

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 17 – NO. 33

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 13, 2019

GILL SELECTBOARD

Tax Hike of 3.25% Expected As Gill Heads to Town Meeting

By **GEORGE BRACE**

The Gill selectboard held a joint session on Monday with the finance committee to review and approve the slate of articles for next Monday's annual town meeting. They also appointed Doreen Stevens as temporary town clerk to fill the position of Lynda Hodsdon-Mayo, who is retiring as of June 30.

After reviewing the budget and articles, the finance committee voted to recommend passage of all articles and motions involving specific financial matters. Town administrator Ray Purington credited the collaborative budget process between the finance committee and the selectboard for the unanimity of their

recommendations.

The projection for the town budget in FY'20, which begins July 1, is \$3,340,812 if all the articles pass. The two largest budget items were Article 13, the "education budget," at \$1,818,080, and Article 12, the "omnibus budget," which funds town departments, at \$1,624,717. Article 16, another large item, would allocate \$54,009 toward work on the Gill elementary school electrical system.

Based on the projections and assumptions used by the board and committee, it was estimated that property taxes would need to go up by 3.2%, from a rate of \$17.26 per \$1,000 of valuation to \$17.82

see **GILL** page A5

SCENE REPORT

Montague Officials Usher In The Era of Commercial Cannabis



253 Pharmacy sales director Seth Rutherford shows off the newly built retail store.

By **NINA ROSSI**

TURNERS FALLS – I went to the "photo op" at 253 Pharmacy on Monday night to take a few pictures of the new cannabis business's building at the request of our managing editor, who was off at another meeting. I parked in the rear off of Industrial Boulevard, so I walked through the whole place before I found the front reception area, and could see that it was still being sheetrocked and wired up. No growing yet, and no pretty green things to take pictures of.

In the reception area, a little crowd of town officials, state reps and their attendants, the police chief and Tech School principal, and four Pharmacy guys hovered over sandwiches, cookies, and fruit cups supplied by Scotty's on the Hill, whose lunch service is heavily used by the construction crew at 253.

Everyone was very jolly, in an almost giddy way – perhaps carrying forward an aura of naughtiness in the whole weird idea of being in a sanctioned pot-growing facility.

see **SCENE REPORT** page A4

A Fun Day to Fly!

By **NINA ROSSI**

TURNERS FALLS – The Franklin County Radio Control Club is moving their annual Father's Day Fun Fly event from the official Father's Day this coming Sunday, June 16, to Saturday, June 22. The main reason is not to compete with another great family fun event, the Mutton & Mead Medieval festival coming up on June 15 and 16 at the Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club.

The Fun Fly takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Club field at the Turners Falls Airport – Gate 4 at 80 Industrial Boulevard, right be-

fore the turn-off for Franklin County Technical school. Organizers say that there will be "great demos, combat, FPV (first-person view), and a special guest or two."

David Korpiewski, vice president of the club, provided more details about these events. "One of the more interesting demonstrations is our buddy boxes," he says. "I'll be there with my box, with a wire connected to a buddy box, flying a plane with someone else. I can take back control and save the airplane if something happens. A bunch of people have joined the club after trying this."

see **FLY DAY** page A7



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Trinidadian Consul Visits Turners To Explore "Twin City" Proposal

By **MIKE JACKSON**

TURNERS FALLS – "Having spoken to Richie and hearing his passion," said André Laveau, consul general of Trinidad and Tobago in New York, "and just knowing

that he's working in a virgin sort of environment, in terms of fashion, we found that it's something we want to be a part of."

Laveau was addressing a small welcoming party at Fab, the Second Street boutique owned by

Richie Richardson, who has been casting high and low for collaborators and supporters as he plans a local "Fashion Passion" event in late September.

Richardson's inquiries at the New York consulate of his native Trinidad sparked interest in longer-term collaboration. Officials say they are open to the possibility of Montague pairing with the island's capital, Port of Spain, to ceremonially "twin" Turners Falls with that city's artistically vibrant Woodbrook neighborhood.

On Tuesday, Laveau and public affairs and culture consul Donna Cox trekked from Manhattan to Turners Falls to check out the village Richardson is now calling home. "This is a treasured son of the soil," Laveau told the group. "He's not just a fashionista and designer – he's a thinker. You've probably realized that."

Woodbrook, long a residential district, is famous for its concentration of "mas camps," cultural workshops that serve as staging grounds

see **CONSUL** page A8



Trinidad and Tobago consul André Laveau (center) tours Turners Falls with RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto (left) and Fab owner Richie Richardson (right).

Graduates Set Out to "Be the Change"

By **K. CAMARA**

GILL-MONTAGUE – Turners Falls High School 2019 commencement ceremony on Friday, June 7 was the finish line for 50 graduates cloaked in the school's traditional colors of blue and white... some, a bit untraditionally.

Addressing the class in an opening speech, and noting comments in a letter from principal Annie Leonard who could not be in attendance, vice principal Kathi Smith spoke with pride of the group's spirit, kindness and resilience, noting changes she had witnessed over the years.

"Many of you have shown incredible resilience," she said. "For some of you it has not been a straightforward journey. You've had to overcome difficult personal circumstances, and have risen to unexpected academic heights. You have made powerful films and led presentations to promote awareness of

issues like bullying and racism.... You have mediated conflicts, and helped repair harm."

Smith advised, "Remember to stay informed and involved in what

is going on around you, and if there is something that you see that needs changing, or that doesn't work for you... be the change."

see **GRADUATES** page A6



Last Friday's class of fifty graduates were told this year that blue would be the standard robe color, and that anyone could choose to wear white instead.

The Week In High School Sports

By **MATT ROBINSON**

GILL-MONTAGUE – This week in sports, three Turners Falls teams competed in the MIAA post-season tournament. All three of the teams went into their contests as the favorites, but two were knocked out by the Lee Boys.

Being the underdog in the play-

offs is not always an accurate indicator of skill. Just ask the St. Louis Blues. In high school sports, a number of favorites were eliminated this week, including the Turners Falls baseball and boys' tennis teams.

The favorite who didn't get knocked off is the Turners Falls softball team, who battled a little adversity to stay alive.



Coach Mullins talks with the team after Mt. Greylock scored three runs in the 5th inning. Thunder rolled to a 10-3 victory over the Mounties in the WMass D-3 semifinal at Sortino Field, UMass-Amherst, on Wednesday. More pics on page B5!

Tennis

Lee 5 – TFHS 0

"The (Springfield) Union doesn't know we exist," a man whispered to me as his grandson was serving. "All the Berkshire teams play each other, so no one knows how good we are."

I think he may have been referring to the MIAA, who do the rankings, his point being that the Lee Wildcats should have been ranked higher. That may be true, as the Wildlings surprised Turners by winning every first set. The match didn't end that quickly, however, as Blue fought back in the second sets to go out swinging.

In first singles, Will Turn lost 6-1, 6-4, Brian Poirier dropped second singles 6-1, 6-2 and in third singles, Brody Trott dropped his match 6-2, 6-2. In doubles play, Joe Kochan and Josh Gaulin made the Cats earn it. After losing 6-1 in the first set, they forced a tiebreaker in the second, but were outlasted 7-5.

On the second doubles court, Michael Boyle and Corin Wisniewski likewise played tough in the

see **SPORTS** page A7

The Montague Reporter

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Rolling Up The Sleeves

A long-simmering theme at the Gill-Montague school committee finally bubbled up and spilled onto the stove Tuesday night. If you're involved in the school district, you may want to log onto Montague Community Television's Vimeo channel to catch up – the discussion on "GMRSD Meeting 6/11/19" starts a little more than an hour in. The debate is also summarized on page A6, but it's hard to convey its full scope in a few short columns.

At stake is the role of the school committee itself in helping solve systemic issues faced by the schools. By statute, it is supposed to make policy and budget decisions and hire top brass, and pretty much stop there.

This legally prescribed structure – voters elect a committee, which hires a superintendent, who hires principals, who hire teachers – was deliberately developed to insulate the classroom from short-term temperamental shifts in the electorate, and to reduce the use of school committees as sites of partisan conflict.

And Gill-Montague in particular has a history, within some members' memories, of trouble around micromanagement, overreach, hand in glove with a revolving-door superintendency. If the current vibe in the meeting room comes across to the public as aloof and hands-off, it's probably important to bear in mind that this restraint is a learned behavior, drilled into the institution by the state.

Five of the committee's nine members recently ran unopposed for re-election, so it seems odd that their performance would be subject to much criticism. All members seem concerned and alert, attendance is solid, and most decisions are taken unanimously or by a large majority.

But members have said repeatedly that they feel the burden, and the burn, of community resentment over issues people experience in the schools. Meanwhile, they are putting in hard work behind the scenes keeping the district on safe legal footing, and aiding in the management of an unavoidable austerity as rationally as they can.

This impasse can be broken, though perhaps not during meetings. It sounds to us like there is a hunger for visible community leadership. Most members do have other roles in the school community – as current or former parents, and former teachers – but seated on the committee, strive to neutrally represent the best interests of everyone in the district.

Why not go the other way – why not deliberately build constituencies? There is nothing stopping different members from seeking out allies with particular shared interests – teachers, say, or parents of students with IEPs, or parents of academically accelerated students, or of athletes or artists or even students themselves – and meeting with them outside the conference room to learn more about the changes they need in the schools.

This is the basic stuff of "community engagement," and it's a mistake to try to carry it out as a whole school committee. The bureaucratic work (two meetings a month plus subcommittees) is a huge time suck, it's true. But if members want what they can and can't do to be understood by the general public, getting out there more as individual leaders with opinions of their own would probably go a long way.



Riff's North assistant manager Justin and the restaurant's longest-standing employee, Maggi, behind the bar at the Turners Falls eatery. The name of the place, says Justin, is a "portmanteau" of the two owners' names, Rich and Jeff.

Letters to the Editors

Warrior Dash Thank-Yous

On Saturday, June 8, Montague Parks & Recreation and the Friends of Hillcrest Elementary held their second Warrior Dash Obstacle Course Race for youth at Hillcrest and Sheffield Elementary Schools in Turners Falls. Approximately 75 runners from throughout the area (and beyond) participated in this major fundraising event that supports the Hillcrest Elementary Playground Project and MPRD's Sponsor-A-Child Scholarship Program.

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

We would like to thank Greenfield Savings Bank, Judd Wire, Lively Builders, Nemesis Photo, Northampton Pediatric Dentistry, Pizzazz Dance Studio, Turners Falls Athletic Club, and Turners Falls Dental for their generous financial support, and would also like to thank the following for loaning and donating materials, and assisting with the logistics of the event: Mackin Construction, Snow & Son's Landscaping, Chip Garbiel, Jon Waidlich, Jon Bevins, Montague DPW, Gill-Montague Regional School District Facilities & Grounds, and the GMRSD Physical Education Department.

We also wish to acknowledge those who enhanced the event: the Turners Falls Fire Department for hos-

ing the kids down as they came down the home stretch; members of the Montague Center Fire Department, FM Kuzmeskus, Senn II Excavating, and the Massachusetts State Police for the Touch-A-Truck event; Paul Wonsley for providing sound, Amy Schmidt Bowse for designing the Warrior Dash logo, and the Melha Shrine Clowns for providing comedy and entertainment.

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

Finally, we would like to thank the kids who ran in this year's Warrior Dash! You all did a great job, and we're very proud of you!

Sincerely,

Sarah Burstien
Principal, Hillcrest Elementary

Jon Dobosz
Director, Montague Parks & Recreation

Julie Nolet
Chairperson, Hillcrest Elementary Playground Project

The Warrior Dash Planning Committee

Preventing Elder Abuse Through Community Wellbeing

This Saturday, June 15, 2019, is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. On that day, communities in the US and all over the world will sponsor events to highlight solutions to this systemic social challenge. LifePath is proud to participate in this national conversation.

We appreciate the worldwide efforts to focus on telling the stories of older adults to highlight the importance of social connectedness and the structures necessary to support this essential feature of elder abuse prevention.

We want to use this opportunity to help highlight some important and regionally relevant connections. Community members in Franklin County and the North Quabbin are significantly impacted by addiction and elder abuse. Importantly, while substance use is a risk factor for elder abuse, access to wellbe-

ing is a protective factor against both!

We can focus on meeting goals related to wellbeing knowing that this enhances the safety of older adults and the wider community. The Full Frame Initiative (FFI) defines wellbeing as a set of needs and experiences necessary to have health and hope. FFI has identified five domains of wellbeing: social connectedness; meaningful access to relevant resources; mastery; stability; and safety.

One of the ways we can foster wellbeing as a community is to recognize that, while opiate misuse and addiction is linked to financial exploitation, medication mismanagement, and caregiver neglect; access to wellbeing is linked to recovery from addiction and safety from abuse. When we look at the needs and assets of our community through this lens, not only can we prevent elder abuse, but we

can begin to recognize and support the importance of increasing all five domains of wellbeing, across our community.

LifePath's programs help to address transportation issues, access to social and educational programs, in-home health and personal care, and caregiver support. LifePath also administers the Adult Protective Services program, which investigates and intervenes in the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of people over 60.

We must create healthier and safer living environments for older adults. We can do this by strengthening social support networks, decreasing isolation, and building on the resulting enhancement of well-being. Creating and supporting resources that allow for the complicated relationships we have with each other and our unique needs is a community

goal that we hope to work on together in the coming year.

If you are a community member interested in more information about how to keep older adults in our communities safe, please reach out to LifePath at (413) 773-5555 or lifepathma.org to explore our programs. To make a report of concern about elder abuse, call (800) 922-2275.

Sincerely,

Josefa Scherer, Michelle Billings, and Dean Lagrotteria
LifePath Adult Protective Services

Rachel Broudy and Marianne Bullock
Full Frame Initiative, Healthcare Transformation and Capacity Building

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Compiled by **CHRIS PELLERIN**

Wishing all the Dads out there a **Happy Father’s Day!**

On Friday, June 14 from 7 p.m. to midnight at Greenfield Garden Cinemas there will be a **triple-feature evening of Pride films: *The Birdcage*, *Priscilla*, and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*.** All ticket sale proceeds will be generously donated to Franklin County Pride. Tickets are \$5 per show or \$12 for all three.

The **Franklin County Pride Parade** happens on Saturday, June 15. It will start at 12 p.m. sharp at the Greenfield Middle School, 195 Federal Street, Greenfield. Participants should arrive between 10:45 and 11:30 a.m. The parade ends at Miles Street, at the entrance to Energy Park. More information at www.franklincountypride.org.

This weekend is also **the Mutton and Mead Medieval Festival**, which features over 50 shows and spectacles for your enjoyment! They turn back time and transform the Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club (210 Turners Falls Road) into a medieval Shire. It will be open both Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. For information and tickets, go to www.muttonandmead.org.

I found discounted tickets at the WHAI Save 30 Store at www.saga-comdeals.com/greenfield/deals. Again this year, they are accepting non-perishable food items in exchange for \$1 festival tokens (limit three per ticket).

At Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, Turners Falls on Saturday, June 15 meet Ceil Moran, LifePath’s **Money Management Program** Director. There is assistance available to elders needing

help paying bills, budgeting, sorting bills, and reconciling checkbooks.

Ceil will take the time to explain the Money Management Program and its availability to folks over 60 years young, and folks who may have other challenges. In addition, if you are interested in volunteering, there is required training at LifePath which would enable you to help in this very rewarding free service to those who qualify. Ceil’s informal presentation begins promptly at 10 a.m. Hand-outs available and light refreshments provided by GSB.

On Father’s Day, June 16, visit the welcome desk at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for an interactive station about **birds’ habitats and songs**.

On Monday, June 17 from 7 to 8 p.m., hear the **Montague Community Band** play at Peskeomskut Park on 7th Street off Avenue A. The theme of the concert is “Time Travel.”

The **Youth Summer Reading Program** kicks off at the Carnegie Library at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, June 18 with an interactive program presented by Mad Science.

Sign up for the 2019 summer program begins June 14. You can call the library at (413) 863-3214 for more information.

The **Root Yoga Studio** is building a new space to support girls in Turners Falls. They are close to their fundraising goal, and are holding a “Donations & Libations” event at the Rendezvous, 24 Third Street, next Tuesday, June 18, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

There will be snacks, appetizers, and a cash bar. For more informa-

tion on Root and its programming, see root-yoga-studio.com.

A **Bike Repair Clinic** will be held on Wednesday, June 19 from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Great Falls Farmers Market at Peskeomskut Park. The clinic will provide basic bike repair services including flat fixing, chain oiling, and brake adjustment. A self-service bike stand, pump, and tools will also be available for those who can do it themselves but don’t have the equipment.

This event is hosted by the Great Falls Farmers Market and sponsored by Drawdown Montague, a local group that seeks practical, positive community solutions to the global crisis of climate change. Information about the group’s current projects will be available, and we will have free copies of the local waste reduction guide Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repair provided by the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District.

For more information about the clinic or to learn about Drawdown Montague, contact Adrienne at info@drawdownmontague.earth.

Looking ahead...

On Friday, June 21, at the Unity Skate Park, there will be a **Night Skate** from 5 to 10 p.m. Music, food, and fun are guaranteed!

State Medical Examiner to Rule On Power Canal Death

By **JEFF SINGLETON**

TURNERS FALLS – A man who perished after diving off the Fifth Street Bridge into the Turners Falls power canal on Friday has not been publicly identified, nor has the man’s motivation been determined.

Montague staff sergeant Lee Laster, who responded to several emergency 911 calls about a potential suicide attempt, said that as he turned on to Canal Street near the bridge, a woman approached him and said the man had already jumped into the water. Laster drove down to the Eleventh Street bridge, where he saw a body floating face down in the water. He then walked along the canal-side bike path while other officers, including from Gill and Greenfield, drove on the opposite side of the canal.

First responders from the Turners Falls fire department then retrieved the body in their “Zodiac” inflatable boat. John Zellman, Turners Falls fire chief, said he had worked with officials at the Northfield Mountain power generating station to slow the water flow into the canal.

Northfield Mountain is owned by FirstLight Power Resources, which also owns the canal and the Turners Falls dam, which controls its water supply.

Zellman would not speculate as to whether the apparent drowning was the result of suicide. According to Montague police chief Chris Williams, the investigation is under the oversight of the state police.

Mary Carey, communications director for the state police and the Northwest District Attorney’s office, said a determination of the cause of death will be made by a state medical examiner. The examiner, who Carey said avoids responding to press inquiries, will then send the official findings to the

Landlords and tenants in the villages of the Town of Montague (Turners Falls, Millers Falls, Lake Pleasant, Montague City, and Montague Center) are invited to join neighbors for a free workshop hosted by Drawdown Montague on Monday, June 24, from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls.

Learn about free energy assessments, 75% off insulation, and free light bulbs. Buildings with tenants whose income qualifies may be eligible for free replacement refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, and complete weatherizing.

The event includes free food and beverages. *Se habla español*. Landlords and tenants from other towns are welcome.

Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center will be offering **three outdoor yoga and hiking sessions** this summer from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on June 27, July 25, and August 22 (Thursday evenings).

Each class will be at a different location, and will take place rain or shine. (Yoga will be indoors in the event of wet weather.) Pre-register by calling (800) 859-2960.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

Montague town clerk.

“It could take a long time,” said Carey.

The cautious response of public officials may reflect a concern that publicity about suicides, including those caused by jumping from bridges, will encourage “copycat” attempts. The website reportingon-suicide.org states that “more than 50 research studies worldwide have found that certain types of news coverage can increase the likelihood of suicide in vulnerable individuals.”

Williams said he did not believe that suicide attempts on the smaller bridges that cross the canal are common. This contrasts with the frequent attempts made at the French King Bridge on Route 2, which hovers 140 feet over the Connecticut River. After many years of local advocacy, the state may soon erect a suicide prevention barrier on that bridge.

At the time of the incident last Friday, water in the canal was only a few feet from the bottom of the Fifth Street bridge. However, the flow was extremely fast, with potentially dangerous currents, according to Laster.

If you or someone you know is at risk of suicide, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8235). The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Western MA, according to its Facebook page, is a chapter of the “leading national not-for-profit organization exclusively dedicated to understanding and preventing suicide through research, education, and advocacy...”

The foundation, which is not an “intervention organization,” will be hosting a walk on September 29 beginning at the Greenfield Energy Park at 9 a.m. The organization’s contact number is (413) 387-3770.

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SCENE REPORT from pg A1

How far removed it all was from the old days of home-grown, and the sense of spirit that led me, circa 1975, to chant to my plants in the hope they would flourish in their Amherst woodland hideaway.

I was stunned by the adaptations now fostered by technology to make the growing process into an industrial park manufacturing facility that will consume an estimated \$30,000 of electricity each month: state-of-the-art filters, insulation, security doors and cameras, propane and CO₂ extraction chambers, seven growing rooms, a concrete vault to store products in, fire-rated clean room PVC boards in many rooms instead of plain sheetrock, locked dumpsters, a commercial kitchen with a walk-in freezer, a Humboldt County-style curing room, and more.

Seth Rutherford, sales director and one of four co-founders at 253 Farmacy, did most of the talking on the tour. In the future retail store, he handed out a spiral-bound Cannabis Guidebook that 253 had designed to inform customers how to “Keep it Legal” and “Keep it Healthy.” Inside the booklet, there is advice on how to figure dosage for all the different products and methods of delivery, and also a Cannabis Journal, where you can make notes on your experience at different dosages, if you are so inclined to document things like that.

There is also a smaller handout that will go with every purchase, explaining legalities and some health information, as well as a Montague-specific fact sheet they have prepared with information about where to purchase lock boxes for one’s stash, and where to get help.

Principal Richard Martin asked if the company would send speakers to the schools, which would make a firmer impression, he thought, than just putting printed information in front of the kids. This year, he said, two students were removed from the school by ambulance due to vaping.

Rutherford offered to speak at the school, even though, he said, his background is in building and construction.

253 will be growing marijuana, and processing it onsite into as many different products as you can think of – and some you might have not yet heard of. Most of the attendees were at least middle-aged, and Montague town administrator Steve Ellis was compelled to ask if the lighters in the store were just lighters, or had some other strange and special use. (They were, indeed, just lighters!)

There are facilities and accessories at the Farmacy for creating and consuming concentrated products that 253 says are aimed at a market of younger, heavy party-ers in their 20s and 30s: stuff like “glass” and “shatter.”

Retail manager Steve Tremblay explained that they want to be an all-inclusive store, where people can get all their supplies in one place, as well as 253 “swag” such as hats, T-shirts, and water bottles. “We hope people will make it a journey to come here. We want to offer white-glove service here. Other shops have opened, and they wanted to be the first. We want to be the best,” Steve said. He compared their future product to a fine bourbon, and anticipates their biggest consumer group to be those over 40 years old.

Someone asked if it was a cash business, due to the fact that it is still illegal on a federal level. Rutherford explained that the store will accept debit cards, cash, and “CannaPay,” which is an app like Apple Pay that debits your bank account. The website for CannaPay says it specializes in “high-risk payment solutions.”

In an effort to make the place an inviting destination, 253 is not installing security guards at the door, but will have remote surveillance in place. A waiting area attached to the store – “head shop” it will never be, in my mind, even though the paraphernalia was plentiful – has overstuffed lounge chairs and an assortment of cannabis memorabilia from the days of illegality,

such as magazines and bumper stickers. As some part of a mandate for these types of businesses, they are required to contribute 150 hours of community service and pay local impact fees. Ellis commented that Montague will be carefully earmarking the funds so that they don’t just go into the general town fund, but toward some type of harm reduction, likely involving public education.

Rutherford said they already sent a crew to downtown Turners Falls to help Owen Wormser mulch planters as part of their community service hours, and are open to hearing more ideas. He also has pledged to make additional \$15,000 of company donations to different organizations each year, on top of these other obligations.

A complete tour through the maze of rooms for manufacturing, growing, and processing was made, but mostly we were seeing white walls, metal studs, HVAC, and lots of power supply boxes. The company is expecting to start growing this summer, and when they open they will be selling product they have purchased wholesale until the crop comes in six months later.

I must admit to feeling fatigued at the end of the tour. The image of cannabis as a gourmet product within an industry which required an extremely high entry fee to participate in was somewhat depressing. I wondered about the carbon footprint of a gram of the stuff after it had been through this million-dollar process. I wondered, even, about the spirit of the plant as it gets forced into abundance in this strange and artificial environment.

On the other hand, there will be 40 to 50 decent jobs opening up, and benefits paid directly to the town. Direct taxation has proven very unpopular, so “impact taxes” are one way to raise money. And the quality of life for some people may be improved by having access to legal marijuana. Perhaps there will even be a reduction in the use of alcohol and nicotine?



NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Library Solar Sent to Special Town Meeting

By KATIE NOLAN

Late on Monday night, after a long discussion, the Erving selectboard signed the warrant for the June 25 special town meeting. The most expensive item on the warrant, and the source of most of the discussion, is an article asking the voters to authorize an additional \$550,000 for the solar array and for fixtures, furniture, and equipment (FF&E) at the new library building.

Erving residents approved building a new library in 2017, at an estimated cost of \$4.7 million. In 2018, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) granted the town \$2.7 million toward building the new library. However, the bid for the construction of the building was higher than expected, and a \$65,000 generator was not included in the project costs. In May, the only bid the town received for installing the photovoltaic (PV) array for the new building was for \$325,000, also higher than expected.

At its June 3 meeting, the board considered whether the PV array could be eliminated from the project, or whether the MBLC grant could be renegotiated because of the higher costs. However, according to an email from MBLC cited by selectboard chair Jacob Smith at Monday’s meeting, the PV array is a material part of the project, and elimination of the array could result in a \$175,000 reduction in the grant.

The array is intended to generate 80% of the electricity needs for the building, and including it provides 11 of the 40 points needed to qualify for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building certification. If the building achieves that certification,

the town will receive an additional \$100,000 grant from MLBC.

In addition, Smith said that it is estimated that the array will pay for itself in six years.

Finance committee member Daniel Hammock commented that the selectboard and finance committee “have done due diligence” on the financial issues for the PV array and that, with the planet warming, citizens want to know that “Erving is doing its part in having good, clean energy.”

Selectboard member William Bembury said, “The cost will only go up as time goes on. We need to move forward, and include solar as part of the project.”

Selectboard member Scott Bastarache said it would be problematic to renegotiate the grant for the project without the PV array and that he was “in favor of going forward – it was part of the project from day one.”

On the FF&E, Hammock commented that the town didn’t want to tell patrons of the new building to “bring your own chair.”

Library director Barbara Friedman told the board that estimates for FF&E had ranged from \$279,000 to \$180,000, but she felt that the lower amount was “a figure we can work with.”

Jacob Smith commented that “\$180,000 feels too lean to me,” and said, “I don’t want to go back again” and ask for more money for the project after this ATM.

Finance committee member Debra Smith suggested a total of \$225,000 to ensure that all of the FF&E elements, including furniture, computers, security, and landscaping, would be covered. “If landscaping isn’t done at the start, it

falls off the list,” she said.

Building committee chair Mackensey Bailey said that the committee “is trying to be fiscally responsible. I would rather vote for \$225,000 than next year having a landscape article next year. Just do it and be done with it so it can look nice.” Jacob Smith said, “I expect the committee will still be frugal.”

The board and finance committee voted to set the FF&E expense at \$225,000. Combined with the \$325,000 for the PV array, the total for the article is \$550,000.

Not Borrowing

Having decided on the amount of additional funding to request, the board and finance committee discussed how to pay for it. In a memo presented at the June 3 meeting, treasurer Julie Wonkka recommended that, for major capital projects, the town use existing funds from stabilization and avoid loan origination and interest fees. Wonkka also recommended that the town have an annual plan to replenish funding in the stabilization account.

Jacob Smith said that if stabilization funds were used for the library building costs, the lost income from investment would be 2%, while the cost of borrowing would be 3.6% to 4%. He recommended using stabilization funds and putting MBLC reimbursement money directly into stabilization.

Debra Smith said that about one-third of the total building cost would return to the town relatively quickly, in the form of the MBLC reimbursements.

Jacob Smith recommended replacing any stabilization funds used to fund the library building within five years.

Employee Raises

Another article on the warrant sets a 2% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for town employees and establishes a \$50,000 fund for wage adjustments, to be based on an as-yet unfinished wage classification study.

The selectboard hired the UMass-Boston Collins Center for Public Management to conduct a study to align town job descriptions with the work that employees actually perform and to compare Erving’s wages with wages in comparable towns. The board did not include a COLA or merit raises in the FY’20 budget voted at annual town meeting, because they wanted to base the compensation schedule on the comparative wage study.

Although the deadline for receiving the study had passed, the Collins Center had not yet sent it, explaining that there were issues with obtaining information from comparable towns.

Other Business

Other articles on the warrant include accepting the town report, paying a bill from FY’18, transferring money from the consulting account to pay for a planning report for Erving Center, and establishing a limit for the library’s fees and fines revolving fund.

The board voted to sign an inter-governmental agreement with Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), to have the MassDOT contractor install an underground forced sewer main under Northfield Road near Care Drive at the same time as sidewalk construction is done in the area. The cost to the town is \$67,150.

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GILL from page A1
per \$1,000. Total taxable prop-erty in the town was valued to be \$158,308,636 for FY’20. The projected tax rate would leave the town \$189,534 below the maxi-mum levy amount allowed under Proposition 2-1/2.

Factors cited for the tax rate increase were the expectation of receiving \$10,000 less state mon-ey in FY’20, due to the state’s correction of a calculation error in the value of taxable land it owns in Gill; an increase of \$10,000 to the assessor’s overlay account; and designating money to pay down the loan on the Mariamante property at an accelerated rate.

Other Articles

Selectboard chair John Ward not-ed that the \$2,000 to be transferred from unappropriated funds to the energy stabilization fund in Arti-cle 24, represents “only a part of the savings” generated by the town converting its streetlights to ener-gy-efficient LEDs in 2015.

Article 25 reduces the amount of unappropriated funds (free cash) to be used to reduce the tax rate and sta-bilize the tax levy, from the amount of \$49,000 in FY’19, to \$43,000 in FY’20. Purington said this reduction was made due to less free cash being available, and a desire to wean the town off using it in this way.

Other uses of free cash included \$4,656 for the purchase of a truck for the Gill-Montague Regional School District in Article 14, \$5,330 for work on sidewalks at Turners Falls High School in Article 15, \$38,461 towards the Gill elementary school electrical system in Article 16, \$15,000 for work on the Riverside building in Article 22, and \$15,000 to establish an “air pack” stabliza-tion fund for the fire department.

With the warrant having been posted previously – and finalized and signed by the selectboard – in the words of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at the end of the document, the constable is now di-rected to “Hereof fail not, and make due return of this warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting, as foresaid.”

Town meeting will take place at the town hall on Monday, June 17, at 6 p.m.

Town Clerk

The board recently received two applications for the position of act-ing town clerk. At the previous se-lectboard meeting, current assistant town clerk Doreen Stevens present-ed her resume and answered ques-tions from the board. At Monday’s meeting, Gill resident Susan Mc-Comb did the same.

At the beginning of the discus-sion, board member Randy Croch-ier gave an “off the cuff” descrip-tion of the position as having two major responsibilities, saying he often described each of them as the clerk’s “number one” job: keeper of the records, and keeping the board legal. “It’s the checks and balances in the democracy,” he said. He ad-ded that the clerk also takes care of elections, and the posting of min-utes and meetings.

John Ward also spoke about the legal implications of what the board does, and the assistance pro-vided by the clerk.

McComb asked if Hods-don-Mayo would be available for assistance if necessary. Ward re-plied that she was going to stay on as the assessor’s clerk, and should

be available to help the acting town clerk. Crochier said he didn’t want to speak for Hodsdon-Mayo, but didn’t think she would let someone “just sink.”

Ward said there was an appear-ance that the clerk worked for the board, because the board was mak-ing the decision on the temporary appointment, but that the entire town would be the decision-mak-er in the next election. He said the fact that under ordinary circum-stances the voters decide who the town clerk will be shows who the clerk works for and answers to: the townspeople of Gill.

All three board members com-mented that they were impressed with McComb and her qualifications. At the conclusion of the discussion Ward said, “Well boys, the three of us have a tough job.” He then noted that the board does all of its delibera-tions in front of the camera, and they proceeded to deliberate.

Crochier began by saying it was also tough because the board was always looking for people who want to do things for the town, and it would be hard to have to turn one away, adding, “I don’t think we go wrong either way.”

Ward echoed the sentiment, and posed the question of wheth-er someone who’s put in 12 years as the voluntary, unpaid, assistant should be rewarded for her service to the town, or should the board try to bring someone else along to do for the town.

Crochier said he was leaning on the 12 years of experience, and made a motion to appoint Stevens to the temporary position, begin-ning July 1, and lasting through May 2021 election. He said his rea-soning for that term length was to give the acting clerk the opportuni-ty to go through a whole election cycle in 2020 without being on the ballot herself, in order to gain ex-perience before potentially needing to run an election in which she was also a candidate.

Purington agreed with the term length in the motion, pointing out that it would be hard for a tempo-rary town clerk to be responsible for running an election, during which she could not be in the building be-cause her name was on the ballot.

Board member Greg Snedeker turned attention back to the can-didates, saying that retiring clerk Hodsdon-Mayo’s recommendation of Stevens carried a lot of weight for him. Referencing McComb’s recently acquired accounting deg-ree, he suggested she might want to look into training sessions for town accountants that the Franklin Regional Council of Governments is about to start.

The board then voted to approve the motion to appoint Stevens to the position.

McComb asked whether the po-sition of assistant town clerk would become available, and Crochier re-plied that by statute, the only per-son that can appoint an assistant is the town clerk. The board thought it was a good idea for McComb to ap-proach Stevens once she got her feet wet, and suggested she also look into other opportunities to work for the town, saying there were al-ways many boards, committees, and groups looking for help.

The only other business prior to the joint session with the finance committee was an announcement that the sheriff’s office’s commu-nity service program had begun paint-ing the Riverside building



By JERRI HIGGINS

Among the regular business the Leverett selectboard discussed at their meeting Tuesday night were difficult and contentious ongo-ing concerns over untenable road conditions, as well as a potential lawsuit over Health Savings nego-tiations with the teachers’ union, which has raised unhealthy blood pressure levels.

Present at the meeting were town administrator Marjorie Mc-Ginnis, selectboard chair Peter d’Errico and members Julie Shive-ly, and Tom Hankinson, and nearly a dozen attendees.

The Leverett Elementary School teachers’ union has threatened the town with a lawsuit, claiming un-fair labor practices, saying employ-ees weren’t given proper notice of a change to their health insurance copays.

D’Errico described the situation: “Basically we have been threatened with a lawsuit by the Leverett Ele-mentary teachers’ union because the Hampshire County Insurance Trust has revamped their plans, and that this was done without proper notice to them. And so we said there is no way we can just agree with that, and now they are threatening to sue us for an unfair labor practice. I am just stunned, actually.”

“And they overspent their health insurance by \$20 or \$30 thousand,” Shively added. The issue, she said, involves a lawsuit already filed by the union to “enhance retiree health benefits.”

“And that case has cost us up-wards of \$20 thousand so far,” d’Errico continued, “and if we don’t win it, it’s going to cost upwards of \$60 thousand. The health line in the elementary school budget just went over budget by close to \$40 thou-sand, and now we have this.”

The Hampshire County Insurance Trust, under statutory procedures, revised the plans changing the co-pays, which d’Errico says will save the town of Leverett “something like \$21 thousand, starting this year.”

The union responded by mail that it was not given appropriate notice, and intended to sue for half or more of the \$21,000.

“This is just happening today, and it feels like extortion to me,” d’Erri-co said. “We got a letter saying ‘ei-ther you agree to pay us this money, or we’re going to bring a lawsuit.’”

“And there’s no willingness to, say, cut staffing or whatever, to fund all this stuff,” Shively said, “so it gets to be pretty frustrating – and frankly, the [current] health insurance plan is pretty good. We could go with the GIC, the plan the state was pushing, and that’s not nearly as good a plan as the one we have.”

The board remarked that the teachers had not sat down and talked with them, with Hankinson adding, “Their first step could have been, ‘this doesn’t make sense to us – can we sit down and talk about it?,’ rather than threaten a lawsuit. But they didn’t.”

The board discussed recom-mending that teachers come in and talk with them before going for-ward with any lawsuits. Hankin-son said he wondered whether the teachers all understood what the union was doing in their name, and

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Teachers Threaten to Sue Over Copay Hike; Highway Department Struggles with Staffing

how it could affect Leverett’s fi-nances as a whole.

Highway Department

Highway superintendent David Finn responded to the selectboard’s request to review a six-month plan his department made in December.

“We’re trying to keep up the best we can, with the amount of help I have,” Finn reported. The depart-ment has been black-top patching roads when the weather is accept-able, and has had issues with not only the winter and spring condi-tions, but with staffing as well.

“One of the issues you’ve had since you started work here was keeping a full staff,” Hankinson told him, “and... other manpower situations. You have a problem be-cause Leverett doesn’t necessarily pay the people the way some other towns do, but we’re fairly close. But the question I have is, what can we do to engender more teamwork, or more morale, and a greater sense of continuity in the highway depart-ment so [the workers] feel as though they’re part of a team... part of a town, I guess? I’m concerned that that’s not really what’s happening. We’re losing people too quickly.”

“I’ve been working with the guys and encouraging a team-type atmosphere,” Finn responded. “I go out there working side by side with them on the roads, in the ditches, doing the paving or black top re-pair. Quite honestly, I don’t know if there’s anything that can be done – people left because of pay.”

D’Errico remarked that “the time has come for a more open assess-ment of what’s happened to the de-partment. Part of it is turnover, part of it is the grading, part of it is work that is not being done – it’s just a general mix of things.”

“And also,” Shively added, “sort of being on top of things as they’re originally reported. I think that’s been an issue, in certain cases, and trying to be prepared ahead of time for certain things.”

Finn and the board also discussed an upcoming staffing issue during a two-week period this summer when staff will be out longer than expect-ed, due to a National Guard commit-ment and a planned vacation. Finn said he would discuss and resolve the issue over the coming weeks.

The discussion ended with Finn repeating that he felt his department was doing the best it could given staffing and weather challenges, and the board saying they would require further assessment of the is-sues described.

Library Trustees

Library director Natane Halasz and library trustees Lisa Werner, Chris Condit, and Joan Godsey thanked the selectboard for ap-proving a financial bequest of over \$91,000 from the estate of Jonathan Van Steenberg.

Halasz remarked that it was a “very opportune time that we re-ceived this bequest,” as the trustees are starting a five-year planning and needs assessment process.

Selectboard members asked what was planned for the received be-quest, and Halasz responded that the five-year plan can include anything from the library mission to program-ming and collection goals, as well as

facility improvements.

There was discussion on recruit-ing folks for the planning board. Condit remarked that “we legally can’t have a majority of trustees on [the planning board],” and are working on getting needs assess-ment surveys out to the community. A long discussion about issues with the library’s geothermal heating system followed.

“I’d like to have you talk to the people in Erving,” d’Errico told them, referring to issues at that town’s senior center. “They’ve gone through this same process you’re de-scribing. You would do well to find out their experiences, because they have tried multiple solutions and spent a lot of money on it.”

McGinnis added that there is an ADA grant for improvements, spe-cifically for ramps and sidewalks, which could help address accessi-bility issues.

Fire Department

Fire chief John Ingram came be-fore the board to address aging ve-hicles and repair expenses, and re-questing a transfer of about \$8,000 to deal with these issues, which was granted.

Residential safety was also dis-cussed, including hoarding and oth-er unsafe conditions. Ingram said it would be “a process that we will work out – it’s not going to be a quick process – but we’ll finally get a plan, and we’ll all work together and see how it goes.”

Ingram said he was holding monthly department head meetings at the safety complex that will meet about once a month on Tuesdays.

He added that his department was glad to be receiving a DCR grant that will start July 1 to help “cover things like gloves, and a chainsaw – stuff like that.”

Other Business

Brian McHugh of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Re-development Authority (FCRHRA) updated the board on the progress of the town’s FY’17 community de-velopment block grant (CDBG), and the one-year extension of a housing rehabilitation program.

Their goal for the program, McHugh said, “is to address 24 units in the four towns this is part of: in Leverett, Sunderland, Deer-field, and Conway.”

McHugh said that Leverett should contact the FCRHRA when health and safety issues of the sort Ingram mentioned arise, as they may be able to help address some of them. Applicants have to fall within certain income guidelines, but peo-ple needing help with those issues are likely to qualify, and should contact the housing authority.

McGinnis spoke about future CDBG projects, saying that “one of the things we’re trying to do... is to hopefully use CDBG [funding] to help offset the costs to the Amherst water line connection.”

The board and McHugh discussed what CDBG funds could be used for, and how they would be authorized, and determined that more explora-tion would be needed.

Fay Zipkowitz was appointed to the council on aging, and Joan Deely was appointed to the conservation commission unanimously.

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GRADUATES from page A1

Indeed, already “being the change” were the individuals seated in the gymnasium, wearing the gown color of their choice, regardless of their gender. Bucking a dress code tradition perceived as sexist and discriminatory, here some women wore blue and some men chose to wear white, the opposite of the norm. In their years at the high school, change of tradition was an alive learning for this class and was



Valedictorian Anna Kochan addresses her classmates.

pronounced in the speech of the class valedictorian, Anna Kochan, who honoured the bravery of these graduates. She stressed the importance of adapting to and accepting change in life, while also encouraging her classmates to “fight for what you believe in,” and finishing with a wish for all “ that you continue to recognize injustices and take action against them, thereby improving your own life and the life of your community.”

Many of the students who received their diplomas on Friday, along with a single pink rose, had spent 13 years of their young lives inhabiting the halls and classrooms of GMRSD schools. Senior class president Jack Putala reminded fellow graduates of these years – the friends, family and teachers, as well as the adventures – and cautioned them to value and retain the treasures they hold, and to not, in their haste to embrace the future, dismiss them and lose sight of their significance.

Putala stressed the nature of life as a continuum, rather than a series of beginnings and endings. He received a wild round of applause for his references to rappers Kanye West and Snoop Dogg, the latter of whom he referred to as a “real genius,” quoting: “If it’s flipping hamburgers at McDonald’s, be the best hamburger flipper in the world. Whatever it is you do, you have to master your craft.”

Salutatorian Cailyn Gobeil followed with a short speech which brought the bittersweet to mind. She spoke of her class as strong-willed and determined, and recalled herself as a “small child with pigtails and a backpack bigger than I was...”

I watched as the dry eyes of those around me misted over at this line, and had to check my own as images of the small children who wait at the downtown school bus stop on my corner each weekday, mightily hefting their own oversized backpacks, flashed before me.

Cailyn’s voice, speaking the words of a referenced Christopher Reeve quote, rang through the room: “So many of our dreams seem impossible, then they seem improbable, and then, when we summon the

Turners Falls High School Class of 2019

Dylan Xavier Allen
Alazay Anthony Bauch
Samantha Lee Bocon*
Lindsey Claire Bourbeau
Ryan Michael Campbell
Dominic Philip Carme
Reilan James Castine
Andy James Craver
Owen Patrick Darling
Ioanis Panagiotis Dimitriou
Kyle Andrew Dodge*
Ruben Galves Perez**
Katherine Elida Garcia
Cailyn Marie Gobeil
Alexander James Houghton-Miles
Jenna Ann Jacobsen*
Anna Maureen Kochan*
Jacob Owen LaBelle
Alexis Celine Lacey
Dizarre Yarelis Lopez
Garrett Steven Martel
Bianca Marie Martin
Katherine Vanessa Moreno-Sibrian
Tyler Michael Murray-Lavin
Josiah Curtis Murry
Ryan Edward Norwich
Tyler William Noyes

Mireya Janet Ortiz*
Edison Ovalle-Bartolon
Avias Xavier Politas
John Colby Putala
Summer River Rain
Nestor Efrain Rodriguez
Jovanni Ruggiano
Jeremiah Gabriel Russell
Kallie Sierra Ryan
Hunter Cole Sanders
Isaac Leonard Savage
Sarah Joan Studlien
Holly Marie Tetreault
John Carlos Torres-Benvenutty
Will Ethen Turn
Victoria Veaudry
Thao Hoang Lien Vo
Bryce Andrew Waldron
Sarah Christine Waldron*
Hannah Kasandra Welles
Jakob David Wilson
Rayne Marie Wood
Cassidhe Maeve Wozniak*

* National Honor Society

** Seal of Biliteracy

will, they soon become inevitable.”

Moved to belonging, I now stood clapping and scanned the rather diverse group of young adults about to receive their diplomas. Surrounding me were the joyous faces of a family I recognized as neighbors of mine. I clapped then with genuine pride, knowing some of the challenges this family had to overcome on their road to this day with their daughter.

Not unlike a point made by superintendent Michael Sullivan in his speech that followed, it was by focussing on the power of hope and optimism as a choice, even in the

face of difficulties, that had brought them to this point.

School committee chair Jane Oakes left us all with some wisdom from a gentle bear. “If you ever find,” she said, “that you feel a little unsure of yourself, remember what that great philosopher Winnie-the-Pooh said: ‘You’re braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think!’”

And then they walked. Beneath and through a ceremonial floral trelis, and on to and across the stage, they walked. Each to their own individualized round of applause.



NOTES FROM THE GMRSD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Members Debate School Committee’s Power, Role

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – At their Tuesday night meeting, members of the regional school committee grappled with their unpopularity in the district, and debated the limits of their power to effect change.

The theme was set early in the evening, as former district employee and parent Meagan Yabrosky began a public comment with a criticism that the committee claims to be “just here for budgetary reasons.”

“In most cases, this is the only way for you and the public to hear what is really going on in our schools,” she said, and then recounted a history of poor district support for her child, who dealt with the after-effects of trauma, and who she now chooses out.

“My neighbors also school-choice their children to the Greenfield system, due to the understanding that they have more support there, and out of concern for racial profiling,” she said.

Yabrosky added that as an employee, pursuing grievances through the chain of command, “I ask you to believe me when I tell you I, along with other employees, have done just this, and the issues seem to vanish after we leave the office of administration.”

The public comment period continued with a number of voices of support for Sheffield Elementary teacher Laurie White, who was not hired back for next year by principal Melissa Pitrat.

It was the second consecutive

meeting at which supporters of White, including young students, read statements of support.

Other Business

By policy, the committee does not engage directly with public commenters, but the dynamic of feeling unable to respond or act on expressed public grievance was addressed later in the meeting during a broad discussion about the state of the committee.

The official topic that led to this discussion was a report-back, from four members and superintendent Michael Sullivan, of a listening session they had attended with Great Falls Middle School teacher Jennifer Rehehan’s eighth-grade social studies class. Ms. Renehan’s students articulated a long list of grievances.

“There’s some really heavy things on there,” Thomasina Hall commented. “Talking about bullying and equity and discipline... What are you going to do? Now what?”

“They feel like outsiders in their own school,” Michael Langknecht observed. “We need to talk with them more regularly. This was an eye-opening moment.”

“I went to the graduation on Friday,” Cassie Damkoehler said. “Our community does not like us... I think two people clapped for Dr. Sullivan, and maybe five people clapped for [committee chair] Jane [Oakes]. I felt like I was sitting there with a bulls-eye on me.”

“How do we fix this?” she continued. “How many surveys are we going to pass out? How many kids

are going to leave, how many families are going to lose?”

Erving representative Theresa Kolodziej argued that the committee should demand regular accountability reports from administrators on topics, such as harassment among students, that the public looks to the committee to solve.

“Just that kind of reporting, I think, will go a long way,” she said. “There is a lack of confidence in this committee.”

“The biggest elephant [in the room] is lack of community support,” said Heather Katsoulis. “We are all working very hard for this school system... They’re not clapping for us? Really? We’re the volunteers of this town.... We had such great turnout for the mascot, but I’m sorry, that is a very small problem with our community. Where is our community now, when we’re talking about all the important things that we need to talk about?”

“The elephant in the room is the fact that the community doesn’t trust you because you don’t listen,” said Hall. “The civil rights thing all of a sudden just disappeared in the air... The bullying thing is a big issue. That’s something that you have to respond to, not something ‘that’s it, you know, that’s not our responsibility.’ Yes, it is your responsibility!”

“We have the whole [equity] task force, and no one volunteers for it,” Katsoulis replied. “We’re doing things, but they’re not being seen.... Why is no one joining? Probably because everyone says it’s not going to do anything!”

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FLY DAY from page A1

“We have a national champion: Dean Lampron, the first place free-style champion, flying a 40% plane, one with a ten-foot wingspan. He is very impressive to watch; he will do twirls six inches above the ground. I’m nowhere near his level, although I’ve been doing it for ten years. He is incredible,” Korpiewski elaborates. Korpiewski himself flies a 46% biplane that also has a ten-foot wingspan.

Club members will demonstrate combat with foam airplanes that have 3-foot wide wingspans and long streamers. “The idea is to cut the streamers,” says Korpiewski, “but often the airplane gets cut. We will have maybe five planes at once fighting. It is very exciting to watch, and to hear.”

FPV is the latest trend, and it involves drone flying wearing special goggles that allow the pilot to see what the drone sees. You can race between trees, around a flag course, and in a lot of tight places with FPV. The club will have a TV hooked up so people can see what the pilot and drone are doing. Korpiewski notes that drone racing is even becoming an ESPN sport.

The Club’s field has a 54-by-300 foot runway, covered with US-230 aero-modeling fabric. This runway alternative is easy to install, durable, and a fraction of the cost of asphalt runways. The club has been using it for about five years now. They are the only club in New England that has that style of runway, which is more popular in the Midwest.

There have been no tears or rips yet, and they expect that it will last another ten years or so. Prior to the use of this geo-textile, the runway was just crushed stone, “which likes to chew up the propellor tips,” according to Korpiewski.

The vice president says he has been in the hobby since 2006, when the club was down to only two

members. Since that time, he has initiated a lot of public outreach, which has revived the club and attracted about two dozen more.

“I live in Millers Falls, and I have lived there since 2000, but I did not know about the club. There were no signs, no advertising, nothing,” recalls Korpiewski, who also served as the club president for several years. “The first thing I did when I was president was put on a public event, in 2011. After that, 13 people came to sign up that next Tuesday. Our biggest event was in 2012: we had 1,000 people come for Father’s Day.”

The Franklin County club is one of three left in western Mass. One reason, according to Korpiewski, is that people have the perception that it is a really expensive hobby. This was true in the past, he says, but not so much anymore. To combat this stigma, he once set up a table at the Franklin County Fair with a cheap model airplane on it, and had people guess how much it cost. Most people estimated it to be thousands of dollars, and were shocked to learn that it was a beginner model that only cost \$100, including the controller.

“It used to be you had to buy a kit, and spend hundreds of hours building it, too,” Korpiewski says. “Now they create ARF kits – Almost Ready to Fly. You can just build one in ten hours. Because in our culture now, we don’t have that much time to build an airplane...”

The other challenge hobbyists are dealing with is FAA regulation. As model airplane enthusiasts, they need to register with the FAA and put that number on all their planes and drones. This accountability “feels taxing for some of the members,” according to Korpiewski, who says two of them quit flying because they resent government regulation of their hobby. But most members just go online and register for \$5 every three years.

Club members pay dues that allow them to fly at the club seven days a week. The public is invited to come to open fly sessions on Tuesday evenings, starting between 5 and 5:30 p.m. until dark, and on Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., weather dependent. (Due to the close proximity to FCTS playing fields, there is no flying allowed during school sports events.)

During public hours, there are trainers and buddy box systems set up for people to try their hand at flying. Those who already have experience but are not club members are also welcome to fly during the open hours, and on the Fun Fly day as well.

The club’s website has lots of advice on getting started with remote control models, including recommendations for training on various flight simulation programs, choosing beginners plane models, and basic flying – and crashing – advice. Find them at franklinrc.com.

Membership in the club includes field access at the airport every day of the week, with a badge and key code for the clubhouse, and special rates for seniors and juniors. Members are also required to purchase AMA insurance, which costs \$75 a year and provides 2.5 million dollars of coverage for any accidents that might occur: flying into someone or something, for instance. As an added bonus, AMA membership includes a full subscription to a model airplane magazine.

At the special event on Saturday, Cliff’s Backyard BBQ and the Scoop Shack will be providing food and drink. There are bathroom facilities at the field, which is part of the Turners Falls Airport. There will be a 50/50 raffle with some good prizes, according to the Facebook page for the event. Admission is free, with donations welcome, and the rain date will be Sunday, June 23.



SPORTS from page A1

second set. They were shut out in the first 6-love, but in the second set, they won four games.

So the sun sets on the 2019 Turners Falls tennis scene. As I’ve said in private to Coach Steven Toulountzis, I think the most valuable thing Coach T. has taught his players is instilling a sense of fair play and good sportsmanship. See you on the courts next spring!

Baseball

Lee 9 – TFHS 3

I’ve been to a lot of baseball games this spring, and Powertown has never failed to entertain. The same goes for Thursday’s game against the Lee Wildcats.

As in the tennis game, which was being played just a few fields away, Lee scored early on the baseball diamond. The Wildcats put two runs across in the first inning, and another one in the bank in the second.

So Blue was facing a 0-3 deficit when they came up to bat in the bottom of the second. Two quick outs later, and they were down to their last out. But Jack Putala drew a walk, and then Jacob Burnett clocked a HR to make the score 3-2.

In the third, Kyle Dodge hit a single and advanced on an error, and Jon Fritz scorched a standup double, knotting the game at 3 after three.

Turners Falls has been in a lot of close games this season. Some they won; others they lost. In Thursday’s game, they let a tie slip through their fingers, as Lee scored six unanswered runs to upset Powertown and

end their season.

As I’ve written before, unless you win the state title, every play-off team’s season ends with a loss. So buck up, Blue, and focus on the positive: the clutch hits, the amazing catches, the perfect pitch, and, of course, the fun times you’ve had playing this game!

Softball

TFHS 16 – Gateway 2

TFHS 10 – Mount Greylock 3

One team that didn’t win the state title last year is the Turners Falls softball team. It may sound funny, but not winning the state title is the exception, rather than the rule, for the Thunder Women. Their titles have been hard-fought, and of course, nothing is guaranteed, especially with a bunch of Berkshire teams trying to prove they haven’t got their due respect.

But judging from their first two playoff wins, it’s going to take some pretty determined teams to knock Powertown out.

On Sunday, June 9, the Gateway Gators of Huntington entered the Thunderdome. Powertown, fresh off 1-run battles with three of the best teams in the state, shook off the dust and pummeled the Gators in the second round of the MIAA D-3 playoffs. Blue pounded out 12 runs in the first, and that’s all she wrote. They eventually pulled out the 16-2 mercy win.

Powertown placed 14 hits and dominated in the long ball. Jade Tyler hit a home run and a double, Hailley Bogusz got a double and a triple, Aly Murphy hit two doubles, and

Olivia Whittier got three hits on the day, including a double.

Then on Wednesday, the Mount Greylock Mounties made the trek over the mountain to challenge Turners. This game was played in neutral territory at UMass-Amherst.

Again, Blue got on top early. Taylor Murphy clocked a stand-up triple and Jade Tyler hit a SAC to draw first blood. In the second inning, 12 Turners girls came up to the plate, and after two innings, it was 10-0.

A couple of unfortunate errors in the top of the fifth allowed the Mountain to score runs. The second batter of the inning reached base on a fielding error, and the next hit an RBI triple. Two more runs scored when a throw to home was a split second late and the throw to second base went into the outfield, allowing the runner to score from second.

Lexy Lacey hit a standup triple in the bottom of the fifth, but the inning ended with a double play and Turners had to settle for a 10-3 win.

Taylor Murphy got three hits against Greylock, including a triple; Whittier and Lacey had two hits each, and Jade Tyler had a double and three RBIs.

So the Turners Falls Thunder is still alive, and will return to the Western Mass Championship Game for, what, the 16th straight year? I lose track.

Blue Thunder defends their Western Mass title this Saturday against the McCann Tech Green Hornets at UMass’ Sortino Field.



Next week: End game.



MILLERS ON THE MOVE
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LOOKING BACK

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was June 11, 2009: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Q&A On Biomass

On Thursday, about 100 residents of area towns brought their concerns about the 47-MW biomass electricity generating plant proposed for the I-91 industrial park in Greenfield to a question and answer session with project developer Matt Wolfe of Madera Energy.

The two-hour session at the Turners Falls High School auditorium, moderated by Montague’s Ray Godin, began with a 20-minute power point presentation narrated by Wolfe and colleague Cliff Orvedal, outlining the planned design and operation of the wood chip burning plant. A spirited back and forth followed, between the plant’s proponents and the audience.

Janet Sinclair, of Shelburne Falls, led off with a question about levels of radioactive cesium and strontium 90 that may be present in wood ash in the Northeast, an aftermath of fallout from above-ground nuclear weapons testing from the ‘50s and ‘60s. She asked if Wolfe and Orvedal planned to test for radioactive elements in the wood ash generated at their plant.

Orvedal said he was familiar with the study Sinclair had referenced, but said he was unaware of any problems arising from the use of wood ash for soil amendments from the other biomass plants in the region. Others in the audience asked about the carbon footprint of the project, what roads truck traffic would take, air pollution, proximity to other biomass plants, and more.

Town Meeting Looks For Budget Discipline

Montague may have lost a few town meeting members to the gorgeous weather on Saturday, but those who did show up to annual

town meeting were in a questioning mood. The lack of clear plans for reducing future expenses to match anticipated revenues appeared to be at the root of most questions posed by town meeting members.

Town moderator Ray Godin attempted to move the usual first five warrant articles as a package, since they are primarily administrative in nature. But Article 2 permitted town officials to apply for, and accept, various grants, and this was immediately questioned by David Jensen, Precinct 2, who asked if the article was “applicable to future years.”

Precinct 2’s Jeanne Golrick supported Jensen, cautioning that town officials would, in effect, be able to commit to future expenditures without sufficient prior input by town meetings. The fourth article, concerning fiscal year 2010 recommended salaries for elected officials, was also held for separate vote. Both articles subsequently passed, following explanation of their purposes.

For the next hour and twenty minutes, members debated the proposed FY’10 town budget for departmental expenses. Although the total budget of \$6,845,376 represented only a 1.3% increase from last year, a finance committee recommendation to cut \$30,000 from the police overtime budget became the focus of members’ underlying concerns on fiscal discipline.

Essentially, given the deep recession that has pinched state aid and local revenues, town meeting members wanted to know what exactly the town planned to do differently.

The next contentious issue arose at the suggestion by the Gill-Montague school committee that the town meeting members should defeat the district’s own recommended budget, now pegged at \$7,125,199. The rationale given was that state aid estimates were too unstable at this point to approve a final budget.

After several questions and objections, the finance committee’s recommendation ultimately passed.

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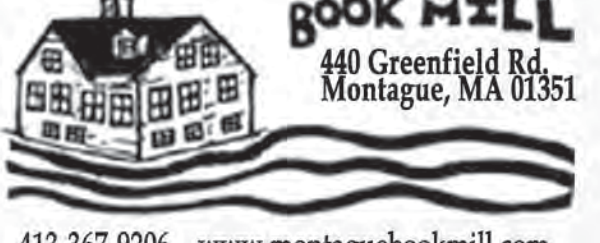
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CONSUL from pg A1

for Carnival. “There’s a lot of ability and creativity in fashion in Trinidad and Tobago,” Laveau explained. “The whole fashion industry is our Carnival.”

Laveau and Cox said that if Montague officially proposes to “twin” the neighborhoods, they would discuss it with city officials in Port of Spain. They gave gifts – small bottles of rum, and steel drum brooches – to their hosts, and heard a little about the virgin sort of environment Richardson had landed in.

“I have hard feelings, because you guys knocked us out of the World Cup,” town planner Walter Ramsey told the dignitaries, to great merriment, before outlining the village’s history.

“We use the river to make power, and many generations of immigrants have come,” Ramsey said. “It’s kind of what’s kept this community going, the different waves of immigrants, and we’ve always been open to the next wave, and the new idea. The last few generations have been about redefining from a post-industrial mill town – what do we do with all these mills, and this great infrastructure that was built for them a century ago?”

Eileen Dowd recalled moving to Turners 15 years ago and hearing “the unmistakable sound: the birdsong of *tap-tapping* hammers throughout the downtown” as buildings were rehabilitated. She recalled the series of Art Walks, where “people who had lived in the town for a long time were wooed out of their area and into the artist studios, to kind of demystify art: they got to see the dusty, dirty side of art as it’s

being created.”

Montague Cultural Council vice-chair Rachel Teumim spoke of the common local practice of using recycled materials in fashion design, and RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto offered to show the visitors around, including a tour of the town-owned Shea Theater.

“I’m excited about programming between the two communities,” LoManto said. “We have some amenities where we can really – not just with the fashion show, but other times during the year – hook up with other creative people between these communities. There’s a lot that can be done, back and forth.”

Franklin County Chamber of Commerce executive director Diana Szyal and marketing manager Lisa Davol also greeted the consuls. “It’s really great to see this kind of work happening – we just want to be supportive,” Davol told them.

Nohham and Jim Cachat of Shutesbury, representing the Native American Inter-Tribal Council of Western Massachusetts and fortuitously in town to help paint the Unity Park fieldhouse, were also on hand.

“I really appreciate your coming this far to make this connection,” Nohham Cachat, who identified as Mohawk and Nipmuc, told them, and shared a history lesson. “It so happens that during the wars of land acquisition here, many thousands of our relatives were taken as prisoners of war, as slaves. The majority of us, three or four thousand, actually went to Trinidad and Tobago. Two thousand more were scattered amongst the lesser Antilles, and a small number ended up in Bermuda...”

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“We’re very honored to be here at a time when people are coming back together,” Cachat added.

Richardson took some time to explain his own vision for his business and fashion shows. “I didn’t want to just do my line of clothing – I wanted to bring the world of cultures together,” he said.

“We wanted people to recognize that there are many aspects to fashion that you don’t connect with.... There’s this creative entrepreneurship that goes on every day in the world: in Africa, in the Caribbean, in different regions of the world. Theirs are not the names that you see as brands, but these are the people who actually create it. Something like 60 million people, mainly women, that actually contribute to everything.”

Richardson praised fashion for its “unifying ability.” “It is very proletariat, it’s very functional: you must wear it. It’s like eating, it’s like drinking water.... When you buy something and you pay a particular price for it, if it’s cheap, that price



Fab owner Richardson (left) receives a gift from Trinidad and Tobago consuls André Laveau and Donna Cox.

has been subsidized.”

The topic again turned to enslavement, and Richardson said a particular focus of Fab is to make sure all workers involved in making the goods the shop sells are fairly compensated.

Richardson is currently organizing a weekend fashion show on September 20 and 21 at Ste.

Anne’s Church in downtown Turners Falls.

Laveau explained Woodbrook’s evolution from a traditionally residential neighborhood to a hub of artistic commerce. “Many of the designers, for some reason, lived in that area, and because of how the properties were structured, they could use their backyards as what we call a mas camp: the place where the costumes are designed and made, for the Carnival bands. Now there’s a few clubs where there are concerts, and restaurants, and so on.”

Cox told the *Reporter* that Woodbrook was “a good hanging-out area – we call it *liming*, hanging out. It’s a middle class area.”

Laveau said that Trinidad and Tobago has been using the twin-cities concept to positive effect with other locations. “There’s concrete action,” he said, though in “softer areas, not necessarily economic” ones. “For instance, there may be a home for boys – they may be taken on a tour to Turners Falls,” he said, and then suggested that journalists could also conduct an exchange.



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Above: Sally Pick writes, “We had an exciting morning in Montague Center. For the third year in a row, a female snapping turtle laid several dozen eggs in the soil, digging a hole first and then covering them. This photo shows her heading back to the wetlands where she came from after doing her motherly duty. In 80 or 90 days, the eggs will hatch, though sadly, many don’t survive their first days.”

No Action Required: A Montague Police Log Retrospective

Compiled by EMILY ALLING Illustrations by NINA ROSSI

Sunday, 10/26/13

1:40 p.m. Caller found what appeared to be an antique grenade while cleaning out closet. Bomb squad summoned. Item determined to be an 18th-century blood pressure cuff.

Thursday, 10/31/13

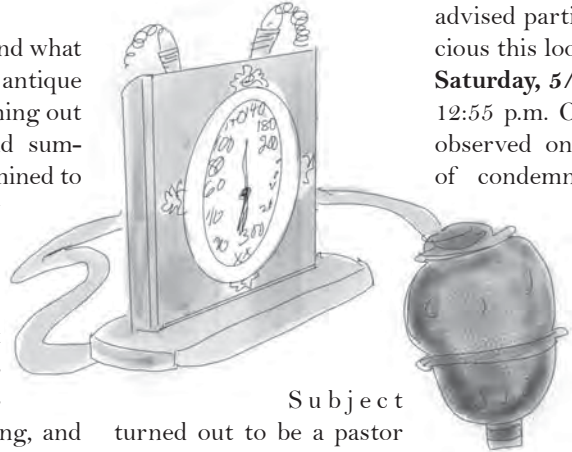
7:26 a.m. Report of possibly intoxicated male acting strangely, yelling, and jumping up and down outside St. Stanislaus Society on K Street. Officers located party, who was not drinking alcohol but was found to be acting a little strangely (howling).

Saturday, 3/1/14

2:22 p.m. Report of three suspicious subjects on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge; parties seen rummaging through backpacks, and one appeared to have a long gun case. Responding officer found that subjects were Hallmark Institute of Photography students. No action required.

Thursday, 3/13/14

9:20 p.m. Suspicious male observed putting something in a trailer at Avenue A and Eleventh Street.



Subject turned out to be a pastor putting a tarp over his trailer. No problems.

Friday, 4/25/14

8:07 a.m. Report of gray playhouse on Fourth Street with a stove pipe coming out of top of structure; there has been talk among residents that this may be a meth lab. Responding officer found nothing drug-related: male resident is an artist; artist’s wife reported that occasional smoke seen coming from structure is from his art projects.

Friday, 5/23/14

6:12 p.m. Officers checking on suspicious activity inside vehicle on Fourth Street. Parties inside vehicle were “making S’mores” using a lighter to melt the marshmallows. Officer

advised parties how suspicious this looked.

Saturday, 5/24/14

12:55 p.m. Open windows observed on second floor of condemned house on

Central Street. Responding officers observed nothing out of the ordinary; first floor in usual state of disarray.

Monday, 5/30/14

11:10 a.m. Suspicious vehicle outside Head Start school on Central Street. Caller advised to have children go inside

while officers investigate. Vehicle occupant is in a band and is sick; was staying in the van so he wouldn’t get the other band members sick. Subject moved along.

Wednesday, 6/4/14

9:34 a.m. Fox reported outside Sheffield Elementary School. Area search negative. Off-duty firefighter called reporting that fox was on Montague Street. Party into station advising that fox was last seen heading towards Turnpike

see **NO ACTION**
page B2



Albyn Davis Shows *Visions* at Shelburne Coop

By NINA ROSSI

SHELBURNE FALLS – Photographs by Albyn Davis are currently featured at the Shelburne Arts Cooperative in an exhibit called *Visions: Realism and Imagination*. Davis is one of the newer members

of the Shelburne Arts Cooperative, which has been in business at 26 Bridge Street for 21 continuous years. No stranger to West County, Davis has lived in Charlemont for over 20 years, although he splits his time between there and New York City, where he and his art historian

wife Betsy maintain an apartment.

Davis has maintained an artistic presence online for several years now. His personal statement on the photo-sharing site Flickr displays a bit of his wry self-deprecation: “Amateur photographer tempting humiliation. My approach: I see something that could become something.”

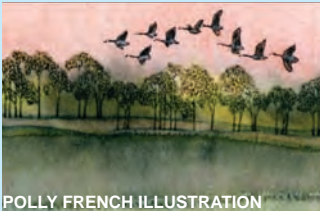
Becoming a member at the Shelburne gallery “was a big step for me,” says Davis. “It was just really pleasing to make it through the jury process.” It has been two years since then, and his gallery sales have helped to confirm his new status as a professional photographer.

He tries to select gallery pieces that might appeal to certain audiences: locals, artists, and so on. Reflecting on some of his sales, he says, “I had a couple of pictures up for the ‘Green’ theme show. One was black and white with a cloud of green smoke, taken at a rally in Milan – it sold in two days. Another one sold to some people from

see **VISIONS** page B4



Double Duomo, mirror-image photograph by Albyn Davis.



WEST ALONG THE RIVER IN THIS GOOD OLD WORLD

By DAVID BRULE

MILLERS RIVER BEND – The month of June has so far been a quieter time down here on The Flat along the west-flowing river. The warbler wave I told you about last story has finally ebbed, and our summer residents, the redstart and yellowthroat, have settled in for the domestic duties of rearing a new generation of songsters.

Skies have been so blue, you must have noticed: cloudless and deep azure, as are the skies above far-away Provence in the south of France. Our woods have a deepening color, new growth creating a wall of green between this old house and the river that has now finally rejoined its banks. The flow has settled in for the summer after the constant high waters of late winter into spring.

Down here on The Flat, our early month of June has been graced by the lovely New England phoebe, demure in her soft Puritan gray and pale white plumage, who has decided to build her nest on our front porch, on the phoebe shelf I put up just for her, years ago.

Back and forth she came and went, bringing in mud, moss, and soft grasses to build a little cup for her eggs. Then she disappeared for days. I was just about to give up on her, and then she was back again! Guess she was off taking advantage of a few days away before settling in and getting stuck with her motherly chores.

On occasion during that downtime, one of the phoebe couple would come back for the night to sleep on the shelf, but then disappear during the day. But now that period is over with, she’s been sitting conscientiously on her nest like a small broody hen, giving me the hairy eyeball if I go out the front door while she’s trying to be invisible and concentrate on her

responsibilities.

If it’s like in years past, pretty soon there’ll be four gaping mouths to feed. That’ll keep the couple busy for weeks, and keep the yard gleaned of pesky flying, biting, insects. But we’ll have to give up front porch sitting for awhile, and time our exits out the front door, so as to not disturb the phoebe routine.

Nicky, our Siberian pup, turned up a wood turtle in the back yard the other day. How the turtle got through the kennel fencing all around the yard I’ll never know, but Nick spent time puzzling over this box of a shell, clamped shut, the turtle within not coming out for anything in the world, until the sniffing and pawing of the curious dog, and the photo opportunity session, were over.

This species is of special concern in New England, and has even caused construction projects to be halted and abandoned, to protect its habitat. That’s fine with us. Reluctantly, we put her back into the woods, even though she may try to come back into the yard in search of soft ground to lay her eggs. Who knows? But with the curious pup likely to keep her closed up tight, we figure she’d be better off outside the fence. Since wood turtles rarely leave their half-acre patch during their lifetime, she (or he) will be fine, and maybe come back into the yard again.

June has nevertheless been a bittersweet month.

We all took time away from this busy time of graduations, music, and meetings to attend to a sad farewell. Last Saturday, we buried our mother Shirley up in the Highland Cemetery after her long wait all winter. Impatient as she always was in life, she had to put up with one last delay, to wait until the ground thawed, and until her far-flung

see **WEST ALONG** page B8



The eastern phoebe (Sayornis phoebe).

Pet of the Week



PHOTO COURTESY DAKIN HUMANE SOCIETY

“DIEGO”

I am a sweet older gentleman cat who enjoys attention and likes other cats. Cats seem to love me back! I will chat with you to let you know that I am hungry and to say hi. In my last home, I had access to the out-

doors, so I might like that in my new home as well.

Please come meet me in Leverett! Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or info@dpvhs.org.

NO ACTION from B1

Road. Detail officer reported seeing fox, who did not appear to be sick but was just chasing some birds.



Friday, 6/20/14

9:27 p.m. Report of a large group of about 20 young people gathered outside the Shea Theater. Officers report no problem; large group was gathered for Chinese food.

Monday, 7/21/14

9:22 a.m. Caller reports seeing a man completely in the nude sitting in a chair on the side of Montague City Road and picking things up off the ground. Upon arrival, officer determined that subject was wearing tan shorts which may have been difficult to see from a distance.

Thursday, 7/31/14

6:17 p.m. Report of four people “smoking weed” behind a Fourth Street property. Parties found to be cooking chicken; no smoking activity of any kind.

Thursday, 8/7/14

4:28 p.m. Caller reports a fox in his backyard that won’t leave; can’t tell if it’s a young fox or not, but it looks mangy. Officers advised; fox gone on arrival. Caller stated that the fox actually looked OK once he got a better look.

Wednesday, 10/1/14

6:39 a.m. Caller from Avenue A reported an odor that she initially likened to mayonnaise coming from her bedroom; later said she believed she could smell something burning. TFFD determined the odor to be unfounded.

Monday, 10/13/14

7:21 p.m. Caller reported girlfriend missing from their apartment and had reason to believe that she might be in danger. While officer was speaking to caller, girlfriend contacted him; she was at a business meeting and her reference to “dying” stemmed from being bored in her meeting. All is well.

Thursday, 7/2/15

10:05 p.m. Caller reports suspicious vehicle sitting with headlights off behind a house on N Street. Officers clear; surprise party for resident’s husband, nothing out of the ordinary.

Wednesday, 9/9/15

7:20 p.m. Report of a female with a skateboard on the Gill side of the Turners-Falls Gill Bridge; female appears to be attempting some kind of “trick” on the railings of the bridge. Two male parties on the Montague side are filming this. Caller concerned for their safety. State police notified as Gill PD is off duty at this time. Determined to be Hallmark students who are going to stay on the sidewalk, taking still photos.

Sunday, 9/20/15

5:03 p.m. Report of male party with backpack spraying what looks like white paint on Avenue A. Responding officer found that party is conducting an art project for a college class and that the material is flour and water. Advised to contact PD in advance next time, and to stay out of traffic.

Thursday, 10/8/15

7:25 p.m. Caller advises of 4 to 5 high school kids out in the area of Avenue C/Keth Street playing with sparklers, which has created a large cloud of smoke. Officer clear; no issues; “kids” are Hallmark students.

Wednesday, 10/14/15

believes the party is using a saw to get into the house. Officer checked area; party was found to be replacing the lock on his house door.

Wednesday, 1/27/16

1:03 p.m. Caller reports that there is a “beeping” sound coming from a trash can located near the bus shelter at Avenue A and Third Street. TFFD en route. Found to be a discarded smoke detector.

Tuesday, 5/17/16

12:40 p.m. Suspicious party on Depot Street; same stated he was just turning around, had been looking at a rototiller that he thought was for sale but then realized it was not for sale.

Wednesday, 7/13/16

1:28 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street reports needle in road; officer found that item was actually a twistable Crayola crayon. Item disposed of.

Thursday, 7/21/16

4:26 p.m. Vehicle parked on Seventh Street near Peske Park reported stolen. Vehicle determined not to be stolen; caller had parked vehicle in front of Salvation Army and forgot it was there.

1:18 a.m. Officer out with male at Goddard Avenue and Grove Street. Male juvenile advises he was



due to past behavior. Caller refused to provide any additional information and hung up. Not as reported. No tires were slashed.

Wednesday, 1/24/18

6:32 p.m. Report of sewage odor coming from G Street area. TFFD responded to investigate; advised slight odor detected, no more than usual.

Thursday, 2/15/18

5:56 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street reports that when he returned home, a male and a female were in front of his residence. Female asked if caller lived on second floor, and when caller asked why she was asking, she said she was just curious. Parties then walked between some of the houses on Fourth Street off the alley and are now back in front of caller’s residence. Officer spoke with parties; they are new residents and were attempting to meet their neighbors.

Thursday, 2/22/18

11:16 p.m. Caller reporting suspicious vehicle parked in St. Mary’s cemetery. Vehicle has been there for some time; parking lights are on. Officers out with vehicle; clear; nothing wrong. Party is there reflecting on life.

Tuesday, 6/19/18

12:46 a.m. Caller in the area of Railroad Salvage states that there are several parties on FirstLight properties intoxicated and fighting, and that they had lit a campfire so big that it will light the whole woods on fire. Caller was highly uncooperative in answering questions. Not as reported; caller had a recent falling out with involved parties and is trying to get them into trouble.

Monday, 8/6/18

7:39 p.m. Caller states that there is a beaver on the bike path that looks sick or lost. Officers located beaver; it appears to be OK.

Sunday, 9/16/18

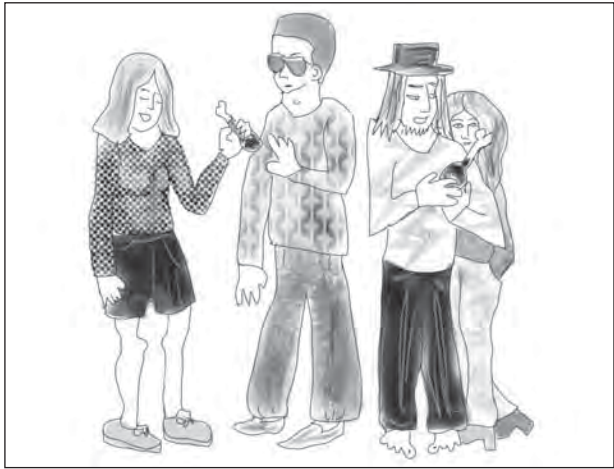
3:03 p.m. Caller advising that an older woman with bright red hair in a polka dot dress is wandering in the area of the Rendezvous holding a large knife and staring at people as they walk past. Officer advises that this was a misunderstanding; subject was cutting flowers in area.

Sunday, 11/4/18

12:11 a.m. Officer checking on a vehicle down by the fish lab. Party found to be fishing for carp.

Sunday, 11/25/18

11:39 a.m. 911 caller thought her husband may have fallen off the roof, so she called 911. While caller was on the phone, the husband came walking into the house. She asked if he fell off the roof; he laughed and said “huh?” He was not on the roof at all. No issues.



10:59 a.m. Report of a suspicious object on one of the benches behind the bandshell in Peske Park. Caller likened the object to that of a toaster with extra wires sticking out of it and a 6 foot wire on the ground nearby. TFFD and officer advised. TFFD request PD establish a perimeter. Upon arrival, officer and TFFD determined the object to be a ballast box on a picnic table. No hazard. Caller advised.

Saturday, 11/14/15

10:32 p.m. Officers came across several parties, one photographing another juggling fire, on G Street. This was a Hallmark student.

Sunday, 11/15/15

7:06 p.m. Caller from Sherman Drive reports that someone at a red house on this street is “sawing into the door,” stating he be-

just out looking at the stars because he couldn’t sleep. Juvenile was told to go back home.

Saturday, 10/15/16

1:42 p.m. Caller from Third Street advises that a female acquaintance stole his tea-cup chihuahua while visiting him at his apartment. Officer spoke with both parties, who advised that they had a misunderstanding; female was only taking dog for a walk, but caller did not hear her say that.

Friday, 1/13/17

10:30 p.m. Officer flagged down by somebody reporting a suspicious package on the ground at Avenue A and Seventh Street. Was just a bag full of glass plates. Bag being brought to station.

Friday, 3/24/17

1:49 p.m. Caller reporting that his mother left to go to Dunkin Donuts two hours ago and hasn’t returned. Mom returned home just before officer arrived. No problems found.

Tuesday, 10/3/17

4:54 p.m. Caller reports that male just slashed someone’s tires behind the Shea Theater. Caller speculated that the male would probably be naked by the time officers arrived but advised that he is fully clothed at this time; caller was only speculating

Senior Center Activities JUNE 17 THROUGH 21

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 machine when the center is not open.

M, W, F: 10 a.m. Aerobics;

10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

T, W, Th: 12 p.m. Lunch

Monday 6/17

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

12 p.m. Senior Center Closed

12:30 p.m. Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

Tuesday 6/18

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

3:30 p.m. Meditation (pre-reg.)

Wednesday 6/19

9 to a.m. Veterans’ Outreach

12:30 p.m. Bingo

1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Mobile Food Pantry

Thursday 6/20

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Cards & Games

4 p.m. Mat Yoga

Friday 6/21

12 p.m. Breakfast At Noon

1 p.m. Writing Group

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 12 p.m., with reservations required two days in advance. Call (413) 423-3649 for meal information and reservations.

For information, call Paula Better, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.

Monday 6/17

8:45 a.m. Step & Sculpt

10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance

11:30 a.m. Breakfast Brunch

12:30 p.m. Pitch card games

Tuesday 6/18

8:45 a.m. S.W.A.P. Exercise

10 a.m. Stretch & Balance

12 p.m. Soup & Sandwich

12:30 p.m. Friends Meeting

Wednesday 6/19

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

12 p.m. Homemade Lunch

12:30 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 6/20

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

10 a.m. Healthy Bones

12 p.m. Congregate Lunch

NH/Maine Bus Trip

Friday 6/21

9 a.m. Quilting Workshop

9:15 a.m. Flex & Stretch

9:30 a.m. Bowling Fun

10:30 a.m. M3 Exercise Games

12 p.m. Lunch

LEVERETT

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

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

Friday 12 p.m. Senior Lunch. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

WENDELL

Wendell Senior Center is at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760, for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center for a ride.

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MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week at MCTV

By MIKE SMITH

TURNERS FALLS – This week on MCTV we have some exciting new videos coming your way!

Artie the Police Dog recently made an appearance at Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls. Montague officer Jim Ruddock spoke about how he and Artie work together, and of course everyone got to pet Artie. Our producer Joel Paxton was there to shoot all the four-legged, crime-fighting fun, and will have the video available on our Vimeo page as soon as possible. (You can find that through our website: montaguetv.org.)

Also coming soon is a video featuring Richie Richardson, owner of Fab Fashion.

The Turners Falls Girls Softball team played against Gateway High School over the weekend, stay tuned to MCTV for the video!

Recently posted on our Vimeo

page, we have the Varsity Sports Report, brought to you by Bobby C. Campbell. You can also see the Day of Remembrance Ceremony which took place at the Discovery Center in downtown Turners Falls.

And don't forget about MCTV's 120 Second Film Festival! Learn more about the rules and details at montaguetv.org. The registration deadline is June 28, so don't delay – sign up today!

If you have an idea for a video but don't know how to get it off the ground, let us know because we would love to help! We can train you how to use a camera and get you creating right away.

If you're interested, or know of an event MCTV should record, you can contact us at (413) 863-9200, infomontaguetv@gmail.com, or stop by 34 Second Street between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. We'd love to work with you!

TV REVIEW

Siren, Season Two (Freeform)



By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – The Freeform channel decided to pick up a TV series about mermaids being real and turning human, like mermaids can do, to go search for a loved one who has been taken captive.

Most of the episodes focus on the main character, Ryn, adapting to living on land, and trying find her sister Donna. She gets help with that from two individuals who work with marine life, named Ben and Maddie.

A third one, an old lady with a distant family connection to the mermaids, helps out too. It's revealed later in the season that Ryn could sense that. It comes into play again during the second season, which was picked up by Freeform.

Seeing them transform back into mermaids when they hit the water is cool. Besides changing form, they also have a song they sing, like sirens use to lure men to their deaths, as part of what they are. This is probably why the show is called *Siren*.

The song creates a problem for Ben that he's still dealing with when Season Two comes around. Besides that going on, Ryn comes back for a visit, and discovers a sound made by an oil company looking for places to drill in the ocean. This sound forces the sea creatures onto land, and Ryn is almost hurt by it herself. A large group of her kind is also forced onto land. This is when that old lady's connection to mermaids comes into play again.

I didn't see all of Ryn's interac-

tions with people when she first got on land during the first season, but it's probably some of what made those episodes entertaining. Now there is a group of mermaids on land, and that is probably going to be entertaining as well. Maybe one reason the show will get a third season to its name.

I learned from a preview that the oil company will be making problems for the mermaids for eight months. The fact that there is a group of them, and that they can't get back into the ocean for that long, makes the things that went down with Ryn and her captive loved one last season seem like a walk in the park.

I just know that it's going be a whole new deal for them. That's a much harder challenge for our friends of the mermaids to deal with, especially since one of Ben's friends is practically a mermaid-hater, due to one having killed his father. This guy doesn't react well to the group of them being on land for that long. I know for a fact that he will try and go after the mermaids again like he did in the first season. There will also be some fighting between Ryn and her fellow mermaids.

I said that I wasn't bored by another TV show I watched recently – it just needed something more. That isn't the case with this show, for me. I think they are doing all of the right moves again when it came to people liking this show. More mermaids coming on land is a very good idea for a fresh way to go about doing the show in Season Two.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Trash Spreader; Ghost Cows; Nozzle Ripper; Loose Bull; Private Eye; Doomed Fawn; Parrot Keeper

Sunday, 6/2
12:10 p.m. Officer reporting a twenty-foot stretch of one lane with a large amount of broken glass at Third and Canal streets. DPW foreman advised and responding.
6:08 p.m. Caller states that there is a large snapping turtle causing a hazard in the road on Route 2 at the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. Area checked; turtle gone.
8:18 p.m. Caller states that two men in a silver Jeep Cherokee tried to get her two teenage daughters into the vehicle with them. Officer spoke to two involved females. No threats or aggressive behavior by the two men. Men drove away without incident. Investigated.

Monday, 6/3
12:21 a.m. Employee from F.L. Roberts states that a male party is intoxicated and has been harassing him. Party left the store when caller said he was going to be calling the police. Officers located party at his father's apartment, highly intoxicated. Officers spoke to party and told him what would happen should he come back out for the night.
7:29 a.m. Caller from G Street states that she had just gone back into her house after getting her mail when she heard a woman run up onto her porch yelling at her and banging on the door. Woman then took the trash bag that was on the porch, spread the trash all over the porch and yard, and took her trash can lid before walking toward a house nearby. A 23-year-old Turners Falls woman was arrested on a default warrant and charged with [redacted].
11:13 a.m. Officer checking on some sleeping bags under the bandstand at Peskeomskut Park. Officer spoke with male who stated the items were his. He was advised to clean up and not to be there after dark.
8:04 p.m. A 25-year-old male was arrested on a default warrant.

Tuesday, 6/4
1:55 a.m. Officer checking on open door at Millers Falls Laundry Company. Door appears to have been kicked in. No one inside. Spoke to male on bench in area who denied causing the damage. Investigated.
3:44 p.m. Caller from K Street found a baby bird in the backyard and is unsure what to do with it. Advised of options.
4:12 p.m. Caller reporting seeing a drug deal that just happened in the lot behind Subway. One party was on a bicycle and another in a vehicle with

Vermont plates. Vehicle and bicycle gone on arrival.

Wednesday, 6/5
10:46 a.m. Motorist reporting that there are a few cows in the road at Smiarowski and Meadow roads. Officers checked area homes; nobody knows where the cows came from. Cows are no longer in the road. Investigated.
2:50 p.m. Caller from F.L. Roberts states that someone drove off with a pump nozzle attached to their vehicle and pulled it off the pump. Now the pump is leaking gasoline. Fire department notified.
5:13 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street reporting that a female is outside smoking drugs in front of kids. No one outside upon officer's arrival.
6:39 p.m. Caller from Third Street reporting that a male appears to be intoxicated and unable to get up. Officer advises not as reported; male is sitting on the curb reading the paper and goes there to have a cigarette. Clear.
7:57 p.m. Caller from Smiarowski Road reporting their young black bull is loose; caller has been looking for the bull in the woods for the past hour. Caller requesting that if a bull is found to please let them know. Referred to an officer.

Thursday, 6/6
12:40 a.m. Officer advising of dead turtle on side of Avenue A near Eleventh Street and Bob's Auto; requesting that DPW remove.
7:25 a.m. Report of clogged drain causing street flooding on Industrial Boulevard. DPW advised.
8:42 a.m. Report of suspicious vehicle parked on Eleventh Street for a few hours. Caller approached the occupant, who advised he is a P.I. Officers confirmed P.I.'s credentials; he will check in with PD next time.
3:16 p.m. Caller from New Street reporting neighbor

has a race car and has been revving the engine for 15 to 20 minutes. Caller reported before hanging up that they have stopped; will call back if it continues.
5:47 p.m. Caller from Kingsley Avenue reporting an injured fawn in the yard. Caller reports that a coyote ran out of the yard earlier; caller heard the fawn crying and could see some blood on the fawn. Contacted Environmental Police dispatch; transferred to their Wendell contact who stated that they are unable to take the fawn without permission from an Environmental Police officer. Called EPO and advised them of same; EPO left message with state deer project leader. Contacted South Deerfield emergency veterinary hospital; they do not take exotic animals, and this would be at the discretion of the doctors who are on. Officer stated that they will be putting the fawn in a box and bringing it back to the station due to a bobcat in the area that is going after the fawn. Advised EPO dispatch that MPD has the fawn and requested that they call as soon as they hear from the state deer project leader. EPO called back to request update on fawn; will contact officer directly. Officer advised he will be returning the fawn back to the location per the requests of EPO.
6:53 p.m. Caller from K Street reports that neighbors found a baby parrot on the street; requesting phone call back about what to do with it. Officer spoke with neighbor, who will be keeping the parrot.

Friday, 6/7
7:35 a.m. Report of belongings at veterans' park across from Food City. Caller believes someone has been camping there. Officer observed sleeping bag on bench; no one around. Will monitor area.
8:58 a.m. Caller from K Street has been having

problems with a neighbor who parks in front of his house; he stated [redacted] thinks they should park farther south toward Seventh Street so she can have more room. [Redacted] stated that when [redacted] is upset with the parking she will blare the horn on her vehicle as she goes past his house. As of yesterday, [redacted] is parking within 2 or 3 inches of [redacted]'s car and ranted "yelling" about his "F-buddy's" parking spot. [Redacted] would like this resolved peacefully. Officer advised and will handle situation.
10:49 a.m. Report of raccoon stuck in dumpster behind DIAL/SELF program on Eleventh Street. Services rendered by animal control officer.
11:22 a.m. Report of past theft of copper from garage on Chestnut Street. Advised of options.
8:08 p.m. Caller from Dell Street reporting there is a Canada goose in the parking lot unable to fly and kids are throwing rocks at it. Caller called back to report that the goose just flew away.

Saturday, 6/8
8:24 a.m. Report of dead chicken in road on Vladish Avenue. Crows are feeding on it. Caller inquiring whether DPW or ACO can be called in to dispose of same. Message will be left for DPW to address on Monday.
10:11 a.m. Caller from Federal Street requesting assistance with neighbor who is taking pictures of him while he is loading derby cars. Caller expressed that he might take matters into his own hands. Advised caller not to take matters into his own hands; officers responding.
2:07 p.m. Minor accident near Paperlogic; no injuries, but one occupant is outside of her vehicle screaming at someone on her cell phone. Citation issued.

MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

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Silverthorne’s Season

By REPORTER STAFF

GREENFIELD – The *Montague Reporter* has recently received multiple press releases from the Silverthorne Theater Company, the resident theater company at Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center. There’s a whole lot of events and news to share with readers, so we are consolidating the broadcasts into this wrap-up.

Dear Galileo Reading, June 13:

Coming up first chronologically is the fourth play in Silverthorne’s New Play Reading series: *Dear Galileo* by Claire Willett. It will be read at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 13 in the Franklin Community Coop meeting space at 170 Main Street in Greenfield. The reading is free and open to the public.

Dear Galileo follows three women in three different times as they wrestle with their identity, the conflict between science and religion, and what it means to be their fathers’ daughters. As the three stories move toward their point of convergence, the destinies of each become inextricably bound with the others, linked through time by love, family, grief, the search for identity, and the wonder of the stars.

Willett quotes Father Raymond Carey at the top of her script: “All creation is connected. We are stardust. Literally. Do you know why your blood is red? Iron. Which is one of the same molecules that makes up the matter of space. Jesus’ blood was red as well. Jesus also was made of stardust.”

She also includes a quote from Galileo Galilei: “Mathematics is the language in which God has written the universe.”

Directed by Rebecca Daniels, the cast of eight readers shifts back and forth within three different time periods and locations: In 2006 in Arizona; 1641 in Italy, and 2017 at a creationist think tank.

Theater Thursdays are a new initiative for 2019, a series of free, rehearsed readings of new plays followed by audience discussions. The purpose of the readings is to give a platform for new work to be heard, and when possible, to be able to give playwrights direct audience feedback. It also gives Silverthorne a look at plays that they might consider fully producing in future seasons. Complete information for each reading may be found at silverthornetheater.org.

The Fantasticks, June 20-29

The Fantasticks, Broadway’s longest-running musical, will be opening in Greenfield on June 20 in the Perch at Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center.

The run kicks off with the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Franklin County opening night benefit on June 20 with all tickets priced at \$30, proceeds to benefit the charitable organization. Patrons will enjoy a special pre-show reception at 7 p.m. in the theater, followed by the performance at 7:30 p.m.

The Fantasticks tells the gentle story of falling in – and out of – love, and the perils of wishes realized. It features lovers, pirates, bandits, and turnips, as well as a memorable score with such classic tunes as “Try to Remember” and “Soon It’s Gonna Rain.”

Director Carmela Lanza-Weil

first worked with Silverthorne as director of the world premiere of *Aidan’s Gift*, winner of STC’s 2016 New Play Competition. She has an extensive background in professional theater as a director and actor. Music Director Ted Trobaugh was MD for Silverthorne’s premiere production of the original musical *Tar2f!* in the spring of 2018.

The cast includes Larry Picard as El Gallo; Jasmine Goodspeed as Luisa; and Andy Zane as Matt. Stephanie Carlson plays Hucklebee, while Autumn Tustin is Bellamy. John Reese and David Cavallin play Henry and Mortimer respectively. Madeline Bolles Oldenberg rounds out the cast as The Mute. Rebecca Daniels is producer for the show.

Ticket and reservation information may be found on Silverthorne’s website.

Short & Sweet Festival

Silverthorne announces its *Short & Sweet Festival of New (tiny) Plays* to be held in spring 2020, and invites submissions of original, unpublished works for the stage, in any style, with stipulations of: no more than 20 minutes in length; four or fewer actors; simple production values.

Scripts selected for the Festival will be given full, low-tech productions, and Silverthorne will pay a small royalty. Literary director Rebecca Daniels warns that submissions must be *finished scripts*, not works-in-progress.

Submissions may be made electronically in PDF format, with the title of the play in the file name in full or reasonable abbreviation. Include a title page, character descriptions, and have pages numbered.

Submissions not meeting these guidelines will not be considered, but playwrights are welcome to submit more than one script to the Festival. Deadline for submissions: August 1, 2019. Send PDF files to Rebecca Daniels, STC Literary Manager: stcliterarymanager@gmail.com.

Kidder Retires

The Board of Directors of Silverthorne have announced that Lucinda Kidder will retire as producing artistic director at the end of the 2019 season. During the remainder of the season, which includes mainstage performances of *The Fantasticks*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and Lauren Gunderson’s *The Revolutionists*, as well as the new-play reading series, Kidder will gradually step back from the daily operations of the theater and members of the Board will begin taking on her responsibilities to ensure a smooth transition as they plan for the future.

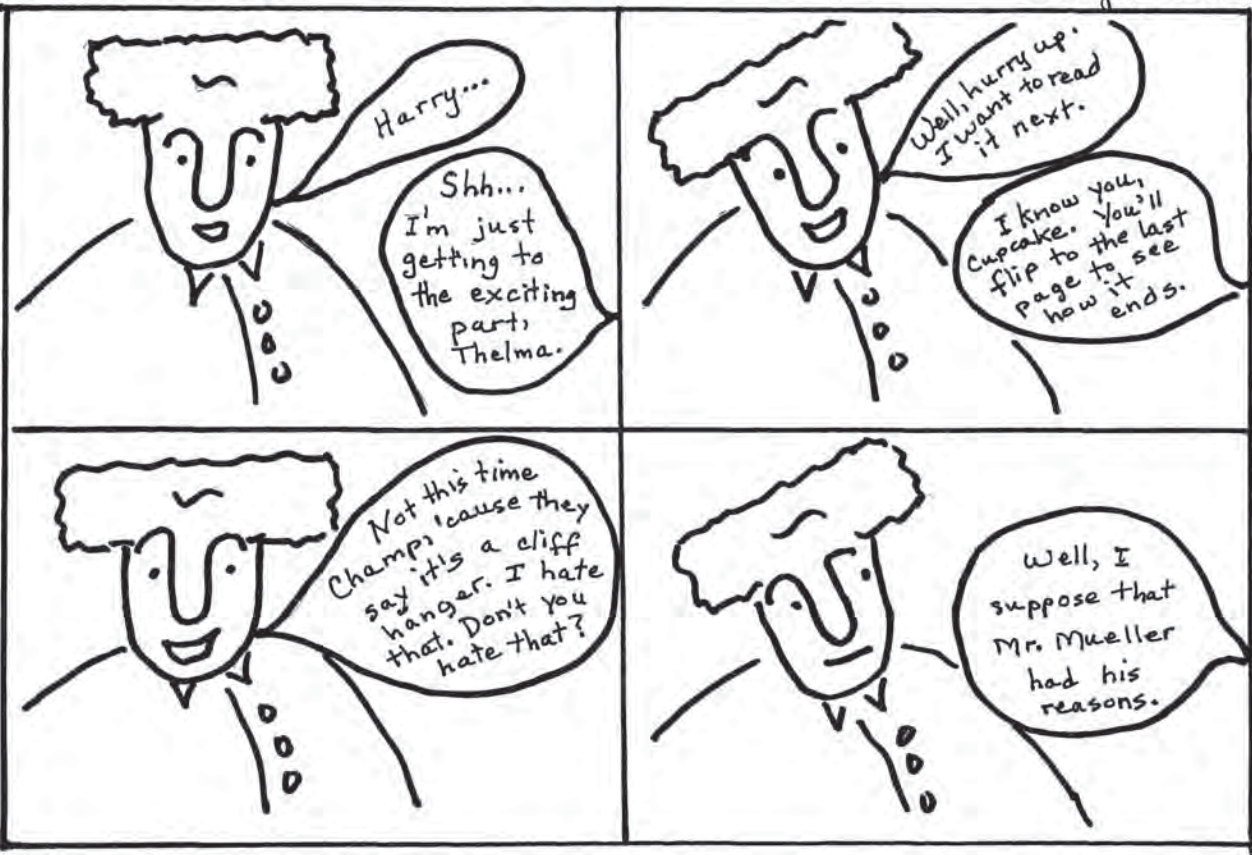
Since co-founding the company in 2014, Kidder has worked to build its presence and impact in the region, managing every detail and serving as the face of Silverthorne. During the leadership transition, Silverthorne’s literary manager, Rebecca Daniels, and board member Carmela Lanza-Weil will gradually assume artistic and producing responsibilities. Both have had extensive theatre management and production experience in regional theaters before moving to the Pioneer Valley, and each have directed two shows for Silverthorne.

In retirement, Kidder will remain on the Board, with the title Co-founder Emeritus, and continue to be a presence at theater events and behind the scenes.

T-RUMP



OVER THE HILL



VISIONS from B1

Colorado, artists who were passing through: it was a close up of an artist’s bench with some pails, brushes, and oil paintings on the table. It was one that I made kind of ‘painterly.’”

Davis retired from teaching at UMass about nine years ago. He was in the field of communications disorders, teaching a specialized form of rehabilitation from brain injuries that affect language. A shelf of books on aphasiology with his byline in the living room of his Charlemont home attests to this dimension of his academic life as a published professor. Since retiring, he and Betsy go to New York during the week and return to Massachusetts for the weekend, instead of spending weekends in the city as they did when he was teaching.

They are frequent gallery and museum goers. “I am influenced by artists in general. The first step is to see something, then take the picture using the camera, and then the processing that makes it a picture. I sort of have a sense for composition from artists of all kinds whether abstract or realistic,” Davis explained.

Photo-sharing online brought him into a community of camera buffs who freely shared techniques and tips. At first, he now admits, he was a little overzealous in the application of some of the many special effects available through digital processing of images. He has refined his techniques using the Photoshop Elements program, then uses a program called Photomatix to add the right amount of painterly effect, or tune up or down certain colors in a composition. In some scenes he has dropped out all color but one to make certain objects stand out, such as a yellow umbrella in a rainy street scene.

He has taken many streetscapes in bustling NYC as well as European cities. “People in Times Square, people at night on the streets...”

says Davis, noting that he prefers to get a candid image of people by zooming in on them from a distance.

Even when he is inside, he looks for the interesting point of view around him, and has found a theme of sorts in abstract photos of restaurant lighting. “If there is an interesting light on the ceiling, I will take a close up shot and turn it into an abstract, like a Georgia O’Keefe type of thing,” says Davis. “I have pictures of fancy lighting taken up close, and work with it a little, and it becomes something else.”

Davis uses a technique called High Dynamic Range photography, which layers three images taken at different shutter speeds into one to achieve the fullest range of light density and detail. He has also used this technique to create “ghosts” – people walking across Broadway, for instance, in a snowstorm – by photographing people in one of the three images so that they faintly appear in the scene.

“I do have a lot of images from this area, too,” assures Davis. “I do various things: the farmhouse down the road, and closeups of flowers in different seasons.”

The couple travel a lot, too, and

a postcard company has purchased the rights to several of Davis’s images after spotting them on Flickr. He now looks for what he calls a “special image of something typical, a unique angle on it, a way of seeing something like people haven’t seen it before” when he is out and about.

See *Visions* at the Shelburne Arts Coop during the month of June. The gallery is filled with over 50 members’ work in glass, fiber, paint, ceramics, metal, paper, found objects, and more. Wall exhibits are changed monthly to reflect various themes decided on by the members, or to highlight the work of one particular member such as the Albyn Davis show this month.

The Shelburne Arts Coop is next to Hearty Eats restaurant at 26 Bridge Street in Shelburne Falls. Summer hours are Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The group is currently jurying new artists and craftspeople for working memberships; visit or call the gallery at (413) 625-9324 for information on applying.



Montmartre, photograph by Albyn Davis in the *Visions: Realism and Imagination* at the Shelburne Arts Coop this month.

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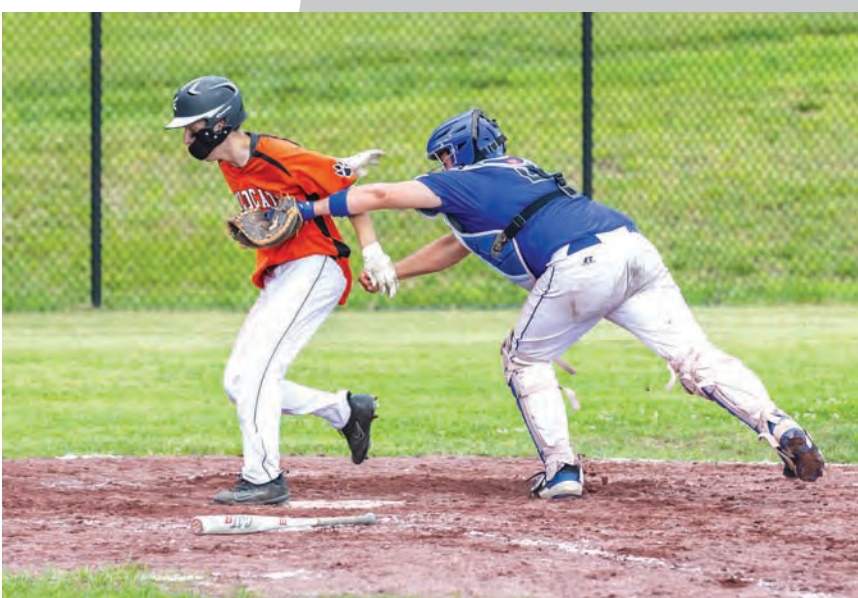
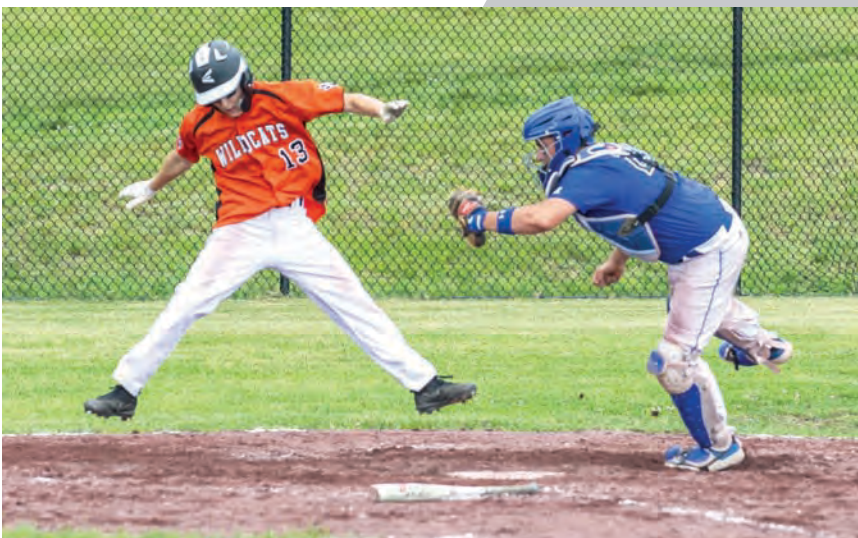
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A photograph of a baseball game in progress. A player in a blue and white uniform, with "TURNERS" on the front of the jersey, is running towards a base. A player in a black and red uniform is standing nearby. The background shows a red fence and a scoreboard.

THE




ALL PHOTOS BY DAVID HOITT



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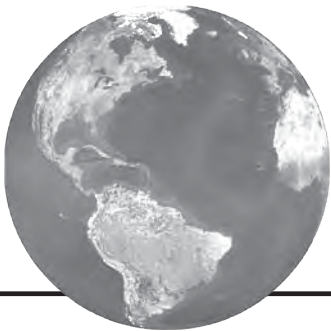


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Aquí se habla español

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.



Mes del orgullo: ¿Y qué pasa en el mundo hispano?

Por **VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA**

En el mundo hispano el alcance de los derechos en la comunidad LGTBQ+ es bastante desigual, y a pesar de ser países conservadores y religiosos en la vida real hay una tolerancia relativa hacia dicha comunidad.

En el informe de la Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos¹ acerca de la violencia contra las personas LGBTI realizado en 2015 resalta la prevalencia de la violencia en el continente americano contra las personas lesbianas, gay, bisexuales, trans e intersex, o aquellas percibidas como tales, en todas las esferas de la vida pública y privada, incluso en países con significativos avances en leyes y políticas públicas en favor de los derechos de personas LGBTI.

La CIDH describe las múltiples formas de violencia – que frecuentemente involucran altos niveles de crueldad- que se dirigen a castigar las orientaciones sexuales y las iden-

adoptadas por los países en el continente, pero resalta que, en general, los países de la región no han integrado un abordaje diferenciado que tenga en cuenta el marco jurídico interno, las políticas públicas y las iniciativas y programas dirigidos por el Ejecutivo.

La Comisión toma nota de que la impunidad en relación con las ejecuciones extrajudiciales, asesinatos, torturas y tratos crueles, inhumanos o degradantes, y otros actos graves de violencia contra las personas lesbianas, gay, bisexuales, trans e intersex en la Organización de los Estados Americanos es generalizada. Además, hay incluso países en los que la violencia está exacerbada por la legislación, por ejemplo, con leyes que criminalizan las relaciones sexuales consensuales y que ocurren en privado entre personas adultas del mismo sexo, leyes contra la vagancia, leyes que protegen la “moral pública,” y protocolos médicos sancionados por el Estado que permiten la violencia médica contra las personas intersex.



tidades de género no normativas o a las personas cuyos cuerpos difieren del estándar de corporalidad femenina y masculina. En la raíz de esta violencia existe una amplia discriminación e intolerancia respecto de orientaciones sexuales, identidades de género, expresiones de género

diversas y personas cuyos cuerpos desafían las corporalidades aceptadas socialmente.

Las sociedades en el continente americano están dominadas por principios de heteronormatividad, cismatividad, y los binarios de sexo y género. En este informe, la CIDH concluye que el contexto generalizado de discriminación social e intolerancia respecto de esta diversidad, aunado a la ausencia de investigaciones efectivas, y la falta de un abordaje diferenciado para prevenir, investigar, juzgar, sancionar y reparar los crímenes cometidos contra personas LGBTI, son elementos que conducen a que se condone y se tolere esta violencia, lo que resulta en impunidad y repetición.

Aun así, el informe de la CIDH reconoce ciertas medidas positivas

umentos. La situación se tornó más complicada con la llegada al poder del presidente Piñera y sus medidas conservadoras cercanas a la iglesia evangélica.

Colombia: Colombia legalizó el matrimonio entre personas del mismo sexo en 2016 y pueden adoptar hijos. En Colombia se celebró el primer enlace oficial entre tres personas, y aunque no es considerado como matrimonio, se abrió así el debate entre las relaciones poliamorosas.

Costa Rica: En enero de 2018 la Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos que tiene su sede en San José de Costa Rica decidió que los países miembros de dicha corte debían reconocer derechos plenos a parejas del mismo sexo y permitir el cambio de identidad sexual en los registros civiles.

Cuba: Mariela Castro, la hija de Raúl Castro, preside el Centro Nacional de Educación Sexual que ha intentado, no siempre con éxito, abogar por una apertura en las leyes respecto a la comunidad LGTBQ. Recientemente se intentó cambiar la constitución para incluir el matrimonio del mismo sexo, pero debido a presiones de la facción más conservadora del partido, no llegó a buen término.

Ecuador: Se permite la unión civil entre personas del mismo sexo. La visibilidad existe en el parlamento con una parlamentaria trans. Aún así todavía existen en este país centro de corrección de homosexuales donde se somete a los internos a trato humillante.

España: Madrid, Barcelona e Ibiza son considerados como los mejores destinos LGTBQ+ en el mundo. Hace ya más de 40 años que se celebran en Madrid diversas manifestaciones, desfiles y actividades para celebrar la comunidad LGTBQ+.

La primera manifestación tuvo lugar en junio de 1978, solamente unos años después de la muerte del

Tablón de anuncios

• **Food Bank de Massachusetts** sigue ofreciendo comida gratis cada tercer miércoles de mes en el parking del Senior Center en Turners Falls cuya dirección es 62 5th Street. La próxima distribución de comida será el miércoles 19 de junio de 1:30 a 2:30 p.m. Por favor asegúrense de traer sus propias bolsas. Este programa se realiza en alianza con FCCMP y Montague COA. Si tienen preguntas, contacten con The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts en el teléfono (413) 247-9738.

• **Farmers Market de Great Falls** se ha mudado desde su anterior espacio delante del Discovery Center al parque Peskeomskut al otro lado de la avenida A. El día y el horario es el mismo: miércoles de 2 a 6 de la tarde. Se pueden usar los cupones SNAP. A los ya habituales vendedores como *Red Fire North*

Farm, *Joe Chamutka*, *Kingsbury Farms* y *Drybook Garden* se han añadido el pan de *Five Eyed Fox*, *Howling Tree Hill Homestead*, tamales, pintura con henna y masajes gratis. Además, cada miércoles habrá diferentes actuaciones de música o marionetas.

• **Exposición en Great Falls Discovery Center:** *Right up my alley*. Fotografías de los callejones de Turners Falls realizadas por la artista local Edite Cunha. Las fotografías estarán expuestas hasta el 30 de junio.

• **Vermont Theater Company:** Presenta *Macbeth* dentro de su habitual *Shakespeare in the Park* en *Living Memorial Park* en Brattleboro, VT del 27 al 30 de junio. Si ustedes quieren ver a la persona que escribe estas líneas cada mes, tienen la oportunidad de verla en el escenario y en inglés.

Paraguay: Existe una prohibición constitucional a los matrimonios entre personas del mismo sexo.

Puerto Rico: Este mismo año fue firmada una ley por el gobernador Roselló en el se prohíben las terapias de choque y las clínicas de internamiento para menores de edad homosexuales y transexuales de la isla que se utilizaban como terapias de conversión.

República Dominicana: La homosexualidad es legal, pero las leyes dominicanas discriminan a la población LGTBQ+, no se les permite contraer matrimonio, hacer el servicio militar o donar sangre. Está prohibido el matrimonio entre personas del mismo sexo.

El Salvador: Tiene las mayores cifras de violencia y asesinatos en la comunidad LGTBQ+ de toda Latinoamérica.

Uruguay: El matrimonio entre personas del mismo sexo es legal en este país. Está permitido que las parejas del mismo sexo adopten hijos. Actualmente hay una senadora trans en el senado uruguayo.

Venezuela: No existen leyes de protección a la comunidad LGTBQ+. No existen leyes que protejan la identidad sexual ni el cambio de sexo. La discusión parlamentaria acerca de la legislación a favor del matrimonio igualitario ha sido pospuesta deliberadamente en el congreso varias veces.

¹ Fuente Informe de Violencia contra las personas LGBTI de CIDH realizado en 2015

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

EVENTS

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Lefty's Send Off*. \$. 5 p.m.

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Bruce Colegrove, Strawberry Afternoon*. Coop Concert Series. 6 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Wildcat O'Halloran Band*. Blues. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed Greenfield: *Drag Queen Bingo*. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *little house blues band*. Harmonica-led blues quartet. 8 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 14

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *The Lonesome Brothers*. Original, creative tunes that follow no trend. Part of the Coffeehouse Series. Donation. \$. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Amy Helm*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Rocking for the Right to Live*. In The Perch. \$. 8 p.m.

Ten Forward, Greenfield: *Painting with Sculpture, Tagine Dream, Jazer Giles, B-Cheek Empire*. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Re-birth Brass Band*. \$. 8:30 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Heavy Friends, St. Slobber, and Duram, Moloney & Pasquarosa*. 9:30 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Drag Brunch*. With Hors and

Silverthorne Theater's Short & Sweet Festival of New (tiny) Plays is looking for original, unpublished works for the stage in any style. No more than 20 minutes long, four actors or less, and simple production values. Not a workshop; plays must be ready for production. Festival to be held in Spring 2020. Deadline August 1. Details: silverthornetheater.org or email stcliterarymanager@gmail.com.

Friends, in honor of Franklin County Pride Day. \$. 11:30 a.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *A Queer Showcase Comedy Show*. Stand up comedy in the ballroom. \$. 7 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *The Richard Chase Experience*. Contemporary folk song. \$. 7:30 p.m.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



A lifelong musician and music-lover, Amy Helm's parents – The Band's legendary drummer and singer Levon Helm, and singer-songwriter Libby Titus – guided her training and influences. This concert celebrates the release of the second album under her own name, This Too Shall Light, which serves as a comprehensive portrait covering her life's journeys and recoveries. Join Helm, with special guest Mark Erelli, at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls this Friday evening, June 14, at 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Joe Belmont Experience with Wanda Houston*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Ten Forward, Greenfield: *Anti-Corporate Pride Karaoke & Games*. Sponsored by *Mad-dens B-Day Party*. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Sugar Biscuit: Born This Way*. With DJ Lefox. \$. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ultra Mammoth*. 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Pistoler*os. Outlaw Country. 10:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 16

Ten Forward, Greenfield: *Low Frequency Sound Exploration*. Bring a synth, drone record, yoga mat. 3 p.m.

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

Ten Forward, Greenfield: *Afterdays*. Experimental performances in choreography, voice and sound by *Lucille Jun, Anna*

M. Maynard and *Michelle Erard*. \$. 8 p.m.

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

MONDAY, JUNE 17

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Quiz Night*. 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 18

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Donations & Libations*. A fundraiser

DJ Quillz. Sliding scale. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Creacion Latin Big Band Jam*. on the fourth floor. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Salsa Wednesday*. With *McCoy* and *DJ Roger Jr*. \$. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 20

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Larry LeBlanc, Boys of the Landfill, Small Change*. Coop Concert Series. 6 p.m.

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

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Glenn Jones, Weeping Bong Band*. American primitive guitar; psychedelic folk. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *G-Field Throwdown*. Featuring *Bare Ass, Safehill, Bag Lady*. \$. 8 p.m.

Ten Forward, Greenfield: *Mette Rasmussen, Chris Corsano, Paul Flaherty, Wendy Eisenberg, Vic Rawlings, Lucy Rosenfeld, Mary Staubitz, and Arkm Foam*. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half Shaved Jazz*. 8 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Sam's Place Speakeasy. An immersive cocktail party with a 1925 theme. Come dressed for the times if you wish; password at the side door is "Rosebud" to get in. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 21

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

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Finding Vivien Maier*. Final film of Pothole Pictures season. Documentary about a woman who worked as a nanny and whose thousands of photographs were discovered after her death. Local photographers will have a panel discussion at Mocha Maya coffeeshop in conjunction with this show. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Dustbowl Revival* with *Mamma's Marmalade*. Roots/jazz and hot swing. \$. 8 p.m.

Guiding Star Grange, Greenfield: *Contra Dance*. *Jeannine Ameduri, David Kaynor, and Back Row Band*. \$. 8 p.m.

Ten Forward, Greenfield: *Mette Rasmussen, Chris Corsano, Paul Flaherty, Andrea Pensado, Jen Gelineau, Paul LaBrecque, Andy Allen, Ruth Garbus, and Donny Shaw*. \$. 8 p.m.

EXHIBITS

Barnes Gallery. Leverett Crafts & Arts Center: *Deerfield Valley Arts Association* show; paintings, sculpture, photography. Through June.

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. New exhibits for the summer will open on June 22 with beach scenes, activist photography, immersive installations, and more.

DVAA Center for the Arts, Northfield: *Beauties, Bugs, and Beas-ties*. An animal-themed exhibit by invited New England artists celebrating creatures real and imagined. Beautiful paintings and whimsical folk art and sculpture. This show will be complemented by several animal visits, book readings, activities for children, and food collections for local animal rescue organizations. Exhibit runs June 13 to July 28,

with an artist's reception on Sunday, June 23 at 1 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *#rightupmyalley*: Photographs by *Edite Cunha* shot in and around alleyways of Turners Falls, including alley music and poetry. Through June 30.

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

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

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Gathering My Wits*, pen and ink drawings by Linda Baker-Cimini, through July 10. Reception

with the artist Saturday, June 22, at 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 establishes a unique sense of place. Through June.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Albyn Davis*, photographs. Architecture, street scenes, details that can become abstractions in black and white and color. (See article, page



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SAT 6/15 9:30 pm
Ultra Mammoth

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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.

B1.) Through July 1.

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WEST ALONG from page B1

family came back to the homestead to afford her the final send-off and celebration of her life.

Dozens of friends and family gathered with Father Stan on the hill in the old cemetery, among the headstones of the village's long dead. She rests now next to our father Art, and across from her sister, just a few graves down from her mother, father, another sister and brother, nephews and nieces, and across from the towering white pines where lie her grandmother Lizzie, her grandfather Judah, her uncle and aunt, passed away as children in the 1890s. Far over in another corner is her uncle Doug, the Red Sox ball player, and nearer to her is her uncle Clinton.

I would think that being so close to her family would be a comfort for her; it is to me. I'll have to wait and see for myself, but there's no rush.

In life she was always restless, always keeping her eye on the clock, whether to get us up and off to school, herself to work, or simply reminding us of the time. Not that she minded going away from home, as long as she could go and get back the same day. She broke that rule of hers when she went to Ireland for 10 days. Otherwise, wherever she was, she had to be back home by 4 o'clock in time to have her tea in her own easy chair in her own parlor.


Days later, after her final farewell family gathering was over, with the earth closed up over her, likely until Judgement Day, we resumed our routine, back to living out our lives in this old world.

The summer month of June resumed. There was the sweet smell of fresh-caught rainbow trout in the bright yellow platter, awaiting the frying pan. That'd be our Sunday dinner, delicate trout and fiddlehead ferns. There was a jar of amber honey from Cousin Albert, harvested from his apiary, just right for sweetening the ritual morning cup of coffee. Cousin Annabelle had brought her giant carrot cake for the gathering, and I've spent days slicing off a hefty piece whenever the mood came over me. Small, simple pleasures that we'd better not take for granted.

It's hard when you have to lay your mother to rest, but then again, you have to carry on. We owe it to ourselves and the departed to not dwell too long on the passage of time, on the one who was our last link to the Depression era, WWII memories, and fading black-and-white photos of our sailor father in his Navy uniform.

Still, we must go back to savoring every moment, and being sure to be able to say, when our time comes, that we have done more than to simply visit this place.

*When I was young,
The moon was a pearl
The sun a yellow gold.
But now that I have gone from here,
There's no place I'd rather be,
Than to float my chances on the tide,
Back in the good old world.*

— Tom Waits 



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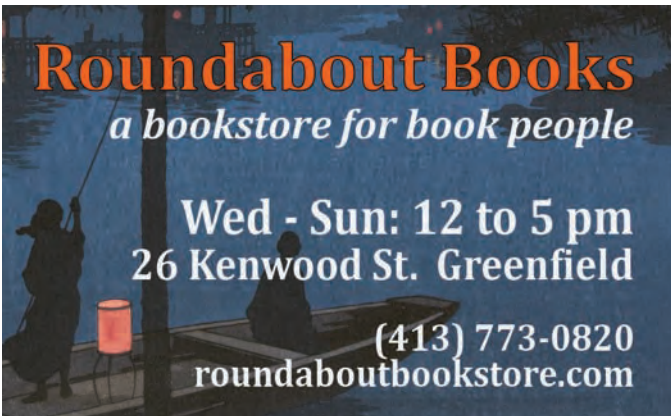
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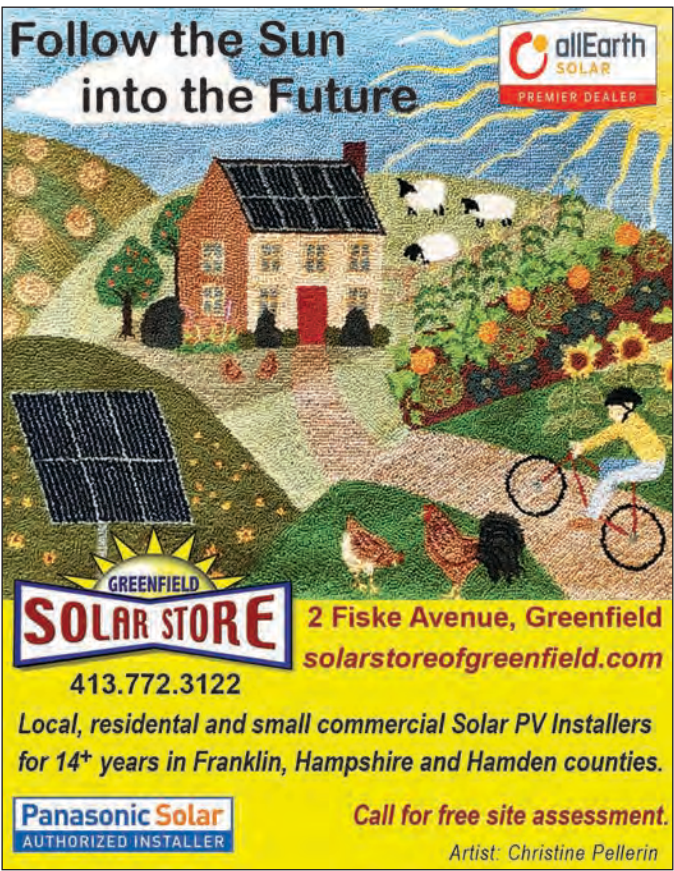
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