

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 17 – NO. 31

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 30, 2019

Tattooist Opens Shop In Downtown Millers



Eric Reed in his Home Grown Art tattoo studio in Millers Falls.

By NINA ROSSI

MILLERS FALLS – Home Grown Art tattoo studio has recently opened for business at the very bustling corner of Bridge and Main streets in this village. Situated in the former Charlie Shaw art studio space at 26 Bridge Street, the shop sports a spanking new interior thanks to the construction skills of owner Eric Reed.

I stopped by Saturday night to find out about this latest addition to the village, and found Reed relaxing on the stoop with a customer who had some obviously fresh ink on his upper arm.

“The idea here is two half-sleeves,” the customer explained. He described the plan as being one side representing death, one side life, with color ink on the life

side and black-and-grey work on the other. “Offsets and balances,” is how he put it.

The project so far blended skull imagery with a clock and roses, completed in stages over the last four or five months. Reed had to blend existing, older work within the new design, and the customer was pretty enthusiastic about the current look.

Reed completed his apprenticeship last year at a shop in Orange, and was there until two months ago, when he decided to open his own business conveniently close to his home in Irving. The 32-year-old artist has been tattooing informally since he was in high school at Mohawk Regional, however.

“I just tattooed my friends and stuff for a long time,” Reed said,

see **TATTOOIST** page A8

Artists, Musicians Buzz Around Edges of the Frame

By MIKE JACKSON

GREENFIELD – Alongside Cider Days, Garlic & Arts, various regular harvest-time fairs and festivals, and the Turners Falls event still known colloquially as Pumpkinfest, the Langstroth Bee Fest has quietly emerged as one of our county’s major agricultural theme-happenings.

In its tenth year this weekend, the Bee Fest celebrates Lorenzo Lorraine Langstroth, the famed apiarist and inventor of the movable-frame beehive, who served as preacher at Greenfield’s Second Congregation-

al Church in the 1840s.

Amid growing public awareness of the importance of honeybees as pollinators, and the endangerment of their habitat, the Bee Fest schedule has grown year by year. This weekend will feature a parade, kids’ activities, a craft fair and auction, lectures and musical performances, and the unveiling of bee sculptures.

The event has sprouted two high-concept entertainment outgrowths at satellite sites: an “audio-visual immersive installation inspired by the life of bees,” at the

see **BUZZING** page A5

Secretary of State Orders DCR to Respond To Wendell Forest Alliance Records Requests

By JEFF SINGLETON

Members of an organization called the Wendell State Forest Alliance (WSFA), which opposes the forest cutting plan of the state Department of Conservation and Recreation in Wendell, claims in a recent press release that DCR has been “stonewalling” in response to several public records requests. The organization made two requests for records involving the Wendell State Forest project, scheduled to begin this spring, in September 2018, and for documents related to a project in Myles Standish State Forest in Plymouth in December.

DCR responded in both cases that there were no documents related to the specific requests. After several appeals in the Myles Standish case, the Secretary of State, which oversees the public records law, notified DCR that the agency needed to comply with the requests or explain in greater detail why the documents do not exist.

The Wendell State Forest logging project is divided into two sections:



REPORTER FILE PHOTO

Opponents of logging on an 88-acre stand of red oak in Wendell State Forest accuse the department of stonewalling their requests for information.

a pine stand that straddles Montague Road, planted in the 1930s, and a more diverse section of the forest on Brook Road between Ruggles and Wickett Pond. Critics of the project have focused on the latter area, initially claiming that the forest contained traditional Native American

ceremonial stones. A state archeologist found that the area did not meet the criteria for “archeological significance.”

A contract was awarded for logging operations by DCR to John Conkey & Sons of Belchertown

see **WENDELL** page A7

GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

School Police Officer Discusses Trainings, Reflects On First Year

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – Tuesday’s meeting of the regional school committee included a discussion with Montague police officer Dan Miner, who has been assigned since the fall to the schools as a resource officer. Last month Montague town meeting members debated renewing the town’s spending on the position, with some questioning its premise, whether it made students safer, and whether it amounted to an untrained counselor or social worker position.

The funding was ultimately passed by the majority, but after the meeting, school committee members invited Miner to discuss how the job was going so far, with some expressing that they would like to hear from students as well.

“You did hire a human being,” Miner reassured them. “I’m not a robot. I’m not institutionalized, like some people think.”

Miner’s assignment has returned him to the school he graduated from in 1991. Following graduation, he

see **GMRSD** page A3

GILL SELECTBOARD

Big Sign Will Tout Gill Center Historic District

By GEORGE BRACE

At their Tuesday night meeting, the Gill selectboard approved a budget request from the historical commission for assistance with a sign on the common, discussed the particulars of replacing town clerk Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, and approved a list of board representatives to town committees and other organizations.

Historical commission member Lynn Stowe Tomb presented a request for \$300 in town funding towards a sign proclaiming Gill Center’s designation to the National Register of Historic Places. The remainder of the \$1,307 cost of the sign is to come from the historical commission’s budget, a cultural council grant, and the commission’s donation account.

Tomb presented the design of the sign, along with a picture of Northfield’s sign for its historic main street and town common, which is similar to what the commission has in mind. The sign is to be dark green with gold lettering, measure three by four feet, and be placed on the common on poles, raising it to a height of six feet.

Various design and placement options were discussed, with the board agreeing with the commission’s

see **GILL** page A4

The Week in Turners Falls Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

The Turners Falls baseball team fought in two grueling extra-inning games this week, as the Boston Bruins went up in the Stanley Cup finals, the Turners Falls boys’ tennis team traded sweeps, the girls’ tennis team was rained on, the state held regional track and field championships, and two of the best softball teams in the state played in a 1-0 squeaker.

Track and Field

On Saturday, May 25, Central/West Division 2 Track and Field Championship Meet was held at Westfield State.

Dabney Rollins was the lone qualifier from the Turners Falls-Franklin Tech girls’ track team. I want to give a shout out to Rollins, a three-sport standout – I’ve been to almost every meet in the last couple of years, but I’ve never seen Dabney compete in the throwing events, simply because I’m usually at the tennis courts or one of the diamonds during those events, and don’t hit the meet until the track events are running.

This is unfortunate. Because of a miscommunication, Ms. Rollins was scratched, and was not allowed to compete in Saturday’s championship. So, I guess I’ll see her on the volleyball court.

Two Franklin Tech/Turners Falls boys did compete on Saturday, going against hundreds of the best athletes in central and western Mass. In the 400 high hurdles, Zackery Conway

see **SPORTS** page A6



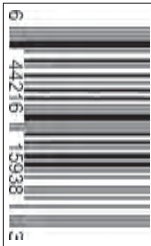
DAVID HOIT PHOTO

Turners’ Jake Dodge pitches to Franklin Tech’s Max Charest as the Eagles take the crosstown contest 9-6 in eight innings.



YOUTUBE IMAGE

A still from a video on the theme of domestic labor at HIVE, this weekend’s Bee Fest installation at the Pushkin building.



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The Montague Reporter

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August 2002

Positively...

Facebook isn’t exactly known as a place to seek positive, constructive connection these days, but it’s still one of our main public forums for communication. The *Montague Reporter*, largely a print endeavor, uses it mostly for outreach and to remind people to find us. Every week we publish four or five items there, mostly photos that we use to tease articles appearing in the edition on newsstands.

In last week’s paper, we filled a hole on a color page (A8) with a stray photo taken by a contributor. Pete Wackernagel, who had an unrelated feature article in the edition, sent in a snap of the monument in Gill’s Riverside neighborhood to the perpetrators of the 1676 massacre of indigenous people on that site.

“William Turner with 145 men surprised and destroyed over 300 Indians encamped at this place May 19, 1676,” the squat obelisk reads. A lot of people these days don’t like that glib summary of the atrocity at the Falls. Sometimes, someone defaces it with red spray paint. Every spring it appears as it did on Page A8: adorned with a black shroud, with a memorial bouquet of flowers attached.

How to caption this visual statement in two lines? We went with “The monument at Riverside celebrating the May 19, 1676 massacre at the Falls has been modified, as it seems to be every year around this time.” Short, simple, and right down the middle.

On Facebook, of course, we got criticism from multiple angles.

“How do they even think to use the word ‘celebrating’ to describe this monument?” someone asked.

“Defaced. Vandalized. Modified. Same thing right?” wrote someone else.

For the record, the stone marker was planted in 1900 – much closer to now than to then. Reading from the *Turners Falls Reporter* edition of September 12, 1900:

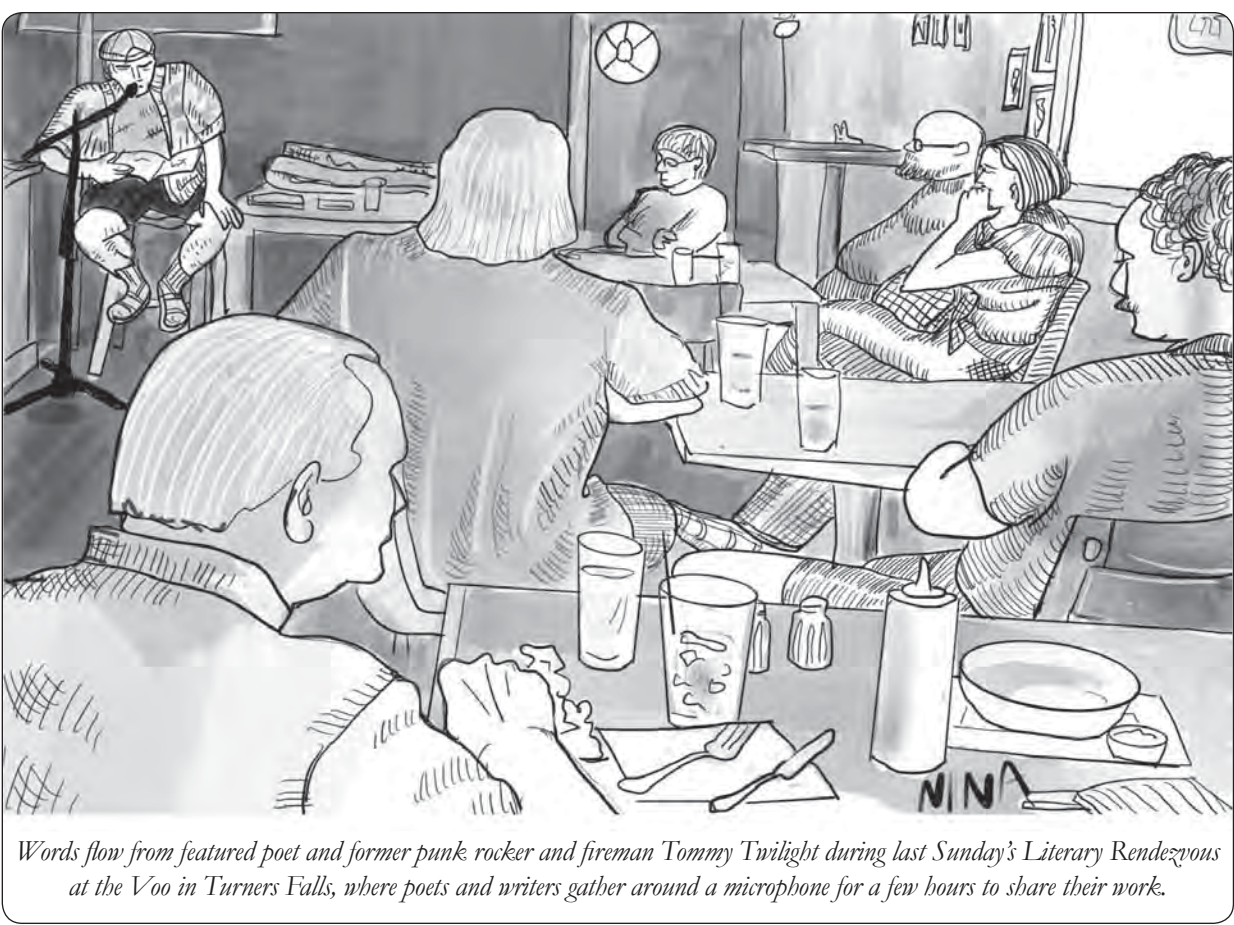
The annual field day of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial association, which was held at Riverside to-day, was a most interesting occasion, and was very largely attended. The story of the great Falls fight, in which the brave and pious Captain Turner, for whom this village was named, lost his life, was told with much detail by the various speakers, and a thrilling story it was...

So, yes, a celebration – and recent scholarship has confirmed beyond a shadow of a doubt that the initial English assault was on an encampment of non-combatants. If anyone ever takes a sledgehammer to that inscription the *Montague Reporter* will probably somehow receive the blame for saying so.

A happier development on the same forum is seen in “Positively Greenfield,” a page that invites Greenfielders and friends to celebrate their city wholeheartedly.

It’s a breath of fresh air, and kudoes to its founders. Nearly 700 people have joined the forum in the first day and a half, proving that there’s demand to circumvent the grim logic that tends to fill these little public arenas up with whiny axe-grinders.

These Franklin County towns, for all we may struggle with, are *gems*, every one of them. Conflict is necessary, but it doesn’t need to suck all the life out of public life. Another world is possible if we choose to lift each other up.



Words flow from featured poet and former punk rocker and fireman Tommy Twilight during last Sunday’s Literary Rendezvous at the Voo in Turners Falls, where poets and writers gather around a microphone for a few hours to share their work.

Letters to the Editors

Referencing Gary Sanderson’s “Valley View”:

I’ve been reading Gary Sanderson’s insightful and locally connected column since he began to share his experiences with those so inclined back in May of 2017 with the *Recorder*. Gary’s writing is that of an astute and mindful observer of various aspects of local history.

In the May 23 issue of the *Montague Reporter*, Sanderson once again shares his experiences with us in regard to Shad fishing and certain aspects of home-grown history.

Naturally thought-provoking and well written.

However, a single statement warrants my firmer attention. Gary writes (pg. B3, paragraph 9): “*Though interesting, the artifact collections in dresser drawers have little or no context and are thus meaningless.*” I essentially disagree with Gary’s statement.

Firstly; this surprises me, knowing Sanderson’s respected reputation of local knowledge.

Secondly; as a Turners Falls native who has an interest in local history, I believe all locally recognized artifacts have historical value and add to the sense of bygone times and cultures in our area, the Connecticut River Valley... and beyond.

Finally, may I paraphrase Gary’s column closing line... “*I suppose it depends who you’re asking.*”

Ed Gregory
Greenfield

Childcare for Candidates

Segments of our population continue to experience barriers to candidacy for public office, which leads to a less diverse representation in the Commonwealth. Current state campaign finance laws allow candidates to use campaign funds for a wide variety of expenses, including meals with constituents and lodging accommodations, dry cleaning. Yet campaign finance laws do not include an expense as basic as childcare services. Campaigning is time-consuming.

Two weeks ago, I went to Beacon Hill to testify in support of parents who wish to run for public office, then once again as regional Commissioner on the Status of Women and Girls, to ratify support from state representatives and senators.

Some members of our Western Mass delegation of legislators spoke in unison in support of Bill H.639 / S.408, “An Act supporting parents running for public office.” Filed by Representatives Joan Meschino (D-Hull) and Mike Connolly (D-Cambridge) and Senator Pat Jehlen (D-Somerville), this bill would update state campaign finance laws to allow candidates running for public office to use campaign funds for childcare expenses incurred on the campaign trail.

Nationally, the FEC has already ruled that campaign funds may be utilized for the provision of childcare, so those running for federal office are already able to use them as such. Six states – Alabama, Arkansas, Texas, Wisconsin, Kentucky, and Louisiana – have also enacted regulations to allow for state and local level candidates to use funds for childcare. It is time for Massachusetts to take action.

The bill is before the Joint Committee on Election Laws, and now waits to be reported out of committee. Here are my words to the committee:

“This past November, I was one of the candidates to run for the Massachusetts Representative for First Franklin District. Years ago, when my children were younger, I wouldn’t have even considered running for office, even though I wanted to run. I simply couldn’t have afforded the additional childcare that I would have needed to run for office.

“When I ran for office this past fall, both my husband and I were working full time to support our family. Even though my kids are older and I trust them, it was not appropriate for me to leave them alone for long periods of time when I was campaigning and my husband was working.

“We were lucky to have good neighbors who helped us. But I felt guilty as a parent. I wanted to serve my community, but I was concerned about my children. My husband and I have modest salaries, and whenever we needed to pay for childcare while I ran for office, it came from our own pocket.

“We need to ensure that parents running for local and state offices can use campaign funds to pay for necessary childcare so that their children are cared for while they campaign. We need more parents in office. We need more people who represent the diverse populations of Massachusetts. In order to do this, we must ensure that campaign funds can be used to pay for related-campaign expenses like childcare.

“I urge the Election Law Committee to give this bill a favorable review and move it forward. This is the only way to ensure that all people in Massachusetts are given equal grounds to run a good campaign.”

Francia Wisnewski
Montague

CORRECTIONS

Last week’s edition contained at least three errors!

First, in our Page A1 story *Five Eyed Fox Closed for Now; Hoping for Change*, we referred to restaurant owner Ashley Arthur’s Australian cattle dog as Victor. His name is Vincent! Geez. Our apologies to Vincent.

Second, in our print edition, photo credits on the Page B1 article *A Part of the Process: Budge Hyde’s Studio* were incorrectly attributed to the reporter. Both photos with the article were taken by Pat Little, who graciously shared them with us. This was an error made by editorial staff during production, and we’re very sorry!

And third, our Montague and Gill town election coverage, *Local Elections Change Nothing*, mentioned that Thomasina Hall “proved the most popular candidate among voters.”

While that was true among Montague voters, in terms of the districtwide vote that distinction was actually won by Heather Katsoulis. Thanks to the two sharp-eyed readers who caught that... We weren’t trying to start any trouble, and we apologize to both school committee members for our mistake!

Hopefully, the edition now in your hands is error-free. If you catch one, please let us know.

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GUEST EDITORIAL

We are Here Because You Were There: Refugees at the US-Mexican Border

By **H. PATRICIA HYNES**

MONTAGUE – Why would so many Guatemalans make the arduous journey to the US-Mexican border seeking refuge, knowing the hatred heaped on them by the Trump Administration?

A short review of our long history of corporate exploitation and military aggression in that country might explain. In 1928 the American United Fruit Company (the present-day Chiquita Banana International) instigated a massacre of thousands of Guatemalan workers who struck for better working conditions.

Brigadier General Smedley Butler, who gained the highest rank and a host of medals for leading military interventions in Central America and the Caribbean in the 1920s, popularly known as the Banana Wars, put it bluntly. He confessed, in his iconoclastic book *War Is a Racket*, to having been “a bully boy for American corporations,” making countries safe for US capitalism.

In 1954 President Eisenhower ordered the overthrow of democratically elected President Jacobo Arbenz who had issued the Agrarian Reform Law, which redistributed land to some 500,000 landless indigenous peasants. Ten years of democracy in that country (1944 to ‘54) was gutted, and the US installed an authoritarian government to roll back agrarian and worker reforms, and thus protect United Fruit’s land interests.

Throughout the 1960s, ‘70s, and ‘80s Cold War era, the US backed coups and aided right-wing leaders with troops and weapons to repress left-leaning social movements, resulting in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Guatemalans.

One president we championed, Efraim Rios Montt, was convicted of genocide in 2013 for trying to

eliminate Mayan peasants. The inequality and violence that we have fostered and aided forced those Guatemalans under attack, rendered landless and impoverished, to leave and migrate north.

To repeat a slogan of a 1980s immigrants rights campaign in Britain:

They are here because we were there.

Honduras

In 2009 reform-minded President Manuel Zelaya, who had raised minimum wage, built new schools, instituted school lunch programs and provided pensions for the elderly, was kidnapped by the Honduran military and flown out of the country to Costa Rica. The general who led the coup was trained by the US Army at its School of the Americas – popularly known as the “School of Assassins,” for the generous number of its Latin American graduates who have instigated coups and tortured and murdered political opponents.

The Obama Administration tacitly supported the 2009 coup and had an assisting role in preventing Zelaya’s return to Honduras. The US administration has continued to approve subsequent illegal presidents who have intimidated and violently suppressed rural and indigenous farmers’ land rights in favor of large agro-corporate land grabs.

Over the past ten years, police, military, and hired militias have murdered thousands of indigenous activists, peasant leaders, journalists, human rights and union activists, opposition candidates and judges. By 2016, Honduras had the highest murder rate in the world.

Drug traffickers infiltrate the Honduran government “from top to bottom,” including the police and military according to historian and activist Dana Frank, author of *The Long Honduran Night*. The brother

of the current president, whom we back and support with US aid, was recently charged with trafficking multi-tons of cocaine headed to the US. He was assisted by the national police – also funded by the US – and drug traffickers.

Meanwhile, US Border Patrol agents have tear-gassed Honduran asylum seekers fleeing police, drug gang violence, and the loss of their land. They have separated thousands of Central American children from their families and dumped them into cold, crowded detention centers with filthy toilets and insufficient running water.

They are here because we were there.

El Salvador

Over the last eight decades, US military support for right-wing coups and authoritarian candidates has strangled social movements for self-determination, worker rights, and economic development in El Salvador. In 1932 the US and Britain, owners of large export-oriented coffee plantations, sent naval support to quell a peasant rebellion led by the communist Farabundo.

What follows is a short list of our interventions in this country that have driven the displaced, impoverished, and endangered to travel a trail of tears to our border.

In 1960 President Eisenhower, fearing a leftist government, facilitated a right-wing coup and openly opposed the holding of free elections.

The same Cold War ideology drove President Reagan to provide generous military assistance and training in 1983 to the repressive military-led government in its civil war against a leftist front. Eighty thousand Salvadorans were killed in the 1980-1992 civil war, with the majority of civilian deaths

caused by Salvadoran military and death squads.

In the early 1990s some 200,000 Salvadorans were given Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to settle here. However, their TPS was revoked in 2018 by President Trump, emblematic of his hostile and hate-mongering history toward the poor, displaced and endangered *who arrive here because we were there.*

The United States has intervened in Latin American elections, civil wars and revolutions at least 56 times since 1890, according to historian and author Mark Becker, to bolster US corporations’ interests and eliminate democratically elected governments and leftist movements.

In sync with this historical legacy, the Trump administration has enacted crippling economic sanctions, supported an attempted coup, and threatened military action against the socialist government in Venezuela. (Imagine the same being done to us during our revolution for independence from Britain, our civil war, and any of our presidential elections!)

Adding fuel to his scorched-earth policy, Trump’s proposed 2020 budget increases the military budget by 5% and decreases the State Department by 31% – a signal of our increasingly belligerent, non-negotiating role in the world.

Perhaps the only way to attract the well-financed, educated, and presumably white immigrants Trump seeks is to declare war on a Nordic country, hoping *they will come because we are there.*

Pat Hynes, a retired professor of environmental health and environmental engineer, directs the Trap-rock Center for Peace and Justice in western Massachusetts. She lives in Montague.

GILL from page A1

recommendations that a double-sided sign be placed perpendicular to the road so it could be easily seen from both directions when passing by. Tomb said the commission had made cardboard mockups and experimented with various placements and orientations, before making their recommendations.

Local vendor Hale Signs of Gill will make and install the sign. The posts will be black-painted wood, the sign itself will be PVC and vinyl, a standard choice of materials in wide use, which requires less maintenance. Tomb and the board commented that they’ve seen a lot of Hale’s work in the area, and they do a good job. They also felt the cost of the sign represented a good compromise among more, and less, expensive designs.

Tomb and the board also discussed the commission’s activities in the Riverside district, and signage plans for that district’s recent acceptance to the National Register. Tomb said the commission has been “socking away” money in its donation account, which comes from a small profit it makes in selling a book it produced about the district, and is waiting until various grant possibilities were finalized to decide what to do.

She cited the example of a Battlefield Grant application which may provide money for educational signage. She said the commission would like to see how that will play out before moving forward on historic place signage, because the two may be combined in some way.

Town Clerk Job

Assistant town clerk Doreen Stevens has submitted her resume for consideration to fill the town clerk position soon to be vacant due to the retirement of Lynda Hodsdon Mayo.

Town administrator Ray Purington report-

ed that he had spoken with town counsel on the options available to the board, and it was in their purview to do anything between taking no action, and having the assistant continue to fulfill the duties of town clerk, and appointing a replacement – whether for the balance of the term of the elected position, nearly two years, or anything less than that, such as a one- or six-month appointment.

A variety of issues were discussed. The assistant position is unpaid, whereas the clerk receives a stipend. The board felt the clerk’s duties were too substantial to ask someone to do the work without pay, even on a temporary basis.

Selectboard member John Ward brought up the possibility of something happening to the assistant filling in, and the need to have someone in the clerk position so a new assistant could be added as a backup.

Board member Randy Crochier noted that it was desirable to have someone in the clerk position to make it easier to deal with state agencies, saying it was sometimes the case that state officials do not want to talk to assistants.

Outgoing board chair Greg Snedeker agreed that it’s important the person performing the town clerk duties was getting paid. It was also noted that another person had expressed interest in the appointment. Snedeker said in the interest of fairness, the board would consider both parties, but pointed out that different considerations apply for a temporary appointment to an elected position than hiring someone for a job.

All three members were careful to note this distinction, and that they did not feel out of line in considering a recommendation of Stevens from former clerk Hodsdon Mayo. Crochier said the one-page recommendation given to the board by Stevens as part of her resume was “kind of an important page.” Among other things, Hods-

don Mayo said Stevens’ hiring “was a gift to me, which I treasure to this day.”

Other Business

The board held elections for chair and clerk, continuing their tradition of rotating the positions. Ward was elected as chair, and Crochier as clerk.

The board then approved representatives to town committees and outside agencies, with no changes from current assignments. Crochier was appointed as representative to the personnel committee and Franklin Regional Transit Authority; Ward to the Franklin Regional Planning Board and machinery advisory committee; and Snedeker to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, cable advisory committee, and capital improvement planning committee.

Purington reported that the new police cruiser was in service. He said police chief Chris Redmond said he was dealing with some minor issues, but that the car was in service. The board commended the chief for the short period of time, 75 days, between the loss of the original cruiser in an accident and its replacement.

The board approved a \$1,001.70 purchase order from the fire department for new batteries for Engine One.

The board read a wrap-up letter from memorial committee reporting on the success of their Memorial Day ceremony, and commended the committee on their work. Purington also presented the program, which he said was “impressive.”

The board announced trash and recycling is postponed this week to Saturday, June 1, due to the holiday.

Crochier announced that the board of health would be taking up the questions of whether or not there was a need for regulations on body art, and of short-term hotel rentals, at its meeting on June 4.



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GMRSD from page A3

State Chapter 70 aid to the district next year appears likely to be higher than projected, said business manager Joanne Blier, who presented figures from the ongoing state budget process. Both receipts and expenses around school choice are down slightly, and charter tuition reimbursement is higher in the budget that has come out of the state senate Ways and Means committee as compared with the governor’s budget, she explained.

Even if the district receives more revenue than expected, its budget cannot be increased for FY’20, but the additional money could result in a year-end surplus that helps build the district’s excess and deficiency fund, she said.

The committee gave a second reading to a proposed job description for a new “family engagement coordinator,” who would work for 15 hours a week, and voted to approve it by a 7-0 margin, with Damkoehler

and Hall both abstaining.

“I support the vision of this position, particularly as a fixture in the community, and not just in the school buildings,” said Montague member Haley Anderson.

Several members reported back briefly from a session of Jennifer Renehan’s 8th-grade social studies class. “Students presented several well-considered issues of concern, and they suggested areas of improvement in the school’s operations ranging from topics of quality-of-life issues to serious issues like hiring for more diversity, and improving structures so that their voices and ideas could be heard more regularly,” Sullivan said.

And the committee met with Sheffield assistant principal Christine Limoges to discuss the district’s policies concerning recess.

“All students shall be given opportunities for physical activity during the school day,” district policies read. “School staff should rarely

withhold participation in recess as a way to manage student behavior, nor should they cancel recess to make up for missed instructional time.”

Anderson, a parent of a fifth-grader, said her child had reported that there was no recess during recent MCAS testing, and “didn’t even know what a ‘brain break’ was.”

“I’ll check on that,” Limoges promised.

“That’d be great,” Anderson replied. “It may improve our scores.”

The committee also discussed icy weather and snow gear.

Damkoehler spoke about the importance of punishments being “logical consequences” of misbehavior. “If a kid misbehaves during recess, the logical consequence would be they need to take a break from recess,” she said, but recommended rewording the policy so recess isn’t withheld for behavior hours earlier.

“I tend to think of recess, not so much as a privilege, but more as a right,” she said.



BUZZING from page A1

Pushkin building, and “an afternoon of drone music in honor of the Langstroth Hive” down the street at Ten Forward, also known as the Root Cellar.

The Pushkin installation is called HIVE, and is the latest work by the local multi-media art collective Exploded View. It opens this Friday with a reception from 6 to 8 p.m., and continues Saturday from 11 to 4 with an artists’ talk at 1 p.m.

“We’ve been doing a lot of foraging for information about bees and apiculture,” says member (and *Montague Reporter* features editor) Nina Rossi. “There’s a sting room, a queen room, and a movie room upstairs.... Each bee is the cell of an organism, and they do so many amazing things – they communicate with chemicals, and with a dance called the ‘waggle dance,’ which shows the location of good flowers, in relation to the sun.”

Last year the Pushkin space hosted a general bee-themed art show, but Exploded View convinced organizers to give them free reign of the former bank building this time around. “It’ll take longer to install than it’ll be open,” Rossi says, adding that the installation has been a “real learning experience” for the collective as it stretches into video work.

Rossi and fellow artists Trish

Crapo, Edite Cunha, Candace Curran, and Samantha Wood have created “listening cells” in which the audience can hear short pieces related to beekeeping as well as bee-related poetry, “interactive elements” on the main floor, “special things in the vault,” floral paintings, a demonstration hive, and upstairs rooms devoted to apitherapy and film projection.

There will be a cash bar during the reception and artists’ talk, and sliding-scale donations will be accepted. Rossi warns viewers that there are “pretty graphic images” of bee stings upstairs. One of the sound installations, she said, focuses on an interview with her own sister, who has been stinging herself with bees as a treatment for Lyme disease and now keeps three beehives of her own to save on the cost of their potentially therapeutic venom.

Another immersive and potentially therapeutic experience, this one entirely auditory, will be offered from 2 to 8 p.m. on Saturday at the Root Cellar bar below Mesa Verde: a six-hour showcase of drone music called “Movable Frame 1.”

“If people are enjoying the Bee Fest and would like to drop in,” says organizer (and *Montague Reporter* treasurer) David Russell, “I think they’d likely find it relaxing.”

Russell says he was spurred

to pull together musicians for the afternoon concert through his involvement with the nonprofit Progress Partnership, which supports the Bee Fest. “We had festival people at our meetings, where this was discussed,” he says, “and no objections were raised, but I’m not sure if they incorporated it on their fliers – maybe it’s a rogue event.”

Rogue or not, Movable Frame 1’s own poster lists over a dozen musicians, some from as far afield as Rhode Island and upstate New York. “I know a lot of people who produce drone music,” Russell explains.

Drone, he clarifies, is anything with “a very slow rate of change, not particularly characterized by melody – a number of the people we have playing are likely to be doing things that are harmonically complex – and sustained.”

Artists include several recent participants in a microtonal music workshop series at Looky Here, who have been experimenting with group vocal drones, as well as Retribution Body, the project of Providence’s Matthew Azevedo.

“Generally Matt does very low-frequency things with modular synthesizer,” Russell says. “I believe he has a doctorate in acoustics, and he designs special speakers for very low-end reproduction – I think it’s likely he’ll be doing some

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sort of oscillator-based synthesizer thing at very low frequency.”

Though earplugs are always available at the venue, Russell says he doubts they will be necessary. The first six hours are intended for continuous sound, with logistics to be determined by the participating musicians, and local bands with more involved stage setups are scheduled to perform from 6 to 8 p.m.

Besides Retribution Body, Movable Frame 1’s still-evolving lineup includes Umbral, Omeed Goodarzi, Jake Meginsky, the Frugal Trance

Project, Dave Seidel and Andy Kivela, Abdul Sherzai and Joe Bastardo, Matt Pike, Nate Brennan, Dei Krist, and Dan Bunny.

“The whole [Bee Fest] is in honor of the invention of the movable frame beehive,” Russell says, “and I suppose I feel there’s an analogy to the structure of drones, in that there are these drifting and discrete fields in time.”

When pressed, he adds: “I would expect at least something will sound like bees.”



Langstroth Bee Fest Schedule

Greenfield – May 31 to June 6

FRIDAY, MAY 31

6 to 7 p.m. “Langstroth in the Hood”: Chat with this historical figure about life on Bank Row in the 1840s as he observes changes today. *Pocket park/parking garage Bank Row entrance.*

6 to 7 p.m. Free honey tasting with honey from across the US. Bee art displayed. *Federal Street School.*

6 to 8 p.m. Opening reception for HIVE: bee-inspired installation by Exploded View artists. *Pushkin Gallery, corner of Main & Federal.*

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

Second Congregational Church:

9 to 11 a.m. Kids Honey Bee Tea Party, hosted by Mary Poppins (Kay Lyons) and the Massachusetts Bee Ambassador (Ryan Dugan); children’s crafts, bee games, prizes, face-painting, photo ops. Free bee bags for the first 75 children; free bee buttons from Federal Street School; free bee-loving plants courtesy of Pioneer Garden; free Honey Pie from Magpie. Meet costumed “Sweet Bee,” with photo op for kids.

Table exhibit: Langstroth Hives, with Starhart Hollow.

Bee ware: bee basket raffles, silent auction, gifts & cards. *Proceeds shared with Just Roots Farm and the Western Mass Food Bank.*

Beehive observation: Find the queen bee!

10:45 a.m. Karen’s Dance Studio: performance with children.

11 a.m. Pollinators Parade, led by Expandable Brass Band. Through the Farmers’ Market and around the common.

11:15 a.m. Break the Bee Pinata!

11:30 a.m. Bee games.

11:45 a.m. Langstroth’s 209th birthday cake.

12 p.m. Bee sculpture unveiling, with bagpipe and drum roll.

12:15 p.m. Bee basket drawings.

In the Second Church sanctuary:

10 to 11:45 a.m. *Flight of the Bumblebee*, Leea Snape, piano; meet Lorenzo Langstroth, played by actor Marc Hoffman, interviewed by Linda McNerney and Dan Conlon; Bee Space Garden Awards, Franklin County Beekeepers’ Association and MA Rep. Natalie Blais; bee health, with UMass bee researcher Dr. Lynn Adler; bee sculpture project and background, with sculptor Rachael Katz.

Around town:

8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Brass Buckle Honeybee Brunch at Hawks & Reed; Greenfield Farmers’ Market on the town common.

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Historical Society of Greenfield: explore exhibits, learn more about local history. *43 Church Street.*

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. HIVE: bee-inspired art show by Exploded View artists. Suggested donation \$5 to \$10 but no one will be turned away. *Pushkin Gallery.*

2 to 8 p.m. *Movable Frame 1*, drone music event at the Root Cellar (10 Forward), 10 Fiske Street.

All day: Bee-line to local restaurants featuring honey items on their menus; look for the Langstroth Bee Fest logo in their windows.

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

6:30 p.m. Spelling Bee at Hawks & Reed. *Organized by the Friends of the Greenfield Public Library.*



REPORTER STAFF PHOTO

A poem by Emily Dickinson is displayed in the frames of a beehive at the HIVE installation.

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SPORTS from page A1

finished seventh with a time 60.80, and Lucas Upham placed 12th in 62.84. Their times were great, but only the top three runners go on to the state finals.

Softball
TFHS 2 – Pioneer 0
Wachusett 1 – TFHS 0

At the end of every season, coach Gary Mullins loads his schedule up with extremely tough games. It’s a great way to prepare for the play-offs. This year, the regular season concludes with games against Wachusett, the number-one team in central Massachusetts; Hampshire, one of the best D-2 teams in the state; and Minnechaug, the number-one D-1 team in western Mass. Likewise, those teams test their mettle by challenging the powerhouse known as Turners Falls.

Before Turners could battle these teams, they had to take care of business in their own backyard. Last Tuesday, May 21, Powertown beat the Pioneer Black Panthers to win the Franklin Conference title.

This game was by no means a runaway, as the Black Cats held Blue to just two runs. The tight score might have been because Turners was facing a letdown after defeating archrivals Greenfield, or it could be that Powertown was looking past this game to Minnechaug. But more likely, it was because Pioneer has an exceptional pitcher, and they weren’t about to hand the FC Crown away without putting up a fight.

And the Pioneers did fight. Blue managed to get seven hits in the game, but the Pioneers’ stingy defense held Big Blue scoreless through four full innings. Cassidhe Wozniak, who has been a hitting machine of late, blasted the ball over the fence in the fifth to break the tie.

In the circle, Jade Tyler matched



Turners’ Jade Tyler strikes out ten in a battle of the pitchers as the Thunder hosts D-1 Central Mass champs the Wachusett Regional Mountaineers. The undefeated Mountaineers edged Powertown 1-0 in a highly competitive game.

Pioneer’s output with 11 strikeouts, and held Black to two hits while giving no walks. Offensively, Taylor Murphy hit a three-bagger.

Then last Thursday, Wachusett entered the Thunderdome, and Blue

dropped their first game of the season in a 1-0 duel.

I could go on and on about the Wachusett Green Mountaineers. During the game, more than a few of my sources regaled me with their

exploits. I won’t go into detail, but rest assured, two of the best teams in the state went bat to bat on Thursday.

It was a pitcher’s duel, from the very first pitch and throughout the game; neither team would give an inch. Juliana Rode hit a single in the third and advanced along the base paths, but she was thrown out at the plate, and the Mounties kept the double goose egg going. Blue managed to load the bases in the fourth, but Wachusett again got out of it unscathed.

Then in the fifth, Coach Mullins intentionally walked a batter to load the bases. The next batter hit the ball past the circle. Tyler’s glove slowed it down, and the throw was too late, giving Wachusett a run and the victory.

Tyler pitched another exceptional game, striking out ten Mountaineers, and Taylor Murphy, Olivia Whittier, Rode and Tyler all got hits for Blue.

Powertown wraps up its regular season with games against Hampshire Regional and Minnechaug.

Baseball
FTCS 9 – TFHS 6
TFHS 1 –Belchertown 0

On Tuesday, May 21, the visiting Franklin Tech Eagles defeated Turners Falls 9-6 in eight innings.

The Turners Falls baseball team has been in a scoring drought for most of the month. Before Tuesday’s game, Big Blue hadn’t scored

a run in 15 days. In the second inning of the Tech game, they finally managed to break this streak.

Tech needed the win to make the playoffs, so it was a battle of wills as Tech scored first, and Turners went ahead in the second. Frank tied it up in the top of the fifth and Thunder took back the lead, 3-2, in the bottom of the fifth. Turners went ahead 5-2 in the sixth, but in the seventh the Techies scored four runs to go up 6-5.

Facing a do or die situation, Turners scored a run, tying it up 6-6 and sending the game into extra innings. This season, the Turners Falls Thunder has faced their share of one-run and extra-inning games, winning some and losing others. On Tuesday, it was Franklin Tech that dug deep, scoring three more runs in the eighth to steal the victory and qualify for the playoffs.

Powertown finally halted their losing streak last Saturday, defeating the Belchertown Orioles 1-0. And it took them 10 innings to do it. In the tenth, Jake Labelle hit a 1-3 SAC to send Jake Dodge home, giving Blue a much deserved 1-0 win.

Powertown closes out their regular season this Wednesday against Mahar in Orange, and then prepares for a postseason run.

Boys Tennis
TFHS 5 – Holyoke 0
Belchertown 5 – TFHS 0

This week the Turners Falls boys’ tennis team swept Holyoke, and were swept in turn by Belchertown. As an aside, after watching so many tennis matches over the years, I just have one question. Why is tennis the only sport without officials?

The Blue Netters traveled down to Holyoke on Wednesday, May 22 and swept the Purple Knights 5-0, sweeping every single match in straight sets.

Will Turn won first singles, 6-1, 6-3; Brian Poirier swept second singles 6-0, 6-1; and in third singles Brody Trott won 6-3, 6-0.

In doubles play, Joe Kochan and his partner Josh Gaulin won 6-2, 6-2 and Michael Boyle and Corin Wisniewski prevailed 6-2, 6-0.

Then on Tuesday, May 28, Powertown traveled to Belchertown and lost to the Orioles 5-0. The Birds won all five matches in straight sets. Trott did the best for Blue at third singles, winning four games in the first set and two in the second.

The split gives Powertown a 12 – 3 record, with one match remaining before they head into the playoffs.

Ice Hockey
Boston 4 – St. Louis 2

On Memorial Day, the Boston Bruins erased a 0-2 deficit to win Game One of the Stanley Cup finals 4-2. Hopefully, they’ll join the Red Sox and Patriots as World Champions.

Next week: Minnechaug and Hampshire try to knock Powertown off the top rung, and hopefully the Turners girls can play a little tennis!



Turners Falls’ Juliana Rode catches a popup for the first out at the top of the third inning against the Wachusett Regional Mountaineers last Thursday.

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WENDELL from page A1

in the spring of 2018, but soon after-ward the town historical commission and the selectboard voiced oppo-sition in a letter to DCR. Logging operations, scheduled to start in Sep-tember, were delayed due to muddy conditions. The project could start this spring, dependent on the sched-ule of the logging company.

DCR spokesperson Troy Wall told the *Reporter* this week that “[h]arvesting operations at Wendell State Forest commenced in the red pine stand in August of 2018, and were put on hold by the contractor, who was working on a separate, unrelated project. Additionally, the work prescribed for the red pine stand located along Montague Road in Wendell is nearing completion. No harvesting operations have tak-en place in the white pine and oak stands. The agency expects the con-tractor to resume the harvest in the coming weeks (the contractor has two years from the start of the project to complete the work).”

On October 17, DCR commis-sioner Leo Roy appeared before a packed Wendell selectboard meeting to respond to questions about the project. By that meeting, opposition to the project had shifted from con-cerns about Native American cere-monial sites to the impact of forest cutting on global warming.

The public record requests filed by WSFA member Glen Ayers have focused heavily on whether the log-ging operations comply with the Massachusetts Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA), which set statewide goals for the reduction of emissions of carbon dioxide and oth-er greenhouse gases.

Five of the ten requests Ayers made on September 10 asked for the results of carbon impact analysis and compliance with the GWSA, while four involved accounting for staff time and other costs of the timber sale. The final request, and a num-ber more Ayers filed on September 17, all focused on the soil impacts of proposed logging at Wendell.

In both cases, DCR responded that they could find no documents related to the requests.

The department’s statement to the *Reporter* this week did not indicate

whether it evaluates specific projects – or even the broader woodlands management policy, which applies to approximately 40% of state-owned forests – in the context of the Global Warming Solutions Act.

According to Wall, the GWSA “seeks the reduction of greenhouse gases; however, it does not specify how to achieve that goal. For in-stance, the DCR takes several steps to reduce its carbon footprint, in-cluding the management for carbon sequestration on a landscape scale through its forest reserve system balanced with a multi-age forest management approach on actively managed woodlands, and the use of ‘green technology,’ such as solar panels, super-insulated building ma-terials, high efficiency windows, and eco-friendly vehicles.”

Ayers and the Wendell State For-est Alliance group are challenging the “actively managed woodlands” poli-cy for cutting forests on the grounds that it reduces carbon sequestration (the removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere by trees). Although Ayers requested numerous docu-ments on carbon impacts and GWSA compliance, his December 15 sub-mittal to DCR faulted the agency for not evaluating woodlands projects in the context of the GWSA.

Noting the carbon emissions re-duction targets set by the 2008 state law, Ayers argued that “[a]lthough there is a broad global consensus that managing forests to maximize carbon sequestration is vital to mit-igating disastrous climate disrup-tion, state agencies have failed to take decisive action to address this issue. Instead of providing strong regulation of [greenhouse gas] emissions from forests, the [De-partment of Environmental Protec-tion] has allowed DCR to continue a forest management program with no apparent requirement that it con-duct an on-the-ground baseline car-bon inventory, or that it ensures that its programs are helping to achieve GWSA GHG reduction goals.”

Ayers says that after he made his initial document requests in Septem-ber about the Wendell project and the Secretary of State’s office supported the DCR response that there were no available records, he was not aware

of a potential second appeal pro-cess. However, after his December requests about the Myles Standish projects were met with similar re-sponses from DCR and the Secretary of State, Ayers was informed of the possibility of a second appeal with additional information.

In his second appeal, Ayers not-ed that he had requested any docu-ments related to the process for implementing “public input” and other aspects of forest management policy. He noted that a previous cabinet secretary, Chester Bowles, had issued an executive order (EO) requiring the department to con-duct logging operations with “ro-bust planning input,” but that DCR “claims to not even have a copy of the EO, and not a single record of how they complied with the EO.”

Citing this and other complaints in Ayers’ appeal, the Secretary of State’s office wrote to DCR that “in light of the issues raised in Mr. Ayers’ appeal regarding the exis-tence of responsive records, the Department must explain whether responsive records existed and were destroyed, or whether the records did not initially exist.”

The April 18 letter also “ordered” DCR to “provide Mr. Ayers with a response provided in a manner con-sistent with this order, the Public Re-cords Law, and its Regulations with-in 10 business days.”

As of this week, Ayers says he has received no response from DCR. A spokesperson at the Secretary of State’s office, Deb O’Malley, said that her agency had not received a response from DCR as required in their order.

O’Malley told the *Reporter* that her agency is not an “enforcement agency,” but has sent a second letter to DCR noting the order could be sent to the Attorney General’s office for enforcement. A citizen or private group requesting documents, she said, could also appeal in the courts.

Wall wrote this Wednesday that DCR “has provided all responsive documents in its possession, as re-quired by law, and will continue to adhere to the requirements under the Commonwealth’s Public



RiverCulture is pleased to announce the Turners Falls Summer Park Series, happening at Peskeomskut Park, Unity Park, and the Great Falls Discovery Center from June to August, 2019. A full schedule of live music, movie nights, and a variety of free outdoor family programming will be available this week in local libraries, shops and restaurants, as well as online at www.turnersfallsriverculture.org.



Upcoming events include Family Fish Day, June 1 at the Great Falls Discovery Center, and a 2 p.m. concert by West Mass Brass at Peskeomskut Park on Saturday, June 8. The Turners Falls Summer Park Series is presented by RiverCulture, Montague Parks and Recreation, Friends of Sheffield, Montague Public Libraries, and the Great Falls Discovery Center, with support from the MCC Cultural District Grant and the town of Montague. Visit us on Facebook at “Turners Falls RiverCulture.”

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was May 28, 2009: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

In it For The Long Haul

“People don’t know me,” said Jeffrey Pooser, the newly elected selectboard member in Wendell on Friday. “And a lot of people had strong feelings about this election. I definitely had a sense of their anxiety. I felt it.”

After all, he ran against 13-term incumbent Ted Lewis. And, after a whirlwind campaign that barely got organized days before the election, Pooser emerged the winner for a three-year seat on the Wendell se-lectboard, by a vote of 177 to 139.

“I’ve only been in town 2½ years. That afforded me a certain amount of insulation from the emotionally charged content of what’s going on” in town, he said.

Pooser said he was used to discussion of town politics with friends at the Deja Brew, but no-ticed “a curious blend of detach-ment and engagement. They love to talk about it, but they don’t want to do it.”

Pooser is a computer consul-tant who divides his time between working with computer systems for institutions like Amherst Col-lege and homesteading on his farm, where he cultivates medical perennials like echinacea, astraga-lus, goldenseal, American ginseng, osha, and ashwaganda.

Langknecht Tapped For G-M Chair

On Tuesday, with four new-ly elected members sworn in by secretary Kristin Boyle, the Gill-Montague Regional School Committee reorganized and, with vice chair Joyce Phillips wielding the gavel, entertained nominations for officers.

Gill representative Sandy Brown nominated Michael Langknecht of Montague for chair, saying, “By their votes yesterday, the voters of Montague and Gill gave the school committee a new mandate. They said clearly they did not want busi-ness as usual, but change and new

voices. Mike can lead this school committee on a new path that fo-cuses on creating higher standards for all the children.”

Boyle spoke next, saying, “I would just like to refute some of the stuff Sandy has stat-ed,” addressing concerns about Langknecht’s integrity, which had been called into question around “certain incidents.”

Doug Brown nominated Joyce Phillips for chair. Brown said, “From my experience as a town meeting member, I always find Joyce to be articulate, open, and well-versed in the laws governing schools and their councils. She has always communicated extremely well for a layperson like myself.”

When the votes were tallied, Langknecht won the post by a five to four vote, with Doug Brown, Boyle, and Hatch supporting Phil-lips, and Monosson, Waldron, Sin-gleton, and Sandy Brown support-ing Langknecht.

Sex in the Rivers!

Here they come! Avert your eyes! They are here for sex and sex alone. But if you have voyeuristic tendencies, you can satisfy them with a sneak peek into the Sawmill River at the Montague Book Mill, or from the bridge downstream.

By mid-June you will see doz-ens of sea lampreys writhing, slithering, and sliding upstream in search of a perfect sex haven. They have returned for the annual spawning spree and, believe it or not, our streams need them.

Sea lampreys are often mis-taken for American eels, but they are a different species. Lampreys are much older, have a cartilage skeleton, and do not have fins on their sides or jaw-like mouths. Lampreys are one of the two old-est living fish species on the planet, reaching back 300 million years, before dinosaurs roamed the Earth.

Adult sea lampreys are parasitic, with specialized round mouths con-taining circular rows of teeth used in the ocean to latch onto other fish and extract blood and fluids. How-ever, they do not eat in rivers, where they are completely harmless.

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

No Swing at Shallow Well Pitch

By ROB SKELTON

Even though town meeting passed three water-pollution mit-igation articles unanimously in April, the Leverett selectboard found itself again battling resident Mark Doubleday, whose proposal, that the town finance a new shal-low well on his Teawaddle Road property to increase his low yield, fell on deaf ears.

The selectboard, which worked hard to craft a three-pronged solu-tion to address an underground “plume” emitting from the former landfill into the groundwater, was blindsided.

Doubleday, who must choose whether to take a shower or do the dishes, said he has had enough. He has installed a pump to draw water from Roaring Brook on his land – probably illegal, he noted.

“Do you understand what it’s like to live without water?” he asked. “You just can’t understand the stress, the pressure, and the cost of living without water,” he said, to a somewhat unsympathetic board,

who noted that this new expense should have gone before town meeting.

“There has to be some kind of emergency fund,” he said. Heads shook no.

“I’m going to call a lawyer. I’m gonna sue their ass. It’s all that I can do,” he announced while storming out.

Doubleday’s wife Virginia Goodale and plume spokesperson Pat Duffy held their ground, de-manding that the board show respect for the difficult position they are in. “You own the plume,” said Duffy.

“We own the plume,” repeated selectboard chair Peter d’Errico. “You also need to have respect for the way the town works,” he added.

Anna Aaron of the Shutesbury personnel board made an unan-nounced visit to discuss outsourcing of assessor responsibilities, which former Leverett assessor Steve Schmidt, a Shutesbury resident, is promoting.

Schmidt, who helmed Leverett’s assessing during the period in which it over-valued Mike Kittredge’s es-

tate so drastically that it required a state appellate tax board claw-back, is promoting the same company that Leverett hired.

The three selectboard members spoke highly of the outsourcing, especially the part where it reduces town employee costs and benefits.

The broken streetlights which Eversource still charges fees for have been fixed, and now there is a complaint that there are too many streetlights in North Leverett Center. Selectwoman Shively was asked to check the brightness *en route* home from the meeting.

Hiring committees are be-ing formed for both Police and Highway.

The Coke Kiln Road bridge re-pair bids will be opened June 19 at town hall.

The Friends of Leverett Pond hope to enact a canoe and kayak borrowing system housed on a rack at the pond’s south end, where there is limited parking. The board gave an okay to the rack, and agreed to study the parking and administra-tion later.

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TATTOOIST from page A1

“until finally I decided to take it seriously, and looked for an apprenticeship. I do a lot of flash, and some of my own stuff.” (“Flash” refers to ready-made designs rather than custom work.)

“There’s so much material out there, and a lot of people pick out ahead of time what they want,” he elaborated. “It often ends up being a collaboration. Some people give me freedom to do whatever they want, which is kind of nice, too.”

The shop is bright and clean and spacious. Reed envisions some community events there involving art and kids as part of the future of the business. “I have kids, so I love kids,” said the father of a seven-year-old daughter and two-year-old son. “I want this place to spread positivity in this little town, and I want people to understand that as soon as you believe you can, just go out there and create your journey, and chase some dream. I want to help people believe that in themselves. I’ve been gifted and found what I love to do, and I

have an opportunity to do that and make it whatever I want. That’s how I feel I can keep it going – by spreading good things out of here.”

For now, the shop is adjusting its hours around Reed’s construction work schedule, and will be open Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. or by appointment. He recommends calling in any case, as he and his wife, Sasha, are going to be flexible with hours. Like many couples, the two are dividing the business responsibilities, with Sasha taking on the bookkeeping and paying bills, scheduling, and any marketing they might decide to do to get the new shop off the ground.

Customers are “trickling in,” says Reed. “They are just learning I am open.” In general, the West County native says he just wants “to do more tattooing, and I want people to be able to afford it.”

Call Home Grown Art at (413) 422-1947 for an appointment.



Four New Newsstands!

The Montague Reporter is expanding our distribution reach this season, and is pleased to announce these four new sales locations. Please stop by, thank them, and pick up a copy! A list of existing stores that carry our paper (the blue markers on this map) is available at montaguereporter.org/read/. More will be added soon!



Ed Gregory shared this photo of the Memorial Day ceremony at Turners Falls on Monday morning, organized by Elks Lodge #2521.

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MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER MAY 30, 2019

Above: The bog off Farley Road in Wendell is looking pretty good this time of year.

Collector's Items — or Dust Collectors?

By JEFFREY WEBSTER

ARIZONA – What will become of my dad's cabbage cutter, or his bone-handled carving set? How about the Larkin curio cabinet and the toy box my wife's father made for her?

As we age, the things we once valued have become more of a burden, and we wonder where they will end up. We have ceramic pieces that once filled that Larkin cabinet. We have a few tools from both our dads. Large coffee mugs that once sat in my mom's home are now on our shelves.

Photos, documents, a captain's chair that once belonged to my wife's great-grandfather, boxes of letters and cards... all these add to the dilemma.

My wife Sue, a Greenfield girl, grew up in a home filled with furniture and smaller items that had been passed down from grandparents and, in at least one instance, great-grandparents. Her father had died young, leaving tools and handmade items.

I grew up in an apartment on Third Street in Turners Falls, and acquired far fewer family items. But, after my dad died – also too young – and his possessions were being distributed between my sisters and brother, I ended up with some things I cherished. That was 50 years ago. Now we have furniture gathering dust and ceramic ware still bundled in bubble wrap from two moves ago.

We held on to furniture, kitchen items, Tenney Farms milk bottles, kerosene lanterns, ceramics, and more because they represented family and home. They connected us to those happy times of our childhoods. All our lives, we valued where we came from, and we held on to our past through memories, photos... and all this stuff!

In many families, the children – whether they like it or not – inherit the detritus of their parents. We never had kids, so kicking the old canning jar down that road is not an option for us. When most of our extended family members were still living in western Massachusetts, we just assumed that one relative or another would want this piece or that. Now, we live in the desert Southwest. Our families are scattered from Maine to Florida and from Connecticut to California.

And, trust me, no one under the age of 70 wants a curio cabinet anymore. Come to think of it, we're both 71, and we don't want it anymore either.

Until recently, my sister lived in a huge home in Northfield. An attached barn and a large separate building were filled with all manner of things she and her husband bought and sold as antique dealers. Photos



WEBSTER PHOTO

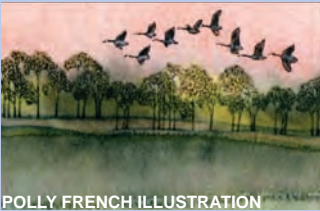
Jeff Webster holds his dad's cabbage cutter.

and paintings hung on every wall in her home, and antiques and collectibles were tastefully displayed in every room. When her husband died and her own health deteriorated, she decided to move south to be close to her daughter. Without blinking an eye, she negotiated to have the "barns" cleaned out, and just about everything in the house auctioned off.

My wife and I have yet not reached the emotional point where we can follow my sister's lead. The Larkin cabinet belonged to my wife's grandmother, and its origin is interesting. Larkin was a unique soap company in Buffalo, New York. Their marketing concept involved offering premiums to customers who purchased their products. Eventually, the premiums evolved from handkerchiefs and towels to silverware, furniture, and more.

We enjoyed having the piece enough to move it first to California, then to Arizona. We should have left it in New England. That's where it belongs. Sue recently decided that the bloom was off the rose,

see **COLLECTOR'S** page B4



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

WEST ALONG THE RIVER COME SLOWLY JUNE

By DAVID BRULE

ERVINGSIDE – One morning in May, just last week, I stepped out into sunshine at last.

My Adirondack chair and I have been following the sun across the familiar expanse of the back porch. Each spot out here has its significance. We moved progressively from the alcove of the sheltering woodshed, where I spent winter mornings out of the north wind, monitoring the pale sun's progression through the pines on the ridge.

Next move was to the center of the deck, looking out from a new vantage point onto the littered and winter-ravaged back lawn, still partly covered with the last icy snow. There, the beloved rhododendron, shelter for cedar waxwings, frames the far end of the yard, its leaves withered, grilled, and shriveled beyond recognition, the victim of a capricious winter wind. Experts tell me not to worry, it'll rejuvenate itself, as will others similarly ravaged all over the region.

But now! This morning, I make my final move to the easternmost edge of my observation deck to settle in for the summer under the growing shade of the Montmorency cherry tree. Early leafy shadows float on the page of pen-scratched notes, petals of cherry white blossoms float in the air and drift down onto sleeve and into coffee cup. This year there's a promise of a good crop.

Two years ago, in July 2017, I collected two mason jars full of

cherries to be preserved in vodka for a winter treat. You may remember I mentioned that to you back then. Last year the tree rested, and this year I may well have to trek up to New Hampshire to get a jug of that water of life to once again put up some of my special recipe.

Dog, lolling in the warming sun, wonders why I'm still busy writing when I could be chasing a ball or throwing a stick? There'll be a full season of summer for that. For now I'll probably just go lazily over to see the devout jack-in-the-pulpit shouldering up out of the warming earth, there on the edge of the greening flower garden.

This May and early June, singing warblers have been flowing through the yard like a river of watercolors. I watch them from my armchair out here under the cherry tree, catching the flow as it comes. That's my frame of mind these days. Let them come to me, and if they don't, no matter.

But for more than two weeks the flow has been coming right through the yard, a true wood warbler wave, legendary in New England, but rare enough. The cool temperatures and low pressure have kept the migrants bottled up somewhere south of here, but with the breaking weather and sunshine, the flood was loosened.

I can tell you the names of those jewels, and you can look them up if you feel like it. Warblers all: yellowthroat, Cape May, black and white, redstart, yellow, magnolia, chestnut-sided, blackpoll, water

see **WEST ALONG** page B6



By MISHEL IXCHEL

TURNERS FALLS –This one goes out to my baby daddy. Or, as I more commonly refer to him, my co-parent.

I really like the term *co-parent*. I like that it's reminiscent of the word

It Takes Two to Tango

co-pilot. And I like that it evokes within me a sense of partnership, comradeship, and teamwork. It reminds me that we're committed to this parenting journey together, and that through all the ups and downs, I am not alone in this.

My co-parent is a man who shows up every day for his child, and since the moment he was born has been in his life. As a person who grew up without a father, the fact that my child's father is and has been present makes it easy for me to want to try harder in this relationship.

It is, after all, a relationship bound by a little person whom we both deeply love.

Though to be perfectly honest,

working on this relationship has been no picnic.

Sometimes trying harder means looking straight at the mirror he holds up for me, acknowledging that which is flawed and sometimes fear-based. Sometimes it means Amazon Prime-ing our individual copies of *Nonviolent Communication*, and sitting down with a therapist to help us navigate choppy waters. Sometimes it means setting boundaries and standing firmly by them. And more than once, this relationship has come back from the brink of extinction by the simple and frequent exchange of appreciation and acknowledgment that I pepper throughout.

Once upon a time, I learned see **INDIE MAMA** page B3



J. Q. Fuertes

LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES

The bay-breasted warbler (*Dendroica castanea*).

June at Ten Forward

10 Fiske Ave Greenfield

Sat June 1. Noon to 7pm: Movable Frame 1: Drone Music in Conjunction with the Greenfield Bee Festival. # <> X\$X

Sat June 1. 8pm: The Molicie / Shana Falana / Bunnies / Deep Red \m/ !8!

Sun June 2. Open Hours 7pm - 1am: Beach Theme Movie Night C> X\$X

Tues June 4. 8pm: Tashi Dorji / Mette Rasmussen / Frank Meadows / Wednesday Knudson #

Wed June 5. 7pm: Meet @ Looky Here (28 Chapman) Spires that in the Sunset Rise / Andrea Pensado / DJ Jake Meginsky # <> !8!

Thurs June 6. 8pm: Eric Sommer (rhythm and blues guitarist) \m/

Fri June 7. 7pm: Evicshen (Victoria Shen) / Rubber 0 Cement / Mon.Ark Ammo / Bullshit Detector / CHS <> -U-

Sat June 8. 3-6pm: Traditional Music Open Session X\$X

Sat June 8. 8pm: Reading: Jay Weingarten / Patricia Hartland / Chris Weisman / Claire Crews / Oona Robertson. Followed by DJ Josh Nugent (P) !8! (sliding scale entry)

Sun June 9. 8pm: Creative Healing record release with Sam Gas Can and Hot Dirt \m/

Tues June 11. 8pm: Thelma / Duskseeker / Plants of the Bible / Tuft \m/

Fri June 14. 8pm: Painting with Sculpture / Tagine Dream / Jazer Giles / B-Cheek Empire \m/ <> -U- C>

Sat June 15. 8pm: Anti-Corporate Pride Karaoke & Games Sponsored by Mad-dens B-Day Party !8! X\$X

Sun June 16. 3pm: Low Frequency Sound Exploration (bring a synth, drone record, yoga mat) <> # X\$X

Sun June 16. 8pm: Afterdays: Experimental Performances in Choreography, Voice and Sound by Lucille Jun, Anna M. Maynard and Michelle Erard -U

Tues June 18. Open Hours 7pm - 1am: Board Game Night X\$X

Wed June 19. 8pm: Reading: Lauren Singer / Jason Montgomery / Alex Woolner / Catherine Weiss / Raven Fowles-Witten / Ansel Appleton / followed by FutureFolk dance party with DJ Quillz (P) !8! (sliding scale entry)

Thurs June 20. 8pm: Mette Rasmussen / Chris Corsano / Paul Flaherty (Res-idency Day 1): Wendy Eisenberg, Vic Rawlings, Lucie Rosenfeld, Mary Staubitz, Arkm Foam. # <>

Fri June 21. 8pm: Mette Rasmussen / Chris Corsano / Paul Flaherty (Res-idency Day 2): Andrea Pensado, Jen Gelineau, Paul LaBrecque, Andy Allen, Ruth Garbus, Donny Shaw. # <>

Sat June 22. 3-6pm: Traditional Music Open Session X\$X

Sat June 22. 8pm: Liam Kramer-White / Stella Silbert / Sordid Org / TBA <>

Sun June 23. Open Hours 7pm - 1am: Beach Theme Movie Night C> X\$X

Tues June 25. Open Hours 7pm - 1am: Board Game Night X\$X

Wed June 26. 8pm: Electric Kitchen / Echonaut / Will Roan / Head of Wan-tastiquet <> !8!

Thurs June 27. 8pm: The Leafies You Gave Me / Bunnies / Fred Cracklin \m/ -U-

Fri June 28. 8pm: Lily & Lucy / Baby/Baby / Isa Reisner / TBA \m/ (P)

Sat June 29. 8pm: Luxe / I Love You! / Bong Wish / Plants of the Bible \m/ -U-

Key:

\m/ Rock n Roll

Improvisation

<> Electronics

-U- Performance Art/Dance

X\$X Free Event

(P) Poetry

!8! Dance Party

C> Film Screening

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OVER THE HILL

Carolyn Clark

T-RUMP

by denis f. bordeaux

COLLECTOR’S from page B1

and she was ready to part with it. That surprised me, but I guess I have more of a sentimental streak than she does. Reality slapped us in the face when a nearby consign-ment shop that deals with better fur-niture turned us down. They simply said, “It’s interesting, but there’s no market for it.”

The aforementioned cabbage cutter belonged to my dad. He used to make coleslaw – tubs of it – for events at the Montague Rod and Gun Club, the First Congregational Church, and other organizations. He was a good cook and somehow he became the go-to guy for coleslaw.

I grew up watching him decimate heads of cabbage on the cutter’s sharp, angled blades, and thought everyone’s dad did that.

The device, manufactured by a company in Indianapolis, is ac-tually labeled “Kraut Cutter.” It’s a simple tool that does one thing extremely well. It’s really just an oversized kitchen mandoline. I used it once, just to sharpen and solidify those memories from long ago. Now, it’s a curiosity on a high shelf in our hallway.

I’m not ready to part with it, but I hate the thought of it going to a landfill when I leave the planet.

Another family “treasure” is a

swan lamp that once graced the top of our Zenith television. It sat right next to the controller for the anten-na rotor. For whatever reason, we also inherited a pair of draw knives from Sue’s dad. They are very cool, highly functional tools used mainly, I believe, for peeling the bark off logs – if we ever wanted to do that.

The draw knives will probably go to a nephew. We have many nephews and nieces, so we have to be careful about playing favorites.

Add to our collection a dry sink, a cedar chest, a Gilbert man-tle clock, a couple more chairs, a kitchen knife holder made by Sue’s dad, the clever set of nest-ing screwdrivers, and the pliers my father used when fixing lamps and appliances for family, friends, and neighbors. And there is a cab-inet filled with ceramics, includ-ing several pieces from the Royal Bayreuth factory in Bavaria.

For the time being, we will con-tinue to ponder the disposition of each piece while cherishing the memories they evoke. If any reader wants a good deal on a Larkin curio cabinet, we’ll talk. But you pay the packing and shipping.

Jeffrey (TFHS ‘65) and Susan Hutchinson Webster (GHS ‘65) live south of Tucson with a bunch of old stuff.

A Larkin curio cabinet, one of the items in Jeff and Sue Webster’s collection.

A sampling of Sue and Jeff’s old stuff.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

EVENTS

THURSDAY, MAY 30

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Katie Clarke and Larry LeBlanc, Sue Kranz, Roland LaPierre Band.* Coop Concert Series. 6 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Time to Laugh, Leverett.* Happier Valley Comedy Show presents “Whose Line is it Anyway?” PG-13 comedy. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Oakland Stroke, The Shadow Twisters.* ‘70s funk. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Becky Walton.* 8 p.m.

Root Cellar : *Idol Brain, Fomosurfer, Fred Cracklin, Hot Dirt, and Hairbrush.* Punk, electronics, shredding. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 31

Pushkin Gallery, Greenfield: *HIVE: An Installation.* Visit an immersive intermedia installation by *Exploded View*, part of the tenth annual Langstroth Bee Festival in downtown Greenfield. With paintings by *Susan Valentine* and *Alison Williams.* Donation, cash bar. \$. 6 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Dry Branch Fire Squad.* \$. 7 p.m.; *Freddie McGregor with Rhythm, Inc.* Reggae, funk, hip hop. \$. 9 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Chasms, Wendy Eisenberg Band, Jake Klar Band.* \$. 9 p.m.

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

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

North Village Smokehouse, Millers Falls: *TNT Karaoke.* 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

Pushkin Gallery, Greenfield: *HIVE: An Installation.* Visit an immersive intermedia installation by *Exploded View*, part of the Tenth Annual Langstroth Bee Festival in downtown Greenfield. With paintings by *Susan Valentine* and *Alison Williams.* Artists talk with *Exploded View* at 1 p.m. Donation. \$. 11 a.m.

Montague Center: *Good Music Makes Good Neighbors.* A porchfest event featuring multiple locations around the Montague Center common area. Seventeen regional bands play in seven private homes: jazz,

classical, Arabic, pop, country, banjar, rock, and more. Snacks, sliding scale fee. 12 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Movable Frame 1*, “an afternoon of drone music in honor of the Langstroth Hive.” Featuring *Retribution Body, Jake Meginski, Umbral, Omeed Goodarzi, Andy Kivela, Frugal Dance Project,* and many more. 2 to 8 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: Film screening, *Mothra.* A giant moth worshipped by islanders as a deity saves two miniature women abducted into a Vaudeville sideshow. Part of the Sci-Fi/Horror/Fantasy series. 7:30 p.m.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



The Windborne singers present “Song on the Times,” their project of songs from working-class movements for people’s rights over the past 400 years sung for today’s struggles. The group was catapulted to new heights when a clip of them singing in protest outside Trump tower went viral, and their Indiegogo for the project raised 1,600% of its goal from people in every state and 22 countries. Join them for a concert at the Mount Toby Friends Meeting House on Saturday, June 8, at 7:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Hank Wonder, Jim Eagan, and Anand Nayak.* \$. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Klezperanto, The Feldons, Peace and Rhythm.* Klezmer and Mediterranean melodies; garage rock; DJ crew with Latin psych, cambia, salsa, punk, dub, and more. \$. 8 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *The Moice, Shana Falana, Bunnies, Deep Red.* \$. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Equalites Reggae Dance Party.* Reggae Fantastico. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Barney Strife and the Deputies, The Shadow Twisters.* 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 2

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Jazz Brunch* with the *Jon Lentz Trio.* 11 a.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Celtic Heels Recital.* \$. 2 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke.* 8 p.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 3

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bin-go.* 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 4

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

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Tashi Dorji* with *Meata Razz.* \$. 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

Gill Tavern, Gill: *Jazz Night.* 6 p.m.



Unitarian Church, Peterborough NH: *Dirty Projectors, Joan Shelley, and The Huntress & Holder of Hands.* Night 1 of The Thing In The Spring. \$. 6 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Salsa Wednesday.* With *McCoy and DJ Roger Jr.* \$. 8 p.m. *Creacion Latin Big Band Jam*, on the fourth floor. 8 p.m.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Spires That In the Sunset Rise*, psychedelia. 8 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Jake Meginsky, Andrea Pensado,* more TBA. DJ, heavy electronics. \$. 9 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Sheryl Stanton, Pat and Tex LaMountain with Avery & White, Rob Adams.* Coop Concert Series. 6 p.m.

Unitarian Church, Peterborough NH: *Suzzy Roche & Lucy Wain-*

wright Roche, Ryley Walker, and Noel Wells. Night 2 of The Thing In The Spring. \$. 6 p.m.

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

Looky Here, Greenfield: *The Big Draw.* Figure drawing session with a model in monthly sessions. \$ donation. 7 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

Unitarian Church, Peterborough NH: *Bardo Pond, Thalia Zedek Band, Trinary System, Bunnies, and Strange Fate.* Night 3 of The Thing In The Spring. \$. 5:30 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Rubber O Cement, EvicShen, Mon. Ark Ammo, Bullshit Detector, CHS.* \$. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Raspberry Jam.* A youth band from Greenfield. \$. 7:30 p.m.; *Jimmy Just Quit*, pre-summer bash with local band. \$. 9 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Revenant Sea, Mark Schwaber, Mikey Flynn.* 9:30 p.m.

North Village Smokehouse, Millers Falls: *TNT Karaoke.* 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *West Mass Brass Band.* Traditional British brass band. 2 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Traditional Music Open Session.* Contra, Irish, old time, etc., open jam session. 3 p.m.

Unitarian Church, Peterborough NH: *Tashi Dorji, Sunburned Hand of the Man, Wendy Eisenberg, Headroom, Ouzkxqlzn, Hot Dirt, Bird Organ.* Thing In The Spring daytime show. \$. 1 p.m. *Tyondai Braxton, Nadah El Shazly, and Lea Bertucci.* Night 4 of the Thing in the Spring. \$. 6:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Prom-A-Con. Rod Cummings & The Vibrators* provide the music for this outdoor event with pizza after the Alt Prom parade from the common. \$. 6:30 p.m.

Pushkin, Greenfield: *Ona Canoa.* Part of a new “Resonator” series using the natural reverb in the Pushkin building. \$. 7 p.m.

Gathering My Wits, fantastic pen and ink drawings by Linda Baker-Cimini, June 6 through July 10. Reception with the artist, Saturday June 22, 4 p.m.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Garden Structures and Ornaments:* works by *Piper Glass & Steel.* Structures providing visual interest and functional support in the garden. *Waterside: Man-Made Structures in Natural Landscapes* paintings by *Paul Hoffman.* Each painting establishes a unique sense of place. Through June. Reception with music by *Wes Parker* on June 1, 3 p.m.

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**THURS 5/30 8 pm
Becky Walton**

**FRI 5/31 9:30 pm
Bluegrass & Beyond**

**SAT 6/1 9:30 pm
Barney Strife and the Deputies
The Shadow Twisters**

**SUN 6/2 11 am to 1 pm
Jazz Brunch
w/ John Lentz Trio**

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CALL FOR ENTRIES:

Slate Roof Press is taking submissions for the Glass Prize. One poem will be drawn from contestants in Franklin and Hampshire Counties, one from across the US. Cash prize, \$250. \$10 reading fee per submission. Deadline June 15. Details at slateroofpress.com.

May 28 through July 1. Architecture, street scenes, details that can become abstractions in black and white and color.

Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton: *Plastic Entanglements: Ecology, Aesthetics, Materials.* The story of plastic in 60 works by 30 contemporary artists, exploring our entangled love affair with this miraculous and malevolent material. Through July.

EXHIBITS

Barnes Gallery. Leverett Crafts & Arts Center: *Leah Burke: Heritage Sites* and *John Rathbun: Wild Creatures & Winter Flowers.* Through May. Followed by *Deerfield Valley Arts Association* show, with reception June 9, 4 p.m.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Brattleboro: Large paintings by *Sandy Sokoloff*, glass creatures based on children’s drawings; narrative paintings by *Amy Bennett*, collaborative fiber art of *Jackie Abrams* and *Deidre Scherer*, immersive mixed-media installation by *Joey Morgan*; paintings documenting several

generations of an African-American and Cape Verdean family on Cape Cod by *Joseph Diggs.* Through June 16.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Portraits of Native Peoples of the Valley.* Photographs by *Sara K. Lyons*, curated by Rhonda Anderson. Through May 31. *#Rightupmyalley:* Photographs by *Edite Cunhã* shot in and around alleyways of Turners Falls, including alley music and poetry. June 2 through 30. Reception Sunday, June 9, 1 p.m.

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *Origins*, by *Melissa Rudder.* “The point or place where something begins, arises, or is de-

rived.” Melissa’s work is a query of identity and origin that explores the experience of being human in a spiritual world: how we anchor ourselves and find meaning, metaphor, and connection. Using multiple mediums, Melissa asks the question, “where are we from?” Through June 9.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Art of Missy Ashton.* Paintings.

Herrick Gallery, Wendell Library: *May Emery.* Paintings inspired by chairs. Through June.

Leverett Library: *Macaylla Silver.* Large-scale paintings of birds. Through June.

Nina’s Nook, Turners Falls:

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WEST ALONG from page B1 thrush, and the magical parula, to name a few.

Several bay-breasted warblers tarried a few days in the flowering wild black cherry tree, too. This is a new species to turn up in our view from the porch, to be added to the life list of this old house.

The warblers have been held back long enough, and now they're making up for lost time. They've got a lot of traveling to do. Then when they get to where they're going they'll stake out territory, defend it, find a mate, and raise their young. All before their summer vacation ends in late July.

For days now, they keep coming and coming, wave after wave, these warblers singing and eating their way north. They don't linger long, a flash of yellow, red, orange, blue. Now you see me, now you don't. They're in a rush to get up north.

I've barely had time to read in the mornings; constant wings distract me. Branches and boughs alive with color, movement, and song

since 6 a.m. The sun of an early June morning streams aslant, golden rays brighten the tender green growth, even into the far reaches of yonder woods.

With the news of the summer liberation army at the gates, drink is flowing, there is rejoicing, cheering, splashing and dancing in the public fountains on the square!

I really get carried away this deep into spring. In truth it's actually only the catbird splashing in the oasis of the birdbath, the dog dancing in the sun, and the oriole singing his hallelujah from the top of the maple.

But I look at it this way: The morning is fresh right now, and full of promise. It's likely that the chores and the cares of the day will wear down this buoyant mood, but for the time being, these moments in the spring are pretty good.

With all the distractions and goings-on out here, my coffee is cold again. Time to go back in and get another.

But who cares? My cup runneth over.



Jazz Brunch with the John Lentz Trio

Sunday, June 2 11 am to 1 pm



This piano, double bass, and voice trio kicks off our jazz brunch at the Voo! They play standards, the American songbook, as well as their own arrangements of pop songs.

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