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The Montague Reporter

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JULY 26, 2018

Gill Gears Up For Big Birthday Christmas Party



An illuminated boat parades on Barton Cove during the 2016 Christmas in July event. This year, Christmas coincides with the town's anniversary celebration.

By JOE KWIECINSKI

GILL – If you're looking for the perfect summer family event, please seek no further. Drop by Riverside in Gill this Saturday, July 28 and join in the festivities of a fortuitous twin bill: one that puts the spotlight on the town's 225th anniversary celebration with a decidedly porcine flavor – the traditional pig roast – and falls on the same eve as the Franklin County Boat Club's annual Christmas in July event, with a parade of illuminated and decorated vessels on the river and a major-league fireworks show. Robin Paris says she is delighted by the efforts of the town's 225th anniversary planning committee. "The committee members have been so enthusiastic," says the hard-working Robin. "We had a lot of fun planning this year – a lot like back in 1993, when I was on the bicentennial committee. "Gill is blessed to have such a diverse town – so different and varied. And we all display the spirit of

community. That's what makes Gill so beautiful; it's more important and full of meaning than ever." The scrumptious pig roast gets underway at 5:30 p.m. on the grounds of the Riverside school building. The menu, guaranteed to make diners say, "yum, yum, give me some," features culinary delights including roast pig (served with or without barbeque sauce), pasta salad, coleslaw, and rolls. The chef, Randy Crochier, guarantees a memorable meal. "After all, I personally know the cook," grins the versatile Crochier, a third-term Gill selectman who occupies an elected position on the town's board of health and serves as the chair of the 225th anniversary committee. In that capacity, the amiable Randy is further excited about Wagon Wheel's homemade ice cream coming on board as part of the celebrations this year. "I'm really heartened by the businesses in Gill," he says, "such as Wagon Wheel. Their generous donations and see **PARTY** page A4

Three Seek Open Wendell Selectboard Seat

By MIKE JACKSON

Three candidates have filed papers for a September 4 special election to the Wendell selectboard. The board is currently short-handed, following the resignation of Jeffrey Pooser, who ran for reelection unopposed in May but announced in June that he would be leaving the board to focus on his family. All three – Phil Delorey, Laurie DiDonato, and Wanita Sears – are already active in town government: Delorey is the town building inspector and a highway commissioner, DiDonato sits on the energy committee, and Sears works as a clerk for the finance committee and sits on the recently reconsolidated broadband committee. We spoke with each of them



Phil Delorey, Laurie DiDonato, and Wanita Sears are on the September 4 ballot.

about their experience, their perspectives on the challenges Wendell faces, and the skills they hope to bring to the town's highest elected body. Here, in alphabetical order, is a snapshot of each candidate. **Phil Delorey** Delorey moved to Wendell in 1985 and has served as building inspector since 1988. He holds a mas-

ter's degree in public administration from International College. Delorey served on the Wendell school committee from 1995 to 2005, and chaired the Union 28 regional school committee during that time. He identifies the school systems as the "driving force" behind Wendell's tax rate, which is approaching its legal limit. "It's see **WENDELL** page A5

\$100,000 Earmarked for Leverett Pond Dam Reconstruction Awaits Governor's Signature

By JEFF SINGLETON

LEVERETT – A \$100,000 appropriation in the state budget to help finance the renovation of the Leverett Pond Dam was approved by the legislature's conference committee last week, and as of this writing only awaits Governor Baker's signature for approval. If the governor should veto the so-called "earmark" for the dam, the legislature could override his veto. The dam, which was originally constructed in 1938 and rebuilt in 1979, is in danger of failing. If this occurs, the pond could shrink to one-third of its original size, according to the non-profit Friends of the Leverett Pond. A press release issued by the Friends describes the pond as "a 102-acre Massachusetts 'Great Pond' which is used by people throughout the Pioneer Valley for fishing, swimming, skating, boating, skiing, bird watching, and more. It is home to eagles, blue herons, geese, beavers, otters, osprey, turtles, fish and



Glen and Austin Sumner of Montague fish on Leverett Pond on Wednesday afternoon.

other wildlife." Last fall, the organization purchased the dam, located at the north of the pond, from the owner of the property on which it is located. Friends president Tom Hankinson explains that because the pond is designated as a "Great Pond" – a

designation that dates to the era of English common law – it may technically be under the control of the state, but "they don't care about it." According to the group, the dam no longer has a functioning control valve "that could be used to control see **POND DAM** page A6

Interview: School Police?

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – This fall, a member of the Montague Police Department – Officer Dan Miner – will start working in Gill-Montague schools as a "school resource officer" (SRO). The position was previously unfunded, but events this spring prompted the school administration, midway through the budget season, to find enough money in the FY'19 budget to refund the town 75% of

the cost of an officer. Miner will be stationed mainly at the secondary schools, but will be on call for general police business, and will also make home visits to address truancy and other issues. This deal was approved by the school committee, and recommended by the Montague selectboard and finance committee, but the expanded police department funding was challenged by Montague town meeting members in May. The effort was led by Garry Earles of Precinct 4, a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW) who specializes in child and adolescent mental health. After a debate lasting over an hour – the longest public discussion of the school police proposal – town meeting voted 39–37 to approve the funding. Former acting Montague police chief Chris Bonnett and members of the Turners Falls High School administration then drafted a memorandum of understanding governing the program, which was approved by both the district and the town. The agreement stipulates that funding see **POLICE** page A6



Garry Earles has been an outspoken local critic of police in the schools.

State Senate Primary Race Heats Up

By MIKE JACKSON

NEW SALEM – Although only one name will appear on the Democratic primary ballot for the Hampshire, Franklin, and Worcester state senate seat on September 4, the race is hotly contested, with no fewer than four other politicians waging active write-in campaigns. When Stan Rosenberg announced amid personal scandal earlier this spring that he would be resigning, the deadline to submit papers had just passed. At that point only Chelsea Kline of Northampton, a women's rights and anti-poverty advocate, had thrown in her hat. Kline now faces write-in challenges from national policy activist Jo Comerford; local veterans' services leader Steve Connor; Dave Murphy, an attorney with

an extensive history in the legislative trenches; and Northampton city council president Ryan O'Donnell. The district is a triangle with Colrain, Royalston, and South Hadley at its corners, but the candidates have so far only held two public events in Northampton. That changed Tuesday night, when over 70 curious voters packed into the New Salem town hall for a forum organized by a group of North Quabbin town Democratic committees. The candidates each gave opening statements, split up to listen to the concerns of their potential constituents, then reconvened to answer preselected questions about their experience with policy and budgets; rural transportation; state aid to local towns; single-payer healthcare; and their personal passions. see **SENATE RACE** page A8



L-R: Jo Comerford, Steve Connor, Chelsea Kline, David Murphy, and Ryan O'Donnell seek the seat last held by Stan Rosenberg.

The Montague Reporter

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A Common Problem

This newspaper typically refrains from commenting on controversies across the river in Greenfield, but the recent establishment of a group camp on that city's town common by people with nowhere better to sleep is the kind of sign-of-the-times news that pulls opinions out of all the different corners of the county they've been festering in, and helps us all clarify where we stand.

The back story is pretty simple. After the years-long, gradual rousting of many more out-of-the-way, overgrown spots along river banks and train tracks, a critical mass of campers – it's currently a dozen or two on any given night – have finally pitched their tents in a legal loophole.

The town common is public land. As an institution it traces back to places like England, Wales, and Germany, where people who owned grazing animals but weren't big landowners benefited from having shared zones where their animals could graze together.

Over the centuries, common ownership was mostly taken over by private interests – by hook or by crook – but the idea was carried by early European settlers to this part of the world, who found it was useful to share land, at least with each other. Here, too, the concept shrank over time, until a typical town's sole unfenced pasture was just a little patch of land in front of its meetinghouse.

The life of town commons was extended when they became places for militias to practice. Eventually they were also preserved for their ability to evoke the past.

After the trees had all been felled and the best topsoil tired out, and the most enterprising farmers and laborers had given up and moved West, those left puzzling over the prospects for renewal in old "New England" took hold of the region's tail and stuffed it into its mouth.

New England was one of the earliest and most successful regional brands: a place where men and women of good breeding who did not need to farm or craft very much in order to survive could settle down and farm or craft just enough to qualify as farmers or craftspeople; a place where the nation's teenaged future rulers could be safely boarded away to school, and where trustees could set up campuses to extend their educations far, far into adulthood.

Even while most of the Northeastern states' population teemed in slums and broke their skin and

bones for low daily pay, and even while a few more eked their subsistence in out-of-the-way spots while the woods grew back up around them, a theme-park New England was carefully redeveloped in the middle of it all.

Rocking chairs lined the porches of every inn from Stockbridge to Freeport. Certain rural routes were paved for touring automobiles, tumbled-down stone walls scraped clean of their moss and reassembled – and wherever an old church was still standing, the big idea was to cover it in gleaming white paint as often as it could be afforded.

This is the contradiction of the New England town common: a little green jewel from the old world, planted with imported grasses and mown down to a crew-cut lawn; a tiny park where no one is expected to gather unless an Old Home Day has been declared – and certainly not a place belonging to the *commoners* of our era, let alone their sheep.

Nothing is more quintessentially "New England" than the maintenance of a legal code that proudly protects these tiny zones for free and voluntary assembly followed by shock and scandalization when one day it actually occurs.

There are a half million people in America without a house to sleep in on any given night, and three and half million who experience homelessness at some point during the year. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, as of the first quarter of 2018, there were also over 17 million vacant housing units.

The sum of all the social processes in this vast and strange country combine to exclude some fraction of its people from shelter. Homelessness is entirely solvable, but far too often, we go at it from the wrong end. If 0.17% of us will be made to sleep outside on any given night, it's to be expected that for the most part the short straw will be drawn by people already experiencing other forms of crisis.

Debilitating depression, post-traumatic stress syndrome, substance addiction, social dislocation, ostracism from families and other support networks, control by an intimate partner, vulnerability to sexual exploitation and other forms of targeted violence, displacement by natural disaster, or just how expensive it is to be broke – mix any one, two, or nine of these factors, and someone is likely to be in a bad enough state that if they lose housing on top of it all, they won't be able to resolve it overnight.

JEJI ILLUSTRATION



Therefore, homelessness can be addressed on a case-by-case basis, by channeling society's resources into casework that identifies and acknowledges all of the other problems many people who have lost access to shelter also have, and supporting them in working through them systemically.

This approach can lead to wonderful individual success stories. But it completely fails in its larger objective, because the system will always be in the process of freshly excluding hundreds of thousands of people from housing.

The problem can also be addressed from the other end: by identifying the processes that prevent all those vacant housing units from having people get into them.

It's not hard to let people into buildings, especially empty ones. There are multiple large, vacant buildings directly adjacent to the Greenfield town common. (For instance: the First National Bank building, which the Greenfield Redevelopment Authority plans to one day convert into a "cultural center," whatever that is.)

Of course, that's a non-starter, because as soon as one of America's 39,044 municipalities just starts housing people, it will become a rational destination for far more people than it can house. The only way to discourage them from coming would be to tie the gift to some kind of arbitrary ordeal.

This is why making needy people perform work is seen as morally edifying, even when the assigned work doesn't actually produce anything socially useful: it offers a cloak of legitimacy to the act of "rewarding" them with a share of unused resources, while withholding them from everyone else; i.e., it allows a line to be drawn between the *deserving* and the *undeserving*.

Here is how nearly all arguments about the Greenfield encampment are playing out: One team gives specific anecdotes of some people being *undeserving*, and another, seeing themselves as more empathetic, counters with anecdotes of similar people actually being *deserving*.

This inane distinction is why anyone is excluded from housing in the first place. Let's start there.

Letters to the Editors

An Endorsement

I am the parent of young children and I am a public school teacher. After closely following the First Franklin State Rep race for a few months, it has become clear to me that Francia Wisniewski is the strongest candidate on education, and she has earned my vote.

Ms. Wisniewski is a public school parent, a veteran educator, served two terms on the Greenfield School Committee, and has special experience serving at-risk populations. She understands from all these perspectives what pressures and challenges our public schools are facing. None of the other candidates have comparable experience or first-hand under-

standing of the needs and concerns of children, parents, teachers, administrators, and local governing bodies.

In addition, having met Ms. Wisniewski several times now, I know that she is the model of the type of person we want our children to look up to: she is analytical, honest, creative, diligent, kind, and giving.

Voters in First Franklin (nineteen towns which are listed at *electfrancia.com*) who are concerned about public education should pay attention and be sure to pull a Democratic ballot and vote for Francia on September 4.

Jessica Corwin
Sunderland

Not All Who Wander Are Lost

My cat Emmet has recently gone missing. (*See notice, page B8.*) I am hoping that someone took him in because they thought he was a stray.

Emmet has a microchip, but does not wear a collar. His first collar left him stuck on a fence. Luckily, one of the neighbors heard him crying and unhooked him from the fence. After that, I decided to let him go without one. I have now bought

him a breakaway collar for when he comes home, so hopefully this won't happen again.

If you find a pet that you think is lost or a stray, please bring them to a vet or animal shelter. They can scan them for a microchip, or match them to a missing animal report.

Jenny Silver
Turners Falls

CORRECTION

An article in our most recent edition, *Lightning Also Ignites K Street Home* (July 12, page A1), mistakenly identified the address of the unlucky house as "39 K." It was 36 K Street.

Apologies to our readers – especially the ones residing at 39 K Street, who have only relatively recently recovered from, and repaired the damage caused by, a fire in their own garage. If you are their insurance agent, please rest assured that their house did not recently get hit by lightning and also catch fire. This correction may be clipped and stored in their customer file. Thank you.

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Compiled by DON CLEGG

Interested in delivering the newspaper? The *Montague Reporter* has an opening in the Town of Gill to deliver about 45 papers each Thursday. Interested parties may call 863-8666 or email editor@montaguereporter.org.

A public meeting regarding the **downtown Turners Falls planters** will take place in the second-floor meeting room at the Montague Town Hall this Thursday, July 6 at 6 p.m. The meeting will include updates on developments that have occurred since the last meeting in April and information about upcoming events. This meeting will serve as a forum for people to share their thoughts and ideas for further community building and mutual support.

Saturday, July 28, offers a wide variety of events to attend!

From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., there is the **River Valley Ice Cream Ride**, offering three routes for bicyclists starting and ending at Unity Park in Turners Falls. A fresh summer lunch and live music on the scenic Connecticut River rounds out the day. The event is sponsored by River’s Edge Cycling, Greenfield Savings Bank, Bart’s Ice Cream, and many others, and all proceeds go to benefit RiverCulture, CISA, and MassBike.

For more information or to register, visit www.riversedgecycling.com.

From 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., the Greenfield Savings Bank branch has found a way for you to explore all there is to do and see at the **Diemand Family Farm**. Family-owned for 82 years, the farm has diversified itself over the years by tapping into all the talents of the 12 Diemand siblings and their extended families. Your hostess for this presentation will be Tessa White-Diemand, so come with your questions, comments, and conversation. There will be free samples to tantalize your taste buds, and a custom made bluebird house will be awarded to a lucky member of the audience, courtesy of the bank.

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Millers Falls Community Improvement Association is sponsoring an **ice cream social** at the Millers Falls Library, 23 Bridge Street. Depending on the weather, they will be set up in front of the library. Spoil your lunch with free ice cream, and meet your neighbors.

In the downtime between afternoon and evening events, remember that the **Great Falls Discovery Center** is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and the **Unity Water Spray Park** is spouting from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Both are great places to cool off!

The Shea Theater’s doors open at 7 p.m. for an evening of **improv comedy**. This performance is one of four scheduled this summer for Josie’s Magical Flute, a troupe comprised of Julie Waggoner, Sally Ekus, and Mandy Anderson, recently appointed the theater’s “house improv team.”

And the Majesters, a musical/comedy troupe who have wowed audiences at West Springfield’s Majestic Theater for more than five years, will be performing a fully improvised musical!

From 6 to 10 p.m., enjoy the talents of skateboarders participating in a free **Night Skate at Unity Skate Park**. Did you know that skate boarding will be an Olympic sport in the 2020 game summer? There will be hot dogs and live music.

Then finish the evening off with the **Christmas in July fireworks and boat parade** at Barton Cove (see story, page A1). If you’re watching from Unity Park, stop by and say hi to the folks at the *Montague Reporter* table!

And if you’re still not ready to go home after all that, there will be **live music at downtown bars**: metal and rock at Between the Uprights, and zydeco at the Rendezvous.

Next Saturday, August 4 is also shaping up to be a busy one. From 10 a.m. to noon, you can relax to the enchanting sounds of **Ed Hines** and his “one of a kind Middle Eastern lute” at Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls. Ed’s instrumental ability has been a huge hit, and he has gotten even better over the years. Light refreshments will be provided courtesy of bank.

From 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. that day, the **5th Annual Pocumtuck Homelands Festival**, a celebration of Native American art, music and culture, will be held at the Unity Park waterfront in Turners Falls.

The event is free, family-friendly and accessible, and of interest to all ages. The Festival will be held rain or shine, as all entertainment and food is sheltered. (*See story, page B1.*)

The shelves are overflowing with cookbooks! The Friends of the Greenfield Public Library are holding a book sale on Saturday, August 4, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the library basement. All cookbooks are being offered at the special price of 50 cents each.

Regular prices for other books – there are over 11,000 to choose from – are \$1 for paperbacks, \$2 for hardcovers. Non-fiction is sorted by subject and fiction is in alphabetical order, and volunteers are available who can help you.

There is always a nice selection of children’s books, as well as CDs and DVDs, and shoppers can fill a bag from the book section for \$2. The Friends’ book sales are important fundraisers for the library.

And at 7 p.m. on August 4, over 100 Ja’Duke performers will take the stage at Greenfield High School for a night of singing, dancing, and acting, featuring selections from Broadway and beyond.

Tickets are \$10 at the door or at www.jadukeshow.com. There will also be a bake sale, basket raffle, door prizes, and even some surprises! All proceeds benefit the **Ja’Duke theater building fund**.

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GUEST EDITORIAL Civic Leaders’ Chapter 70 Critique Misses the Mark

By JEFF SINGLETON

GILL-MONTAGUE – I would like to amplify on the comments I made at the July 9 Montague select-board meeting strongly opposing the Chapter 70 analysis in the “Civic Leaders’ Advocacy Letter.”

This letter, in my opinion, is highly misleading, and ignores the core problems of the state Chapter 70 education aid formula. Instead it criticizes the so-called “cap” on towns’ minimum contribution, a rather obscure element in a formula many civic leaders feel is too complicated to understand.

The “cap,” as it is being called, essentially ensures that the so-called minimum or local contribution to education, one of the key elements of the formula, does not exceed 82.5% of a city or town’s portion of its total “foundation budget,” the other key element of the formula.

The Chapter 70 formula is based on funding a school district’s foundation budget. The foundation budget is funded by a minimum local contribution plus state Chapter 70 aid. Thus, Chapter 70 equals the foundation budget minus the minimum contribution. That is the core Chapter 70 formula in its simplest form.

As the advocacy letter explains, a city or town’s minimum contribution is calculated by applying one percentage to its property wealth, and second to its income. These percentages are derived from a state-level calculation that assumes that the total of all local contributions statewide is 59% of the statewide foundation

budget, and that half of that contribution is funded by property values and the other half by income. This is the so-called “aggregate wealth model” introduced in 2007.

However, under this method, many wealthy communities would have a local contribution equal to or higher than their foundation budgets. They would then get no state aid and might have to somehow give money back to the state for education. To avoid this, the contribution is capped below the foundation budget (82.5%).

The civic leaders’ group seems to feel this is a grave injustice. I disagree:

1. The letter fails to explain the rationale for the cap, which was implemented more than a decade ago. The cap was a product of a lobbying effort by wealthier suburban communities who criticized the possibility that the formula would give no state education aid to some cities and towns whose citizens paid millions of dollars in state taxes to education.

I agree with this critique. These localities receive a variety of forms of state aid, including Chapter 90 highway aid and Unrestricted General Government Aid, despite the fact that they are relatively wealthy. Giving them no education aid – and potentially using the formula as a device to tax them even more – is not fair, and undermines political support for public education.

2. The letter virtually ignores the fact that the current Chapter 70 program is highly progressive in its implementation, despite the cap.

Wealthy communities pay much more for local education, and receive much less in state aid, than poorer communities.

Using the examples of Greenfield and Weston cited in the letter, Chapter 70 funds 59% of the foundation budget and roughly 45% of the actual spending (actual net school spending) in Greenfield, but only 17% and 7% in Weston.

The real state aid numbers are even more redistributive when we look at some of the poorest cities in the commonwealth. State taxpayers pay for over 85% of the education budget in Holyoke and approximately 95% in Lawrence as opposed to under 20% in Newton and Longmeadow.

The authors of the letter might like to see the wealthier localities receive even less from the state, and the poorer localities get even more. But to suggest that the Chapter 70 formula somehow “taxes poorer communities,” as the letter states, lacks credibility.

3. The letter obscures this reality by focusing on the percentage of the required local contribution that wealthy towns pay under the cap (82.5%) and then comparing it with the percentage that poorer towns pay (100%).

At first glance this looks unfair, but in reality it is a statistical artifact with little meaning. Poor towns may pay 100% of their required contribution, but in fact those contributions are much, much lower, as a percentage of total spending, than the contributions of wealthier communities.

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PARTY from page A1

efforts will make Saturday’s multi-faceted event even more special.”

Plan to gather at 5 p.m. on the field behind the Riverside school building, at 54 French King Highway, for conversation with friends and neighbors while the renowned band Ask Wanda plays some music.

Perhaps Ask Wanda’s personable bandleader, selectman Greg Snedeker, says it best: “Who doesn’t love a pig roast? How else could a person celebrate a Saturday in July with the Fourth of July combined with the Yuletide in one evening?”

Ask Wanda will play from the start of the festivities to their conclusion. The group is made up of four music makers well known in these parts: Guy Devito on bass, Jerry Mulligan on lead guitar, Rick Mauren banging drums, and Snedeker in charge of vocals, cello, and keyboard. (Snedeker also promises that “special guests will sit in with us.”)

Rich in multi-generational appeal, this silver-toned outfit delivers up a pleasing concoction of Frank Sinatra-type jazz tunes, spunky bluegrass, 1970s funk, popular rock, and folk stuff, too.

Although only ticket holders will be on hand at the pig roast, the general public is invited for free after-dinner entertainment, beginning at 6:15 p.m. Ice cream and beverages

can be procured apart from the complete meal.

Along with the music of Ask Wanda, the anniversary committee has obtained a Police K-9 demonstration, showing off the dog’s extensive training. Wildlife rehabilitator Tom Ricardi will also be on hand with an exciting display of the lordly bald eagles and peregrine falcons. You will be thrilled by the spine-tingling sight of these beautiful birds.

And after dark, the Franklin County Boat Club is primed to slightly stir the waters of Barton Cove in a lovely parade. This association has labored hard to fashion its 15th annual illuminated and decorated boat regatta in honor of the founder of the organization, the late Chuck Reum, who passed away in January.

“Chuck Reum directed us to become all about safe boating, family-oriented activities, and openness to new membership,” says the club’s new Commodore, Josh Girouard. “This is a working man and woman’s organization. We encourage men and women of all ages to join us.”

“This crowd-pleasing parade was Chuck’s creation,” Girouard adds. “Christmas in July remains his baby. I’m just trying to fill his big shoes.”

The gala evening comes to a crescendo with big-time fireworks. Thanks to the town of Gill and its fundraising effort, the Boat Club’s

Emily Samuels, another member of the 225th anniversary committee, has chosen two books for a bit of a more temporally lasting contribution known as the **Community Read**. The books follow parallel lines to the town of Gill.

The chosen books, which will be read and discussed later this year, are *The Red Garden* by Alice Hoffman, a collection of stories about a fictional town in western Massachusetts, and *Some Day My Prince Will Come*, the tale of the dissolution of a town in 1932 when the great Quabbin was flooded.

Any interested person can join in the community book club at a later date as part of the town’s year-long 225th anniversary celebration.

always-impressive fireworks will be kicked up a notch this year.

“Fireworks may be viewed from the field behind the Riverside School, and from Riverview Drive,” town administrative assistant Ray Purington advises. “Riverview Drive will be closed to vehicles from Oak Street to Pine Street during this event. Limited parking is available at the school.”

If Jupiter Pluvius interferes with the proposed happenings, the rain date will be the next day, Sunday, July 29.



Bicyclist Killed In Route 2 Collision

By REPORTER STAFF

GILL—A driver turning left onto Route 2 from the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge struck Michael Stennes, a 57-year-old West Virginia man, as he rode his bicycle southbound out of Gill last Saturday.

Stennes was airlifted to a hospital in Springfield, where he died of his injuries on Sunday.

According to a published obituary, Stennes, an electrical engineer and a father of four, grew up locally, graduating from Turners Falls High School, Greenfield Community College, and UMass-Amherst. He is survived by local family, and funeral services will be held this Saturday at the United Church of Bernardston.

In lieu of flowers, his family asks that donations be made to the Michael Stennes Memorial Scholarship Fund at the Northfield branch of Greenfield Cooperative Bank.

Traffic Patterns

The section of Route 2 at the bridge was closed for three hours

Saturday following the crash, which occurred around 4 p.m., while the state police Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section investigated the scene.

The intersection has seen heavier than normal traffic during the past three months, owing to the closure of the nearby White Bridge between Turners Falls and Greenfield for deck repair.

That project has run over schedule, originally being announced until “the beginning of July.”

According to MassDOT spokesperson Patrick Marvin, “the [White] bridge is currently expected to be re-opened to traffic in August. The schedule has been updated to an expanded scope of work.”

Though the cause of Saturday’s fatal crash “remains under investigation,” according to the Northwest District Attorney’s office, Gill police cited the driver, a 23-year-old Montague man, for negligent operation, failure to yield, and operating without a license. The driver’s name has not been publicly disclosed.

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Sewage Bill Crisis Spills Across River

By GEORGE BRACE

At its July 23 meeting, the Gill selectboard discussed the issue of recent increases in sewer rates for the 113 Gill residents living in the Riverside water district, and the looming prospect of a very large sewer fee increase coming in the fall.

The discussion began as a response to a letter a resident sent the selectboard and water commissioners expressing dismay at rate increases over the last several years, and concern about the rumored fall increase. She explained that her water and sewer bills for the last quarter totaled over \$200 per month, and pointed out that rising rates hit those on fixed incomes particularly hard. She added, “You as Selectmen and Water Commissioners must fight to keep our costs down.”

The Riverside district pumps its sewage under the river to Montague. The matter of sewer rates is coming to a head due to the recent closure of the Southworth paper mill, which had been one of Montague’s largest sources of sewer revenue, and the suspension of the “Montague Process” treatment system at that town’s water pollution control facility, per order of the state Department of Environmental Protection.

Montague is currently in the process of determining how to make up the shortfall from the loss of these revenue sources, with a large rate increase reportedly being discussed. Administrative assistant Ray Purington said that from what he’s heard, it is “almost certain” that the rate Montague assesses to the town of Gill will go up by 40 to 45%, and “every indication is that they may go higher than that.”

Board member John Ward said he had been wracking his brain on what to do to help residents facing the increases, but “we need to recoup the expenses that we have.”

“The fact is, there’s a bill from

Montague,” said board member Randy Crochier. “If we adjust anything, it’s just moving the pieces of the pie around.” He and Ward suggested water conservation as something within residents’ control, but agreed with an observation from Purington that “there isn’t a good, simple answer, or easy fix” to the situation.

Purington noted that Gill is not being singled out, and the likely increase will apply to all of Montague’s wastewater customers. He said it is not a decision that will be taken lightly, and that “they’re just as upset about this as we are.”

Purington added that he had reached out to the Montague town administrator and asked to be kept informed of scheduled hearings on the subject, so Gill can be sure to be represented. “Our plan is to have representation at Montague’s sewer rate hearing and advocate for our customers,” he said.

Ward asked that the Montague hearings be posted on Gill’s official calendar so that multiple selectboard members can attend them without violating the state open meeting law.

ADA Transition Plan

Megan Rhodes, senior transportation and land use planner for the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), appeared before the board to present and review the recently completed “Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan” completed by FRCOG on behalf of the town.

The ADA is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities, and among other elements, requires that municipal buildings, parks, programs, and services be accessible to people with disabilities.

“Gill’s in pretty good shape,” Rhodes said, and she went over the comprehensive report which evaluated the town’s compliance status. The report contained a prioritized list

of recommendations with suggested timeframes for addressing deficiencies, broken down into short (0 to 4 years), medium (5 to 9 years), and long-term (over ten years) projects.

Rhodes highlighted the doors and bathroom of the Slate Library as needing accessibility improvements, and suggested training for town staff in the law’s requirements. She said the staff was pretty aware of their responsibilities, but that there are a lot of regulations, and “everyone’s in the same boat” in needing training.

Town ADA coordinator Lynda Hodsdon Mayo asked about the possibility of training sessions taking place in the western part of the state, as most of them are now held in the east, and Rhodes said that FRCOG is planning to contact the Massachusetts Office on Disability to advocate for more local training sessions. She said other area towns would also benefit from sessions that were closer to home.

The board thanked Rhodes, and commended her on the thoroughness and detail of the report.

You Win Some, You Lose Some

The board received notice of the approval of a grant for \$68,485 from the state’s Green Communities Competitive Grant program. The grant requires approximately \$18,000 in town matching funds, and is to be used for specific improvements in the Slate Library, the town hall, and the Riverside municipal building.

The library is to have insulation and lighting work done, and the installation of an air source heat pump. The town hall portion is for insulation, and the Riverside building is to get new inserts for its windows. The board thanked the town energy commission for its work in securing the grant.

The board reviewed the single bid it received for work on electrical upgrades at the Gill Elementary School, which came in at \$109,000 – almost

\$70,000 higher than the \$40,000 that had been budgeted for the project close to two years ago. Purington cited a busy construction season as a reason only one of the five contractors who did a walk-through bidding on the project, and changes in the scope of work as contributing to the higher-than-projected cost.

Selectboard chair Greg Snedeker said that, due to the large difference between the bid and what was budgeted, he would like the project to go back to the capital improvements committee for review. Crochier and Ward agreed.

Other Business

The board regretfully accepted the resignation of Ivan Ussach from the historical commission due to Ussach moving out of town. Purington said Ussach had stopped by the town hall to say how much he had enjoyed being part of Gill, and that he will miss it. The board said the feeling was mutual and he was welcome to visit any time.

The board heard an update on the status of the Housing Rehab Loan Program, part of a Community Development Block Grant. The program has a target of 18 units in a three-town area which includes Gill, of which 11 have been completed, two in Gill, with two more in Gill currently approved. Purington said there is still money available, and the program lasts until the end of the year. More information is available on the town’s website.

The next household hazardous waste collection day will be on Saturday, September 22, and will take place at Greenfield Community College and the Orange transfer station. Pre-registration is required, and will begin on August 16 and end on September 17.

There will be a “Common People” concert on the common at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, August 7, featuring the Tropical Sensations Steel Drum Band.

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WENDELL from page A1

almost like they have the right, and we have the expectation to support them, and there’s a lot of expenses that are not under control of the town,” he says.

“We can hopefully lean toward the state more, and hopefully they’ll come through with some additional funding,” he continues, “but so far, there’s a lot of pressure, and a lot of weight on the towns to carry the cost of schools.”

Even so, he is optimistic. “I think Wendell’s in a good position, actually – we’ve had a very stable finance committee, and we’ve had a stable selectboard for a long time.” Delorey praised the fin com for “stay[ing] on top of setting priorities and giving [departments] the room we need to maneuver.”

“I think our effort has to be in efficiency, and finding some other sources of revenue to assist the town,” he said. “There’s only one viable business – the Diemand egg farm – so there’s not a lot of opportunity for Wendell to develop a higher tax base.”

Asked to name the biggest issue the town is facing, Delorey cited the townwide broadband project. “A lot of people see it as an essential educational component of modern living, and that’s very accurate,” he said.

“On the other hand, there’s a lot of people in town who have gone beyond any interest in internet, and certainly don’t want to spend a lot more money for something they really don’t want. So there’s a balance there.”

From 2002 until his retirement in 2012, Delorey worked for the town of Athol as director of planning and development. There he helped run a regional loan project for small businesses, in nine North Quabbin towns, among other economic development projects.

“I met with numerous selectboards over the years, and I watched them operate,” he says, “so I’m pretty familiar with the activity that takes place in selectboard meetings.” Delorey added that he has known selectboard members Chris-

tine Heard and Dan Keller for years. “I like to think I can get along with most anybody,” he says.

Laurie DiDonato

DiDonato moved to Wendell 17 years ago after her husband got a job at UMass-Amherst. “My whole family is very involved in the town,” she says. She serves on the Wendell energy committee, which she cofounded nearly ten years ago.

“After the economic crisis in 2008, there was a Sustainable Wendell group that started up, and the energy committee came out of that,” she explains. “There was a group that worked on food, and a group that worked on healthcare, but the energy committee was the thing that has lasted the longest.”

DiDonato also served as a “neighborhood captain” in the emergency preparedness program residents organized following a major ice storm and power outage. “We’ve discontinued that program because the town emergency response program has become much stronger,” she says.

By day, DiDonato works in the city of Greenfield’s energy and sustainability department, where she has been “getting a feel for town government and policies.” “I have to interact with the public, and with all the other municipal employees and the members of the various committees I work with,” she says, adding that the experience has “sparked [her] interest” in public service.

DiDonato’s husband Ray ran for selectboard last year, and the pair decided after hearing of Pooser’s resignation that it was Laurie’s turn to run. “I think I’ll work well with the other board members, and with people in general,” she says.

Like Delorey, DiDonato says Wendell’s biggest issue is broadband. “I do feel we need broadband – it’s important for keeping the tax base here; if we don’t have it we’ll have fewer people moving to town,” she argues. “And small businesses are definitely things we want to attract.”

At the same time, she says, the challenge is in “trying to make this

big infrastructure project happen, but keeping the taxes reasonable.”

DiDonato expressed enthusiasm for learning more about budgeting and keeping public spending in line with the town’s looming tax cap. “I know a little, and I’m excited to learn more,” she said. “I’ve considered joining the finance committee... The trickiest thing, in terms of reining in the budget, is the schools. It’s hard to want to cut the school budget, because we already know they struggle.”

Both of DiDonato’s sons attended Swift River School, and she participated in the Parent-Teacher Community Association there for “a good ten years,” including stints as its secretary and treasurer.

DiDonato says she thinks her experience with the energy committee, as a “very active member of the community,” and as a public employee in Greenfield will prepare her well for the elected office. “It’ll be good to have a fresh set of eyes to look at the problems,” she says, “and maybe see if there’re new ways to go about solving them.”

Wanita Sears

“I’ve been in town government, off and on, for the 25 years I’ve been in Wendell,” Sears says. Much of this has been in the capacity of a clerk for various committees, but she served for years on the Cultural Council and agricultural commission, and currently sits on the broadband committee.

“Broadband is a big issue, but it’s moving along quite well,” she reports. “There seems to be a lot of help coming from the state, and from Westfield Gas & Electric, who’s doing our design and engineering.”

This summer, Sears is working with the finance committee to pore over department budgets. “We’re looking at salaries, and we’re looking at how the departments spend their money,” she explains. “If they’re asking for more than what they’re using as a consistent basis, that’s upping the tax rate.”

That rate currently sits at \$23.27 per thousand dollars in property

valuation, a figure considered worrisomely close to the statewide legal limit of \$25. “We have to watch our pennies,” Sears says. “There’s a lot of upcoming solar development – I’m not sure if that will count towards growth, but we will be getting payments in lieu of taxes, which will affect the bottom line.”

Sears is a lifelong Franklin County resident, having grown up in Gill and lived in Turners Falls and Greenfield. “I didn’t know much about Wendell until we were looking for a house to buy,” she says. She worked for nine years as a bank teller, and then for several as a bookkeeper for Community Action’s fuel assistance program, but for the past 20 years she has been self-employed. “I clean and take care of people’s houses and farms,” she explains. “It gave me a more flexible schedule when the kids were growing up.”

Sears also serves as treasurer of the Good Neighbors food pantry, and until recently volunteered her time moderating the Wendell Townsfolk listserv. “Everyone sort of knows me there,” she laughs.

This variety of experience, Sears suggests, prepares her well for a seat on the selectboard. “And I’m not afraid to work!” she adds.



Notice From the Wendell Town Clerk

Wendell is having a Special Town Election on Tuesday, September 4 in conjunction with the State Primary Election. The purpose of the Special Town Election is to fill an unexpected vacancy on the Selectboard.

Three residents have taken out nomination papers for the open position. The candidates include Wanita Sears (Farley Road), Laurie DiDonato (Lockes Village Road), and Phil Delorey (Locke Hill Road).

Wednesday, August 15 is the last day to register to vote at the special election, and Friday, August 31 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. is the last day and time to vote Absentee. Absentee ballot applications are available now on-line, or at the Town Clerk’s office.

On Election Day, polls will open at 7 a.m. and close per usual at 8 p.m. Voters will cast a single vote on the Town Ballot and then move to the opposite side of the room to vote the State Primary Ballot.

If you have questions, please call the Town Clerk at (978) 544-3395 x2.

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Kitchen Needs Cleaning

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The Wendell selectboard met twice with no one from the Montague Reporter present. What follows is a summary taken from draft minutes of the June 27 meeting, the July 11 meeting agenda, and conversation with town coordinator, Nancy Aldrich.

The June 27 meeting – board member Jeffrey Pooser’s last – went late. The July 11 meeting lasted just over an hour. Several items were discussed at both meetings.

Highway commissioner and building inspector Phil Delorey discussed a need to review and reevaluate fees for electrical inspections because of several proposals for solar arrays in the town. FRCOG fees allow \$10 for the town, with the rest going to the inspector.

For the array at 107 Wendell Depot Road, the installer spent \$4,900 for electrical inspection, which selectboard members considered reasonable compensation for the three days a week that inspector Gary Terry spent onsite during construction.

Board members discussed possible ways to ensure that the town hall kitchen is kept clean and safe for public cooking. The kitchen is used for storage by Good Neighbors and as a green room for the Full Moon Coffeehouse, and it is open to Wendell residents.

It has been difficult to determine who is responsible when cleanup is inadequate. It would help if someone checked the kitchen after it is used, a job that is too large to take on with no compensation. The finance committee is opposed to adding another town employee.

Kitchen coordinator Heather Wiley said she would talk with people from Good Neighbors. Cleaning supplies for the kitchen must be kept separate from general town hall cleaning supplies.

Kitchen committee member Kathleen Leonard asked the town to maintain the building so mice can-

not get into the kitchen.

Tom Chaisson has completed digging out under the town hall. He shored up the foundation, put a plastic layer on the ground to prevent ground moisture from reaching the floor, and covered that plastic with enough material to keep it in place.

That work was preparation for insulating the floor, the next step in reducing the building’s energy use.

Fin com chair Doug Tanner asked for a meeting with the road commission to research and solve issues involving requests for a new payload, a tractor, a hotbox, and repaving the WRATS.

The fin com recommended accepting a tax deferral program for elder citizens with limited income. Under this program, a qualifying elder can borrow up to half his or her tax bill and have that repaid, with interest, upon transfer of the property. State rule asks for an 8% interest rate, and a town meeting vote may lower that rate and determine income eligibility.

Board members discussed more complications with the townwide broadband project, including the cost of short-term borrowing and state reimbursement. Tanner said the negative effects of Wendell not being connected have increased.

Selectboard members agreed to elect a municipal light plant chair, and hire a manager, in September.

The Wendell Meetinghouse has no water source or septic system, and the Friends of the Meetinghouse have asked for one or both. Connecting to the town center water system may be possible, but connecting to the town building septic system may cost too much, and may exceed the system’s design capacity.

The lot has room for a tight tank, and Pooser suggested a legal composting toilet.

Wendell received \$0.30 from the Commonwealth Transportation Infrastructure Enhancement Trust fund. Allocating that money will require a town meeting vote.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Boards Review Route 2 Solar Array

By KATIE NOLAN

On Monday night, developer Jack Honor of Ameresco LLC and engineer Andrew Vardakis of AMEC Foster Wheeler presented a proposal for a 28-acre solar installation at 129 French King Highway (Route 2) to the members of the Erving selectboard, in their capacity as water commissioners, and to the conservation commission.

Two wooded parcels owned by Frank Prondecki would be cleared for installation of ground-mounted solar panels capable of generating 6.45 megawatts of electricity. The Erving planning board granted the project its conditional approval in June. Because the parcels are located in the town’s groundwater protection district, the project also requires a permit from the water commission.

Vardakis assured the water commissioners and con com members that the project would have no effect on groundwater quality. He said that the project would include few impervious structures, and that the parcels’ groundwater runoff characteristics would not change after they

are cleared. After the solar panels are installed, grass would be planted in the cleared area.

Con com chair David Brule said that his commission would hire a consultant to review the proposal, and selectboard chair Scott Bastarache said that the water commission would also need professional consultation to evaluate it.

Honor asked the water and conservation commissioners to act promptly on the proposal, because the state tax credits for the project will be available in mid-August. The con com will meet again with Ameresco and AMEC Foster Wheeler on Monday, August 6 at 7:30 p.m. At 8 p.m., the con com and water commission will meet jointly to make a decision about permitting the project.

Bastarache commented that there are also three smaller solar projects proposed for Erving, but the 129 French King Highway project is the only one proposed within the groundwater protection district.

Comcast Cable Franchise

Richard Newton and Philip Johnson of the cable advisory committee

presented the selectboard with the contract they had negotiated with Comcast. Johnson said Comcast agreed to full coverage of the entire town and engineering help for setting up a local access channel.

The contract was approved by both the cable advisory committee and the selectboard.

Quotes and Proposals

The board accepted the low quote of \$22,724.60 for a utility cargo van for the highway department from Marcotte Ford of Holyoke.

The board accepted the Franklin Regional Council of Governments’ proposal to prepare the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan for \$23,000. Fire chief Philip Wonkka will be the town’s lead official for the preparation of the plans.

The board approved three proposals from engineering consultants Tighe & Bond: \$23,000 for evaluating a double-barrel siphon installation for POTW#1; \$26,000 for installation of a water pH monitoring system; and \$95,000 for preliminary design and permitting for a sewer main replacement on Arch Street.

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POLICE from page A1
for the position can only be canceled if both parties agree.

Earles, who has not given up, reached out to the *Reporter* asking to make the case that the town should suspend the program. The following is excerpted from two interviews – the first in June, and the second in July, after acting chief Bonnett was arrested and charged with assault of a family member, demoted, and placed on administrative leave.

MR: *Do you think you would be opposed to SROs if you didn't have a clinical background?*

GE: In all honesty, I can't answer that, because I do.

MR: *But you're trying to convince people who don't, that they should come out against this policy...*

GE: Assuming I was a lay person – if I maybe had a degree in information technology, or a master's in fine arts or something – I'd like to think that I'd have the same approach to learning about things that are on my radar as I do now. I tend not to talk about things that I don't know about. When I do research, I'm all in – when I did my child and adolescent training around the country for 10 years, I didn't do anything else.

I'd like to think that I'm going to be an informed citizen. I'm that way now on town meeting, not as a clinical person, but because I want to be a member of this community. I love this community; it's a great place to live. Franklin County in general, and I very much appreciate living in Montague.

MR: *That town meeting vote back in May was a very close vote, after a very long discussion. It turned into the biggest debate town meeting members held this year. Most of the people speaking from the floor spoke against funding an SRO.*

GE: Voicing their concerns for the first time, maybe.

MR: *And the superintendent and acting chief were among the only people who defended the idea.*

But when it came to a vote, a larger number of town meeting members voted for it than against.

GE: It was basically 50/50. And [superintendent] Sullivan claimed "I'm data-driven." But he had no data to drive! If he had strongly wanted that position, he should have said "I've done the homework, here it is," but he wasn't like that.

[Montague selectboard member] Rich Kuklewicz was much more emphatic about that – he was more of a rah-rah, cheerleader sort of guy. And he doesn't have any data, either!

MR: *Well, he has one point of data – the school resource officer at Franklin County Tech.*

GE: It's anecdotal evidence. The students don't necessarily want a police officer; they want another adult to talk to.... It's the rapport that you're able to establish, way more than their official title.

MR: *Which is also an argument that people in favor of SROs make: "What's really important here is establishing a rapport."*

GE: So why does it need to be done with a police officer?

MR: *Right. But they'll say, "Why does it need to be done with an expensively educated mental health professional or social worker?"*

I heard that argument almost explicitly out of Acting Chief Bonnett's mouth at a school committee meet-

ing: "You don't need an advanced degree to be there for kids."

GE: I wonder what he would do when a 14-year old girl comes up to him, an SRO, and says "Four days from now, I'm going to be dead," and walks away. Now what do you do? I know. They don't.

What do you do when you get called into the room and there's an ADHD hyperactive subtype, off the wall, not coherent, not listening to anybody. What do you do? I have rapport with those kinds of kids because I am one of those kids....

When you have a kid that's really acting out, and they're not coherent and they're off in Never Neverland, and they're acting out and they might hurt themselves or somebody else, rather than going and putting the handcuffs on, you need to know how to get into that space.

I've got nothing against any of these people personally. But for me, as a trained clinical social worker – with thousands of hours of internship time, and training time, and also doing trainings nationally – I'm concerned about their background.

I don't know how the legislation got passed that basically allows these law enforcement personnel to act as quasi-, or informal, counselors.

MR: *Superintendent Sullivan says, "No, they're not counselors; the district's counselors are doing great. This is a different role."*

GE: I don't buy that at all. If you look at the National School Resource Officer information – their basic 40-hour curriculum, with an additional 25 hours, mostly mental health training – if you read the literature anywhere in the country about these positions, they clearly say they're informal counselors.

MR: *What I heard as a reporter through this process was bouncing back and forth between two basic arguments. There's a public safety, security guard end of it: to have someone, in case there is a violent emergency on campus, with a gun on the ready. That's one extreme. And the other end of it is the almost pure counseling, or social work, role.*

And what I heard over the spring was, responding to criticism of each of those ends, a very specific middle territory staked out: it's not actually to respond when the crisis hits, it's to know enough about the kids and their families that we can step in –

GE: Before a crime is committed.

MR: *Or to be someone that some students are going to be more comfortable talking with before a crime is committed by their friend.*

GE: To me, their purpose is that they're spies.... They're trying to put one over on us. They want the law enforcement thing in the school, because they want the power.

MR: *I think you're being too monolithic. There's different interests that go into something like this.*

Police are handed a job that they can only do better by having more information, so obviously they're going to try to see it: they're going to try to be in more places, and they're going to try to multiply their force.

GE: The school system is not the place to do that, as far as I'm concerned. It's a setup. It's deceptive....

Some literature I read said that students feel like they need more adults to talk to, more accessible adults. But that doesn't mean that they want a policeman!

If they had a good social worker who was familiar with doing street work – down and dirty, like the old

settlement house [model]. That's the origins of social work: you go out in the streets, and you help people.

MR: *Why do you think that kind of social work has been sidelined?*

GE: Money – the cost of paying for the services. 65% of mental healthcare in this country has, historically and traditionally, been done by social workers. Managed care has basically advocated to get more people into the business, quickly...

So now you have people who are nowhere near as well-trained. For example, you have 400 to 600 hours of internship time in a graduate counseling program. You get out of school and there aren't any jobs for you – there aren't many social service agencies anymore.

So what you end up doing is what they call *fee for service*: you get a job through CSO or ServiceNet in this area, doing outpatient clinic work.

MR: *Which is an individualized, entirely medical paradigm....*

GE: People call in, and if you're in line, you get the next client. You make the appointments, and if they show up you get paid, and if they don't you don't get paid.

MR: *And if you start to understand any of the social context that your patients exist within, it's just blind luck.*

GE: It's now called "cultural competencies!" And those jobs don't necessarily provide a lot of training and supervision...

Now you do have social workers in the schools, behavioral specialists in the schools. But the SRO is working with children and adolescents, and there's no MSW program that has a specialized program in child and adolescent mental health. Go looking, see how many you find.

Springfield College offers a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in child and adolescent mental health – CAGS – but you don't go to that right when you get out of grad school, because you can't afford it. People who get that have usually already been in the field eight to 10 years.

I did 2,000 hours of internship in graduate school, under supervision. I had to do 3,000 post-graduate hours, under supervision, in order to even qualify to take the LICSW license exam.

MR: *So if a police officer were to go through one of these graduate programs and become professionally certified, would you see that as a solution?*

GE: Law enforcement needs to be separate from counseling. I don't think you can do both.... It pollutes the air. You show up for therapy, and now I'm going to yell at you? I'm going to give you consequences, as your counselor?

MR: *I sense your frustration, and I get it, because what I've seen is that the justification has been slippery. And anyone trying to oppose this – then well, it's the national norm.*

GE: It's not the norm in Greenfield!

And I've followed cases, in Kentucky and Tennessee, where the SRO basically beat up kids. One video that I have is of a deputy sheriff – not in the Northeast – and a kid who was unable to settle down in the classroom, so they called the SRO in.

He said "let's go to the office," and handcuffed him by the biceps behind his back. The kid is screaming. Screaming. And the SRO says, "You have a choice, this is up to

POND DAM from page A1
several invasive weed species that have already taken over substantial parts of the lake."

Hankinson explained that these species, including milfoil and bladderwort, could be controlled in an environmentally friendly way by drawing down the lake during the winter months.

The press release warns that if aggressive actions are not taken, "these weeds will make the pond ultimately uninhabitable for many species and turn the pond into an unwelcoming body of water that could no longer be used for recreation."

The \$100,000 earmark in the state budget, according to Hankinson, was the result of a meeting between the Friends and former state senator Stan Rosenberg. Rosenberg advised that the earmark initially be placed in the House version of the budget by state representative Steve Kulik, who has served on the House Ways and Means Committee.

Rosenberg has since retired from the Senate, and Kulik will be retiring later this year.

The state budget was supposed to be in place by July 1, the begin-

ning of FY'19, but was delayed by differences between the two chambers. The budget finally passed by conference committee on July 18, and the governor has ten days to act on it. This gives the legislature only a few days to override a potential veto before the present session expires on July 31.

If it remains in the budget, the appropriation will cover approximately one-third of the cost of the dam renovation, which is estimated at \$300,000.

The Friends write that they have already raised another \$100,000 or more through donations and a "slate of fundraising activities, including an art auction, a wine tasting, and a Coffee Shed at the Lev-erett Transfer Station..."

Hankinson said the group plans to request money from the town's Community Preservation Act fund for the project. He added that the Friends is also interested in purchasing a small island on the northeast side of the pond, but "we are trying to ascertain who owns it.... It has been a headache."

The Friends hope to begin the reconstruction of the dam in 2019.



LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was July 24, 2008: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

School Budget Threatens Bankruptcy for Montague, Gill

The Town of Montague has sent a letter to Massachusetts auditor Joseph DeNucci protesting the imposition of a so-called 1/12th budget – totaling \$16,820,000 – for the operation of the Gill-Montague regional schools for the member towns of Gill and Montague.

The letter is signed jointly by members of the selectboards and finance committees of both towns, and raises the specter that the state-imposed budget will send both towns into bankruptcy. The letter calls on DeNucci to use his power to investigate whether the budget set earlier this month for the Gill-Montague schools by Commissioner Mitchell Chester of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education violates the provisions of the Local Mandates Act, by imposing an unfunded mandate on the towns without regard to their ability to pay.

The letter also asks whether the 1/12th budget, which mandates a 10% increase in Montague's as-

Urban Gardening At the Brick House

Undergrowth Farm on Boyle Road in Gill is being farmed by hand by a collective of young tenant farmers, most of whom moved to the country last year from Boston. This season, you will be able to purchase their organic tomatoes, beans, corn, potatoes, kale, and cabbage at the Great Falls Farmers Market each Wednesday on the corner of Avenue A and Second Street.

Now, only a few months after they put down roots in Gill, the Undergrowth Farmers have taken on the project of farming a "snacking porch" and pergola attached to the Hot Spot Teen Center, at the Brick House on Third Street .

The pergola is a passageway of columns supporting a roof of trelliswork on which climbing plants are trained to grow. The rustic beauty was crafted by Undergrowth Farmer Toby Briggs on the side of the former Turners Falls fire station.

you..." ADHD kids don't have a choice! The brain has a mind of its own – it's brain-driven stuff.

They're basically putting these people in the schools to be counselors, and they don't need to be licensed. Who certifies them? Who says that they're trained? Where do they get the training? Who's going to do the follow-up, who's going to do the supervision? Nobody in the police department is qualified to do the supervision.

And I don't think many people, even town meeting members, knew that this was in the budget. Beyond that, I think that this should have been a public issue, and that there should have been a public discussion.

MR: *This isn't simply allowing*

the police to work in the school system; this is expanding the police department.

GE: And I think, given what's gone on in the last couple years in the department – I'm not pointing fingers at anybody. I don't know about any of this stuff; I read it in the paper.

But I think they should hold back on this position for a year, have a public forum to talk about what SROs do, why the police department and the school department are saying we need one, and what kind of training they get.

It has to be more transparent.... I'm not saying pull the plug on the program, but let's back off of it, and let's work out some of these issues.



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NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Ten Years and Still Toxic: Homeowners Demand Action on Drinking Water

By ROB SKELTON

The Leverett selectboard came under fire at its Tuesday meeting as a dozen south Leverett residents demanded action to mitigate problems associated with leachate from the former town landfill.

Married couple Virginia Goodell and Mark Doubleday of 101 Teawaddle Hill Road said that they have now been on bottled water for ten years; they are getting older, and the water is getting heavier to carry. Their yields have been poor – 7 gallons per hour, versus state guideline of 5 gallons per minute – and they can no longer water their garden or do laundry.

“The situation has become dire,” said Goodell, who operates a day-care business. “It needs to become a priority. We need the town to help us on that.”

Doubleday said the leachate is causing fissures in the well to clog, and the well pump to fail. Buzzy Booth, the 82-year-old Pelham well guru hired to replace the pump, told him “Nobody should have to live like this.”

Sue Pacheco of 111 Teawaddle spoke of chemical odors and soiled dish towels, and produced one as evidence. She said the water foams up and then settles, and that she ended up selling her animals. Her carbon filter is changed twice a year, and she can’t use water for three hours when that happens.

“I tried to sell my house twice,”

she said. “People go into the cellar and say, ‘Oh My Gosh!’” when they see the series of filters, a photograph of which was also entered into evidence.

Patricia Duffy of Amherst Road, who bought her house on three acres in 2004, was told “the water was fine, the town takes care of it,” as were others in the room, by realtors anxious to make the sale. Duffy said that in 2008 she was told her giant charcoal filters couldn’t remove the levels of iron and manganese encountered. In 2009 she was urged to drill a new well outside the leachate “plume.”

“I live on the plume,” she said. “I smell the gases coming out.”

In 2015 Duffy got sick with auto-immune disease, as did some of her neighbors. She said the dioxane in her tap water rose to unacceptable levels.

Last summer her well went dry, as red sediment clogged her appliances, her toilet and her new dishwasher. She was forced to buy and use plastic flatware and paper plates. Recently it has gotten better, Duffy said, but it is still fizzy and cloudy and full of air bubbles. The filter is red. She owns a legal two-family where two adults live upstairs and four adults live below.

“I need plenty of high quality clean water ASAP,” she said.

Both Duffy and Goodale said they had younger relatives in need of housing, but cannot offer assistance due to the water situation.

Mary Jones, a community organizer for the Toxic Action Center, said that these residents need to be included in the town’s plan: “As you heard, this has been ten years dealing with the leachate from the Leverett landfill.” She called for “speedy and comprehensive” mitigation.

In response, the selectboard pulled its most radical card – eminent domain, which would have the town “taking” the land, paying the owners its assessed valuation, and removing the buildings. While extreme, it might be more cost effective than the two other options previously discussed: extending the Amherst town water line, or constructing a municipal water well.

“That doesn’t sound good to me,” said Doubleday, whose family farm was displaced during the building of the Quabbin reservoir. “My grandfather got \$8,200.” It didn’t compensate for his equipment, apple orchard, and other non-tangibles, Doubleday said.

Selectboard chair Peter d’Errico said Leverett has spent half a million dollars so far for testing and clean water for residents.

“Our best solution is to tap into the Amherst water supply,” said selectwoman Julie Shively, an idea whose caveats include getting Amherst’s agreement and, since it would be the end of a line, regular flushing of the system.

Apreliminary design study costing \$20,000 has already been earmarked, and inquiries have been made to Am-

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LEGAL NOTICE of PUBLIC HEARING

Leverett Conservation Commission

The Leverett Conservation Commission, in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act (MGL c.131 §40), will hold a public hearing on August 13, 2018 at a meeting beginning at 7:15 p.m. at the Leverett Town Hall, 9 Montague Road, Leverett, MA to review a Notice of Intent submitted by the Laurel Hill Property Owners’ Association for installing a sluice gate and dredging a pond near Laurel Hill Drive.

The application is on file and is available for public inspection in the Conservation Commission Office on Mondays, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m., or by appointment at (413) 548-1022 ext. 3. This notice is also available at masspublicnotices.org.

herst, but it is not known whether the Amherst town administrator and public works boss are amenable to expending political capital to solve another town’s problems.

Biologist and resident Skip Fournier, of the inactive Leverett well committee, was present at the meeting. He has been charged with reconstituting his committee and getting it to work on putting together a proposal to bring to the next annual town meeting. Cost, as always, drove the discussion.

“I want action now,” said Doubleday, raising his voice.

“The only action we can do now is condemn it,” said d’Errico.

“I’ve lived like this for a decade,” Doubleday retorted. “The town

hasn’t taken any action yet.”

“That’s not fair,” said selectman Tom Hankinson.

“That would leave me homeless,” Duffy said, referring to a condemnation order.

“We have to keep things in perspective,” said Hankinson, after the group left. “I think these neighbors have gotten worked up.”

Asked what he’d do if he lived there, Hankinson said he’d sell.

D’Errico noted that “even if this group hadn’t come, we’d still be working on the Amherst water extension,” partly explaining the selectboard’s brittle and somewhat defensive stance whilst meeting with the group of residents.

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Complete Streets Plan Incomplete

By JEFF SINGLETON

At its July 23 meeting, the Montague selectboard discussed a draft of a “Complete Streets Prioritization Plan” that could net the town up to \$400,000 in state grants for sidewalk, street, and bridge repairs in the coming year. Member Rich Kuklewicz participated “remotely,” from parts unknown, over the telephone.

The Prioritization Plan, in the form of a list of potential projects, was originally going to be endorsed by the selectboard but, at the urging of an energy committee member, the board delayed the vote for two weeks pending public input.

Furthermore, despite the title of the plan, the projects listed had not yet been “prioritized.”

The discussion began with a presentation by town planner Walter Ramsey, assisted by Beth Giannini and Laurie Scarbrough of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. Ramsey said the town was looking to submit a version of the plan in early August so the state could complete its review by September 1. This would allow the town to apply for the first round of funding in October.

Giannini noted that the list before the selectboard had not yet been prioritized, but reflected “where we went first.” She said the final document the town sends to the state for its September 1 approval will need to include priority.

The list begins with potential projects in Montague Center, in-

cluding crosswalk improvements on the corner of School and Main streets and a major sidewalk reconstruction on Main Street heading toward the Bookmill.

Among over fifty recommendations for Turners Falls are proposals to replace one of the two pedestrian bridges over the canal near the planned cidery, to create a bus shelter at Avenue A and Eleventh Street, and to construct a sidewalk from the Park Villa Apartments to Sandy Lane.

Projects in Millers Falls include the construction of a bus stop on Bridge Street that is “aesthetically pleasing” and ADA accessible improvements at the intersection of Franklin and Newton streets.

In Lake Pleasant, the list proposes to improve access from Lake Pleasant Road to the park which is being renovated with Community Development Block Grant funds.

There are no projects for Montague City on the list posted on the town website. The absence was noted by selectboard member Chris Boutwell, who said he felt that Montague City was too often “neglected.”

Ramsey said there would be a “Complete Streets information session” on Thursday, July 26 at 2 p.m. at the town hall, and that he would accept further public input through Friday, August 3. The plan can be found on the front page of the town website under “Latest News.”

The board was on the verge of voting on the non-prioritized list when energy committee member

Ariel Elan urged the members to delay pending more public input. The motion to endorse the list was then withdrawn, and a vote will presumably be taken at the next meeting on August 6.

Other Business

Ramsey reported on an application for a \$5,000 state technical assistance grant to study potential energy-saving measures at the soon-to-be-constructed highway garage.

The selectboard approved a request for the use of public property for the Pocumtuck Homelands Festival on August 4. This is the fifth year for this popular event, which takes place on First Street across from Unity Park in Turners Falls. According to the RiverCulture website, “this event is the perfect combination of live music, drumming, dancing, storytelling, native crafts and yummy street vendor food.” Streets in the general vicinity of the festival, including First Street from the top of Unity Hill, will be closed from approximately 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (*See article, page B1.*)

The Mohawk Ramblers Motorcycle Club requested that the board endorse a “Proclamation” celebrating the club’s fiftieth anniversary. The Proclamation, which listed the many projects undertaken by the club over the years, was read in its entirety by selectboard member Mike Nelson. The Proclamation was unanimously endorsed by the board.

Richie Richardson, owner of the boutique FAB on Second Street,

Call for Nominations

Do you know a champion for the next generation of female leaders?

The Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts is proud to announce our new awards honoring five professionals in western Massachusetts.

The ToGetHerThere Awards gives area businesses and organizations the opportunity to honor a difference maker from within their ranks who has shown exceptional achievement in their profession, is an inspiration to their co-workers and young women and have made contributions to their communities.

The nominated person must signify role model behavior in their professional career and represent the Girl Scout’s mission of build-

ing girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts will honor the winners at the ToGetHerThere Awards Luncheon on Friday, November 2, at the MGM Springfield.

Nomination forms and requirements can be found on the Girl Scout website, www.gscwm.org/en/events/special-events/TGHTA.html, or by contacting Melanie Bonsu, (413) 584-2602 x. 3623 or mbonsu@gscwm.org. Nominations will be reviewed by a panel of business, community, and civic leaders, who will then select the ToGetHerThere Awards honorees. Nomination deadline is Friday, September 1.

came before the board to request the use of Peskeompskut Park on September 15 for a “fashion trade exhibition.” He said his goal was to make Turners Falls “fashion central” by providing a venue for designers to show their wares that is less expensive than New York. There will be booths in the park from noon to 6 p.m., and then the designers will “get together” from 7 to 9 p.m. for a show at the former St. Anne’s church.

The board unanimously approved the request.

Acting police chief Chris Williams reported on progress in hiring new reserve officers. He said that Sergeant Lee Laster was reviewing applications, and that the process would take four to six weeks.

Williams also requested that the board execute an agreement with Medicare Emergency Health Incor-

porated for ambulance service. The board approved the request.

Town administrator Steve Ellis asked the board to execute an agreement with Obear Construction Company for “window restoration” on the north side of the town-owned Colle building in Turners Falls. The building abuts the Shea Theater, which will undergo more roof work once the Colle windows are restored. The selectboard executed the agreement.

The board voted to set the cost of applying to be the new police chief, by participating in the Police Chief Assessment Center, at \$250.

The board then executed a \$28,500 contract with LaRochelle Construction Inc. of South Hadley to replace the front porch at the senior center.

The next scheduled selectboard meeting will be on August 6.

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STATE SENATE from page A1

“I believe in the kind of participatory democracy that’s transformative,” **Jo Comerford** said during her opening statement. A social worker by training, Comerford has held leadership roles at the American Friends Service Committee, the Food Bank of Western MA, the National Priorities Project, a think tank that researches the federal budget, and MoveOn.

Comerford said her work at the Food Bank and THE Center for Human Development was focused on “interrupt[ing] the cycle of poverty through direct service work.” She described government as a force that can carry out similar positive interventions, but criticized the state for its frequent “lack of follow-through” to relieve the burden of the mandates it places on government at a local level.

She called public transportation, including north-south and east-west rail transit, “a necessity for our region, along with high-speed internet: to knit our communities together; to develop local economies, to bring jobs into the region – and actually, hopefully, reverse the population decrease in this region.”

“We haven’t received money back, in local communities, to mitigate the impact of charter schools,” she told the audience, “even though the state said we would.”

Comerford called Massachusetts a “laboratory for democracy,” and said the state should adopt Medicare for All. “It is the only ethical and fiscally responsible thing that we can do,” she argued, citing the work of UMass-Amherst economist Gerald Friedman, who holds that single-payer healthcare will generate billions of dollars in savings for the public sector.

Asked what motivated her, Comerford told a story of when she was 11 years old and encountered a woman who had been incarcerated for stealing food for her family. “I’ve worked every single day, in every single job, pushing from the outside in to government, holding lawmakers accountable,” she said, “believing as I do that public service is public trust.”

Steve Connor grew up in Northampton, the son of a nurse and a Korean war veteran, and served in the Navy. He said his parents taught him to care for the “more marginalized” members of society: “I’ve worked my entire career in human services.”

Connor serves as veterans’ services director for eleven towns. “Laws are written, regulations are formed from those laws, and sometimes they’re very helpful – sometimes they get in the way,” he said. He recalled fighting

for Northampton to receive full reimbursement for veterans’ services, rather than the standard 75%, after it opened a homeless shelter that attracted veterans from other communities.

Connor called for an “enabling act” that would allow localities to withhold state tax money and put it directly into regional transit authorities like the PVTA and FRTA, and described the “huge issue of seniors not being able to get where they need – for doctors’ appointments, for shopping, for necessities, and sometimes just social events.”

He also said that, if elected, he would fight for full state transportation funding for regional school districts, and also said that he would ask the state attorney general to sue the federal government for not fulfilling funding special education, as it had promised in the 1970s.

“Single payer is going to have to happen nationwide. It’s a shoo-in,” he said. “As soon as we get over the politics of it.” This was the biggest laugh line of the forum. Connor said that while “people who don’t like single-payer healthcare” weren’t able to undermine Medicare, the Veterans’ Affairs system is under attack and may be privatized.

“We need to treat mental health on an equal basis with physical health,” he said, and when it came to what motivated him to get involved, he spoke broadly of social solidarity: “It’s all about taking care of each other,” he said.

“I had good luck, and I had some social safety net that helped me,” **Chelsea Kline** said, reflecting on difficulties she had faced as a young single mother. “And I see how these programs are dissolving in front of our eyes.”

Kline attended Greenfield Community College, Smith, and Harvard Divinity School, and sits on the board of directors of the Women’s Fund of Western Massachusetts. She said that her approach to policy-building would be informed by her activism outside the system: “I have looked for ways that I can amplify voices, and bring people into the conversation, so that we can demand what we need for our people, for our communities, for our small towns, for our cities – for whoever is in need.”

Poor public transportation, she said, was something she had witnessed preventing poor women from getting jobs. “I would love to have a more progressive tax system so that we can actually fund transportation options out here,” she added, “ways that people can get around that are not just in people’s cars.”

Kline criticized the state for enacting policies statewide that put an “undue burden on ru-

ral communities,” such as laws governing marijuana and the solar industry, “that are being heaped on volunteers in these smaller communities.” This observation received applause.

Echoing and expanding on her opponents’ calls for single-payer healthcare, Kline recommended capping the cost of prescription drugs, and “us[ing] the purchasing power of the state Medicare and Medicaid system” to prove that single-payer works.

“I’m a sweetheart – I love human beings,” Kline said. “When I see people that are hurt, people that are vulnerable, people that are marginalized, those are the people that I want to stand up for, and want to take care of, and want to bring to the table.”

Dave Murphy was born in Colombia, adopted by area professors and raised in Amherst, and lives in Amherst with his own children, but along the way his career brought him far and wide: work as a legislative assistant to Ted Kennedy; at the US Department of Justice and US Attorney’s Office; as legislative director at the state Department of Children and Families; and even years spent on the Natick school committee.

“The driving force of my life is to make a difference,” he said.

When the candidates were asked if they had relevant experience with developing policies and budgets, he touted his work on the 1994 Federal Assault Weapons Ban and implementing the Brady Bill at the state level in Texas and Massachusetts.

“I worked on 12 budgets during my time on Beacon Hill, and I was responsible, at DCF, for helping secure our three-quarters of a million dollar budget,” he added.

Murphy said that while expanding public transportation is necessary, so is better maintenance of existing infrastructure: “Potholes cause a billion dollars in damages to people’s automobiles every year.”

“Out here, we suffer from a lack of services in a lot of different areas,” he said, calling for representatives from the state’s western region to “work together to build support so that we get equal access” to resources.

Murphy endorsed amending the Massachusetts constitution to allow progressive taxation at the state level. “All of this stuff is really about resources,” he said, “and the problem is that in the legislature they’re so averse to talking about raising revenue. We’ve had a structural deficit in the budget for decades, and we’ve also been cutting taxes on the rich and

corporations for a decade in Massachusetts.”

Murphy also advocated for single-payer healthcare – “everybody gets covered; it’s covered through payroll tax... and then we get cost savings through bulk purchasing of medication.” “We can do some things better than the private sector,” he argued, “because the private sector’s all about money.”

Murphy said that seeing children sleeping on the street during a visit to his birth country, Columbia, made him realize at an early age how fortunate he was. “That could have been me,” he said. “I want other people to have the same opportunities I had to succeed – I’ve spent most of my adult life trying to do that.”

“Our district needs someone who can stand up for it in an institution like the state Senate,” **Ryan O’Donnell** told the audience. “Let’s send someone not just to fight for funding – although that’s important – but to be able to transform politics in Massachusetts. Our values can be exported to the rest of the commonwealth.”

O’Donnell pointed out that he was the only elected official in the race, and said his experience negotiating with political foes in a legislative setting was a valuable asset.

“I’d like to ask millionaires to finally pay their fair share, and shift away from funding everything in our communities with property taxes,” he said. “That bakes in inequality at the ground floor.”

He called public transportation “a social justice issue,” and said its purpose was “to connect people to affordable housing, employment, to healthcare.... Public transportation isn’t there to make money. It’s to knit our communities together.”

“We need to crack open the basic formulas that we use to make appropriations in our commonwealth,” he said. “In our constitution is the promise of an equal education for every child, and we have failed to deliver on that promise, because of increasing costs.”

While he agreed with every other candidate that single-payer healthcare should be the goal, he warned against only attaining it at a state level. “When they repeal the individual mandate federally, it’s going to cost your premiums to spike,” he said.

O’Donnell criticized Massachusetts’ health insurance industry. “We need candidate finance reform, and we need lobbying reform,” he argued, “because those interests control too much of the agenda on Beacon Hill.”




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FAIRY HOUSE DAY ON AVENUE A

By CINDI OLDHAM

TURNERS FALLS – There is magic in the air as the enchantment of Fairy House Day on Avenue A approaches.

On that day – Saturday, August 18 – you’ll find miniature fairy villages constructed in the landscapes of our downtown planters, and you’ll have the opportunity to build your own fairy house. There will be a story hour, a shadow puppet show, mermaid music, a picnic beauty contest, and a monarch butterfly release by Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory!

The event will kick off at Spinner Park, at the corner of Fourth Street and Avenue A, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. There you’ll find baskets of moss, pine cones, and other items that kids and like-minded adults can use to build their own fairy houses around the park.

Throughout the day there can be exploration of the fairy houses that will be built by others and placed around town in the planters. Some of these fairy houses and villages will remain in the planters after the event, and some won’t, depending on what each creator decides.

“Story hour will be at the Carnegie Library, starting at noon,” says Beverly Ketch. “It will include a shadow puppet show, performed by Abby Rusk and myself to a song that I composed.”



A fairy house in one of the downtown Turners Falls planters. Build your own during Fairy House Day on August 18.

Ketch is organizing and promoting Fairy House Day, along with Rusk, Hannah Brookman, and Sarah Lanzillotta. “The mermaids are a mermaid-style music act called Tsunami Mami,” she continues. “There will also be some very special fairy stories read.”

“At Peskeomskut Park starting at 1:30, there will be a picnic beauty contest – the picnickers won’t really be judged, but will receive prizes for participation, as all picnics are beautiful,” muses Beverly.

Magic Wings will release 24 monarch butterflies. When they are released, they’ll fly around town, feeding on nectar and pollinating the wildflowers.

There will be an outside craft ta-

ble at the Great Falls Discovery Center from 3 to 5 p.m. as well. You can stop by and make a winged friend for the fairies, such as a butterfly made with coffee filters and clothes pins, a dragonfly made with pipe cleaners and popsicle sticks, or a bat or a bird from paper. Volunteers and Department of Conservation and Recreation staff will be on hand to help the kids with the crafting.

“There will be some fun street performers downtown during the day, such as a banjo player, a balloon seller, and a 15-foot-long papier-mâché dragon to liven things up,” Beverly adds. “We want the event to feel special and magical by including the music and characters.

see **HOUSES** page B2

EVENT PREVIEW

A Festive Gathering Above the Falls

From combined sources.

TURNERS FALLS – Experience the Pocumtuck Homelands Festival, coming for a fifth year to the Unity Park waterfront next Saturday, August 4. The family-friendly, free event features remarkable indigenous artists and craftspeople displaying and selling wares that include jewelry, pipes, baskets, and drums.

Enjoy traditional and original music throughout the day while you witness primitive skills demonstrations, such as flint knapping, birch bark biting, and ash log pounding. Elnu Abenaki Chief Roger Longtoe Sheehan and tribal experts will present an all-day “Living 17th Century Native History” display of replicas of weaponry and clothing worn by the different cultures visiting the Great Falls in the mid-1600s, and demonstrate skills like net making and wampum making.

Musical Performers

The festival features flute player Kelvin Mockingbird (Navaho/Dine), guitarist Bryan Blanchette and The Black Hawk Singers (Abenaki), the Kingfisher Singers (Wampanoag),



The Kingfisher Singers, who perform Eastern Woodlands music in traditional regalia, will perform at the festival.

the Urban Thunder singers (intertribal), and storytelling by Willow Greene (Missisquoi Abenaki). Justin “Bigishkibin” Beatty will emcee.

Kelvin Mockingbird’s performance at the festival will be a mixture of original songs and stories. Kelvin learned to play flute when

he was 16, and has put out ten albums, one of which was nominated for a Grammy in 2003 for Best Native American album. He explains that traditional music is reserved for ceremonies. He feels his music is a “tool for healing a world of indifference, [and] becoming a human being.”

Bryan Blanchette hails from N’dakinna, the Abenaki homeland in Graniteville, Vermont, and studied music at Berklee College of Music. He started pow-wow drumming and writing Abenaki language songs 20 years ago. Audiences may hear a contemporary song sung in an Algonquian language, or a pow-wow song informed by Euro-American musicology. His group, The Blackhawk Singers, have put out two CDs and performed internationally.

Urban Thunder is described as an intertribal drum group formed in Boston, currently based in western Massachusetts with members from as far away as Colombia and Alaska.

see **POCUMTUCK** page B4



Left: Wampum jewelry by Elizabeth Perry, who is also one of the Kingfisher Singers performing at the Pocumtuck Homelands Festival. Right: Grammy nominee Kelvin Mockingbird, playing his flute in a beautiful canyon setting.



THEATER REVIEW

White, Black & Blue: A Captivating Experience

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

leaves him speechless?

GREENFIELD – A man, running for his life, forces his way into an old man’s house in the middle of the night. The old man is naturally afraid – but does it matter if the man pushing in his door, waving a gun, is black? And what is the truth about why the police are after him?

In a confrontation while the city sleeps around them, the older man, Joe, the younger man, Walter, and the policeman chasing him, face their demons, prejudices, faulty assumptions, and hidden truths to find a way out of a situation that seems to have no good solution.

Both actors are superb. Rios dominates the opening scenes, as he has passion and fear wrapped up in his physical action: pacing, struggling to decide what to do, pointing that gun, threatening yet hesitating. His expression goes from fear to questioning, to disbelief – does Joe really have a gun? – and then to debating, showing off his knowledge of literature, challenging Joe’s assumptions of him as a black man. Joe (Rush) goes back and forth between cowering and placating, cajoling, offering food, threatening Walter, then stepping back.

At some point, the two reach a



*Walter (Daniel Rios, Jr.), left, tells his story to hostage Joe Renshaw (Sam Rush) in *White, Black & Blue*, the Silverthorne Theater Company production now at Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center in Greenfield.*

The premiere production of *White, Black & Blue*, a play written by Steve Henderson and Will Chalmers, directed by Keith Langsdale, is now at the Hawks and Reed Performing Arts Center in Greenfield, with performances through Saturday, July 28.

The Silverthorne Theater Company continues its fifth season with an original play written and performed by local talent, one that provides a gripping theatrical experience that will keep you thinking and debating the issues revealed in this complicated, thoughtful story long after the lights have gone dark: What biases do we bring to what we experience? How do our own life experiences color our views? What do we hear when people speak to us that is different from our friends’ impressions based on what we know, or think we know, about each other?

There is nothing preachy about this play, nothing that pushes one agenda over another. It is, in fact, deliberately evenhanded, giving each character their own say on how they see things. The two authors’ own ongoing debate of these issues, based on their own life experiences and points of view, is reflected in the dialogue that forms the foundation of this play.

Fulfilling the hope of the playwrights, three actors deliver on the promise of their vision. Seasoned actor Sam Rush plays Joe Renshaw, an elderly man who lives alone. An academic who taught and wrote, he now spends a lot of his time alone, reading. When Walter Jones, played by Daniel Rios, Jr., crashes into his home, noisily pushing in the door and knocking over Joe’s bookcase, Joe finds it difficult to articulate what he wants to say, claiming he’s not used to conversation.

True or not? Or is it more about the fact that having a black man come into his home in this manner

kind of stalemate. And they talk.

In the second act, a third man enters. R. Steve Pierce plays Officer Lou Rankin, a thirty-something year old white man. His character has already been part of Walter’s story, but having him there in the room creates a totally new dynamic. In racial terms, the assumptions of each character are set, but definitely up for debate.

Officer Rankin enters the home of an elderly white man assuming that the man will be grateful for the rescue and be an ally against Walter, an intruder with a gun and a black man. Isn’t this enough? In this play, no assumptions can stand up to reality. Feelings matter, facts matter, history matters. As the debate continues, it is never clear which way things will end. Will they find a way to resolution? Will it end badly for all of them? Can there be a winner and a loser, or do they all lose if they don’t all win?

There is no moment in this play where the mind wanders and attention fades. While no action-packed movie with things blowing up – which is what seems to pass for entertainment in our modern world – the tension here is personal, and each character is seen as the true human being he is. Their stories carry the day. Their true feelings seen, they have a chance to survive. There is hope.

In a play with just a few actors, their ability to embody the parts they play, to be honest in their portrayal, is most important. Rush grows in the part as the play proceeds, moving from meek to powerful since his part demands he be the one, an old man with little to lose; still, in what is like a last stand in a cowboy movie, he rises to the occasion.

Steve Pierce, due to circumstances of the story, has less ability to move about, but tells his story with great heart and strength. For a

see **THEATER** page B3

Pet of the Week

Some hamsters may be destined to remain on the ground, to see the world as a maze to be solved. Some hamsters believe that their kind is forever doomed to roam the ground sniffing for seedlings and never reaching for the sky.

Freddie is not so deluded. He knows that a hamster’s place is in the sky, above the rumble of the

city and the squeaking of poorly-oiled hamster wheels. This is his destiny. He is the first – others will follow.

Invite this visionary high flyer into your home today! Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at info@dpvhs.org.

HOUSES from page B1

In fact, if it fits into our theme, we welcome anyone who loves to wear costumes or perform to come and participate in the day!”

Magic and Beauty

Ketch and her fellow Fairy Day organizers are also the creators of The Lovelights Show, a fictional children’s television show that is being produced locally.

“The stars of the show are the Lovelight sisters, who discover the fairies,” reveals Beverly. “It was inspired by my sisters and myself, as well as all of my woman friends. A small grant from the Montague Cultural Council helped to purchase costumes and have a filming event. Fastlights Lighting Company has come through with a lot of help with the production. They let us use the studio, do the lighting with us, and help with filming. They are really great.”

“Since The Lovelights Show was such a hit with the kids and parents who participated, it seems only logical to organize Fairy House Day on Avenue A,” points out Beverly.

“I really wanted this event to happen for the kids in my neighborhood; they are so into fairies!”

The team plans to do more filming during various events throughout the day, catching scenes such as the houses that the kids will build, as well as the kids who are present



“FREDDIE”



Beverly Ketch, one of the organizers and promoters of next month’s Fairy House Day on Avenue A.

at story hour. They want to acquire footage for possible future episodes of the show – “that way, any kids who choose to can possibly appear on a future show,” explains Beverly.

“Kids who are interested in all the aspects of filming the show and want to be involved with the production can come and talk to us to get more info throughout the day,” she adds.

Presently, there is no specific screening date scheduled, since editing footage requires a lot of work and is very time consuming. Keep an eye out later this fall for an official announcement.

As Beverly and I sit on the edge of one of the downtown planters,

there is a warm breeze and the faintest scent of roses. One can really imagine some fairies living among the flowers and trees growing there.

“The fairy house building day is an analogy for the real magic and beauty of this town, and after living here for seven years, I think it has a lot to do with these planters. They are very special, and people who love this town don’t realize that the large planters contribute a lot to the appeal of downtown Turners Falls,” muses Beverly.

For more information about Fairy House Day or The Lovelights Show, contact Beverly at bdketch@hotmail.com.



OUT OF THE PARK: July 2018

By JON DOBOSZ

UNITY PARK – Hello, and happy summer everyone! I’m sure you’re all knee-deep in summertime fun, and why not? We all deserve it. We’ve started the summer on a great note here at MPRD, and are looking forward to more fun and ex-

citement as the season progresses.

Our **Summer Camp** has been going great. We’re almost completely full, with the exception of one of our 9- to 12-year-old groups, so if you know of someone who needs a little structure in these lazy days, then send them our way! Summer Camp goes through August 17, and we have a bunch of fun things for your kids, including special events, field trips, and weekly excursions to the lake.

We’re also gearing up for our second **Night Skate**, which is planned for Saturday, July 28 at the Unity Skate Park. Our first one that we held on June 21 was a big hit, and signs show that our next one could be even more enjoyable. It will be held from 6 to 10 p.m., and we’ll have a food truck on site, so be sure to bring a few bucks for some good grub.

We will also be holding two competitive style **Swimming Mini-Camps!** The first is a Freestyle Camp, which is scheduled from Monday, July 30 to Thursday, August 2, with the second being an Individual Medley Camp (Backstroke, Breaststroke, and Butterfly) that is planned from Monday, August 6 to Thursday, August 9. These camps will have a competitive swimming approach, and are not a learn-to-swim or swimming lesson program. Participants should be somewhat knowledgeable of all strokes and wish to broaden those skills for competitive team swimming.

I am also very excited to announce that we’ll be partnering with Next Up Basketball to host our first **outdoor youth basketball tournament** on Saturday, August 11 down at Unity Park! There will be four divisions – Varsity, JV, 14U and 12U – with a four-game guarantee and single elimination format. The cost is \$25 per team, with a maxi-



mum of 4 players per team. There will be no separate gender divisions, so teams may be co-ed or all one gender. Each team must have a team captain/coach, and a variety of sponsorship opportunities are available for local businesses.

We’ll also be partnering with the Northern Tier Athletic Club to offer a **Preseason Soccer Boot Camp** for boys and girls ages 10 to 14. The camp will be held from Tuesday, August 21 to Friday, August 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will surely be popular, so get your little athlete signed up early so they have a spot.

Speaking of soccer, registration for our **Fall 2018 Youth Soccer Program** begins Wednesday, August 1 for all levels, which include Start Smart Soccer (children entering grades K to 2nd), Junior Travel (3rd/4th), and Senior Travel (5th/6th). The program begins the second week in September.

That’s about it from here. As you can see, there’s a lot of summer left, so be sure to take advantage of all that we’re offering. For additional information on our programs and events, contact us at 863-3216, log onto our webpage at montague.net, or check out our Facebook page. Talk to you next month!

Jon Dobosz, CPRP, is parks and recreation director for the town of Montague.

Senior Center Activities

JULY 30 TO AUGUST 10

LEVERETT

For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us.

Wednesdays 10 a.m.: Flexibility & Balance Chair Yoga at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free).

Fridays at noon: Senior Lunch. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

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.

M, W, F: 10:10 a.m. Aerobics; 10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

T, W, Th: Noon Lunch

Monday 7/30

8 a.m. Foot clinic (by appt.)

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 7/31

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

11:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share

Wednesday 8/1

9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach

12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 8/2

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Cards & Games

Monday 8/6

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 8/7

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

11:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share

Wednesday 8/8

9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach

12:30 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 8/9

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Cards & Games

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.

Art Classes run July 10 to August 28, 1 to 3 p.m.

Monday 7/30

9:30 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance

10:30 a.m. Tai Chi

Tuesday 7/31

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

10 a.m. Stretching & Balance

11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch

1 to 3 p.m. Art Class

Wednesday 8/1

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch

12:15 p.m. Bingo & Snacks

Thursday 8/2

8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

10 a.m. Healthy Bones

11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Pick Up

Friday 8/3

9 a.m. Quilting Workshop

9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling

11:15 a.m. New: Music, Magic, Movement

Monday 8/6

9:30 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance

10:30 a.m. Tai Chi

Tuesday 8/7

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

10 a.m. Stretching & Balance

11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch

1 to 3 p.m. Art Class

Wednesday 8/8

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch

12:15 p.m. Bingo & Snacks

Thursday 8/9

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

10 a.m. Healthy Bones

11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch

Friday 8/10

9 a.m. Quilting Workshop

10 a.m. Food City Shopping

11:15 a.m. New: Music, Magic, Movement

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R. Steve Pierce, left, as Officer Lou Rankin, handcuffed to the radiator, looks hopefully at Joe Renshaw (Sam Rush) while both are being held hostage in Joe's apartment.

THEATER from page B1

man who wants to be seen as strong, his best moments come when he allows himself to be vulnerable.

Rios portrays Walter with great gravitas, a smart, frightened, desperate man whose survival depends not on the power of the gun but on his ability to show his sincerity and heart. He succeeds in making his character real, worthy of compassion, a strange combination of villain, victim, and hero.

Keith Langsdale has done an outstanding job of directing this tight production, with each detail given attention. The characters' thoughts and feelings are expressed through choreographed movement on stage, which supports the compelling dialogue. Keith is an amazing actor in his own right, recently appearing in Silverthorne's *The Tattooed Man* and now adding his experience to this production.

Behind the scenes, the foundation that supports the actors and playwrights' work: producer Lucinda Kidder, who pulls the whole

thing together from beginning to end; technical director John Iverson; stage manager Robert Moore; costume and set designer Reba-Jean Shaw-Pichette. Their work is so important to the overall experience of the show, with such attention to detail in lighting and sound, with the items small and large on set, to costume choices that support the actors' vision of themselves as they appear before the audience.

This is a rare and excellent theatrical experience, not to be missed.

Performances continue with shows on July 26, 27, 28 at 7:30 p.m. The fourth floor theater space at Hawks & Reed, 289 Main Street in Greenfield, is air conditioned and fully handicapped accessible.

Tickets for the play may be purchased online through Eventbrite.com or by calling the Silverthorne Box Office at (413) 768-7514. For questions and further information, call or email the company at silverthornetheater@gmail.com, or visit silverthornetheater.org.



CONCERT REVIEW

The Green River “Pre-Fest Fest”

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – The Green River Festival happens every July at Greenfield Community College, where they have lots of music, local food, beer, wine, and the hot air balloons that I have seen going over my house for some time now. This year, the Progress Partnership decided to have their event at Energy Park downtown called “Pre-Fest Fest,” featuring a few musical acts along with local food and beverages. It took place Thursday, July 12.

The first act of this event was the Salvation Alley String Band. Besides having an interesting name, they had a man dressed like an old-time country music singer playing a double-neck guitar, which didn't sound bad. There were two other members, another guitarist and drummer playing a drum set.

The thing is, they sounded like old-time country music, and I don't really like that. What I did like about them was the singing by their other guitarist, and the way they played their guitars.

At one point, the lead singer sang a ballad well – it didn't sound too much like old-time country music. Not a bad band to see perform!

Lexie Weege and the Wonder Twins were next. This group – three men, two guitarists and one drummer, and a woman playing a keyboard and singing – sounded twangy as well. I liked the sound of her voice better when it came to the second song she

sang, which was less twangy.

At one point, they played a song where I really liked the guitar playing. At another point, the drummer did a great drum roll to end a song.

I have always been somewhat of a fan of guitar playing. Theirs hits me much more than the guitar playing by the first band – it kept the beat well throughout the performance, and the drummer did too.

The Paper City Picture Show was the third and last act. The group with its unusual name consisted of a woman singing and playing the guitar, a man on drums, a woman playing a clarinet, and another man on bass.

This group certainly had a different sound to it than the other two groups of the day. I'm not sure whether to say they played “folk music” or not, but that is just my best guess as to what they were playing. *[Editor's note: They play folk music.]*

The singing of the woman playing the guitar was great, and was what I liked best about the Picture Show. At the top, I would highlight this woman's singing and her guitar playing as what I liked the most during the concert, along with the guitar playing from the Wonder Twins.

If this was supposed to be a sort of special event that was connected to the Green River Festival being at the college, it did a very nice job of doing that. There was food and beverages from Greenfield businesses, like I believe they have at the actual festival. It wasn't a bad prelude to the Green River Festival.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Children Start Fire; Bunnies, Bat Reported; Hispanic Male Holds Hands Close To Hips

Monday, 7/9

11:37 a.m. Officer spoke to driver on Turners Falls Road about an unsecured load he was carrying. Several items that had fallen out of the truck needed to be picked up by the DPW.

3:20 p.m. Caller reporting that her neighbor left an empty cardboard box in front of her door; thinks it was to harass her. Officer advised male party of complaint.

4:42 p.m. Caller advising of hurt deer in the area of Hatchery Road. Animal was standing in a grassy field after limping across the road. Environmental police advised.

7:52 p.m. Officer reporting suspicious auto on Montague City Road taking a picture of a person on a scooter. Vehicle described as a junky black pickup truck. Unable to locate.

8:34 p.m. Party into station to speak to an officer regarding the defacement of the Soldiers Memorial next to the library on Avenue A.

Tuesday, 7/10

9:20 a.m. Caller from H Street states that someone left a couch and a bed on his property. Couch, bed frame, and washer found in field on Tenth Street. DPW to be contacted to take a look and see if this is town property. DPW will come and pick up the stuff.

11:30 a.m. 911 hangup call. Dispatch answered call and spoke to a male party who was rude and then hung up the phone. Advised party of proper 911 protocols.

1:10 p.m. Drill reported stolen on Wendell Road. Report taken.

Wednesday, 7/11

3:01 a.m. Officer advising of large crack in the road on G Street; heavy water coming up onto street; appears to be water main break. Water department advised and *en route*.

8:42 a.m. Report of two tires slashed on an employee's vehicle on Central Street. Report taken.

11:47 a.m. Officer off with parties behind old Discovery Center to investigate a possible drug/narcotics violation. Second unit requested.

Thursday, 7/12

8:37 a.m. Report that two kids started a small fire in a wooded area near Griswold Street and Avenue C. Caller was able to extinguish the fire with a water bottle, but area is still smoldering. Kids appeared to be approximately eight years old and left the area on scooters. Officer advises small campfire still smoldering upon arrival; will be on lookout for juveniles.

9:34 a.m. Medication reported stolen at Keith Apartments.

10:16 a.m. Report of an unattended child, approximately five years old, on the sidewalk between Millers Pub and Carroll's Market. Officer checked area at length. Unable to locate.

11:18 a.m. Silent 911 call received from Food City. Unclear whether call came from inside the store or the pay phone outside, if pay phone is still on premises. Upon arrival, officer advised pay phone is no longer outside store. Several employees advise no emergency inside store.

1:22 p.m. Report of past breaking and entering at Railroad Salvage Annex. Report taken.

5:38 p.m. Caller witnessed an unaccompanied basset hound in the area of Park and First streets. Call left for animal control officer.

Friday, 7/13

2:18 a.m. A 23-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a default warrant.

12:58 p.m. Caller from Keith Apartments reports that a tenant kicked the caller's service dog approximately 30 to 45 minutes ago. Report taken.

2:43 p.m. Walk-in party at TFFD reporting overgrown shrubbery at Route 47 crossover making it difficult for vehicles to safely pull out onto Federal Street heading northbound. TFFD will check with DCR to see who maintains that area.

5:50 p.m. Report of baby bunnies near Hillcrest Elementary School. Advised caller to leave bunnies where they are; the mother will likely return for them.

8:56 p.m. Officer checked on a subject who was trying to slide something into a car window outside the Pizza House. Subject's story checked out.

Saturday, 7/14

8:50 p.m. Loud male party hanging around outside Connecticut River Liquor and Wine moved along.

Sunday, 7/15

7:30 a.m. Officer checking on vehicle parked near entrance to Millers Falls Rod & Gun whose occupant appears to be sleeping. Occupant OK; just resting. Waiting for jumpstart.

12:05 p.m. A 24-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a probation warrant.

1:06 p.m. Caller states that a white male with long hair is dragging a dog around in the grassy area near the water at Unity Park. Unable to locate.

7:05 p.m. Caller advising that children are in the river near Unity Park close to the buoys; believes that they need to

be removed. Officer advises that children are on the correct side of the buoys and that a First-Light employee who was in the nearby parking lot was not concerned about safety in that location.

Monday, 7/16

6:17 a.m. Report of illegally dumped couch at Fifth Street and Avenue A. DPW advised.

7:31 a.m. Officer reporting deceased skunk in the middle of Turners Falls Road. DPW advised.

8:49 a.m. Caller states that a brand new radio that he just purchased was stolen from his place of work overnight. Report taken.

8:32 p.m. Officer advised by TFFD of suspicious looking male in area of Black Cow Burger Bar. Officer has eyes on the male and will make contact. Party is a young Hispanic male who had his hands close to his hips. Additional officer advised and *en route*. Officer advises that he spoke to the male party and everything is all set.

9:22 p.m. Caller advising that a tree behind a telephone pole on East Mineral Road was struck by lightning and is now on fire. TFFD *en route*.

Tuesday, 7/17

9:16 a.m. Fight reported on L Street. Officer advises both parties appear to have contributed to the fight. Medical attention refused. One summons issued.

11:30 a.m. Report of erratic vehicle operation on L Street. Officer checked on operator, who was delivering for a meal service and had food in his hands, which may have contributed to the driving behavior. No sign of impairment.

12:06 p.m. Report of localized street flooding downtown. DPW is already in area addressing issue.

Wednesday, 7/18

7:01 a.m. A 30-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a default warrant.

1:56 p.m. Party inquiring about how to file a runaway/missing person report. Subject successfully added to National Crime Information Center. Officers attempting to locate subject; negative findings.

2:45 p.m. Report of several people camping in a wooded area adjacent to a field by Unity Park. Investigated.

4:06 p.m. Caller from Goddard Avenue reporting what she thinks is a campsite on her property.

7:28 p.m. Caller reports a bat crawling in his backyard; believes that it could be rabid. Caller has placed a tub over the animal and is awaiting authorities. ACO called to advise that the animal should

be left on its own and not touched or covered. ACO also advised that we have not had a rabid bat in Montague in six years.

Thursday, 7/19

5:31 a.m. Caller states that a male party who was staying the night with her just left the apartment with her TV. Disagreement between two parties about property. All property returned to rightful owners.

5:06 p.m. Report of possible public drinking at Peskeomskut Park. Parties moved along.

9:35 p.m. Caller from Wills Ferry Road has an owl in her home and is looking for assistance removing it. Local wildlife rehabber contacted; will call party and advise her what to do. Message also left for ACO.

11:54 p.m. Caller from K Street states that an intoxicated male party somewhere in this area has his music very loud and is singing along with it. Caller has yelled out towards him to quiet down, but he hasn't yet. Officer spoke to party and advised him of the complaint.

Friday, 7/20

6:15 p.m. A 45-year-old Montague man was arrested on a straight warrant.

7:48 p.m. Neighbor reporting that an unknown male has entered a Fourth Street apartment whose homeowner is not home. Apartment searched; nobody found. Witnesses interviewed.

9:36 p.m. 911 caller from Avenue A reporting that at least three people are in the hallway waiting to purchase drugs from another resident. Hallways clear upon officer's arrival; no answer at resident's door.

Saturday, 7/21

9:11 p.m. Caller from Poplar Street complaining of fireworks being set off on the river bank. Officer advises quiet upon arrival; catfish tournament is happening tonight at this location.

Sunday, 7/22

9:33 a.m. Caller complaining of noise coming from a train idling near Grand Avenue. Pan Am advises that they plan to have train moved at 2 p.m. today; may possibly be later.

6:16 p.m. Gill requesting mutual aid for a collision at intersection of Mohawk Trail and Main Road. Officers *en route*.

8:37 p.m. Caller from Bridge Street asking about the legality of recording his neighbors with a video camera. Officer advised caller to contact a lawyer or Greenfield District Court.

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POCUMTUCK from page B1

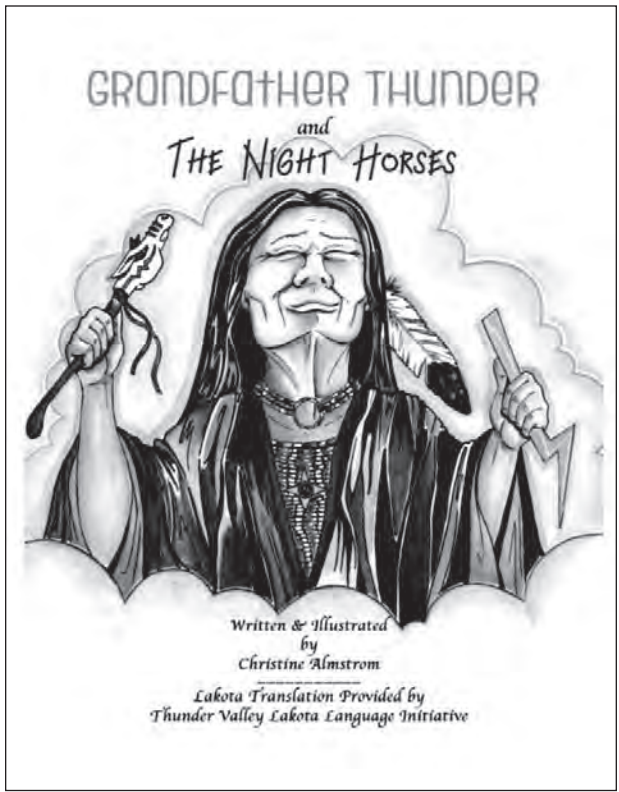
They came up in the pow-wow scene over the last few years and are gaining recognition in the region, and were the drumming group in the movie Crooked Arrows (2012).

Storyteller Willow Greene is the mother of three grown children and the grandmother of two. Her daughter and grandchildren travel with her whenever possible and you may find the three generations dancing together.

Willow shares “lesson” stories in the oral tradition of generations past, and believes strongly in the continuity and nurturing of family in Native communities. Her business, Willow’s Song, focuses on handmade Native crafts, designed and crafted by her own hand.

The Kingfisher Singers will perform Eastern Woodlands music, with rattles, in traditional regalia, and talk about cultural celebrations in which this music figures prominently. This is music they learned from their cousin traditional dancer and speaker Nanepashemut about 25 years ago. Nations represented by the group are Aquinnah Wampanoag, Mashpee Wampanoag, and Narragansett.

Some Kingfisher Singers performances include traditional Northeastern Native songs and dances complemented with clothing appropriate to the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, as well as contemporary Native clothing. They also include culturally and historically educational explanations by the performers, adjusted to the age and interests of the audience.



The cover of a book recently written and illustrated by Christine Almstrom, one of the artists who will be present at the Pocumtuck Homelands Festival.

Visual Artists

Roger Longtow Sheehan, the Sagamo (Chief) of the Elnu Abenaki tribe, is also an artist, musician, and educator. He takes great joy in sharing his research into Woodland Indian history, including performing Wabenaki music and storytelling.

Roger is a self-taught artist and a renowned soapstone pipe carver. “I create museum quality pieces of the 17th and 18th century arts and crafts of the Eastern Woodland Natives,” he says. “Examples would be knives, hand-carved stone effigy pipes, war clubs, deer and moose hair roaches, silver broaches and earrings. I also create rattles, spears, tomahawks, noggins, moccasins, and many other Native things of wood, metal and leather. Additionally, I do traditional tattooing for male Tribal members. The old way, no electricity.”

Roger will be giving living history demonstrations throughout the day.

Author and illustrator Christine Almstrom will be selling copies of her recently released children’s book Grandfather Thunder & The Night Horses at the festival. Almstrom worked closely with council elders on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, and with their permission is able to present this story based on

the legend of the Thunder Horses.

Almstrom has been asked to illustrate a series of traditional oral Lakota stories to preserve the language and culture of the Lakota Nation, and she is currently working on illustrations for an Iroquois legend with author Mary Morton Cowan.

One of the Kingfisher Singers is artist Elizabeth James-Perry. She will have wampum jewelry, painted bags, sashes, and beadwork for sale at the event. She is an enrolled member of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head-Aquinnah, located by the richly colored clay cliffs of Martha’s Vineyard/Noepe. As a member of a Nation that has lived on and harvested the sea since ancient times, Elizabeth’s is a perspective that combines coastal Algonquian culture, traditional beliefs, and science in her ways of relating to the North Atlantic.

Much of Elizabeth’s work focuses on early Northeastern Woodlands Native culture, including ancient wampum shell carving and reviving natural dye techniques to create a traditional palette for her finger woven sashes, bags and baskets. She creates museum-quality textile arts in milkweed and cedar bast, intricately painted deerskin, and works that capture the classic layered drape of Native linen trade cloth.

Historical Talks

The festival will offer two condensed history sessions. Evan Pritchard, director of the Center of Algonquin Studies, will present “Norumbega: A French Twist,” about celebrated 19th-century historian John Fiske. David Brule, Nolumbeka Project president and coordinator of the National Parks Service Battleground Research at Wissatinnewag-Peskeompskut, will speak about “Archaeology and Healing at the Falls.”

Pritchard will talk about the fables of Nolumbeka as an Indigenous land of great wealth and power in the American Northeast. He will explore the less romantic – but surprisingly detailed – accounts of Fiske, who placed Nolumbeka or Norumbega, an early French colony created after Verrazzano’s visit of 1524, on Manhattan on the isthmus crossing Collect Pond, now City Hall.

Pritchard will explore the advanced (aboriginal) engineering implied by known maps of the isthmus, which later became part of Pearl Street. Even the most ardent enthusiasts of early Manhattan history will gain many new insights from this somewhat controversial talk.

Brule will cover six talking points to expound on the latest findings and interpretations of the May 19, 1676 massacre and counter-attack. Writes Brule: “Native people have told us many times of the multi-generational trauma their people have endured following this and many many other violent tragedies of their existence. The question remains how both tribal and non-tribal people can encourage, participate, share, understand the healing process that is taking place in the vicinity of the falls.”

He explains that a “bridge between those messages of spiritual torment and hope for healing stated by our Native allies becomes the basis for my contention that healing is actually taking place, but it takes time, perhaps more than one lifetime. But bringing people here to the banks of the river, Native and Non-native alike is part of the process.”

According to Brule, “The fact that we are all sitting at the table together, and debating, exploring history is part of the healing itself. We are not seeking to assess blame, but we are investigating all the multiple perspectives on these events of 342 years ago.”

Other guests include ceremonial stone expert Tim Mac Sweeney, founder of the “Waking Up on Turtle Island” website, and Lester Garvin, who uses aerial photography to identify probable ancient Native village sites in New England.

And of course, there will be some delicious food, including Native American food, to round out this remarkable day at the Pocumtuck Homelands Festival by the Connecticut River.

The event is presented by the Nolumbeka Project and RiverCulture, with help from many local sponsors as well as grants from local chapters of the Massachusetts Cultural Council. It runs from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, August 4.



Father and Daughter Exhibit At Leverett Craft and Arts

By MITCHELL MULHOLLAND

LEVERETT – Steven Stroud has been an illustrator for over twenty-five years and has created cover art for countless bestsellers, including books by Isaac Asimov, Stephen King, Clive Cussler, and John Sanford. He has done special editions of works by Pearl Buck, John Cheever, William Faulkner, Joseph Heller, Joyce Carol Oates, and William Styron.

Steven Stroud – *A Retrospective*, on view in August at the Barnes Gallery at Leverett Crafts and Arts, represents more than a decade of illustrations that include sketches, “comprehensives,” finished paintings, and printed book covers.

Steven’s daughter, the fabric artist Sarah Stroud, will also be exhibiting her quilted art in the LCA Hall Gallery adjacent to her Dad’s exhibit in a show called *Sarah Stroud – Layered Life*. A reception for both exhibits will be held Sunday, August 5.

Steven worked as an illustrator from the late 1970s until around 2000, when he switched to landscape painting and fine arts. For the past fifteen years he has devoted himself exclusively to gallery painting and landscapes. His landscape work is in the permanent collection of the Florence Griswold Museum as well as hundreds of private collections, and he is represented by Newbury Fine Arts in Boston and Tilting at Windmills in Manchester, Vermont. (Visit Steve’s art at www.shstroud.com.)

Steven tended to keep all the illustration work, from the preliminaries through to the final paintings. When he and his wife Nancy moved in late 2014 from their home in Connecticut to Leverett to be near their daughter Sarah and her family, it was his intention to whittle what had become a massive pile down to a few pieces, but could not seem to make that happen.

Nancy suggested the work might



Steven Stroud, “Firestarter” (1980). This illustration was used for the cover of Steven King’s novel of the same name.

make an interesting show, and he found revisiting it all to be fun and informative.

For Sarah Stroud, motherhood has resulted in limited energy, time, space, and money, and rather than see that as a hindrance, it has let it define what, when, and how she creates her work. She is currently an Artist in Residence in Motherhood – a project designed by artist and mother Lenka Clayton which reframes parenthood as a valuable site for creative practice, rather than an obstruction to be overcome.

The *Layered Life* show consists of abstract, improvisational quilted pieces that explore form, texture, color, transparency, and line.

Both exhibits run August 1 through 31 at Leverett Crafts and Arts, 13 Montague Road, Leverett. Hours are Saturdays and Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m., and by appointment at (413) 253-7843 – or watch for the open flag. The reception will be held in the Barnes Gallery on Sunday, August 5, from 4 to 6 p.m., with music and refreshments.

Mitchell Mulholland handles publicity for Leverett Crafts and Arts.

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Hello from MCTV! We hope your July is passing jubilantly by, and ask to turn your attention to the following new videos that are available this week:

- Bell Tower Restoration in Lake Pleasant
- Miniature Horses at Greenfield Savings Bank
- Two new installments of Abandon Dream: featuring *Viewer*, as well as *Danny Oxenburg and Friends*
- Fanfare Brass Choir, July 14
- Pat & Tex LaMountain at Common People Concert Series 2018

- Montague zoning bylaw changes: public info session, July 18

Looking for something to do in your community? Check out the summer event calendar at turnersfallsriverculture.org!

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

Contact us at (413) 863-9200, infomontaguetelevision@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!

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CATE WOOLNER PHOTO

Last Friday morning, about 50 people gathered in front of the Franklin County House of Correction in Greenfield as part of a “national week of action” against Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)’s policy of refugee family separation. For years the sheriff’s office has rented out a wing of the jail as an ICE detention center, though recently the contract has been significantly scaled back, and only about 40 immigrant detainees are held there currently.

The Pioneer Valley Workers Center, a Northampton-based organization, called the demonstration. “We must continue to bear witness to this crisis,” the Workers Center wrote, “and push the demand that ICE reunite the families, stop the inhumane practice of locking up immigrant families, stop any plans to build family detention camps on military bases, pass the four Immigrant Rights provisions with the Mass. budget, and close down existing family detention facilities.”



PETER D'ERRICO PHOTO

On Friday, July 13, staff, board, and members at the Leverett Village Cooperative gathered at the coop to give a surprise “thank you party” to outgoing general manager Paul Rosenberg (pictured, pointing skyward). Rosenberg had served in the position for over 18 years. The coop’s new general manager, Ann Walsh, started this month.



MACINTYRE PHOTO

Taking care of business: The Wendell highway department crew cleared ditches last month on the sides of the graveled Cooleyville Road.

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Juniors	Seniors
HIGH HONORS Zackery Conway Keltyn Socquet	HIGH HONORS Nicholas Baronas
HONORS Nathaniel Bellows Alec Blake Daniel Boulanger Bryant Fisher Elliott Friedrichs Kirsten Griswold Jordan Johannsson Dylan Jordan Shannon Kurkulonis Leah LaTulippe-Case Cole Littlewood Alexia Matuszko James Morris Jonathon Pichette Raven Rich Brooke Romanovicz Kayla Shufelt Nathan Smith Samuel Trudeau Tyler Trudeau Damian Willor	HONORS Cameron Chase James Craig Dakota Deane Adam DePretto Krystal Finn Jack Fuller Martin Given Grant Gorzocoski Maxx Hagen Timothy Hutt Emily Mills Daniel Momaney Patrick Monaghan Tyler Raymond Daniel Rice Jaxon Rollins Hunter Sessions Tyler Sicard Kristin Slowinski Ashley Townsley Sohan Tyner Leah Wozniak Brian Zamojski

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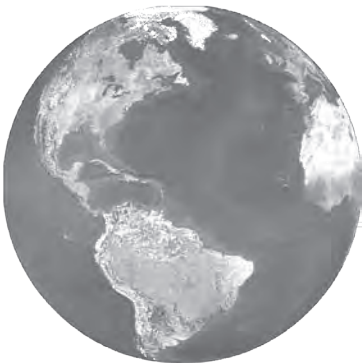
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Aquí se habla español

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



800 años de la Universidad de Salamanca

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

SALAMANCA, ESPAÑA – Hacía tres años que no pisaba suelo español, y ahora estaba aquí dispuesta a enseñar mi nuevo pasaporte estadounidense al Guardia Civil del control de aduanas en el aeropuerto de Madrid-Barajas.

Lo primero que llama mi atención es que la formación de colas no se organiza como se supone, formando una línea recta, sino que la gente se apelotona formando una especie de melé que termina en un embudo ante la ventanilla en cuestión. Sorprendentemente el control es muy rápido, un vistazo ligero al pasaporte, una palabra de bienvenida y adelante.

Mi destino final es mi ciudad natal: Salamanca. Debo esperar unas horas hasta la salida del autobús que me llevará del aeropuerto a mi ciudad. Espero en el aeropuerto, cuya terminal está en obras y solamente hay un bar abierto. Al menos, es posible tomar un café con leche, más o menos decente, y un pincho de tortilla de patata por 3.50 euros.

Después de unas horas de espera, y tras la lectura de tres periódicos, es la hora de subir al autobús. Los asientos son de cuero, reclinables, con cinturón de seguridad, wifi gratis y una pantalla táctil que dispone de un menú de entretenimiento en diferentes idiomas similar al de los aviones. Todo ello por 23 euros.

Después de dos y horas y cuarenta cinco minutos exactos y de atravesar las provincias de Madrid, Segovia, Ávila, y Salamanca con sus diferentes paisajes entre los que se incluyen la Sierra de Guadarrama, El Escorial, las murallas medievales de Ávila, la gran cruz del Valle de los Caídos bajo la que está enterrado el dictador Franco y que está siendo noticia en los últimos meses en los periódicos debido a la exigencia de los partidos políticos para que sus restos sean trasladados y partidarios del franquismo, sí, todavía quedan de estos, que se niegan a ello.

Por fin llegamos a Salamanca, y la primera vista de la ciudad es un montículo coronado por las altas torres de piedra dorada de la Catedral Nueva y a sus pies el río Tormes atravesado por el Puente Romano, que a pesar de sus más de dos mil años y a la ausencia del uso de cemento sigue en pie siendo transitado cada día por cientos de visitantes.

La estación de autobuses está en obras. Necesita un buen remodelado ya que al no haber en Salamanca un aeropuerto con vuelos internacionales pasan cada día por la estación de autobuses unos 500 visitantes extranjeros y en verano muchos más debido a los cursos de español para extranjeros. Desde la estación de autobuses me esperan otros 30 kilómetros hasta el Campo Charro, muy cerca de un pueblo llamado Vecinos que es donde voy a disfrutar de mi estancia en España.

En mi primer día de estancia decido acercarme a Salamanca para disfrutar de algunos actos de la celebración del 800 aniversario de la Universidad de Salamanca. Fue fundada en 1218, siendo la más antigua del mundo hispánico, y la primera en Europa en conseguir el título de universidad. Nació como *Studium Generali* de la mano de Alfonso IX de León.

En sus principios fue una institución jurídica, y se financiaba principalmente por las arcas de la Iglesia. En 1255 el papa Alejandro IV le concedió la *litentia ubique docendi* que validaba los grados otorgados en Salamanca para el resto del mundo. Las clases se dictaban en latín y eso facilitaba el movimiento de alumnos de otros países, especialmente de Italia, Portugal, Irlanda y Francia. En el siglo XV asistían unos 3.500 alumnos a sus clases, todos ellos hombres (el acceso estaba prohibido a las mujeres) y en su mayoría relacionados con la iglesia.

Los estudiantes llevaban una especie de uniforme que constaba de una capa y un birrete. Cuando terminaban sus estudios se ponían una borla en el birrete y dependiendo de los estudios el color era diferente. También los profesores llevaban una capa corta del color de las materias que enseñaban. Si el título que obtenían era el de doctorado, los compañeros pintaban un vitor con sangre de toro con su nombre en una de las paredes de los edificios de la universidad.

La universidad de Salamanca adquirió una mayor importancia durante la época de la conquista de América y de los Reyes Católicos ya que la burocracia de la administración requería juristas y trabajadores funcionarios del aparato de gobierno que salían formados de sus aulas.

A finales del siglo XV la universidad se vio influenciada por la corriente humanista que corría por Europa. En este momento los profesores que impartían sus clases crearon la base del derecho internacional moderno. Se reconocieron por los juristas de la universidad de Salamanca los derechos plenos como personas jurídicas de los indígenas americanos, algo totalmente revolucionario para la época. No podemos obviar que era un momento de cambio en la visión del mundo, tanto que asistían en estos años a sus clases las dos primeras mujeres universitarias en el mundo: Lucía de Medrano y Beatriz Galindo.

El siglo XVII se considera el Siglo de Oro de la cultura española, y lo fue también de la universidad de Salamanca. Se enseñan en ese momento filosofía, matemáticas, estudios clásicos, medicina y otras ciencias como la física. Fue también un momento difícil ya que debido a la gran influencia de la Inquisición



Vista del Campo Charro, Vecinos, Salamanca.

se exigían pruebas de la limpieza de sangre para asistir a sus clases.

Unos años después, la universidad de Salamanca jugó un importante papel en nuestra primera constitución, la conocida como La Pepa en 1812. El reinado del absolutista Fernando VII y la invasión francesa en 1808 frenó las políticas liberales a las que se dirigía la universidad. Las tropas inglesas desplazadas a Salamanca destruyeron parte de los edificios de la universidad al mando del duque de Wellington.

En el siglo XIX debido a las políticas centralistas del gobierno la universidad y muchas de sus competencias pasaron a la Universidad Central en Madrid. Don Miguel de Unamuno que fue rector de la universidad en tres ocasiones, la última hasta 1931. Debido a sus ataques dialécticos desde las aulas y los periódicos al Rey de España y al entonces dictador, Primo de Rivera, fue destituido y desterrado a las Islas Canarias.

Unamuno, republicano convencido* no volvió a España hasta 1930, año en que cayó Primo de Rivera. Durante la Guerra Civil española, Unamuno apoyó en principio a los golpistas capitaneados

por Franco que dieron el golpe de estado del 18 de abril de 1936 que fue el germen de la Guerra Civil, pensando en que podrían resolver los problemas del país. En octubre de 1936 ya se había dado cuenta de su error, y lo dijo públicamente en el Paraninfo de la Universidad ante uno de los generales más sangrientos de esa época, Millán Astray. Ante el discurso pronunciado por el golpista, en el que se atrevió a decir en la sala principal de la universidad que la inteligencia debería morir, Unamuno contestó con la famosa frase: “Venceréis, pero no convenceréis.”

Durante la época franquista la universidad trató de evitar el centralismo político de la época y desde 1955 hasta 1970 se impulsó la llamada de estudiantes extranjeros; especialmente provenientes de Iberoamérica. En 1950 nació el Curso Superior de Filología Hispánica y que dio el pistoletazo de salida a la tradición de la enseñanza del español en Salamanca.

Actualmente la universidad de Salamanca es considerada una de las mejores de España para estudios de filología, derecho, traducción y medicina.

* “republicano” en el sentido de partidario de una república como gobierno, es decir, contrario a la monarquía.



Fachada del edificio antiguo de la Universidad de Salamanca y estatua de Fray Luis de León.

Arte: Descolonización y Acción para Puerto Rico

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

BRATTLEBORO – En estos días se está celebrando en el Brattleboro Museum Art Center una muestra del artista David Ríos Ferreira junto con miembros de The Root Social Justice Center en la que se discute el arte como vehículo de activismo, el poder de cambiar la narrativa de la colonización y la persistencia en las actuales estructuras políticas y sociales.

Ríos Ferreira, nacido en el Bronx, ha mostrado sus trabajos en diversas galerías y museos del país entre las que se incluyen CoCA y The Center for Books Arts. Ha recibido el premio de National Association of Latino Arts.

The Root Social Justice Center es un organismo que provee un espacio físico y financieramente accesible en el sur de Vermont para grupos que trabajan por la lucha por la justicia social. Sus directrices dan prioridad a líderes de color, luchar contra la opresión y la injusticia. Miembros de este colectivo como Ezlerh Oreste, Vanessa Santana y Ángels Berkfield compartirán sus experiencias sobre el impacto de la colonización y llamarán a la acción contra la injusticia social.

La entrada es libre y hay servicio de cuidado de niños, así como traducción para personas que no tengan inglés como primera lengua. La exposición estará hasta el 24 de septiembre.

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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.

EVERY FIRST SUNDAY

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

EVERY THIRD SUNDAY

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

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 (fourth floor), Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Creacion Latin Big Band* and *Late Night Open Mic Jam*. 8 p.m.

EVERY 2ND WEDNESDAY

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Hip hop dance night with *Craze-faze*. 7 p.m.

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:

Anchor House of Artists, Northampton: *John Landino Sculpture 1985-2018: Strong and Choreographic*. July 5 through August 2.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Brattleboro: Six new summer exhibits: *Best of Springs, Sprockets and Pulleys [continues]; Roz Chast; David Rios Ferreira; Debra Ramsey; Shona Macdonald*. Through Sept. 24.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Fireflies, Hummingbirds and Bats*. Artwork by local kids. Through July.

Greenfield Community Television Studios: *PRECARIOUS*, paintings by Alice Thomas. Poems, art, and Artist Statement about her research and methods concerning the precariousness of nuclear weapons. Through August 31.

Leverett Crafts and Arts: *Vivian Gay (den) and Genna Crowe*. Prints and pottery. Through July.



Kalliope Jones is a refreshingly eclectic, all original, vocally rich, emotionally stirring, teenage post-rock girl group. They write, arrange and perform original songs. At ages 16, 16, and 19, they are taking their time developing their skills and plan to play music for the rest of their lives. They will be joined by local youth band Raspberry Jam and folk-rock-fused duo ZoKi. Saturday, July 28, 3:30 p.m. at Hawks & Reed in Greenfield.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Rossi and Friends*. Paintings, mosaics, jewelry, and *objets d'art* by local artists; metal sculpture by Jon Bander; decorated walking sticks by Ron Edwards.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: 22 *Homes* by Hannah Hurricane Sanchez. The work is a colorful display of rigid spaces and flexible boundaries, a response to moving 22 times last summer, with family adventures and in between houses. The work and the story are riddled with the occasional good omen-ed bunny, and sets of traveling feet, giving it the feeling of an adventure with unanticipated detours. Through October.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Water*: paintings by Gayle Kabaker, Ashfield artist. Through August 26.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *The Eclectic Eye of Jim Gambaro*. Digital photography. Through August 26.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Go With the Flow*. Moods of the water by member artists and crafters. Through July.

Sawmill River Arts Gallery, Montague Center: *Life's Too Short to Follow Rules*. Painter Sharon Loehr-Lapan and photographer Roy Mansur. Through August.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

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

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Ladies in Jazz Series presents *Samirah Evans* and *Molly Steinmark*. 8 p.m. \$

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *Big Blood, Ruth Garbus, and Tongue Oven*. 8 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ecce Schnak*. 9:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *John Trudeau, Celseigh, and Chris Goudreau*. 10 p.m. \$

SATURDAY, JULY 28

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Kalliope Jones*. Local teenage girl band. 3:30 p.m. \$

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Josie's Magical Flute*, a long-form improv troupe comprised of Julie Waggoner, Sally Ekus, and Mandy Anderson. 7:30 p.m. \$

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Elkhorn, Ramble Tumble, and Donkey No No*. 8 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Local hip-hop featuring *Ryan Oakes, Dylan Reese, Abstract, Cam Randall & DK, and Lagoon*. 8:30 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Reprobate Blues Band*. 8:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Zydeco Connection*. 8:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 29

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: First Annual Psych Fest featuring *Money Chicha, Bunnies, Trinary System, Ralph White, World Eaters, Hevvi Synthia, Brompt Treb, Rebel Base, Tarp, and Peace & Rhythm DJ*. Noon to 9 p.m. \$

MONDAY, JULY 30

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Jon Hatchett Band*. New Orleans country band. 8 p.m. \$

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2

Leverett Library: Concerts on the Patio presents *Juggler Meadow String Band*. 7 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: A Literary and Musical evening with *Debra Jo Immergut, Kate Christensen, and Johnny Irion*. 8 p.m. \$

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Wolf Eyes Residency*. 7 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Immortal Jellyfish* and *No Lens*. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4

Energy Park and the Pushkin, Greenfield: Hawks & Reed's *Foundation Hip Hop Festival*. Artists include *Machakos Kyalo, Pasto Chris and Mello Sav, Bhoshots, CRAZEFAZE dance crew, DroBrown, Wiki Good*, and many more. 2 p.m. \$

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Wolf Eyes Residency*. 7 p.m. \$

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Hilton Park, Davey O*. 8 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Cam'ron*. 9 p.m. \$

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *The Equalites*. 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: The Joe Belmont Experience with special guest Wanda Houston. 6 p.m. \$

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Fred Cracklin, Gay Mayor, Rong, No No Band, and Footings*. 8 p.m. \$



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By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – The heat presses down and the air is full of water that doesn’t fall.

These are the dog days some ancients attributed to Sirius, the dog star, rising to add his heat to that of the sun.

The crops are lush: the tomatoes rise and escape their cages; the corn reaches towards heaven; the winter squash and cucumbers sprawl in their beds, and the asparagus plot is a jungle of ferns undaunted by the Japanese beetles.

We are picking cherry tomatoes and the first full-sized Jet Star. Po-

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Somnambulent Summer

tatoes and green beans have set blossoms.

While the bush roses rest, the daylilies splash their bright yellow, orange, and deep reds along the edge of the gardens.

The grass grows readily with the rising temperatures and wants mowing at least once weekly.

We work in the early morning and late day hours and indulge in mid-day siestas, books in hand.

After a long stint of weeding we take time to admire the coming crops, and water the garden daily as the dryness continues. The major work of the garden is done.

At last one early morning we waken to the benison of the rain.

We anticipate the coming weekend’s drive to the coast of Maine for a well-deserved vacation. Wells Beach is not far, and we have found an inexpensive spot to rent just one

street away from the beach itself. While this will be the high season of vacation and the small village will be jammed with families, there always seems to be plenty of room for us all to spread out and occupy the few streets, shops, restaurants, and most of all, the endless beach.

Wells Beach is a happy mix of a bit of honky-tonk in the arcade of video games for the teens and souvenir shops full of pricey t-shirts, toys, beach gear and glassware (all of which can be found for much less at Reny’s, the general store of Maine, just up the street). But it’s vacation, and the tourist moms and dads flash the credit card and please the kiddies, who also require cotton candy, hourly treats, and gallons of ice cream. The local trolley system will take you anywhere in the area and fight the Route One traffic for you, running hourly.

Despite the crowds, it’s all very orderly, and the cops patrol on bicycles. Rowdy, partying renters are not invited to return another season. It is all very genteel.

The vacationers are a polyglot lot. At the beach you hear French, German, and Spanish as well as the twang of New Yorkers and the drawl of Maine-ers. The atmosphere is warm and friendly with the happiness of those at beachside for a week of relaxation. Ebullient moods abound.

We will arrive with the full moon and its gifts of high tides and sea lit until the wee small hours. Our time will be marked by the tides. The water will reach the sea wall at its height, and pull back an endless spread of sand at its ebb.

We’ll walk the beach in the early morning before many are up, and again in the early evening when many visitors have driven up the road to dine at one of the many restaurants that dot the main road. Evenings we cook fish and corn we have picked up before returning to the beach again.

The elemental surge of tides sets

a rhythm that sings of constancy in a world awash with uncertainty and madness. Regardless of anything we do well or wrong, the ocean will work its course. Even on strong and surly days when it is bullied by storm, it will remain.

The rhythms of the tide and the constant breezes clear the mind and refresh the soul. We sleep and wake to the sound of the waves. We open our minds to new thoughts, to memories uncluttered by day-to-day lists, needs or worries.

It is extremely restful and restorative. We will return home refreshed with new energy for what is yet to be done and what is to be enjoyed.

We have been buffeted by the news, the bad choices, the inept politicking. Clear thinking is not possible in a head clogged with worries and anxieties. This breather will not fix these concerns, but it will confirm our own moral compass and ready us to do whatever we can in community and state to right the course.

We wish the same for those who call themselves our leaders, and in the meantime, we will bask in the balm of ocean therapy.

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