafras, the past to
present
from the trail, lighter by the generations, the wisdom of an oral history.

Claude would disappear into the territory, the terminus of the trail, his dark
hair his dark skin
cottonwood draws of black jack oaks, shag bark hickory, walnuts and pecans,
blood root, and the Osage.

The black pony mired in the wet silt.

Two miles downriver from the field to George’s City and Colonel Shirley’s
farm where he kept
thoroughbred horses, Africans enslaved, Galesburg and the Slave’s graveyard
south of the school house where children played “Annie Over.” Voices of the
white children shrill and giddy at recess.
Together they had sung John Brown’s Body, God Bless America, saluted the flag,
their small hands over their hearts. Their language a colonial empire and
separation,
the clearances, communal land, communal memories, land divided to real estate.
Yellow Finches spring flocks move as one mind, form reform to the light and
wind.

Up river two miles, a quarter mile long sluice, cut through lime stone by slaves,
to power the Quaker Mill, an overseer shotgun across his knees.
The pony stuck in black silt below the gambrel, resistance to the boy on its back
drove its flared hooves
into the dark silt, breath the mornings expectation, its chest a bellows.
Surrounded by boys, witness to the horse and subjugation, the men they might
become, their futures shadows around them. A Pileated hammers at a dying
oak, boundary to the silence.

Ten years, three quarters of a thousand miles from the North Fork
of Spring River, his grandmother’s peonies. The eleven-year-old witness to the
pony,
twenty-one, home from his generation’s war, killing Vietnamese with the
grandsons of
slaves and Indians from reservations, at war and perpetually poor.

Donna his wife,
Curbo and Cutright, friends from before Nam “We should party,
and celebrate that you made it.” In a kitchen on a street in the part of Hobbs
for labor, living near one another in houses sized to the survivable forms of
poverty,
without flowers, or trees planted by grandfathers.

Black and white fake marble tiles, he remembers the taupe motes
of the Permian Basin’s transient dust. The round black stubbled
face of one he had never seen before asking, “What was it like over there?”
This world.
He shifts his hand to a Formica table
hoping, it will take his weight
his muscles trembling wishing he had run.
The weight of remembering death and its smell, how the tug of a bullet
opens the earth to the void beneath our feet.
Hoping, he could feel thick drops of warm rain
cross the distance from childhood.
This life.
And In his mind in the circle again watching the black pony.
The room of his wife and friends emptied, but for
the dark bearded questionnaire whose face remained
as earnest as Francis convincing himself of God, as he comes to understand
the difficulty it had been, watching the black pony. Tremble.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

ONGOING EVENTS: EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

FIRST SUNDAY MONTHLY

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

EVERY MONDAY

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

2ND AND 4TH MONDAYS

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAYS

The Perch (4th floor), Greenfield: *Creacion Latin Big Band & Late Night Open Mic Jam*. 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:

Artspace, Greenfield: *Figure Drawing Exhibition*. Recent works from the Sunday morning

figure drawing group, a 16-year tradition. Through June 1.

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*.



Have you ever watched a bottle float down a river? How often do you think about all the glass in the waste stream? Artist Richard Klein's current installation at Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, "Bottle in the River," uses repurposed glass objects to create work that explores how we interact with nature and the passage of time. Klein will give a free talk about his work on Thursday, May 31 at 7 p.m. The installation remains on view through June 17. Pictured: "Driftwood Motel".

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

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *Speaking Figuratively*, Paintings and drawings by Eric Grab. Through May.

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

Leverett Crafts and Art Center: *Common Cloth*. Explore our fibershed with Leonore Alaniz. Exhibit celebration from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 27. Do hands-on activities in the Maker

Space from May 23 to May 30. Ends May 30.

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.

McCusker's Market, Shelburne Falls: *Precarious*, Art by Alice Thomas. Through May 31.

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

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

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

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

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

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

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

3 jpegs to explodedviewma@gmail.com by August 22.

Casting Call for Annie Musical. Arena Civic Theatre will hold auditions for its September production of *Annie*: Sunday, May 27 1 p.m. and Monday, May 28 at 6 p.m. at 47 Olympia Dr, Amherst. Please arrive at the start time. There are no appointments.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, MAY 24

Energy Park, Greenfield: Coop Concert with *Jim Eagan and Dennis Avery, Katie Clarke and Larry LeBlanc, Orlen, Gabriel and Avery*. 6 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Peter Blanchette* concert with dinner option. Medieval, renaissance and baroque music to world music, new music, and his own original pieces. 7 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dave Bartley*. Jazz piano and vocals. 8:30 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Hip Hop DJs Krefting and Rec*. 9 p.m. \$

FRIDAY, MAY 25

Leverett Crafts and Arts: *Leonore Alaniz Lecture*. Textiles and climate-beneficial fiber practices, mindful buying, care for and disposal of textiles. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *North Star Learning Center Spring Plays*. Repeats Saturday May 26. 7 p.m. \$

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Dancehall, Hip Hop, Reggaeton and Soca* with DJs Trends and Snack Attack. 9 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bluegrass and Beyond*. Jam session. 9:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Fifteen Minutes: A Podcast about Fame* with Jamie Berger, live. 8 p.m. \$

SATURDAY, MAY 26

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Saturday Jamboree with Under the Tree Music Company*. Art and musical fun for children under 6 years old. 4 p.m.

FAB Fashion, Turners Falls: *FAB Fashion Show*. Original fashions from three designers hit the runway. (See page B1.) 5 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Live Comedy Show* with Jon Ross, David Feldman, Dr. Jay Sutay. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Deep C Divers*, with the Wendell Warriors drumming group opening. 8 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Warblers, Tonight's Tonite*. 9 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Good Trees River Band*. Psychedelic rock. 9:30 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 28

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *A Cellist and a Sol-*

dier. Poetry of Al Miller, accompanying original compositions for cello by Mark Fraser. 4 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 31

Energy Park, Greenfield: Coop Concert with *Roland LaPierre, Joe Graveline and Nina Gross, Pat and Tex with Avery and White*. 6 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *West End Blend*, funk & soul. 8 p.m. \$

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FAB Lifts Off with Runway Fashion Show

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS – Richie Richardson's FAB fashion store opened in deep winter six months ago on Second Street with very little fanfare. A proper fashion house opening this coming Saturday, May 26 will feature a runway of models highlighting the three collections represented by FAB: Art Groupie, CJ Original and Richie Richardson.

The free event will begin at 5 p.m., and Richardson warns that the seating will be limited, so arrive early for the best viewing spot.

Hostess Julianne Jones and Mistress of Ceremony Amanda Mosley will be guiding the evening's activities. "Three collections will be presented," said Richardson. "These three designers are ones that we started with here at FAB."

Since opening last November, he says, word has spread about the ethnic chic fashion art boutique, and he sees people in his store from all over the Valley.

The first, Art Groupie, are fashions from Ghana created by designers and artists and makers that Richardson's friend Gary Fray brought together. When Fray left New York for Ghana in the 1980s, he found talent went begging in the streets for lack of capital, equipment, and other resources. Now, the members

of Art Groupie are supporting themselves making their own fabrics and designs, with help from Fray with export marketing.

Says Richardson, "Some of these kids were selling their bodies on the street. Gary told them, 'you have talent, a skill, we can teach you how to use what you have,' and today he has a thriving group of people. They design everything, make everything and they are recycling things and producing new work." The line includes shirts, jeans, and bags.

The second collection will be CJ Original, according to Richardson "a gifted designer who does this amazing line of batik, print, dye with overlays and concepts, giving his work its own identity. Every one of his shirts is original." The store is getting his collection of unisex shirts and a women's line as well.

Richardson has recently reunited with a man who was instrumental to the growth of the Richardson family's fashion line back in Trinidad in the 1980s. Tony Alfred "has the instinct... Tony can look at my design and know. He has the wherewithal to say if functionally, it will work or not. That is the level of confidence necessary, and I feel honored to have him part of this. I feel really confident now," confided Richardson, and gestured towards the rear of the shop where several industrial

sewing machines stood at the ready. "We have the opportunity to do all the prototypes in house, work all the kinks out and then move forward."

The shop is setting up production of Richardson's FAB line of clothing with designs produced in multiples of about half a dozen, with the ability to create made-to-order on any sample. People will be welcome to buy any of the runway items on Saturday as well as order custom versions of what they see. There will be models of a variety of body types and ages and many sizes and styles will be presented; Richardson's daughter will even be one of the models.

The shop owner is very enthused about yet another, larger fashion event he has in the works for the town of Turners Falls: a large public fashion event in Peskeomskut Park that will provide a buyers market for fashions from under-represented designers and small fashion houses. "I already have this group of designers from the Caribbean who want to come, they are very excited about the idea because they are looking for new markets just like everyone else," explained Richardson.

In the fashion world, the annual buyers' shows can cost tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars to participate in. Richardson would like to create a more egalitarian fashion platform with a lot of variety and goods from all



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

Richie Richardson with one of his original FAB designs. The designer is hosting a runway fashion show at his Turners Falls boutique this Saturday, May 26.

over the world. Helping him curate this event will be Richard Young, a fashion impresario from Trinidad. There is no exact date yet, but Richardson believes he will announce one in a few weeks' time.

Meanwhile, visit FAB for fash-

ion Wednesdays through Saturdays from midday to 7 p.m. and Sundays from midday to 5 p.m. Check out the latest designs Saturday evening and make yourself acquainted with Richardson and the FAB collective.

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