



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 16 – NO. 32 also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell \$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES MAY 31, 2018

Local's Debut Novel Makes Waves

By DINA STANDER

MONTAGUE CENTER – For a few weeks, it seemed to August Thomas that every time she left the house she'd run into someone in Montague Center who was reading her novel, *Liar's Candle*.

"Anna at the library put up a display!" the 24-year-



STANDER PHOTO

Montague Center native August Thomas discusses her spy thriller *Liar's Candle* at the Lady Killigrew.

old novelist tells me with a grin that is part pride, part surprise – and charmingly humble.

August is wicked smart, fun to talk with, and deservedly celebrated by her neighbors. We met at the Lady Killigrew Cafe, the perfect backdrop for an afternoon chat.

Her debut novel, a fast-paced spy thriller, was released in April by Simon and Schuster. Since then, she's been on the road for interviews, and is heading to the UK for a book tour in the fall. She's traveled for readings at Georgetown in Washington DC, Wellesley, and the Harvard Coop, but as we tucked into a corner at the Lady K she confessed that, by far, her favorite event was close to home at Amherst Books – where it seemed like "all the readers in the village of Montague Center had come to say hello."

Thomas, who was homeschooled, moved to Montague with her mother when she was 14. A motivated student, she earned scholarships and internships that gave her opportunities for study and travel abroad. She started writing *Liar's Candle* during a fellowship in Scotland where she was working towards a masters in creative writing. She had planned a different project, but a writing workshop prompt led her in a new direction.

The first thing I wanted to know was how she ended up setting her story in Turkey. "Well," she said with a delightfully modest shrug, "me and my mother, we love to travel."

It turns out that a 2,300-mile mother-daughter bus tour through Turkey when she was 16 (and already a

see **DEBUT** page A4

GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Ending School Police Program Would Require Agreement of District, Police Department

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – On Tuesday night, the Gill-Montague school committee approved an agreement with the Montague police department regarding the town's new school police officer. Under the terms of the document, the program, in which the district will pay three-quarters of the cost of stationing a Montague officer at the schools, may only be ended "by mutual agreement" of the district and town.

The officer was approved in principle by the school committee earlier in the spring, and a motion at

Montague town meeting to defund the town's share of the cost failed by two votes after an hour-long debate. Hiring is underway, and the officer will start by the fall.

Newly elected Montague member Jennifer Lively questioned the "mutual agreement" clause in the agreement on Tuesday. "It could be possible that they think everything's fine, and we don't, or vice versa," she said. "What would happen in that situation?"

Superintendent Michael Sullivan and high school principal Annie Leonard indicated that such a

see **GMRSD** page A6

Restored Bell and Tower To Be Dedicated Saturday



GEORGE SHAPIRO PHOTO

Volunteers recently put finishing touches on the project, using funding from the town.

By DAVID JAMES

LAKE PLEASANT – Having asked "please" – and been granted its wish – the Lake Pleasant Village Association (LPVA) will gratefully say "thank you" to officials of the Town of Montague at high noon this Saturday, June 2, during Village Day celebration festivities on Adams Street off Lake Pleasant Road.

In 2015, LPVA officers and rank-and-file members packed the public seating area at a selectboard meeting and made a request for \$5,000 to assist with the restoration of the village's historic bell, and the rebuilding of its derelict and dangerous memorial bell tower. The request was approved, and this spring, finishing touches on the project were

at long last completed.

Other free public activities Saturday include games, food, and a tug of war, pitting a team representing the Bluffs section of the village on the east side of the Bridge of Names against a team from the Highlands on the west side, all beginning at 11:30 a.m.

At 12:30 p.m. there will be a walking tour conducted by this reporter, David James, co-author of *Spirit and Spa*, a portrait of the history of Spiritualism in this smallest and youngest of Montague's five villages.

Lake Pleasant was founded in 1874 by Spiritualists, believers that death was but the doorway into afterlife and that souls in the Spirit

see **TOWER** page A4

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Neighbors Speak Out Against Cannabis Greenhouse Idea

By ROB SKELTON

Alarmed emails circulating amongst concerned citizens regarding a proposed cannabis growing facility in Leverett – which appears dead in the water anyway – drew twenty people to Tuesday's selectboard meeting.

The trial balloon, launched by mall developer/lawyer Rob Wolf, had proposed 16 to 20 greenhouses, leaseable to pot growers, situated on a geologically challenging 16-acre triangular tract at the corner of Cave

Hill and Montague roads, which is currently on the market. The lot has frontage for four building lots, and the town has already rejected spending CPA money to purchase it. It also lacks three-phase power, precluding solar enhancement.

Sarah Todd of Montague Road, the only person to get on the meeting's agenda, spoke to quality of life issues, light pollution, increased traffic, and "the list goes on," including possible environmental consequences.

see **LEVERETT** page A6

Baystate Franklin: Tentative Deal Reached Between Nurses, Management

By SHEA FERAL

GREENFIELD – The nurses at Baystate Franklin Medical Center and Baystate Health arrived at a tentative contract agreement last Wednesday after 18 months of negotiations. The nurses, represented by the Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA), will vote to ratify the contract "within a week," according to a Baystate Health press release. If ratified, the contract will be active until December 31, 2021.

"This is a huge victory for Baystate Franklin patients, nurses, and our entire community," Donna Stern, registered nurse and co-chair

of the MNA bargaining committee, wrote in a public statement. "This settlement means public resources will be used appropriately, to improve patient care conditions and ensure that the nurses who provide care are treated fairly."

A Baystate Health press release states that "[w]ith the conclusion of this process, the entire Baystate Franklin team is looking forward to advancing a culture that is strong, unified, and dedicated to providing our community with high-quality healthcare."

As reported earlier this year, a major issue between the union and hospital management had been

staffing levels and conditions. The MNA claimed that management was "failing to schedule enough nurses" and "forcing nurses to work though [their] meal breaks and routinely past the end of [their] shifts."

The new contract provides many improvements and safeguards for staffing levels and working conditions at the Greenfield hospital, including the hospital agreeing "not to diminish current staffing grids as they relate to RNs" and to "post and recruit positions to fill such positions that are necessary for the hospital to meet its contract obligations," according to the MNA.

see **NURSES** page A7

TFHS Sports: The Week

By MATT ROBINSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – This week marked the end of the Turners Falls 2018 spring sports season. While the season has ended for track, baseball, and girls' tennis, the softball and boys' tennis teams march on.

In the last week of the regular season, the Turners Falls boys tennis team spoiled Holyoke's chances for a postseason run, and beat Chicopee before losing to Central High.

The softball team also finished their regular season coming from behind to beat Pioneer and then

dropping their last game by one run in an interdivisional dustup with Minnechaug.

Also this week, the Turners Falls baseball team fell back to earth.

Boys Tennis

TFHS 4 – Holyoke 1
TFHS 4 – Chicopee 1
Central 5 – TFHS 0

Last Wednesday, May 23, the boys' tennis team hosted the Holyoke Purple Knights in their last home tennis match of the season. Holyoke needed the win: they were 8-8-1, and needed at least a tie to qualify for the postseason. Power-town didn't necessarily need it; at 6-4, they were already in the playoffs. But Turners' main concern was seeding: the better their record, the higher their seed.

It was Jimmy Vaughn's farewell game, the last regular season match he would play at home. And besides the usual family members, a couple of grandparents came to the match.

see **TFHS SPORTS** page A5



DAVID HOITT PHOTOS



Turners Falls pitcher Kyle Dodge (left) and Franklin Tech's Hunter Sessions (right) were on the mound as the Franklin Tech Eagles and Turners Falls Thunder went head-to-head last week. Powertown edged the Eagles, 7-6, in the cross-town contest.

The Montague Reporter

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August 2002

Gold Watch and Chain

Hugh Corr says he figures he had been proofreading the *Montague Reporter* for about six months before he finally made it into the masthead. We checked, and his first appearance there was on January 5, 2006.

That means Hugh has been coming in every Wednesday evening for close to 13 years – save for the odd vacation, or particularly icy night – to spend a couple hours reading through these pages, catching errors large and small.

Having recently moved from Montague Center to southern Vermont, Hugh is finally hanging up his proofreader’s cleats.

A stable, laconic, and friendly presence in the newsroom, Hugh has taken active measures to avoid recognition or compensation, and if he knew we were writing this he would probably turn his car around and come back in here to object.

This page features the 571st consecutive appearance of his name on the masthead – far and away the record, unless you count the “Founded By” line.

It’s the end of an era.

A volunteer like Hugh is irreplaceable. Instead, we’re training

several people to come in on rotation every three or four weeks to fill his seat. (If you’re interested in helping out with this – or with filing or cleaning or taking photos or selling ads – contact volunteer@montaguereporter.org.)

One two- or three-hour slice at a time, Hugh has watched this newspaper evolve, moving through three offices and more editors. As a wonderful kind of reverse going-away gift, he brokered the donation of a pile of hardware that will help us take some more steps forward.

We hear a lot of rhetoric about “community” in this country, and it’s too often an unanswered invocation, or a diagnosis of what we think has been lost. If you want to help foster community where you live, one of the best things you can do is find a simple way to pitch in, and then show up to do it, every week or every month, *for years*.

We’re very lucky to live in a place where quite a number of people do this. It doesn’t make it any easier when one moves on.

Thank you, Hugh, for all your hard work and good company! Best of luck in your next adventure. The world needs more folks like you.

This Week in History

Excerpts from the pages of our forebear and namesake, the Turners Falls Reporter.

May 29, 1878: A Greenfield butcher came over to Turners Falls a short time since with a load of coarse meat, thinking that anything would be good enough for Turners Falls, but was unable to sell a pound of it.

Returning to the shiretown, the unprincipled peddler dumped his filthy load over the side of the road just beyond the bridge, where it now creates a stench strong enough to turn the stomachs of passersby.

May 30, 1888: The small boy was happy again on Wednesday, when our nine badly thrashed the Northampton Firemen, on the park in this village. The visitors had the Amherst battery, and a strong team throughout, but they couldn’t hit Ray’s pitching, and our boys batted for the woods when they did get a clip at the gyrating sphere....

A Frenchman pounded his wife the other day, collected the furniture and broke it up with an axe, and then started down to the river

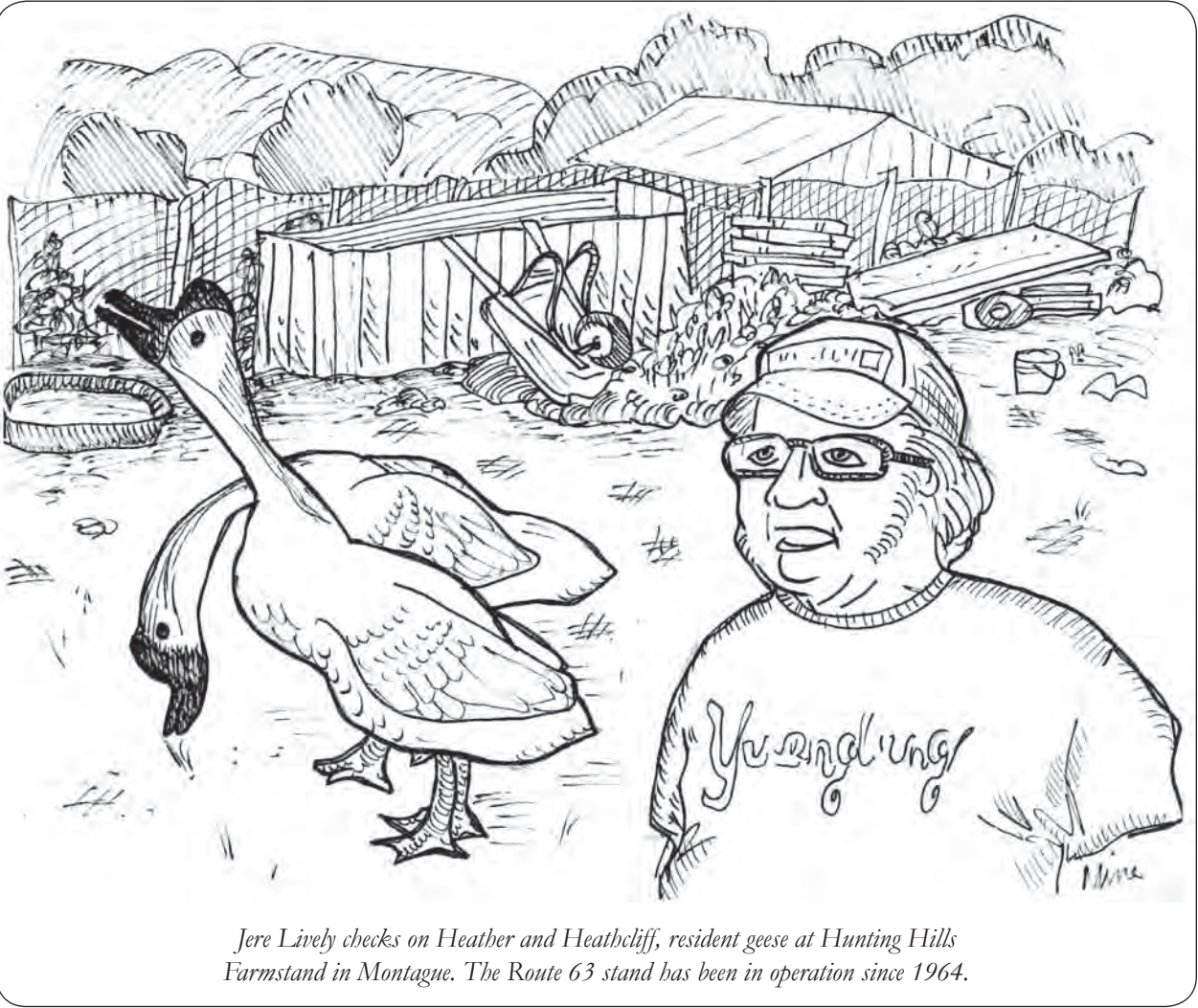
to drown himself. He plunged in, but soon called loudly for someone to save him.

June 1, 1898: An out of town bicycle rider, while racing at the park Monday afternoon, was thrown off his wheel by a curious small boy and both he and his wheel were injured. It was the first bicycle race and while the riders were going at full speed on the home stretch, the aforesaid boy, who had been standing on the railing next the track, dashed directly in front of this rider and he was thrown violently from his wheel.

The boy was hurt a little, too.

May 27, 1908: The selectmen have forbidden the speed of automobiles and motorcycles in the villages of the town greater than eight miles an hour – which will leave many heartaches.

When you see a motor passing a horse at an ordinary gait of eight miles, you will know that somebody is breaking the law. It does not take a civil engineer and a stop watch to tell the difference between eight and twenty miles an hour.



Letters to



the Editors

Thanks to Damkoehler

Thank you, Cassie Damkoehler, for your eloquent and thoughtful description of your experiences during the “Indians” logo controversy. Thank you especially for reminding all of us that, however important that issue was, there are things that are far more important for our school system and for our children’s lives and futures.

I hope that everyone who thought that the recent election was about “healing the divide” or “bringing the community together” will read it and ask themselves how they can help make those things happen going forward.

You don’t need to be on the school committee, and the school committee can’t do it all by themselves. Everyone can help, and I think a good place to start would be reading your editorial and pondering its message.

Mike Naughton
Millers Falls

Concern Over Unfair Accusation Online, “Fake News” in Print

In Mike Jackson’s recent article regarding the outcome of the GMRSC election, he used limited data, perceptions, and snippets from the Forum and Facebook for what he referenced as a “conciliatory tone” for the winners.

Sadly, in today’s “Journalistic World,” it has become difficult to impossible to sort out fake news from real news, to find integrity, truth and unbiased reporting. This covers radio, television and newspaper. For some reason, the bar of integrity has dropped considerably. I notice this every day – no matter what the story – national, state, or local. I was never contacted for a response to the recent election.

During the recent campaign for GMRSC, I used a Facebook page to send out my vision as well as my personal knowledge and experience as a candidate. I clearly stated at the forum that if people thought I was on the ballot to return the logo, I was not their candidate and they should not vote for me.

Unfortunately, there were candidates, community members, and town officials who were single-minded to prove otherwise. For some, no stone was left unturned – dishonesty, ethics, and slander.

No one has control over these people, or over who would choose to support you. If the “Save the TF Indians Logo” supporters believe differently of me, that was their choice/right!

Joyce Phillips
Turners Falls

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Compiled by DON CLEGG

The **Franklin County Tech School graduation** ceremony will be held at Greenfield Community College this Friday, June 1, starting at 5:30 p.m. (The tech school is installing lights at the football field, so that location is unavailable.) All are welcome!

Turners Falls High School's graduation is also this Friday, at 6:30 p.m. in the high school gymnasium. Congrats to all local graduates!

A half-mile, **wheelchair-accessible loop trail** at the Alderbrook Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary in Northfield will open this Saturday, June 2, National Trails Day. The grand opening will run from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. with speakers, refreshments, family activities, and a chance to experience the trail, known as the Gunnery Sergeant Jeff Ames Accessible Nature Trail. The 140-acre sanctuary is owned by the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, and volunteers have been working through the spring to finish the trail. It meanders through five acres of woods, donated to the

Trust by Bill and Nancy Ames, to reach an observation deck beside a beaver pond. Representatives of the Wampanoag Aquinnah, Abenaki, and Narragansett Nations, as well as members of the Nolumbeka Project and the Northfield Historical Commission, worked with Mount Grace to describe the cultural importance of the area, and helped to design educational trail signs along the pathway. Parking is on the east side of Millers Falls Road (Route 63), just south of the intersection with Homer Road. See www.mountgrace.org/events for more details and a full list of speakers.

Come to Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, Turners Falls this Saturday, June 2, at 10 a.m. to check out Blondie and Bucky, **pint-sized miniature horses** that fit in anyone's backyard. Minis are gaining popularity with horse lovers, and the presenters will tell you why. Learn from current owners about the care and up-keep of this exciting, fun and friendly breed. Handouts will be available. This is a family affair for all ages to enjoy. Be sure to bring your camera! Since this is an outside event in

the bank's back parking lot, it will be weather permitting. RiverCulture is compiling a **summer event calendar** for cultural events happening between June 21 and August 31 anywhere in the town of Montague. The calendar will be posted on the RiverCulture website and social media, and included as an insert in the June 14 edition of the *Montague Reporter*.

To list your exhibition, talk, musical performance, theater performance, craft show, workshop, etc., submit details to riverculture@montague-ma.gov by June 8. Make sure your posting includes event name, location, time, any cost of entry, a brief description, and media links. Call Suzanne at call (413) 835-1390 if you have any questions.

Join Diemand Farm as they kick off their **Smokehouse dinners** this summer. Dinners will be held the first and third Mondays of every month, from June 4 to September 17.

Entree options will vary each week but will include smoked chicken, baby back ribs, Mountain Top Country Meats kielbasa, and their own beef brisket, served with your choice of two sides, cornbread, and a drink. As each meal approaches, a menu will be posted at www.thediemandfarm.com/events, make reservations at the link there or by calling (978) 544-3806. Each meal will cost between \$14 to \$19; *à la carte* options will be available. Dinner will be served promptly at 6 p.m. Reservations are strongly recommended, as food and

seating will be limited; however, walk-ins are welcome. The farm is located at 126 Mormon Hollow Road in Wendell.

The First Wednesday Speaker Series welcomes **Claire Chang and John Ward of the Solar Store** on Wednesday, June 6, at 6 p.m. in the LeVanway Room of the Greenfield Public Library.

Chang and Ward will explore ways to help reduce your carbon footprint through everyday actions, both large and small. As a team they have worked to move Massachusetts toward a goal of 100% renewable energy by 2050, and look forward to sharing sustainable ideas and instigating conversation on living a more "green" life.

The First Wednesday Speaker Series is sponsored by the Friends of the Greenfield Public Library, and all programs are free and open to the public.

Second Congregational Church of Greenfield pastor Rev. Lorenzo Langstroth invented the modern moveable frame beehive in 1852. He wrote the first apiary manual here, *On the Hive and the Honey-bee*, still in worldwide use today.

Every June since 2010, the **Langstroth Bee Fest** celebrates the importance of bees today with free fun kids' activities and informative lectures by leading experts. This year, the free event is held on Saturday, June 9, starting at 9:30 a.m. at Second Congregational Church, 16 Court Square, Greenfield. There will be a pollinators' parade

through the farmers market, a bee piñata, and tie-in events at Hawks & Reed, the Pushkin Gallery, the Historical Society of Greenfield, and Energy Park. See www.facebook.com/beefest/ for details.

The Great Falls Discovery Center is **now open seven days per week**, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. In late June, the hours will be further expanded and stay open until 6 p.m. And don't forget that the **Turners Falls Fishway** is open for just a couple more weeks, Wednesdays through Sundays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The lamprey are running now!

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More Letters to the Editors

An Issue with Last Week's Montague Police Log

Hi there, I was at the Wagon Wheel scanning through the Police log with my kiddos looking for fun stuff (this time, a disoriented bat, among other things). I noticed something I'd like to have addressed. Why is it that the only racial groups you specify are black people? The only two incidents that had races specified were black men. I assume that means all the other disorderly conducts, suspicious activity, etc, are white people, but why are their races not just as important? Does that not help paint a clearer picture about who gets the police called on them? How about specify the racial identity of all the people, or none at all?

Elisabeth Ankje Bijl
Montague

It's well known that police logs printed in the *Reporter* are widely read and talked about. I cheered the recent decision to no longer publish names of people who have only been arrested. I've also been noticing how involved parties are described. For example, the May 24 Montague log lists some 14 "males," of which only two are described by race. Yes, both are listed as "black"; none are listed as "white." Hmm.

Maggie Sadoway
Turners Falls

For the first time that I've noticed, the Montague Police Log (3/24/18) described three subjects of 911 calls as being "black." I wonder how their race is relevant since no one else is described as "white" or "Asian" or "Latino." Is it because someone is assumed to be white unless otherwise stated? I think it might be better to print everyone's race or no one's, to avoid fueling prejudice.

Nancy Bent
Montague

The editors respond...

Good observation and good questions. We reviewed this internally. Here are the relevant pieces of background information about our editorial process: 1. A volunteer picks up printed police logs from the Montague department each week and abridges, formats, and compiles the highlights, typically reproducing the narrative text written by police dispatchers. 2. Even if it were a good thing to do, it would not be possible to include such "racial descriptions" of all people in the police log, because that information is not available to us. 3. We usually remove these descriptors when they do appear. However, we have occasionally left them in when we have felt that doing so might help paint a more complete picture of (a) someone at large and potentially dangerous; (b) a social dynamic that may have led to the police being called; or (c) the overall cultural ways policing and racialization are interconnected. 4. It has not been our practice to only include racialized descriptions of black people. The May 24 *Highlights from the Montague*

Police Log appears to have been an unrepresentative sample. In the past twelve months, our text included a total of 12 instances of a person being described as "white," and 6 as "black." In the twelve months preceding that, the text referred to 21 people as "white" and 2 as "black." (There were no other comparable examples – "Asian," "Latino/a," "Hispanic," etc. – published in that time period.) These included entries such as: 6/16/17: "Officer calling back to update; a skinny black male and a white female sped off in a black SUV from the back parking lot of the Cutlery Block." 11/6/17: "911 caller from Old Sunderland Road reporting that an SUV pulled into her driveway and an older white male got out, walked around to the back door of her home, and started knocking on the back glass doors. Officers checking area as well as various other neighborhoods in Montague; nothing found." 12/4/17: "Walk-in party states that her young daughter and her friend were followed on Turners Falls Road by a white male with a

black hoodie driving a beat-up white pickup truck. They started running to get away and made it home safely." 12/5/17: "Caller from Second Street states that a black male in a hoodie is soliciting without a permit." 3/18/18: "Caller states that an older, heavy-set, balding white male is aggressively begging for change outside of Rite Aid." 5. We're unable to provide page space for every call (it's *Highlights From...*). Not every call or incident ends up released on the public records; and the records include wildly varied levels of details about incidents. Therefore, we often include and encapsulate entries in ways that highlight patterns among them. 6. In the May 24 log, two complaints to the police concerning "black" men were specifically reports of black men yelling on Fourth Street. In this case, we printed both entries without redacting race in order to emphasize a pattern we saw as notable: the calls were similar, and the caller(s) included a racialized descriptor in both instances. This may have been a bad decision! We

have never received any feedback on this particular issue before, but we can certainly see why last week's entry raised eyebrows. It might be reasonable to adopt a policy of eliminating every reference to racial identity across the board, but if we did that, we would miss out on key elements of dispatch entries like this one: 7/18/16: "Caller was just involved in altercation on Avenue A near St. Kaz: he was eyeballing two males and they were eyeballing him back, some words were exchanged, and the males came after him but did not make physical contact. One subject unknown race; other white male, shirtless, with nipple piercings and white shorts. Officer spoke to caller, who may have made some comments that instigated the altercation. Advised of options." We're open to further input. For now, we are not setting any new policies, but bearing this in mind. Thank you to our readers for starting this conversation!

Mike Jackson
Managing Editor

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TOWER from page A1

World communicated with human souls on Earth's **material plane**. For the next half-century, Lake Pleasant was the largest – and remains the oldest – continuously-existing same-site Spiritualist center in the United States.

In 1892, the New England Spiritualist Campmeeting Association (NESCA) acquired land for construction of a community auditorium, library and temple. As a result of Ladies' **Improvement Society** fundraising efforts and speaker fee donations by Col. Robert Ingersoll – generally-considered the greatest American orator of his era – a 600-seat multi-story building was completed by the mid-1890s.

After surviving a fire in 1907 which destroyed more than half of Lake Pleasant's **structures**, the NESCA temple was burned by an arsonist in 1955. The temple was not rebuilt, but its original bell was salvaged.

When NESCA disbanded in 1976 due to declining membership and financial insolvency, the bell was donated to the LPVA. Subsequently, the bell was restored, and a memorial bell tower built near the base of the stairs that once led to the NESCA temple.

By 2014, however, that tower's foundation had rotted and its roof had become a sieve. When a 40-pound chunk of metal fell from the bell, the memorial was closed because of public safety concerns.

The town's **community improvement** grant has enabled bell repair and tower rebuilding. The majority of funding was spent for materials and, directed by LPVA president Bob Emond, the majority of labor was provided by the proverbial sweat of villager brows.

In case of rain Saturday, all activities will take place on Sunday, same time, same place.



DEBUT from page A1

sophomore at UMass) sparked a deep interest in the country and its culture. She returned; first for a language immersion program in Ankara, where she lived with a Turkish family, and then again to Istanbul as a Fulbright scholar.

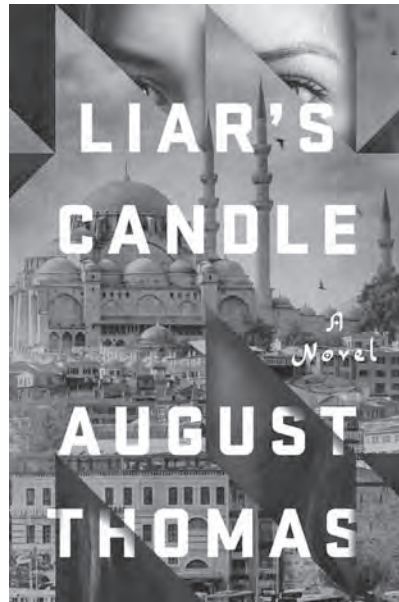
Without the spycraft background so many writers in this genre seem to lean on, August relied on her experience studying in Turkey to inform an edgy, contemporary story that has been described as having a rocket-paced plot, an authentic sense of place, and a hero you want to cheer for.

I asked what she liked about living in Istanbul and she described a colorful neighborhood that, in spite of being in an urban setting, felt a bit like Montague Center, where she's lived since coming to the Valley as a teenager. Her neighborhood near the Bosphorus River had wooden houses and friendly people who would say hello when she was out walking, reminding her of neighbors here.

Thomas describes the hero of *Liar's Candle* as a contemporary feminist: Penny Kessler is a 21-year-old State Department intern who finds herself in a media spotlight and a 36-hour mad race across Turkey to save the life of a missing diplomat.

"Complex women characters in spy novels are rare," she said, explaining how she'd felt unconstrained by the conventions of the genre. She made a deliberate choice to develop a character who is not steeped in the intelligence service, and "who shares the reader's outsider perspective." She resisted hints from her publishers to make Penny more sexy, and when they tried to put a giant pair of pink lips on the cover of the book, she protected her "authority as an author and asked them not to do that."

When asked how she is juggling the book tours and publicity with the demands of getting a second



Montague author August Thomas' first novel, published by Simon and Schuster this spring, is so far available only in hardcover.

novel written, Thomas is careful to note that she was fortunate to have had scholarships that covered her studies, so she is able to write without the pressure of student loan debt hanging over her head.

August Thomas doesn't present as the kind of person who spends her days writing about international intrigue, or researching modern armaments. She laughs over her subsequent surprise when ads for speedboats and Viagra began appearing in her search engine sidebars – targeted towards the people who *do* usually research armaments, she guesses.

She is working on a second Penny Kessler novel now. Living at home with her mom, who is also a celebrated author, August says she likes to break up the writing day with walks around the village.

With a straw hat shading her eyes from the bright sun, long hair pulled aside in a braid, and an open demeanor that makes it clear why her neighbors are so smitten, it is easy to imagine that August Thomas is stepping into a fascinat-

GUEST EDITORIAL

Memorial Day Reflections

By GREG SNEDEKER

GILL – As a representative of the Town of Gill, I would like to thank the Gill Memorial Committee for all their hard work, thoughtfulness, and care. The Town is very lucky to have such a dedicated group of people. I would like to also thank our service members, our volunteers, our police and fire, and all of you who are here to pay your respects in honor of those who died in the service of our country.

If I had to guess, each one of us has a story behind why we are here. It may be a story of how you served in the military, or how a family member served. Or, it may be that someone dear to you lost his or her life while on active duty. It could also be that you just feel strongly about honoring those who gave their lives defending our country and the ideals set forth in our constitution.

Whatever the reasons may be, it has brought us here in the spirit of remembrance, respect, honor, and celebration.

And in that spirit, to help me prepare for this speech, I visited the Veterans Memorial Site here in Gill several times to read the names that are engraved in the granite monuments.

Each time, as I read the names, questions began to arise. Questions like, who was Caleb Combs? In which branch of the military did he serve? Where did he live in Gill? Was Joshua his brother? How would our lives be different if Caleb had survived?

Reading the names of John and Oscar Hale – a family whose name you can find on some of our town street signs – I could only imagine how devastating it must have been for the Hales to lose two family members in such a short time.

I was struck by how many Gill residents served in World War II, and how many survived. Was Gill just fortunate? How did our other towns and communities fare in this respect?

Stephen Krejmas – another resident with a star next to his name,



signifying his death while on active duty. What if he had survived? Again, how would our lives be different? Would Stephen have had offspring? Would his offspring be here with us today?

As my attention moved to the names on the Korean and Vietnam memorial, there were many more names I recognized... Chappell, Conway, Duda, Brown, Fish, Hastings, Maddern, Seamans, Vassar, Yukl, Pogoda, just to name a few. So many dedicated families!

My gaze though kept returning to those with stars next to their names. What if those residents had survived, or not served at all? How would our town and our lives be different?

We will never know, but their sacrifice is present today in what is not seen, in what might have been, and in what still remains.

Through this kind of reflection, I believe we can all gain a deeper understanding, a greater sense of empathy, a broader connection to our community, and a greater love for our country.

Let us honor, respect, celebrate, and remember all our military personnel who have sacrificed while serving and defending us. For their sacrifices continue to shape our lives today, and for all days hereafter.

Greg Snedeker is a member of the Gill selectboard. This speech, which he delivered at the Gill Memorial Day ceremony, was forwarded to the Reporter for publication by a Gill resident, and was published with his approval.

ing career. As we were leaving the café a neighbor stopped her in the courtyard to say they'd just picked up *Liar's Candle* at the library; she was next in line in her household to read it, and "couldn't wait!"

We had just been talking about how writing, and the research required to make a novel hum, is mostly solitary work. "I can't say strongly enough how important this

kind of warm community response is for me," August says. "Please make sure you tell that part. I am grateful to be so cared for and supported here at home."

Liar's Candle is available at bookstores, online, and at your friendly neighborhood library. Another book is in the works.

Stay tuned!



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TFHS SPORTS from page A1

Will Turn’s grandmother traveled from upstate New York to watch, and Brody Trott’s grandfather showed pictures of the covered wagon Brody’s great-great-grandfather drove.

The lengths of the matches varied immensely. Brian Porier won second singles quickly, 6-3, 6-2, and on the first singles court, Vaughn (6-1, 6-1) finished even quicker. That gave a chance for the boys and their families to watch the other matches.

The third singles match dragged on, with neither Turn nor his opponent willing to surrender a single point. The rallies went on until a player couldn’t get to the ball as it bounced on the net, or was just over the line. But often, Turn was on the wrong side of the bounce, and soon found himself down 3-1. He clawed his way back into it, and tied it at 4 all.

Then a remarkable thing happened. After winning a point, Will said, “It was out, but I called it in, so it’s your point.” I guess it’s better to lose honestly, even in such a close match.

They played two more long grueling games and tied a 5-5 knot. Then the balls began to bounce Turn’s way, and he took the first set 7-5.

Because the other two singles matches were finished early, coach Steven Touloumtzis had time to counsel Will while he was playing and during rests. Coach spoke about defensive position, hitting towards his opponent’s backhand, low offensive lobs, and above all, patience. And Will responded by taking the second set 6-3, giving Blue a three-match cushion.

In second doubles, Josh Gaulin and Michael Boyle won their first set 6-3 but lost the next set 6-1, forcing a third set. Because the other doubles match was still being played, Gaulin and Boyle played a full third set instead of a 10-point tiebreaker.

The boys in blue finished strong, winning the set 6-1 and taking the match 2-1. After they finished they settled in to watch the end of the first doubles match, which would be the longest of the night.

Trott and Josh Gaulin dropped their first set 6 games to 2, but came back to win the second 6-4. They

managed to win 4 games in the third set, but dropped the match 2-1.

One day later, the team traveled to Chicopee and won 4-1. Vaughn won first singles in straight sets 6-2, 6-1, as did Trott and Gaulin (6-1, 6-0) in first doubles.

The other two singles matches went to third sets. In second singles, Porier (3-6, 6-0, 10-6) won the 10-point third set, and in third Turn lost his (0-6, 6-1, 10-5). Chicopee forfeited the second doubles match, so Turners got the win 4-1.

Then on Friday, May 25, they went to Springfield to play the Golden Eagles of Central. Central, who is 10-3 this season, made quick work of Powertown, sweeping all three singles matches and first doubles and accepting a forfeit in second doubles.

The week gives Turners an 8-5 record, and they now await their seeding for the postseason.

Girls Tennis

On Monday, May 21, the Turners girls’ tennis team played their last game, hosting the Wildcats of Lee. Carlie Kretchmar, who less than 24 hours earlier was zip-lining in the Poconos, gracefully accepted flowers and gifts as she prepared for her last match.

Under the blazing sun on the second singles court, Amber Taylor dropped her first set 6-1, but never lost her enthusiasm. She took a swig of water, walked to the fence, and said, “At least I won one game.” To this, Coach Victor Gonzales replied, “Good. Win two in the next one.” Taylor came back and won the second 6-1.

It seemed the hotter it got, the more energy Taylor had. For the third set, the 10-point tiebreaker, the coaches decided to move the match to a shaded court. Taylor caught fire, taking the set 10-5 and winning the match 2-1.

“It’s a great way to end the season,” Amber Taylor’s mother said. “This will give her confidence for next year.” Taylor plans to be back on the courts next year as a sophomore, but before that she’ll suit up for field hockey.

Haleigh Greene and Steph Peterson’s first doubles match turned out to be the longest of the evening. The Cats won the first three games, but Blue managed to dig their way

out and forced a tiebreaker. They lost that, but their momentum swept the second set 6-0 and forced a third set. The third set tie breaker was close through midgame, but the Blue Duo turned a 5-4 nail biter into a 10-5 rout.

In third singles action, Maria Labelle was swept in straight sets. Turners was forced to forfeit second doubles, and so dropped their final meet 3-2.

But it was a good way to end the season, to quote Mrs. Taylor. The girls played with grit and determination, we got a chance to say goodbye to Carlie, and Mrs. Mosca provided everyone with home-baked whoopee pies.

Baseball

Greenfield 9 –TFHS 2
Belchertown 13 –TFHS 6

The Turners Falls Baseball team went on a late season run. They won two games against playoff-bound teams. But this week, they fell back to earth.

After Turners lost 9-2 last week to Greenfield, qualifying that team for the playoffs, they hosted the Belchertown Orioles, also playoff-bound, for the last game of the 2018 season.

“I hope we had the bad inning early,” Chip Dodge said after Belchertown scored four runs – three unearned – in the first inning. This season, Turners has been competitive in most of their games, but their opponents always seemed to explode in one or two innings putting the game away.

In the bottom of the first, Turners got two runs back to make the score a respectable 4-2, where it would remain until the fourth inning. That’s when Turners had their *second* bad inning of the game, giving up six runs for a 10-2 runaway.

The team regained some of that real estate in the fifth, scoring four runs to make it a 10-6 game. But in the last inning, more Blue mistakes gave Belchertown a 13-6 win, resulting in a 4–14 season for Powertown.

Softball

TFHS 8 – Pioneer 2
Minnechaug 7 – TFHS 6

On Wednesday, May 23, the Turners Falls softball team hosted the Pioneer Panthers. On paper, the game should have been a blowout: Turners was in the midst of a 9-game winning streak, most of which were blowouts, and had defeated Pioneer 14-1 in their first matchup. In the same time span, the Panthers had gone 1-9 and were struggling at the plate and in the field. The game was played at Turners, and it was senior night.

But in schoolgirl sports, you can’t count any team out, and Turners found themselves down 2-1 late in the game.

Neither team scored in the first inning; in the second, Turners took a lead when Olivia Whittier led off with a hard line drive and Hailey Bogusz batted her in. But they lost the opportunity to blow the game open, stranding three runners on

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the bases.

With 2 out in the bottom of the fourth, the Panthers put together three hits in a row to tie the game at 1-1, and in the fifth inning, took the lead 2-1 off a RBI sac.

Surprised to find themselves trailing late in the game, Powertown took the lead back for good in the bottom of the inning. Aly Murphy led off with a Texas leaguer, and Jade Tyler reached on an error. Olivia Whittier batted home courtesy runner Lexie Lacey, Bogusz followed with a RBI sac, Abby Loynd reached on a walk, and Sienna Dillensneider hit one under a fielder’s glove.

Suddenly, Turners was up 5-2 but they weren’t done yet. In the sixth, Taylor Murphy reached on an error, A. Murphy walked, Jade Tyler batted in T. Murphy, Whittier sacrificed to send courtesy runner Taryn Thayer home. and a Bogusz sac scored courtesy runner Eliza Johnson.

Pioneer was shut down in the seventh, and Turners took home the 8-2 win.

Then on Monday, the Minnechaug Green Falcons came to town in a battle for second place in MassLive’s Top 20. Both teams are among the best in the entire region.

Both teams scored one run in that first inning: Minnechaug on a RBI walk, and Cassie Wozniak scored on a passed ball. Both also got runners on base in the second inning, but their defenses prevented runs.

Then in the third, the long ball reared its ugly head. A Green batter just beat the throw to land on first, and the next two hit back-to-back home runs to give the Birds a

4-1 lead. In the fourth, two walks, a passed ball, and a RBI extended that to 5-1.

But Turners has its own long-ball hitters. Whittier, who had been hitting the fence all year, finally lifted one over it in the bottom of the fourth, narrowing the margin to 5-2.

Neither team scored again until the top of the sixth, when Green hit a solo homer to make it 6-2. But in the Turners sixth, A. Murphy reached on an error, Whittier popped a fly to left, Bogusz got a base hit, and RBIs by Jade Tyler and Sienna Dillensneider pulled Powertown to within 6-5 going into the final inning.

Green padded their lead with another homer run to make the score 7-5, but Turners was not out of it yet. In the bottom of the inning, A. Murphy followed suit, cracking a homer of her own.

But that’s all she wrote. The Purple Birds got the final out and retained their #2 spot with the 1-run victory.

Turners will not play Minnechaug in the post season, since they’re two divisions higher than Powertown. They won’t play Greenfield; Green’s enrollment is too big. And they certainly won’t play Wachusett, the perennial D1 powerhouse from Central Mass.

Instead, they’ll play teams their own size in the postseason, and the experience they gained by playing these powerful schools can only help them in the playoffs.

Next: The playoff seedings.



Dominic Carme sprints down the baseline at Veterans Memorial Field in Greenfield as the Green Wave defeated the Turners Falls Thunder, 9-2, last Wednesday.

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NOTES FROM THE
WENDELL TOWN CLERK

You'll Be
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Wendell Town Meeting will start at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 5 at the Wendell Town Hall. The warrant has been posted at the Town Office Building and is also available from the Town Clerk.

Town meeting works best when everyone participates. How do we keep our schools and highway department fully funded? Do we want to go solar on the town office building? What is the Rehab Loan Pay-back Account?

And, there are two resolutions proposed that require our attention. Come to the meeting and make yourself heard voting for or against. You'll be glad you did.

Looking ahead, don't forget to mark your calendars for the September 4 State Primary. If you will be out of town due to the Labor Day weekend, make sure you obtain an absentee ballot ahead of time so you can vote.

Any questions? Please call the Town Clerk at (978) 544-3395 x2.



JOSH HEINEMANN PHOTO

Left to right: Wendell fire captain Asa de Roode, Barbara Haydocy, and Wendell/New Salem fire chief Joe Cuneo, after an award ceremony for Haydocy last Friday at the Swift River School in New Salem. Haydocy, a former cook and substitute teacher at Swift River, was granted a "Golden Hero Award" by the state Department of Fire Services for administering CPR and saving the life of a tradesman working on her neighbor's house in August 2016. The ceremony was attended by the school's students. Some of the firefighters who responded to the incident were students she had fed or taught. (Photo and reporting by Josh Heinemann.)

First Franklin State Rep Seat:
Candidates' Night in Leverett

The Leverett Alliance will host a forum on Thursday, June 14 at 7 p.m. for the eight candidates vying for the 1st Franklin seat in November. The event will be held at the Leverett Elementary School, 85 Montague Road, Leverett. All interested voters in the 19 towns the seat serves are welcome to come.

The candidates will introduce themselves and then, talking in small groups, the audience will be able to let the candidates know what issues are important to them and their communities. The candidates will then be

asked to speak to the concerns that they heard from the groups, and how they might address them.

The eight candidates running to fill the seat being vacated this fall by State Rep. Stephen Kulik, D-Worthington are **Kate Albright-Hanna** of Huntington; **Andrew Baker** of Shelburne; **Natalie Blais** of Sunderland; **Christine Doktor** of Cummington; **Jonathan Edwards** of Whately; **Casey Pease** of Worthington; **Nathaniel Waring** of Sunderland; and **Francia Wisnews-ki** of Montague.

GMRS D from page A1

scenario was not discussed at any time during the drafting of the agreement.

Chair Jane Oakes of Gill asked if the agreement's language should be changed to allow either party to end the arrangement, but the committee did not take that action.

"[Acting chief Chris Bonnett] and Annie [Leonard] and Dr. Sullivan have worked so well that I can't really think of an instance in my mind where, if there was an issue, it wouldn't be discussed," said Montague member Cassie Damkoehler. "I sort of feel like it's not necessary." "I think we can work from the language that's here," Sullivan said.

The agreement was approved by a 6-0 vote, with Heather Katsoulis abstaining. Shawn Hubert and April Reipold were absent, Hubert for his sixth consecutive meeting.

In related news, Leonard addressed recent public claims about increased bullying at Turners Falls High School by presenting data from 2015, 2016, and 2017 that showed either a slight decrease or no increase in bullying-related incidents brought to the administration's attention during that period, as well as a "significant" decrease in "disruptive behavior."

Lunch detentions, mediations, and apologies were up during the same period, and Leonard described an increase in "open communica-

tion within the school community about the realities of these kinds of conflicts," which she called a "healthy sign."

Sharing Resources

Sullivan reported on progress made on a grant-funded study of possible ways the the Gill-Montague, Pioneer Valley, and Franklin Technical districts could benefit by sharing resources or regionalizing. The lead consultants, the Abrahams Group, met last week, and the New England School Development Council has been hired to study enrollment projections in the districts.

On Tuesday night, one step was taken toward shared programming, in the form of an agreement to fold Pioneer's football program into Gill-Montague's, effective this fall. The Pioneer district is suffering a budget crisis, and is unlikely to be able to field a football team of its own.

"As our enrollment has declined, our participation in football has declined," Sullivan explained. "If we get 8 to 10 or so players from Pioneer, which is what we expect, it will really add a nice boost to our membership."

Pioneer would provide an assistant coach who would transport players to Turners Falls for practices and games, and cover its own students' accident insurance.

The committee approved the cop agreement unanimously.

LEVERETT from page A1

Others brought up property values, potential re-zoning, the variability of the market, and the fact that the town website had little information and was long outdated and therefore somewhat useless.

"I do feel we need to let these proposals take the route, have questions answered. It's important to follow the democratic process," said selectboard member Julie Shively.

Planning board member Steve Freedman said his group, which meets the second Monday of each month, would convene with the public shortly to assess residents' concerns. He described his board as "neutral," while being on the record previously as "supporting" fledgling cannabis, and other, businesses.

Selectboard chair Peter d'Errico asserted that his board will treat cannabis like any other production facility proposed.

Todd informed him that the state has no framework in place to treat cannabis as an agricultural product, and no guidelines for farmers. She asked where the board stood.

The selectboard punted the issue to the planning and zoning boards.

The track records of those boards regarding development – including a cell tower moratorium, formerly strict rules on solar power, and

tight regulations around accessory apartments – have often slowed or stopped development, though the town is now focused on increasing its tax base, and planning board chair Ken Kahn is on the record as welcoming of any proposals.

Selectboard member Tom Hankinson later characterized Tuesday's crowd as mostly NIMBYs (Not In My Backyarders), and said that he was against Wolf's proposal, especially given that Wolf had said he didn't know whether the weed would be grown in dirt or hydroponically.

School Conflict Anticipated

The Leverett Elementary School has set up a future conflict with the selectboard, in the board's view, by agreeing with the teachers' union to yearly step increases of 2%, 2.5%, and 2.5%. "They've de facto set a standard that has to be followed by other town employees," said d'Errico.

Hankinson, selectboard liaison to the school committee, was blindsided. "I don't know where the higher numbers come from," he said. "What leverage do we have?"

Discussed was hiring new teachers at a lower scale, and *not* allowing the school to balance its books at the annual town meeting, as it did

this year when it was granted a one-time \$20,000 reprieve.

"They've erected a wall that we're going to run into," said d'Errico. "We need to put them on notice."

"It never changes," Shively said. "It's a gallant effort, but...."

Other Business

One application was received for transfer station coordinator, from current employee Annette Herda, upon the resignation of Ananda Larsen. Herda, of Montague Road, was well-recommended by Larsen and citizen Macaylla Silver, also associated with the transfer station. She was hired.

The hiring process for a new full time police officer will include an interview at the next selectboard meeting.

The regional sheriff's dog program was allotted \$350 for FY'19 from the town of Leverett to provide back-up for when animal control officer Roberta Bryant is not available.

The Friends of Leverett Pond will host a wine-tasting fundraiser this Saturday, June 2 at the Leverett Arts and Crafts on Montague Road, from 7:30 to 9 p.m., for replacement of a failing dam.



uncovered a long-term pattern of overbilling by the district – it is on track to cut spending by an equal amount, according to business manager Joanne Blier.

"We don't have all the people we anticipated, because we made reductions before the year started," Blier said, pointing to savings mostly found in "instructional" and "benefits/insurance" categories.

Sullivan added that the administration has asked for any spending that can be postponed until the next fiscal year, which begins in July, to be postponed.

Other Business

The committee approved updates to the middle school handbook and the job description for the high school dean of students.

A new policy concerning animals in the schools, as recom-

mended by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, was adopted unanimously.

Incoming Montague member Haley Anderson was appointed to represent the committee on the Collaborative for Educational Services' board.

A \$2,648 invoice from Bulkley, Richardson and Gelinas LLP, which the district has retained on the matter of its overbilled Medicaid reimbursements, was approved. The district is pursuing New England Medical Billing, the company that handled its reimbursement claims over a decade-long period, to recover a portion of the money it now owes the state.

The committee also voted to continue retaining the law firm.

The committee's next meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on June 12 at the high school.



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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Board OKs Chemicals for Field; Bemoans Curbside Compost Cost

By GEORGE BRACE

The Gill selectboard had a full agenda at their May 29 meeting, and addressed a wide range of topics. In addition to regular business, board members reorganized their committee and representative assignments, and decided to give the idea of naming liaisons to the town’s highway, fire, and police departments a try on a test basis.

Greg Snedeker was unanimously approved as the new chair, and took up his duties immediately. John Ward was elected as clerk.

The board then made a series of appointments, with the only change from current assignments being Snedeker withdrawing as the board’s representative to the Franklin County Planning Board due to scheduling difficulties, and Ward taking his place.

Randy Crochier was reappointed to the personnel committee and Franklin Regional Transit Authority, Snedeker to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments and the cable advisory committee, and Ward to the machinery advisory committee.

The board discussed the potential benefits and pitfalls of creating board liaisons to the highway, police, and fire departments, and decided to approve the idea on a trial basis. Snedeker will serve as liaison for the fire department, Ward for the police, and Crochier for the highway department. The board will revisit the system at the end of October.

The board also discussed a recommendation made by the personnel committee to provide longevity bonuses for non-full-time employees, proportional to those given full-time time employees. The board agreed this was good idea, but referred the matter back to the committee to work on a formula for awarding such bonuses.

Curbside Compost Collection

Jan Ameen of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District appeared before the board to follow up on a previous presentation about curbside organic waste collection in Gill.

Having done further research, Ameen again described the economics of such a program as “challeng-

ing.” Due to the many factors and choices involved, a likely cost was difficult to project, but one possible scenario showed the program’s cost as approximately \$18,000 per year.

“So, until we run into a lack of places to put our trash and it really blows up in our face, we are challenged by the economics?” asked Ward.

The board and Ameen discussed possible ways to reduce the program’s cost. Every-other-week trash collection, with or without compost pickup, was suggested, and the idea was referred to the Board of Health for consideration.

In the end, Ameen pointed out that Gill would not commit to anything by applying for a small state grant for a pilot curbside organic program as a next step in exploring the idea, and the board gave her permission to do so on the town’s behalf.

Mariamante Fertilizer

In the course of approving a bid for agricultural use of the town-owned Mariamante property, the board considered a suggestion from a farmer in town that the lease would be worth more if chemical fertilizer was allowed on the property.

Administrative assistant Ray Purington reported that he did not have time to bring the idea before the board before sending out the bid requests, so he sent out requests both with and without the use of chemical fertilizer. Bids were received from two individuals, with Joe Williams being the high bidder in both scenarios, at \$200 without chemical fertilizers, \$250 with them.

Williams was present at the meeting, and took part in the discussion on the fertilizer issue, outlining costs and difficulties involved in only being able to use non-chemical fertilizers, as well as the need, as Crochier put it, to “feed the land so it feeds us.” Williams talked about the lower yields that come from non-chemically fertilized fields, and the lack of availability of sufficient quantities of good manure in town to fertilize the field.

Crochier and Ward commented that Snedeker was likely to be a swing vote, with Ward being opposed to chemical fertilizer and Crochier being in favor. Snedeker moved to approve the use of chemi-

cal fertilizers for a year, saying that the board could reassess next year.

The motion was approved with a 2-1 vote, with Ward against. The lease was then awarded to Williams in a second unanimous vote.

Other Business

The selectboard approved the transfer of the liquor license for the Gill Tavern from Unadilla Incorporated to Fat Pig Incorporated, with Walker Widner as manager. Widner, a chef at the Tavern, is also president of Fat Pig Inc.

The board received a letter from the memorial committee reporting on their Memorial Day commemoration activities, which they described as “successful” and “meaningful.” Snedeker also reported on the events, which included new flags and flowers for every veteran’s grave, several speakers, and a rifle salute by the Marine Color Guard.

Board members all commented on the emotional power of the playing of Taps at the event.

The board approved a letter drafted by the Route 2 Safety Task Force to the MassDOT, advocating for the inclusion of suicide barriers for the French King Bridge in the state’s Capital Investment Plan.

They approved the Franklin Regional Council of Government (FRCOG) bid awards for highway products such as gravel and asphalt. There was little change in prices from the previous year. The board also approved the FY’19 agreement with the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office for dog control services.

The board also approved a next step in aggregated electricity purchasing, authorizing Purington to speak with Colonial Power Group, FRCOG’s choice for an aggregation consultant, and instructing him to pursue a choice between lowest-cost and green-energy electricity options.

A sewer abatement was approved for Linda Billiel.

Edward Curtis was approved as a firefighter.

There will be a guided walk through the town forest this Sunday, June 3, between 2 and 3 p.m.

The second part of the annual town meeting will take place at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 19 at the town hall.

NURSES from A1

It also contains “language affirming compliance with the Mass. meal break law, Mass Earned Sick Time Law, and the ICU patient care law,” which limits the patient assignments made to RNs in the hospital’s intensive care unit. The union also points out improvements in the use of charge nurses, who it argued were being overworked to the point of not being able to perform leadership aspects of their roles.

If ratified, the contract would prevent the hospital from assigning patients to charge nurses in certain departments, and limits when and why other charge nurses can take patient assignments. It states that management will “[a]ssign a charge/admission nurse at all times in the mental health unit.”

A second contention between the nurses and Baystate Health had been

the elimination of a tier of coverage in the nurses’ own healthcare plans. According to the union, Baystate has agreed to reinstate this tier.

The contract would also grant the nurses wage improvements, including “increased differential pay” for nurses who work overnights and have earned advanced degrees, among others, and “improved tuition reimbursement.” The increases laid out in the new contract, the MNA states, “will help recruit, retain, and better compensate caregivers.”

Negotiating a new contract, which will replace one that expired at the end of 2016, has been a contentious process, including two one-day strikes from the nurses, one in June 2017 and one more recently in April. Both strikes were met with three-day lockouts from Baystate Health, which hired temporary workers to fill the roles of

the union nurses. The first lockout was reported to have cost the hospital around \$1 million.

The MNA reports that it “filed more than 20 unfair labor practice charges against Baystate” with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) following the first strike and lockout. This April, the NLRB announced that it had “found merit” in several of those charges, including a claim that “[Baystate] has unlawfully interfered with, restrained, and coerced bargaining unit employees in the exercise of their rights.” The NLRB must first find merit in a charge before it will bring a formal complaint against an employer.

According to the press release from Baystate Health, the healthcare company “now has no open union contracts and [has] reached agreement on five union contracts within the past 14 months.”



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LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was May 29, 2008: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Airport Budget Trimmed; Residency Requirement Fails

The Turners Falls Municipal Airport emerged from annual town meeting on Thursday, the third and last day of town meeting, with a budget reduced by \$8,000 – a little more than 15% – from \$50,687 to \$42,687. The airport commission had sought a compromise figure, but town meeting approved the lower figure on an amendment proposed by Precinct 5’s Chris Sawyer-Lauçanno.

Sawyer-Lauçanno’s amendment also changed the funding source for \$15,000 of the airport’s budget from general taxation to the airport’s retained earnings fund. The remainder of the airport’s budget for the coming year will be paid for from airport user fees; no money from the general tax levy will be used to support operations at the airport.

According to Sawyer-Lauçanno, town accountant Carolyn Olsen had advised him prior to the meeting that the the airport had a balance of \$16,668 in retained earnings.

At the meeting, Olsen said the majority of that fund derived from recent “timber management” at the airport in advance of the planned runway expansion project.

Airport manager Michael Sweeney argued against the cuts, saying “This is an operation that needs some kind of cushion for the future.”

Later in the meeting, a petitioned article brought forward by airport commissioner Mark Fairbrother, seeking to enact a residency requirement bylaw that would limit voting members of all town boards and commissions to Montague residents, failed on a standing vote of 45 to 22.

In March, the selectboard has set policy to allow two of seven members of the airport commission be chosen from people who are not Montague residents. Precinct 2’s David Jensen called the proposed

residency requirement “a solution searching for a problem.”

“If we accept this,” said Jensen, “this is going to affect every board and committee. There are occasions when we might want to go beyond the borders of the town for an appointment.”

Historical Society Finds a New Home

Several times over the years there have been attempts to organize an historical society for the town of Montague. Around 1900, a group formed at the Montague library. Uncle Delbert Whitney wrote that a trunk full of slates and school supplies in the attic of his home was donated, but was not accepted because the society had no place to store it.

Lionel Girard, from Montague Center, was the first president of the present society about forty years ago, and stayed in office for eighteen years. During his tenure, donations were stored in his home and one of his outbuildings.

Since then, Mary Melonis and I (*Eds. note: Lillian Fiske*) have stored historical artifacts of Montague in our homes, until we were able to occupy the second floor of the Masonic Hall on Main Street for many years.

When that building was sold in 2004, everything in the historical society’s collection was moved into our old schoolhouse, the East District School, on Federal Street. That building, where we continue to house large bulky items, is not suitable for long time storage, has no electricity, water or bathroom facilities.

Recently, the Montague Grange agreed to allow us to use a large room upstairs, above the entrance to the hall. Our members and friends have been generous in helping to raise the funds for extensive renovations to this room. The painting is done, the lighting has been installed, and our artifacts are being moved in.

As more funds are needed to buy archival supplies and shelving, the historical society is holding a tag sale at the Montague Grange on Saturday.

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Wendell Residents Head to Town Meeting Tuesday

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The warrant for Wendell’s town meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, June 5 at 7 p.m., allows for an operating budget of \$2,649,601; \$109,888 for repaying loans that were taken out for construction of the town buildings, the recent Mahar overhaul, and the new highway dump and sander truck; and \$73,522 in additional routine spending, a total of \$2,833,011 if my addition is correct.

There is little room for adjustment of that spending.

Article 14 would transfer \$35,000 from stabilization into the operating budget, in an effort to reduce the tax rate, and **Article 16** would transfer \$108,643 from free cash into the stabilization fund.

Article 18 would allow the town to use \$15,200 from its rehab loan payment account to complete insulation of the town hall floor. **Ar-**

ticle 19 would allow the town to use \$20,000 from the rehab account to install solar panels on the office building, and **Article 20** would allow it to use \$2,600 from the same account to replace the windows in the senior center.

Article 21 would put \$65,368 from the rehab loan fund into a revolving, no-interest loan fund for home energy saving improvements. Loans taken out in this program are not due for repayment until the homeowner takes a new loan on the property, or the property changes hands.

Article 22 is a resolution that would instruct our federal legislators to remove the option of a first nuclear strike, and end the president’s sole authority to launch a nuclear attack.

Article 23 would support state bill H.1707, calling for a special commission to recommend changes to the state flag and seal of the commonwealth.

FACES & PLACES



ED GREGORY PHOTO

Ed Gregory took this picture of the Lower, or White, Bridge between Turners Falls and Greenfield on May 18. The bridge has closed for two months on very short notice by MassDOT for repairs to the deck and sidewalk. “Thought your readers may like to see a bit of progress,” he wrote. Thanks Ed! So, how have folks been enjoying the new traffic pattern?

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Wendell Goes Down the Rabbit Hole for This Year's Misfit Prom

By MEZ ZIEMBA

WENDELL – It is a warm May evening in the woods of Wendell. The black flies are buzzing, and so are the coordinators of this year's Misfit Prom.

This community event, which is volunteer-run, will take place on Saturday, June 9. Local artists Linnea Winter and Kelly Loughton, both of Wendell, speak with enthusiasm about this year's prom, and all of the proms that have preceded it.

Linnea explains that the theme "Alice in Wendelland" was chosen because it includes a lot of people

and has both male and female characters, as in the book, *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll, from which the idea came. Kelly adds that there are so many creative people in town, the ideas for decorations are endless and the theme was also a good fit, since it benefits Swift River Elementary School.

Wendell artist Donna Horn first came up with the idea of a Misfit Prom in Wendell in 2009. With the help of her friends, the original prom was held at the Wendell Town Hall, complete with fantastic decorations and a photo booth. It was a huge success, and so a tradition see **MISFITS** page B6



Misfit Prom coordinators Kelly Loughton and Linnea Winter.



THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Fast and Furious

By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – One of the things we promised ourselves as we headed toward retirement was to erase the word *rush* from our vocabulary.

We loved the nature of the work with students, staff and families but struggled with the pace. There were just plain never enough hours in the day. And way too many things on the list. We made services to students and support to staff and families a priority. Keeping up with paperwork often took up weekends at home.

But we hated *rushing*.

Now we wonder how the ordinary activities of daily life (appointments, laundry and cleaning, gardening, time with friends and family) ever fit in.

Our newly relaxed pace does not suit the rest of the world. When driving we rarely exceed the speed limit by more than five miles or so. We have become sedate and watchful drivers, much to the annoyance of some.

You know who we mean: those annoying folks who insist on riding in your trunk until you find a place to pull over or they have a chance to pass. What is really astonishing is the number of drivers who not only tailgate but also lean on the country horn until they are able to get by, which they do with one final blast while they drive one-handed so they can also be on the phone.

We confess the occasional mali-

cious determination to drive even more slowly. But we are also nervous about road rage.

Just a few months ago, Ken heard a frightening story from a gentleman who slowed up for the rising hump on the White Bridge in Turners Falls, only to be tailgated and blasted by the person behind him. He pulled over when he got the chance, only to have the tailgater pull over next to him, get out of his car and push him several times in the head.

When did the pace of life become so fast that people are so enraged? We recently had a parent and a small child follow us over Mountain Road and all the way to the YMCA parking lot, riding in our trunk and leaning on the horn the whole way. Maybe she should have left home a few minutes earlier.

Our world is also an extremely noisy one. In our small neighborhood of five occupied houses, everyone owns motorized yard equipment. One neighbor owns literally any motorized riding device known to man, no exaggeration. We are guilty of owning a gas-powered lawnmower and a trimmer. Imagine the roar and whine on weekends or snowy days. Ear protection is highly recommended, even if we're not running anything.

Quiet is at a premium.

Imagine the pleasure of working in the garden to the sweet accompaniment of the songbirds: the cardinal, whistling up his dog, the watery notes of thrush and the trill of the

see **GARDENER'S** page B3

A Tale That Was Caught: Who Would Have Thought?

By DON CLEGG

TURNERS FALLS – The two-part article, "Little Big Man," which appeared in the genealogy column "Chasing our Tales" on April 19 and May 3 was a walk down memory lane for me, featuring my grandfather, Edward Clegg. I thought that would be the end of it, but boy was I wrong.

My dad's name, Ray Clegg, appeared in the article in some background material. On May 7, the newspaper received a call from Fred Holmgren, a subscriber and business card advertiser, and clearly a thorough reader of the newspaper. He told our editor, Mike Jackson, that he believed he had my dad's tool chest, as his name, Ray Clegg, had been etched into the tools.

When Mike contacted me, I could hardly believe it, and I called Mr. Holmgren right away. I was able to identify my father's tool chest immediately from his description. I asked Mr. Holmgren if he wanted me to purchase the items and he replied, "No, I use them all the time." He said he would email photos to me, and we decided to get together.

On May 9 we met and exchanged stories, and wondered how these



Raymond Clegg's tool chest had somehow made its way from Lynn to Athol.

items ended up in an Athol antique store, since my dad was from Lynn and had passed away in 2005. Mr. Holmgren then gave me one of the tools with dad's name etched on it and he also removed the name plate from the tool chest which had the full name, Raymond Clegg, and gave that to me as well.

My birthday was on May 10, and I couldn't have had a present



This square and nameplate were both inscribed with Don's father's name.

that meant more to me.

Thank you *Montague Reporter* for allowing my genealogical walk down memory lane, and thank you Lyn Clark for pestering me, knowing that I had a story to tell. I am now 63 and still shed a few tears remembering my grandfather, and being reminded of my father and his precious and well-cared-for tools. A tear here and there is fine when you are thinking of people you deeply loved.

Got a story to tell? My suggestion is to go for it. Whether it is a frown, a tear, or a smile, our emotions are part of our unique life story, and our forebears, whether they be recent or distant, are waiting to be introduced.

Please consider telling us about an ancestor, distant or recent. Write it yourself, or let us interview you. Do you have some old letters? Photographs you could share with us? Contact Lyn Clark at genealogy@montaguereporter.org.

Designs of Power a european travelogue, part 2

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

VALEČ PALACE, CZECH REPUBLIC – At the far edge of my vision, I can see our palace.

The shimmering, orange roof of our future abode levitates peacefully in the air at the head of the valley. We stop at a different palace, a manor house that is in axial relationship to Valeč Palace. The two palaces are connected by a Baroque lineation of power, and we are looking straight up it.

The van rolls slowly toward the floating mirage of the Palace, down the one-lane road lined with pear trees. We impulsively re-board the van, compelled by the coercive force of the palace's image.

This is the force that powerful landmarks hold over human emotion, and in this case, it is an intended effect of the palace's axis. The fruit trees we pass by on the roadside were planted by Empress Maria Theresa to feed the peasants and the homeward bound soldiers of the 18th century.

As we race up the valley into the embrace of the hills, the palace looms closer and higher around every bend. We pass through the village of Valeč, with its onion-domed churches and attached medieval houses, and up the hill, past the Baroque pilgrimage church constructed as part of the palace complex.



A Victorian glasshouse, with the building the researchers stayed in behind it.

We pass the palace's domed greenhouse and orangerie.

We stop at a heavy, tree-shaded gate, and I get out and open it. As we finally pass into its inner grounds, we are surprised by life-sized sculptures of Nazi soldiers, looking like disguised alien landscapers from an unreleased sequel to *Men In Black*. As if that were not enough, as we round the bend, we see that the Nazi weedwackers are closely pursued by a processional mob of the gods and goddesses of Greece, swaying and swirling in their stony revelry.

The gardens of Valeč Palace were misunderstood and undervalued before Professors Brabec and Janečková found them. People saw

the naturalistic plantings of trees and grass in the immediate vicinity of the palace, and missed the larger, 30-kilometer landscape that had been obscured by a stylistic change in the English landscape and Victorian periods.

"They did not realize the importance or the uniqueness of what the landscape here was," says Prof. Brabec. "They thought its importance was only as a minor English landscape."

To the Hermitage

We walk out of the campus-like garden and up the grassy hillside. We pass by the illusory gates, three see **DESIGNS** page B4

Pet of the Week

From high over the mystical river Avremere, a strange purring sound emanates from the rocky bluffs. At Grymthorn Castle there are the murmurings that the last sect of druidic felines still lives on those misty mountaintops.

The great druid-cat Blep is a creature of the wild outdoors.

Few are lucky enough to catch a glimpse, but there is word in the hinterlands that Blep seeks a place among the commoners.

Could you be a home for this strange and sage creature? Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at info@dpvhs.org.



“BLEP”

Senior Center Activities JUNE 4 TO 8

GILL and MONTAGUE The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Tues–Thurs Noon Lunch M, W, F 10:10 a.m. Aerobics; 10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise Monday 6/4: 1 p.m. Knitting Circle Tuesday 6/5: 10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga w/Jean Wednesday 6/6: 9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach 11:30 a.m. Friends’ Meeting 12:30 p.m. Bingo Thursday 6/7: 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 6/8: 1 p.m. Writing Group	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 6/4: 9:30 a.m. Healthy Bones 10:30 a.m. Tai Chi 11 a.m. Senior Housing Meet Tuesday 6/5: 8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics 10 a.m. Stretching & Balance 11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch Wednesday 6/6: 8:45 a.m. Line Dancing 9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure 10 a.m. Chair Yoga Noon: Bingo & snacks 1 to 3 p.m. Veterans Agent Thursday 6/7: 8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic 8:45 a.m. Aerobics 10 a.m. Healthy Bones 11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Pick UP 11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch Friday 6/8: 9 a.m. Quilting Workshop 9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling 11:15 a.m. M3 (Music, Movement, Mayhem) Fun!
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.	

JUNE LIBRARY LISTING

Weather, etc., sometimes causes changes in library events; you may want to call ahead to confirm.

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ONGOING EVENTS

The Leverett Library invites residents to come check out their new telescope, as well as *Music on the Patio*, local music performed outside all summer. Check with the library for specific dates.

- EVERY TUESDAY**
Leverett Library: *Spanish Conversation Group*, 4 to 5 p.m.; *Qigong with Dvora Eisenstein*. 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.
Wendell Free Library: *Adult Watercolor Art Group*. Call Rosie for details. 6 p.m.
- 2ND TUESDAYS**
Dickinson Library: *I’d Rather Be Reading Group*. 7 p.m.
- 3RD TUESDAYS**
Dickinson Library: *Genealogy Group*. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- EVERY WEDNESDAY**
Wendell Free Library: *Sylvia’s Awesome Play Group*, a sand table and lots of activities for newborn to 5 years old and their guardians, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- Carnegie Library: *Story Time with Karen*. Young children with caregivers. 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. *Homeschool Science*: Spring session has ended; fall session will begin in early October.

Leverett Library: *Tales and Tunes Story Time w/Heleen Cardinaux*. 10:30 a.m. to noon. *Advanced Tai Chi class*. 1:45 to 2:45 p.m.

Dickinson Library: *Knit With Us*. All skill levels welcome. Facilitated by Kathy O’Shea. 6 to 8 p.m.

1ST WEDNESDAYS
Dickinson Library: *Wednesday Morning Book Group*. Book discussion. 10 a.m.

2ND WEDNESDAYS
Dickinson Library: *Readings: Nonfiction, Fiction & Poetry* with Nick Fleck. 3 p.m.

EVERY THURSDAY
Carnegie Library: *Music & Movement* with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson. For children. 10 to 10:45 a.m.

1ST THURSDAYS
Dickinson Library: *Environment Awareness Group*. Topic facilitated by Emily Koester. 6:30 p.m.

Carnegie Library: *Genealogy Gathering*. Informal discussion of local family research led by Sarah Campbell. 6 to 7:45 p.m.

3RD THURSDAYS
Dickinson Library: *Rep. Paul Mark: Office Hours*. 1 to 4 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY
Dickinson Library: *Story Hour*. Stories, crafts, music and movement with Dana Lee. Pre-schoolers and caregivers, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. *Kids’ Friday*: When Northfield Elementary gets out early, come to the library. 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Explore Yoga with Shay Cooper*. Mixed level. 10 a.m. \$ or barter.

1ST FRIDAYS
Carnegie Library: *First Friday*

Mystery Activity. Each week will be different. Possibilities are crafts, science experiments, tech-tools. Of interest to children age 8+ and teens. 4 to 5:30 p.m.

EVERY SATURDAY
Wendell Free Library: *Adult Strength Training with Rosie Heidkamp*, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. *AA Open Meeting*, 6 to 7 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Advanced Tai Chi*, 10 a.m. *Beginning Tai Chi*, 11 a.m.

1ST SATURDAYS
Carnegie Library: *Book Sale*. Books, dvds, cds, etc. \$1 or less. 10 to 1:30 p.m.

2ND AND 4TH SATURDAYS
Dickinson Library: *Food Pantry*. 11:30 to 2:30 p.m.

EVERY SUNDAY
Wendell Free Library: *Yoga*. Advanced beginning level. 9 a.m. \$. *AA Open Meeting*, 6 to 7 p.m.

EXHIBITS
Leverett Library Community Room: *Recollections of Schooling in Leverett*, through June. (See June 10 event.)

Wendell Free Library: *Retrospective Exhibit of Works by Richard Drake Baldwin*. Selection of paintings and small sculptures. Reception on Saturday, June 9, 3 to 5 p.m. Through June.

EVENTS
FRIDAY, JUNE 1
Leverett Library: *Senior fitness* with Dr. Kathy Sward. 11 a.m.

Carnegie Library: *First Friday Mystery Activity*. Some possibilities include crafts, science experiments and tech-tools. Of interest to children ages 8+ and teens. 4 to 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 5
Carnegie Library: *Makerspace Robotics Workshop* with Arthur and Peter Evans from Makerspace Workshops. Children 7 to 14 are invited to try robotics and virtual reality. Space limited. Call 863-3214 to register. 5 to 7 p.m.

Dickinson Library: *Baby and Toddler Sign Language Class* with Sheryl White and Baby Kneads. Two-part class in Northfield, second one is June 12. Please pre-register. 10:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6
Dickinson Library: *Wednesday Morning Book Group*. This month’s selection: *Art Forger* by Barbara Shapiro. 10 a.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7
Dickinson Library: Opening Day of *120th Anniversary of the Dickinson Memorial Library*. Contact library for details.

SUNDAY, JUNE 10
Leverett Library: *Recollections of Schooling in Leverett* special program. Sixth-graders and Leverett historians talk about the exhibit, and about going to school in Leverett. 3 to 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 12
Dickinson Library: *Baby and Tod-*

ler Sign Language Class, second part of class from June 5. 10:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13
Dickinson Library: *Nonfiction, Fiction & Poetry Group*. This month’s selection: *Mill on the Floss* by George Eliot. 3 p.m.

Dickinson Library: *Babysitting Course*. Two sessions, second on June 20. Covers child safety, entertaining, first aid, discipline. Pre-register. 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 14
Leverett Library: *Summer Reading Kick-Off*. Ukulele with Julie! Kids come learn to play the uke, enjoy snacks, and sign up for reading program. 3:15 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Lego Club*. 3:15 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 16
Wendell Free Library: *Movie, The Last Witch Hunter*. Part of the Science Fiction/Horror Movie Night Series. 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 19
Dickinson Library: *Ghosts and Legends with Jeff Belanger*. Talks about his work from books, podcast, TV programs, and more! Come hear the reasons behind the legends. 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20
Dickinson Library: *Babysitting Course*. (See June 13.)

THURSDAY, JUNE 21
Leverett Library: *Reading Group*. This month’s selection is *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante. Copies of the book are available at check-out. 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Dickinson Library-sponsored event, Northfield: *Trivia Night at Cameron’s Winery*. 6:30 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Ukulele Sing-along w/ Julie Stepanek*. 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 22
Carnegie Library: *Lego Club*. Children of all ages and their caregivers come build and play with Legos of all sizes. Creations will be displayed in the program space for one month! During the summer we meet on one Friday each month. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 26
Carnegie Library: *Summer Reading Program Kick-Off* with Magic Show by Ed Popielarczyk. Children of all ages and their caregivers can come watch an interactive and silly magic show. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Dickinson Library: *Toilets*. Sharon Domier, East Asian Studies Librarian at UMass-Amherst, will present on the history and culture of Japanese toilets. Enjoy Japanese tea and cookies, and share your own tales of travel and toilets. 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 29
Carnegie Library: *Snakes Are Super!* Take a trip around the world with Rae Griffiths of Teaching Creatures. Get up close to observe their fascinating behavior and anatomy. 1 p.m.

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GARDENER’S from page B1

oriole. The distant call of the train is not intrusive, just nostalgic.

Santa was clever enough to find me the perfect gardener’s tool: a seat which flips to a cushioned kneeler. This wonderful device has extended the gardener’s pleasure in the tasks while minimizing achy joints.

It’s high time to set the tomatoes out; we want our sunroom back and they have become quite leggy. We dig nice holes lined with compost and a splash of bone meal and set the plants in after removing the bottom set of leaves. Now the stems will make additional roots to support and steady the tomatoes against wind and rain.

We’ve grown cherry, hybrids and heirlooms; early, mid and late season varieties. There were twenty-seven seedlings and we shared all but seven, because giving them away is at least half the pleasure. The tomatoes were completely pot-bound so they experienced some transplant shock as evidenced by drooping leaves, but just a couple of days later they have settled right in.

Setting in the baby pepper plants and seeds for cucumber, winter

squash and beans can get done anytime now. Corn too, and seed potatoes.

We’ll spread out these plantings a bit to savor the respite from speed and noise which the gardening engenders. This is the time to empty one’s head of worrying lists, anxiety-ridden plans and any other have-tos. Unlike our farming ancestors, for us gardening is a choice, not a necessity.

Let it be a mind-calming meditation. Allow yourself an hour or so a day. It’s as good as therapy and nowhere near as expensive. It will relax your mind and leave it open to contemplation. It will refresh the soul, as well as feed your body.

I have found, through years of practice, that people garden in order to make something grow; to interact with nature; to share, to find sanctuary, to heal, to honor the earth, to leave a mark.

– Julie Moir Messervy

Show me your garden and I shall tell you what you are.

– Alfred Austin



MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

With summer just around the corner, we at Montague TV thought we’d give you a heads up about new music you can check out on our channel this week.

First, you can enjoy the electronic piano stylings of Liz Durette in her performance/film at “Abandon Dream.” Then watch Richard Perlmutter and Robin Hoffman perform as Ukulele Scramble at

the Great Falls Discovery Center! View more of their work at www.ukulelescramble.com.

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

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

MOVIE REVIEW

The 15:17 to Paris (2018)

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – A film directed by Clint Eastwood, *The 15:17 to Paris*, is the true story of the three ordinary Americans who stopped a gunman on a train to Paris in 2015. You wouldn’t think something like that with three ordinary Americans would actually happen, and that’s what makes it an incredible true story to be made into a movie.

One of the Americans, an Air Force officer named Spencer Stone, mentions at one point that he felt cajoled towards something. The way the film tells the story of these men’s friendship, what they do with their lives, and the moment when they become heroes, would indicate to me that his statement was the actual truth.

One moment that proves how much that might be true was when the three become friends with each other when they were kids. Another moment was when Stone ends up doing training that wasn’t his first choice to do – though let me tell you, on the day when all three of them were heroes, it would come in handy.

The next moment was when one of the friends, named Alek Skarlatos, also joins a military branch, but

ends up not really seeing any action. One might believe that happened so he would be around to help his friends on that day. I would also state that I have a similar belief in connection with Stone’s training not being his first choice – if he had gotten his first choice, then he wouldn’t have been very useful on that day.

The last thread that ties together the Air Force man’s thoughts about his fate was when the three decided to travel around Europe with each other about that time. If the timing had been any earlier or later, then they could have missed being on that train for that moment. That is my argument supporting Stone’s thought about feeling cajoled towards something being true.

The 15:17 to Paris was a little slow at times, but I enjoyed it. It turned out to be a pleasant stroke of luck for me when it came to my local movie theater at the last minute.

In the film, we see when the men were kids, a history teacher of theirs spoke of historical figures doing things at the right moment. These men certainly had what it took to do something at the right moment.

Clint Eastwood’s fans will have nothing to complain about when it comes to his directing of this movie.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Garage Band; Bear Feeder; School Lockdown; Power Company Clears Out Homeless Camp

Monday, 5/21

12:57 p.m. Officer is at an immigration meeting on Crocker Avenue.

1:15 p.m. Caller from Old Sunderland Road states that a red and white Pelican kayak was stolen from his father-in-law’s home recently. Report taken.

2:44 p.m. Walk-in from Oakman Street reporting possible larceny of her dogs. Report taken.

4:11 p.m. Caller from Lake Pleasant states that a female in a blue Honda Accord was driving erratically and fast on Montague Avenue. When she was told to slow down, driver became very aggressive and was using profanity in front of small kids. Services rendered.

7:20 p.m. Caller states that a small dog is running around inside the senior center, but no owner located. Dog left with owner.

Tuesday, 5/22

12:10 a.m. Report of large moose in road at Turners Falls Road and Vladish Avenue. Patrol units advised to use caution.

1:08 a.m. Caller reporting excessive noise level from garage band on Crocker Avenue. Officer spoke with teenager at location; same claims to have just gotten home and that his band was not playing tonight.

5:55 a.m. Representative from FirstLight Power requesting to speak with officer regarding a homeless camp on FirstLight property off of Migratory Way.

4:20 p.m. Caller advising that two shopping carts and approximately ten bags of trash were dumped at the end of Depot Street. DPW advised.

7:55 p.m. Caller from Federal Street advising that a bear came into her yard, circled the house, and ate food from the bird feeder. Officer advised; call printed for animal control officer.

Wednesday, 5/23

4:49 a.m. General fire alarm on J Street. TFFD command advises moderate smoke conditions in one apartment. Ventilating.

3:19 p.m. Caller from Crocker Avenue reporting that a male party has returned to the grounds and is trying to get into the building. Some children are still in building. They will be initiating a lockdown at this time. Officer advises that all involved parties have been spoken to and the situation mediated.

Thursday, 5/24

12:44 a.m. Report of loud music from a car in area of Crocker Avenue and Avenue C. Quiet on arrival. Officer spoke with male who stated he did have his music up for a few minutes

but was able to carry on a cell phone conversation at the same time. Advised of complaint.

3:58 a.m. Officer out with suspicious vehicle in fish ladder parking lot. Clear; female in vehicle is reading. 7:48 a.m. Report of eight contractor bags, a cooler, and several carts dumped at end of Depot Street. Officer advises items were collected and left there by FirstLight Power, who will be disposing of same.

8 a.m. Two reports of a male yelling at or in the vicinity of children downtown. Units spoke with male, who advised that he observed a male speaking disrespectfully to a female and was trying to intervene. Peace restored.

8:11 a.m. Report of suspicious person on caller’s property on Walnut Street; unknown if he was casing the property or there for another purpose. Units checked area at length; unable to locate.

9:05 a.m. Caller from Green Pond Road reporting that someone stole his leaf blower between 11:30 p.m. and 3 a.m. this morning. Report taken.

11:39 a.m. Report of male party yelling on Avenue A. Ongoing issue. Officer spoke with male party, who was making a rap video. Male advised of complaint and advised to keep it down due to ongoing complaints.

2:01 p.m. Following a report of disorderly conduct on Avenue A, one male was taken into protective custody.

2:35 p.m. Report of suspicious vehicle/subjects at Bernardo Drive and Old Northfield Road. Caller observed male walking up street while two females remained inside the vehicle. Officer advises registered owner gave consent to search the vehicle. K9 unit *en route*. Involved male has two active warrants; believed to be in area, but not present at time of call. Will arrest if located.

5:30 p.m. Officer flagged down near cemetery on Turnpike Road by a pedestrian walking their dog. Pedestrian is reporting a dog vs. dog incident. Pedestrian into station to make it noted that he also found a puncture wound on his dog’s left flank. Report taken; message left for ACO.

8:07 p.m. Caller states that an intoxicated male is yelling very loudly at another male near the alleyway on L Street. All quiet upon arrival; advised to call if things escalate again.

Friday, 5/25

2:55 p.m. Caller reporting a beaver on the bike path that may be stuck due to a fence and gate; possibly trying to get back to the water. Call placed to DCR; they believe this is FirstLight property. Beaver moved along to the water. 8:46 p.m. Officer checking on a party who is on a bike with a propane tank near Pioneer Tavern. Officer out on Newton Street in attempt to verify this party’s story. Officer advises party was given Miranda.

10:27 p.m. Caller from Second Street reporting that a group of young adults are in the street in front of her building being loud. Caller advises that this happens during the day as well; not sure whether drugs are involved. Responding officer observed area for a while and saw four or five young subjects come out and get to a vehicle; same appear to be leaving the area.

Saturday, 5/26

10:01 a.m. Caller from Second Street states that his upstairs neighbor is yelling “harrassing and lewd” statements out of her second floor window in order to embarrass him at the tag sale he is having. Does not need a police response yet, but will call back if behavior continues. Caller later requested officer to respond because she is doing it again. All parties spoken to. Involved female has agreed to quiet down.

10:47 a.m. Caller from

Fourth Street states that her neighbor is being very loud and vulgar. When she confronted him, he threatened her. Peace restored.

5:11 p.m. Caller from Poplar Street requesting ACO’s phone number due to some foxes seen in her yard recently.

6:21 p.m. Caller states that a manhole cover is partially lifted upwards in J Street. Cover replaced as best as possible; DPW notified.

9:25 p.m. Caller from South Lyman Street states that a dog has been barking for the last four hours and nobody is home at the residence. Responding officer found dog barking loudly and no one home. No answer when dispatch called resident who lives at location. Copy of call left for ACO.

Sunday, 5/27

12:02 a.m. Officer assisting FD with wire insulation on fire at Third and Canal streets. Fire out at this time. Eversource rep on scene.

7:02 a.m. Report of possible water main break or burst pipe on Avenue A. FD notified; TF Water Department contacted and *en route*.

8:56 a.m. Caller from Crescent Street reports small children on motorized toys as well as an adult female on a scooter in the roadway. Adult male in orange traffic vest was stopping traffic on Bridge Street for these parties. Caller concerned for their safety. Officer spoke to involved parties; found they were just crossing street; no problems. Could be an ongoing issue with a neighbor.

10:41 a.m. Caller complaining of unwanted party panhandling on Third Street. Party advised of complaint and moved along.

Monday, 5/28

2:50 a.m. Officer out with suspicious vehicle at the pier on First Street. Female new to area; just got off a sixteen-hour work shift and pulled in there to take a nap. Same moved along.

MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

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NVRMAYCDWBCMD WN

ZOWA MZ BEO FMUCIO

NCGVUWBON EMDONBH.

- TOMATO ROADWAY NEWS

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DESIGNS from page B1

25-foot tall arches that rise above the open pasture and spiritually demarcate the edge of the park.

We are on our way to the Hermitage, the high point of the Palace landscape, and an important point on its primary axis.

Prof. Brabec was the first person to theorize that the structure – labeled on the old maps as *Lusthaus*, basically a Germanic hunting lodge for partying – was a hermitage. She realized that it had nearly identical placement and architecture to a famous Baroque garden in Italy. She also noticed that it was in axial relationship to the palace church, connecting them both as sacred spaces, a decision that would not have been made if the structure had been built as a *lusthaus*.

“We were the first ones to look at the grounds with an expert’s eye,” says Prof. Janečková. “We discovered the Baroque layer. They didn’t know about the axes, the connections to the landscape.”

We walk off the four-by-four road and into the cool forest. Tall grass, sweet woodruff, and other shining wildflowers cover the forest floor, while columbine and lupine line its margins. We ascend to the peak of the ridge, at the true head of the valley, and arrive at the hermitage garden.

It seems, at first, like the rest of the forest. As we explore this place where sacred and medicinal plants were grown, we encounter a small and strange pond, with an island in its center. It is about 50 feet across, its water is surprisingly clear, and the verdant island takes up the larger part of it.

Prof. Brabec visited this spot on a hunch in 2011. She immediately recognized this torus-shaped, or elliptical, pool as a possible replica of a water feature in the well-known Boboli Garden in Florence, Italy. This watery structure is imbued with Biblical symbolism: the water references the four rivers of Eden, and the island represents Paradise.

The pond marks the area as sacred space, and supports Prof. Brabec’s theory that this structure high on the hill was a hermitage. Without Brabec and Janeckova’s historical perspective, trained eyes, and observational acumen, the real meaning and scope of Valeč’s gardens would not be known today.

We climb up the final hill to the ruins of the hermitage, the highest point in the palace’s 30-kilometer-long landscape. This point is visible from everywhere in the valley, a steep notch that marks the cliff that the hermitage sits atop, like a bird of prey. The palace’s axis has been cleared, and in the middle distance I see the six-story white and orange edifice, standing solidly through a frame of boughs and leaves.

Then I notice, beyond the open end of our valley 12 kilometers distant, the palace we had first stopped at to gaze upon our own. It is on the same laser-straight line, and I have a swift feeling of breathlessness, not from the hike, but from the emotional potency of witness-



WACKERNAGEL PHOTO

Montague Reporter traveling correspondent Pete Wackernagel, in front of the Valeč Palace.

ing this extent of the axis.

It is clear to me that this kind of landscape-scale construction is both a demonstration of power, and a generator of it as well.

We return to the palace, joined by a flock of shorn sheep and goats who refuse to look at us while they mow the grass of the park. We are greeted heartily by a minuteman, standing in the middle of the park. As we get closer I realize he is not a mascot of UMass, but a drunk shepherd wearing a tricorn and gripping a stein of beer. The flock of sheep is in his care, or, possibly, vice versa.

He is known to Prof. Brabec, and when she asks for news, he replies, “Uhh, beer.” He then launches into an explanation of the failures of his sheep dogs.

Three days later, Methud tells me that he wears the tricorn because he is a pirate, an identity that is about opposition to Europe’s corporate music industry. On his six-acre hillside pasture next to the palace grounds, he throws a world music festival, a rock’n’roll festival, and a five-stage psy-trance festival that alone draws more than 6,000 people to Valeč.

We hang out for a while, and that night he plies the research team with beer and venison goulash, which is very, very different than goulash I’d had in America.

Lines of Identity

It is misleading, and perhaps a bit brutal, to force history to conform to a line. However, it is possible to measure society’s progress towards capitalist modernity by its ability to draw a straight line through mountains, over water, and across the land.

During the Baroque, architects and landscape designers in Bohemia – now the western part of the Czech Republic – projected the axes of their buildings and gardens farther, and with greater accuracy, than ever before. These rays of power and energy, while invisible, are bright and clear in the minds of people.

These lines create enormous spaces, and a conception of political regionalism that was a step closer to the beginning of a nation-state. France, it is often said, was the first nation state because of its absolutist ruler Louis XIV, the Sun King. In the Czech Republic, this idea did not emerge from an authoritarian, but from a mosaic of Baroque landscapes, often in axial relationship to each other, that knit the country together.

At the time, these axes were mainly used to create a heightened awareness and to stimulate emotions like fear and awe. But in their conceptualization and their technology also lay the beginnings of the ways that land is organized, bought, and sold today.

The theory and practice of projecting laser-straight lines demonstrated at Valeč Palace would two hundred years later be put to use by Thomas Jefferson’s Land Ordinance.

Using what was essentially Baroque axial projection, the Public Land Survey System’s regular division of all land west of the Appalachians into six-mile-long square units is the dominant shaper of the landscape that we see in the United States to this day. It was the tool that allowed rapid settlement fueled by the idea of “manifest destiny” to occur, and also the tool that created the

places in the Midwest that so many New Englanders abandoned their old family farms for.

In the Czech Republic and elsewhere, landscape is one of the constituting forces of nation and society. As landscape becomes a part of identity, its loss can be damaging as well. In 19th century New England, for example, pine trees invading the abandoned yards of formerly neat and productive New England farms signaled to observers that Yankee culture was in decline.

Preserving identity is why people seek to preserve heritage landscapes. In the Czech Republic, the landscape with the most cultural impact is the pattern created during the Baroque. If the axes of the country’s Baroque palaces are made to curve, or grow in with trees, a piece of the national fabric, and the people’s identity, is lost.

Luckily, at Valeč Palace, we are right now working on a pruning plan.

Stay tuned!



Exhibition This Weekend:
Local Weaver Earns Master’s

GILL—Local weaver Kathy Litchfield, owner of Firecrow Handwovens, is delighted to announce that she earned her master’s in weaving certificate from the Hill Institute in Florence, MA. She will exhibit her work during the Hill’s Annual Exhibition this weekend. The exhibition runs Friday night, June 1, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, June 2 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Hill Institute, 83 Pine Street, Florence.

Kathy has been weaving for 12 years, studying with local weavers and always embracing new educational opportunities. The master weaving program at the Hill Institute comprises the majority of her education. She was accepted into the program in September 2012, and studied with master weaver Chris Hammel for four years. The program involved 6 weekly hours of classroom education with summertime homework and assignments between classes.

Since May 2016, Kathy worked to design and weave 34 individual

projects, fulfilling requirements in weave structure, fiber size and color, finished project dimensions, and more, plus a final “Master’s Piece.”

For this piece, Kathy used a complex weave structure known as “deflected double weave” to design a spring/autumn jacket using medium-weight alpaca/silk and tencel yarns. She designed each piece of the jacket with a different pattern so that the arms, front, back, side panels and collar are all different, yet coalesce to make the piece appear cohesive.

Kathy wanted to learn to weave since visiting Old Sturbridge Village as a child. She was fascinated by the process of creating cloth by hand.

Today she weaves on 8-harness floor looms in her Gill studio, using fibers including rayon chenille, cotton, mohair, merino wool, tencel, and bamboo. She sells work at juried shows throughout the Northeast, including the Paradise City Arts Festival in May and the Northampton Big Brothers/Big Sisters Show in December.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

ONGOING EVENTS:

EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

FIRST SUNDAY MONTHLY

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

EVERY MONDAY

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

2ND AND 4TH MONDAYS

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

2ND and LAST TUESDAYS

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAYS

The Perch (4th floor), Greenfield: *Creacion Latin Big Band & Late Night Open Mic Jam*. 8 p.m. Free.

2ND WEDNESDAY

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

1ST AND 3RD THURSDAYS

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

2ND AND 4TH THURSDAYS

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

EVERY THIRD THURSDAY

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

EVERY FRIDAY

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

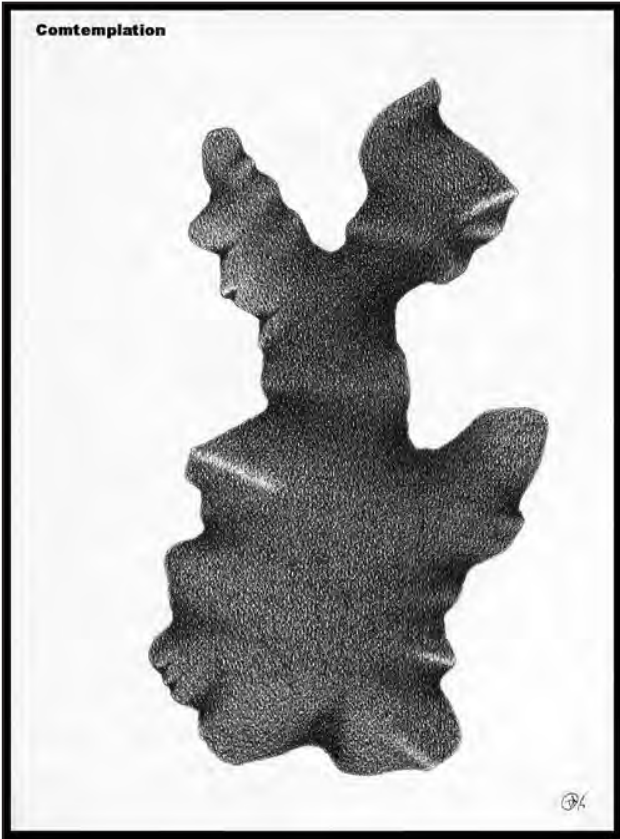
EVERY THIRD FRIDAY

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

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

EXHIBITS:

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



David Andrews refers to his work as fluid elegance, turning a flat 2D drawing into a 3D piece sculpture on paper. He's inspired by his everyday interactions with people and his surroundings. He tries to take all he comes across with a positive open eye, to allow him to create and pass on the beauty he sees. At the Hawks & Reed Performing Art Center through June. Reception Tuesday, June 5 at 6 p.m.

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

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

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Sculpture by Ron Edwards*. Edwards is a retired mathematics

professor and a self-taught artist. The small scale mixed media sculptures on display in this show are made from wood collected along rivers and in forests. The 82-year-old artist also makes uniquely detailed walking sticks. Through June 23.

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

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

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 explodedview-ma@gmail.com by August 22.

EVENTS:

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. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Kevin Keady and the Cattedrivers*. 8:30 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro, VT: *Barishi, Peasants, and Jeopardy*. Metal and thrash. 9 p.m. \$

FRIDAY, JUNE 1

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton's 1940s Hit Parade*. 7 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Winterland NH: A Grateful Dead Tribute*. 7:30 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Sweetback Sisters*. 7:30 p.m. \$

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Greenfield Police Association Comedy Night*. 8 p.m. \$

Flywheel Arts, Easthampton: *Tatsuya Nakatani*, solo percussion and duo sets with *Mike Bullcock, Bonnie Kane, and Vic Rawlings*. All ages. 8 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Jarv, Delgado*. 10 p.m. \$

SATURDAY, JUNE 2

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Awesome Art in Motion*: A dance performance with original choreography by children ages 6 to 12 from Franklin County. 2 p.m. By donation.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Comedy Impov Night with Josie*. Josie is a long form improv troupe comprised of Julie Waggoner, Sally Ekus, and Mandy Anderson. Special guests, *The Ha-Ha's*. 7:30 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Johnny Memphis Band*. 9:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Afterglow*. Rock 'n Roll. 8:30 p.m. \$

SUNDAY, JUNE 3

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Evelyn Harris and The Joe Belmont Experience*. 6 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Singer-Songwriter Sunday: Austin James, Paris Smith, Matt Albertson* in the Wheelhouse. 7 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *C. Joynes, Raymond Morin, and Wednesday Knudsen*. Guitar soli. All ages, substance-free space. 8 p.m. \$

TUESDAY, JUNE 5

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *David Andrews Art Reception*. 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Brattleboro: Lecture by New York Times bestselling author Michael Tougias and slide presentation entitled "400 Miles Down the Connecticut River" about his kayak journey down the Connecticut River, and share stories of the river's rich history. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Into the Light with Spirit Medium Karen Tatro*. Karen's work as a medium has led her to many realizations about the afterlife and the journey of our spirit. 7 p.m. \$

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *MANAS, Bonnie Kane, TBA*. 8 p.m. \$

THURSDAY, JUNE 7

Toadstool Bookstore, Peterbor-

ough NH: *Big Blood, Ovlov, half-sour, and Wren Kitz*. 7 p.m. \$

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

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Upstate Rubdown*. Americana. 8:30 p.m. \$

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




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MISFITS from page B1

was born. Eventually, the Prom moved to the Deja Brew Pub, so that participants could be outside and dance the night away. Pub owner Patti Kort Scutari has been more than welcoming and takes part in the prom in many ways. Pizza by the slice and beverages will be available to purchase throughout the night.

The Misfit Prom has had an array of themes, including “Carnivale,” “Under the Sea,” “Promageddon,” “Wild Things,” “Out of This World,” and “Gods, Myths and Legends.”

Both Linnea and Kelly chime in and tell me, “It’s all about having fun – and dressing up!”

The prom will kick off with a parade starting at the Wendell Town Common at 6:30 p.m. and march a quarter mile to the Deja Brew Pub. Music at the Pub starts at 7 p.m. with the fabulous dance music of Rodd Cummings and the Vibrators, who bring quite a fan base with them! People are encouraged to arrive at the common early to see the costumes and mingle with the participants.

Tickets are on sale in advance at the Wendell Country Store, and through PayPal on the Misfit Prom Facebook page, for \$15 – message through Facebook with your PayPal email and the number of tickets you want. Advance tickets will also be on sale for \$15 on the Common before the parade. Tickets sold at the door will be \$20. Children un-

der 12 years old are free.

As always, costumes are encouraged, but not necessary to participate in this fun event. Kelly shares that “I have never seen anything like the prom at any previous costume party!” She also says that everyone is encouraged to design-it-yourself: “A lot of people make their own costumes, using cardboard, hot glue, paint, and lots of glitter.”

Linnea laughs and adds, “I’m still finding glitter from many proms ago!”

There will be a halftime show, which is sure to be a crowd pleaser, with the Wendell Misfits and Los Angeles-based artist Genevieve Gagnard, who has lived in Wendell and has performed at the Prom each year. This year’s King and Queen will be chosen out of the Mad Hatter’s hat from cast ballots. And yes! There will be a crown and scepter given to this year’s reigning duo.

There will also be a photo booth, orchestrated by Wendell photographer Charlise Gorski, so you can record that fabulous outfit you designed and wore.

Proceeds from this year’s Alice in Wendelland-themed event will benefit Swift River School, the local elementary school where the children of Wendell and New Salem begin their education in the hills of Eastern Franklin County.

The prom has benefited other organizations in the past. These in-



clude Friends of Wendell, the Wendell Meeting House, the Wendell Fire Department, Friends of The Wendell Free Library, and a local animal shelter.

As this year’s beneficiary is Swift River School, there will surely be a lot of children in the parade. The Tweens in the Tween Program at the Wendell Free Library have been working on a huge banner for the event. Again, costumes are encouraged, as are floats and decorated bicycles, as well as musical instruments. It is a time to let your imagination and creativity shine!

There is a definite buzz about costumes when you enter the Wendell Country Store: “What are you wearing to the prom this year?” is a common question these days.

You do not need to have a date to attend the prom; just come and join in the fun and frolic of this fabulous community event! Both Kelly and Linnea praise the volunteer effort that comes forward to help facilitate the Prom, and past coordinators like Wendell artist Lisa Winter continue to assist in a variety of ways. Lisa designed and created the costumes for the “Man Horses” that pulled a chariot for “Promageddon” in 2012.

This year’s prom is guaranteed to hold some amazing surprises in the way of costumes, decorations and props, and performances. You surely will be delighted when you come to Alice in Wendelland – see you there!

MONTAGUE REPORTER

Diana Allen of Montague Center hangs out on Los Angeles’ Sunset Boulevard in front of the infamous Viper Room nightclub, perusing her hometown paper.



Moti and Gilead Zemelman of Montague Center read their Reporter in the gardens at Cabuila, Costa Rica. Thanks to Amanda Doster for the photo.



Going somewhere? Take us with you! Send photos to editor@montaguereporter.org.

ON THE ROAD



Above: These “manhorses” appeared at the “Promageddon” Prom in 2012. Top right: Donna Horn at the 2015 “Wendell is Out of This World” Prom.

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