

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 17 – NO. 32

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 6, 2019

Cidery Hopes For Tourism, Sewer Access On Old Bridge

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – Just over six months ago

Curt Sherrer, owner of Wild Child Cidery, came before the Montague selectboard to suggest that the town sell a

closed bridge over the power canal to a private non-profit organization, which he would form. The bridge would provide foot access to Sherrer's business in a former factory building on 42 Canal Road, but he pitched the idea to the board as way of encouraging tourism in Turners Falls, similar to the Bridge of Flowers in Shelburne Falls.

Sherrer suggested renaming the bridge, which is now variously called the "Sixth Street Bridge" and the "Power Street Bridge," the "Bridge of Lights."

One of Sherrer's main motivations, he acknowledged, was to connect the Montague sewer system to his business

see BRIDGE page A6



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

Could this be the future "Bridge of Lights"?

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Final Library Costs Still Debated As Special Town Meeting Nears

BY KATIE NOLAN

On Monday, while preparing the warrant for the June 25 special town meeting, the Erving selectboard spent over an hour discussing the cost of the photovoltaic (PV) array and fixtures, furnishings, and equipment (FF&E) for the new library building.

The bids for installing the PV array were opened May 21, and the only bid the town received was for \$325,000, an amount higher than expected.

In February 2018, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) announced a \$2.7 million grant to help fund the project. Erving residents agreed to pay the remainder of the estimated \$4.7 million cost at the annual town meeting in 2017. However, in January, the bid for construction of the building was higher than expected, and owner's project manager Daniel Pallotta of P3, Inc. admitted to a mathematical error in the pre-bid estimate, result-

ing in a shortfall of money for the PV array and FF&E.

At the special town meeting, voters will be asked to approve extra funding for the PV array and FF&E.

Administrative coordinator Bryan Smith noted that the array would provide 11 of the 40 "points" needed for the building to attain a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building certification. If it achieves that certification,

see ERVING page A6

Ja'Duke Expansion Underway, September Opening Anticipated

By ANNE HARDING

TURNERS FALLS – The Ja'Duke Center for the Performing Arts (JCPA) is well on its way to opening a new theater, an expanded preschool, and an official home of the Ja'Duke Driving School.

It's been an incredibly hectic several months with the construction of the new spaces. You might think the business of performances, productions, and competitions would have come to a halt during this busy time, but the show must go on, and there's been a full schedule of events in rented spac-

es around the county.

It looks like the final JCPA Showcase in a rented facility will be happening this weekend, June 8 and 9, at the Greenfield High School, and just last month JCPA performed Winnie the Pooh at the Frontier High School.

I stopped by for a visit to check on the progress of the new facilities, and took a tour with Nick Waynelovich and his daughter Kimberly Williams. Nick is the director and founder of Ja'Duke Productions, comprised of the JCPA, the Ja'Duke Sound Company, Ja'Duke Theater Company, the Shea Swing

see EXPANSION page A4



HARDING PHOTO

Among many other changes, the facility's parking lot is being drastically expanded.

A Diaper Drive for Changing Times

By MIKE JACKSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – It's a rebuilding year for the Franklin County Diaper Bank, and Deb Billings, a local retired midwife, is taking the bull by the horns.

As many as one in three local families with infants and toddlers struggle to afford diapers, and parents may be tempted to try to "stretch" the diapers they have, placing the children at risk of rashes and infections. It's a need not met by any existing government assistance, and social-service providers in the area have long relied on a central supply of emergency diapers to help fill the gap.

But at the moment, the Diaper Bank exists mostly on paper: diapers donated in a box at Foster's Supermarket in Greenfield are spread thin – "distributed by the diaper," Billings laments. "Some of the individual organizations are scrounging."

Billings hopes to replenish the network beginning with this year's Diaper Drive, which takes place throughout June. Thirty-five sites have



JACKSON PHOTO

This year's diaper drive includes a focus on biodegradable options.

been set up as collection points, and a special Diaper Day event is scheduled for the morning of Saturday, June 22 on the Greenfield town common.

The biggest hurdle faced by past diaper drives in Franklin County has been concern for the environmental impact of disposable diapers, and this year Billings hopes to meet that concern head on. Diaper Day will showcase cloth diapers, as well as an emerging range of biodegradable options; in conjunction with the drive,

the diaper-laundry service Changing Habits has even pledged five "scholarships" for families in need.

"It's going to be a guilt-free place to look at alternatives," Billings says, "for folks to figure out what they can afford, and what they would like to do, environmentally as well as for their own budgets."

The dining room at Billings' Greenfield home is piled high with bags and boxes and packs of diapers: regular disposables, a colorful

see DIAPERS page A8

Heads Up: New Record Store Launches In Avenue A Storefront

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – The first record store this downtown has seen in years is starting out, appropriately, pretty raw: seven crates of records, used and new, on a table, with assorted boxes of

CDs, cassettes, DVDs, and VHS tapes behind them.

Eric Magnuson hasn't yet had a chance to put up a "Breakdown Records" sign on the storefront at 59 Avenue A. But he's open for business, pricing out merchandise, and accepting used music for sale,

trade, or consignment.

"I was hoping to have a whole month before I opened, but they were like June first, boom, so I put it together real fast," Magnuson explains. "There's a lot of stuff I'd like to do, but there's always work to do – one thing at a time."

Breakdown, which is opening in the space formerly occupied by Chong's Alterations and by Jay K's Liquors before that, is a side project for Magnuson, who works full-time at Green Fields Market.

The Greenfield native recently moved back to the area from Ithaca, New York, where he sold music for years on the pedestrian mall as a licensed street vendor, worked the upstate record fair circuit,

see RECORDS page A5



JACKSON PHOTO

Eric Magnuson's sign is not yet up, but crates of records are out.

The Week In TFHS Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

Alumnae and alumni returned to their alma mater this week. With college on break for the summer and soldiers on leave, recent graduates descended on Turners Falls High School. I didn't recognize some of them. They look like men and women now.

The Turners Falls baseball team finished the regular season with a two-game winning streak, the softball team came one run shy, boys' tennis played pro ball, and the girls' tennis team welcomed back some old(er) friends.

Boys Tennis

TFHS 5 – Chicopee 0

On Thursday, May 30, the Turners boys' tennis team played their final match of

the 2019 regular season.

Because Chicopee had already played Greenfield earlier on Thursday, and because of impending rain, the AD decided to allow the teams to play Pro sets. That means

each contest would consist of one 8-game set.

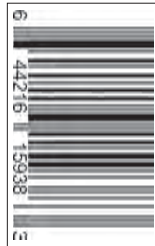
Will Turn (a.k.a. The Burn) won first singles, 8-3. Brian Poirier and Brody Trott swept second and third

see SPORTS page A4



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Close call: Hampshire Regional's Emma Czarnecki dives back to the base as Turners Falls' Lexi Lacey tries to tag her out. The Thunder edged out D-2 Hampshire in a rare no-hit victory, 1-0.



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The Montague Reporter

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Leading By Example

On Wednesday, Vermont senator Bernie Sanders crashed the annual meeting of Walmart shareholders in Arkansas to speak on behalf of a resolution to give seats on the corporate board to the company’s hourly employees. Here’s what he said:

“The issue that we are dealing with today is pretty simple. Walmart is the largest private employer in America and is owned by the Walton family, the wealthiest family in the United States, worth approximately \$175 billion. And yet, despite the incredible wealth of its owner, Walmart pays many of its employees starvation wages – wages that are so low that many of these employees are forced to rely on government programs like food stamps, Medicaid, and public housing in order to survive.

“Frankly, the American people are sick and tired of subsidizing the greed of some of the largest and most profitable corporations in this country. They are also outraged by the grotesque level of income and wealth inequality in America, as demonstrated by the CEO of Walmart making a thousand times more than the average Walmart employee.

“Last year, Walmart made nearly \$10 billion in profit. It paid its CEO over \$20 million in compensation, and it has authorized \$20 billion in stock buybacks, which will benefit its wealthiest stockholders.

“Surely, with all of that, Walmart can afford to pay its employees a living wage of at least \$15 an hour. And that is not a radical idea, because many of Walmart’s major competitors, like Amazon, Costco, and Target, have already moved in that direction.

“Further, Walmart should give a voice to its workers by allowing them seats on the board of directors. The concerns of workers, not just stockholders, should be part of board decisions.

“Today, with the passage of this resolution, Walmart can strike a blow against corporate greed, and a grotesque level of wealth inequality that exists in our country. Please do the right thing – please pass this resolution. Thank you very much.”

Granted, we’re within the more-than-half-of-all-time that now occurs within US presidential election cycles, and Sanders is a candidate, so it’s easy to shrug off his intervention as an opportunity to make his stump speech in a new, headline-grabbing context. And our readers, we’re sure, are divided as to whether he’s a good candidate.

But Sanders successfully pressured Amazon last year to increase its starting wage to \$15 an hour, and he’s helped Disney unions win a similar provision. And he wasn’t just parachuting into Arkansas – he was lending his voice at the request of existing rank-and-file Walmart workers fighting for a voice in their company.

Can you imagine what would happen if all 23 declared Democratic candidates felt they should campaign from *within* and *alongside* preexisting labor and social movements, rather than just strategically adopting their catchphrases?

In fact... if moves like this (or Liz Warren’s appearance on a Stop & Shop picket line this spring) are such obvious campaign opportunities, why are they so rare?

And if more candidates felt they needed to step up by participating, what could be won with their help?

CORRECTION

Last week’s lead story on A1 by Jeff Singleton (*Secretary of State Orders DCR to Respond to Wendell Forest Alliance Records Requests*) erroneously identified the former state Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs under the Deval Patrick administration as “Chester Bowles.”

“I noticed a rather egregious error I made that probably the vast majority of readers will not notice,” Jeff wrote to us the following morning. “But it shows my age, and the fact that I was a historian.” “Chester Bowles,” Jeff went on

to explain, “was a diplomatic corps type in the late ‘40s, ‘50s and ‘60s, and also a Democratic Party politician. He is probably best known for being the Ambassador to India in the ‘60s, but before that he was briefly canned by the Kennedy Admin for possibly leaking info about the Bay of Pigs fiasco, which he may have opposed....”

The correct name should have been Ian Bowles. We apologize to the families of both men and, as always, to our readers. After careful consideration we have decided to let Jeff continue writing.

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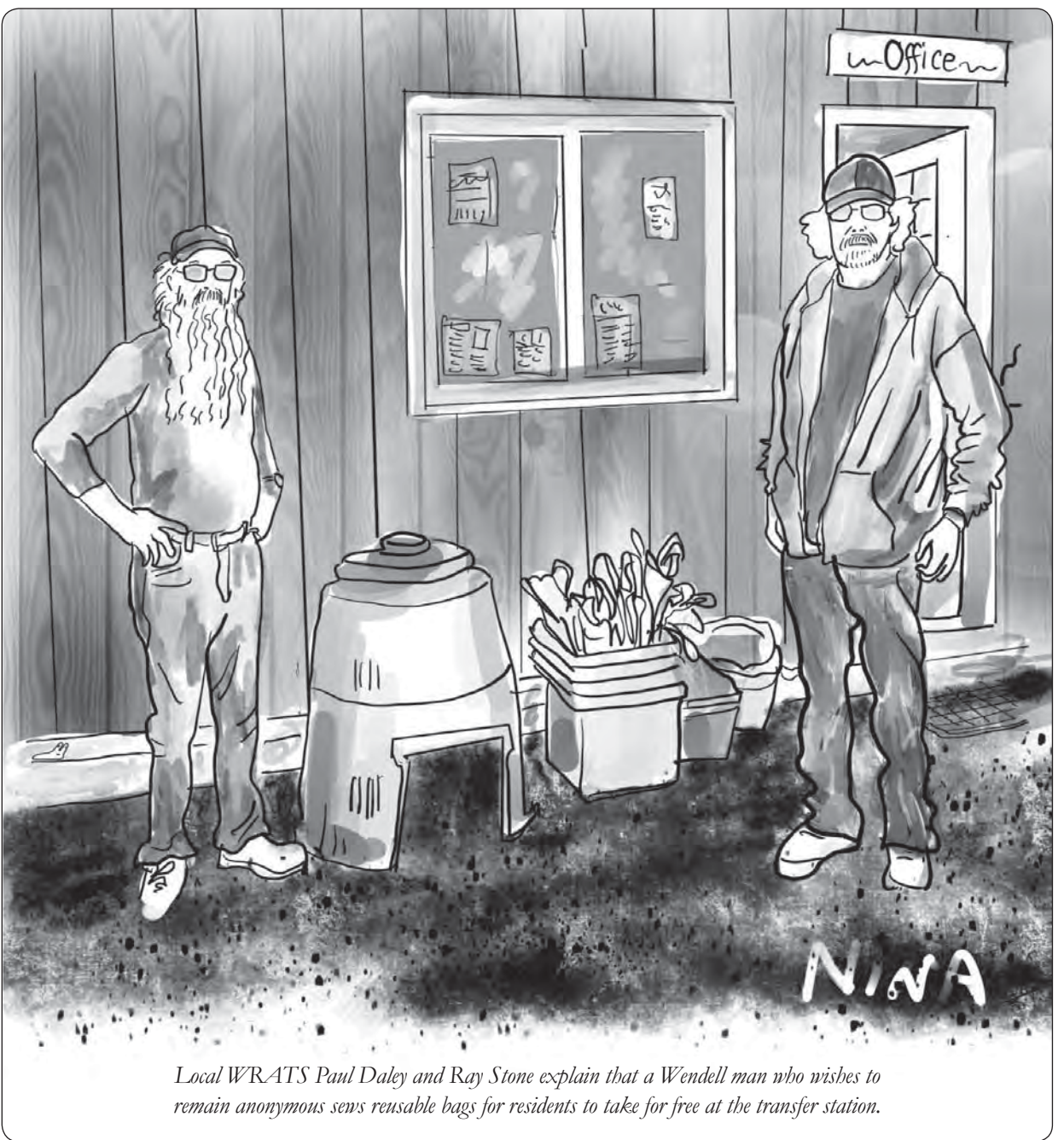
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Local WRATS Paul Daley and Ray Stone explain that a Wendell man who wishes to remain anonymous sews reusable bags for residents to take for free at the transfer station.

Letters to the Editors

Expired Art?

I will start this letter by stating that some people may be offended, hurt, or even angered by what follows. I will clarify at this point, I am not against kids, I’m not against kids’ art, I do support the arts and consider myself a type of artist in my own right.

What this letter is about is a desire to see the hillside at the Montague Public Parking area near the river restored to its natural, rocky, beauty by removing the damaged, weathered art pieces residing on the hill, which are an eyesore.

I believe we owe it to the environment to commit to restoring to nature where we have intruded.

Upon inspection, it would be extremely easy and the right action to take to remove these pieces.

I hope the committee or department which controls that property will consider this suggestion to restore the hillside to its natural state.

I will be the first to sign up and volunteer to help in this restoration.

Cathy Gouch
Greenfield

Betty Tegel
Montague

Something People Can Do

Want to feel like you are doing something about the devastating effects of our climate crisis?

Take action now by supporting three important pieces of state legislation (H.853, H.897, and S.438/H.873), and by defeating the Department of Energy Resource’s proposed changes that would weaken the protective regulations that currently restrict biomass – burning of wood – in the Renewable Portfolio Standard.

These proposed changes would provide incentives for burning biomass and trash, and likely promote the development of the East Springfield “Palmer” biomass plant. It would also eliminate efficiency standards for burning biomass. Citizens have until June 7 at 5 p.m. to submit written testimony.

Watch the video “Burned: Are trees the new coal?” (burnedthemovie.com) for an eye-opening experience about burning wood for electricity.

Here is a brief description of the three forest-related bills:

Bill H.853 removes polluting technologies-including wood burning (biomass) and garbage inciner-

ation from being considered “renewable.”

Bill H.897 protects all state conservation land as parks or reserves where forest ecosystems are guided primarily by natural processes.

Bill S.438/H.873 focuses on promoting healthy soils and agricultural innovation within the Commonwealth.

Join me and other environmental activists, because time is running out.

Peggy Wolff
Leverett Climate Action

WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS!

(ORIGINAL CONTENT ONLY, PLEASE)

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by **CHRIS PELLERIN**

Ah, June, a time for picnics, cookouts, campouts, and the Stanley Cup finals! Here’s what’s going on over the next couple of weeks in our neck of the woods.

Elise McMahon of Canine Head Start will give a talk on the second floor of the Carnegie Library, 201 Avenue A, Turners Falls on how to prevent and correct **behavior problems in dogs**. The presentation is from 10:30 to noon this Saturday, June 8. Do not bring your dog! Call Linda Hickman for more information at (413) 863-3214.

At Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, Turners Falls on Saturday, June 8 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., meet Montague Police Department’s **K-9 Artie and K-9 Officer Ruddock**. K-9 Artie has field-trained in several critical aspects

valuable to the MPD. Share in an informational meeting while getting to “shake hands” with both officers.

This is a family event, and children are most welcome. Light refreshments will be provided courtesy of GSB. And yes, there will be treats for K-9 Artie!

Great Falls Books through Bars will have two opportunities to volunteer this month: Saturday, June 8 and Sunday, June 23, from 1 to 4 p.m. each day. The group meets at La Mariposa, 111 Avenue A in Turners Falls.

We will be reading letters and sending free donated books to folks in prisons all over the country on both days. We can always use extra manila envelopes and packing tape, and if you have any extra almanacs, thesauruses, or books about Wicca, we would love to take them off your hands.

Don’t miss the **Wendell Misfit Prom**, “PROM-I-CON,” this Saturday, June 8. The prom parade starts at 6:30 p.m. on the Wendell Town Common and proceeds to the Deja Brew, where the prom starts at 7 p.m.

This is a benefit for the Wendell Meetinghouse, and tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 on the day of the event. They can be purchased at the Wendell Country Store and through the Facebook page, “Misfit Prom.” This year’s entertainment features live music by The Vibra-

tors. Santo Taco will be there serving delicious tacos until 10 p.m.

Greening Greenfield presents “Gardening for Pollinators: **Why Native Plants Matter** to Pollinators and Song Birds” on Wednesday, June 12, 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 43 Silver Street, Greenfield. Dr. Desiree L. Narango, urban wildlife ecologist, will talk at this free event.

Dr. Narango grew up in Baltimore, where her only interactions with the natural world were in her backyard watching squirrels, catching earthworms and climbing dogwood trees. After receiving a degree in environmental biology, she spent five years as a traveling field ecologist studying wildlife from the deserts of Arizona to the rainforests of Ecuador.

After visiting all these amazing places, she became aware of how urban development has drastically reduced the quality of habitat for wildlife in our cities and towns. She then became interested in studying how we can improve our urban landscapes to increase biodiversity and involve the public in the process. Dr. Narango is now a visiting research scientist at the University of Massachusetts. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call (413) 774-5667.

Looking ahead...

Saturday, June 15 is the 5K (3.1 mile) **race to raise funds for The Brick House**. The course is flat, fast, and fun.

The race starts at 10 a.m. Start and finish at the gravel parking lot at the top of the bike path (DCR Canalside Rail Trail) at Unity Park in Turners Falls. Pre-register for \$20 at www.runreg.com/the-brick-house-

5k. Race day registration is available from 9 to 9:45 a.m. for \$25. A sliding scale entrance fee will be available, and no participant will be turned away for lack of funds.

Walkers, rollers, skaters, etc. are also welcome. The course for non-runners is approximately 1 mile. Participants under 18 will need to have a parent or guardian sign the registration and waiver form. Volunteer and sponsorship opportunities are available. Please email thebrickhouse5k@gmail.com if you’re interested.

The Great American Campout will take place at Dexter Park Innovation School, 3 Dexter Street, Orange, from June 15 at 1 p.m. through June 16 at 10 a.m. There will be fun outdoor activities for both novice and experienced campers.

Refreshments, Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast will be provided. Volunteers are also needed to help families set up tents, run games, prepare food, oversee fire pits, tell campfire stories, and more. Contact Jessica at (978) 248-2055 x. 21 for more information.

On Friday, June 21, Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center will offer a **Summer Solstice Paddle** from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Barton Cove. Learn about summer solstice celebrations from around the world while kayaking.

The tour is appropriate for beginning and advanced kayakers ages 12 and over. Bring a snack or a picnic supper, water, and a flashlight. The program is free with your own kayak, and there will be kayaks available to rent for \$25. Pre-register by calling (800) 859-2960.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

One
More
Letter to
the Editors

On behalf of my group CLEAN! (Citizens for Landfill Environmental Action Now!), I would like to thank the residents of Leverett for their “Yes” vote on three measures planned to resolve our ongoing drinking water contamination issues.

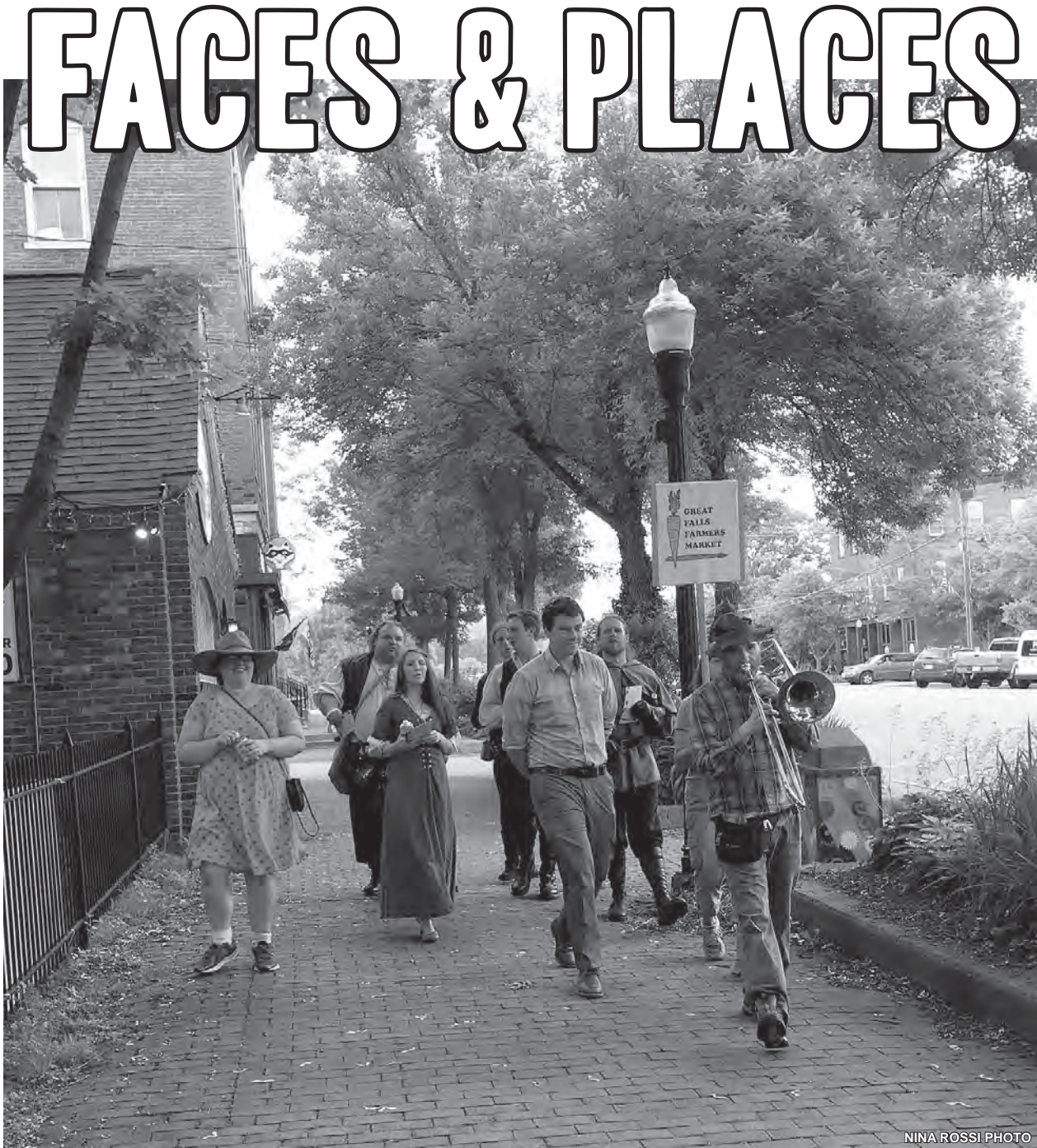
It was extremely heartwarming to see how our neighbors cared about us and our decades-old problem with our water, and deteriorating quality of life, by voting unanimously at Town Meeting to pass the measures, and a subsequent majority vote by ballot on June 1. Being able to move forward with solutions takes so much stress from our lives, and ensures us a better and more equitable future.

I would also like to specifically thank the Leverett Selectboard and Town Administrator, and the Water Committee, who worked with us for over a year to get to this point where we could present an accurate picture of what daily life has been like for the five families, how much we love Leverett, and what we can do when we decide to deal with the consequences of past actions.

It was not an easy path, and there were definitely some heated moments all around. But it’s important to note that regardless, we accomplished something that many towns do not. And that is because it was the right thing to do.

Many people are not supported by their town or local government in their quests for clean water. In Leverett, we can proudly say that we are.

Patricia Duffy
Leverett



The Great Falls Farmers Market, which has for some years been held Wednesdays in season at the corner of Second Street and Avenue A, moved this week to Peskeomskut Park. The move was emphasized by a sidewalk parade, joined by market staff, Mutton and Mead cast members, town hall official(s), and a trombone owner.

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EXPANSION from page A1

Orchestra, and the King Phillip Dix-ieland Band. Williams is owner and director of the JCPA.

You can see from the photo that final grading is underway for the parking lot expansion. The temporary playground for the preschool program has been moved to the opposite side of the building, with permanent improvements planned for the future.

The entrance to the theater is the large door on the far right that opens to a large vaulted foyer, boasting a box office and concession stand, as well as accessible bathrooms on either side. Second-story spaces to the right will house a music school for private lessons with John Waynelovich, and to the left, John will be adding a recording studio.

The new theater will seat 540, with tiered stadium-style seating as well as floor seating. During a recent weekend work bee, teen performers were on hand painting the risers for the stadium seating.

Around the corner in one of the



HARDING PHOTO

The new theater's stage is 100 feet by 50 feet in area.

new preschool rooms, there are hundreds of boxes of new seats just waiting to be unpacked and installed. Handicap-accessible ramps ring the theater on both sides, and the centerpiece of course is the stage – 100 by 50 feet in size. Three mechanical hoists, scheduled to arrive in mid-Ju-

ly, will be used to keep set changes happening efficiently and fluidly. State-of-the-art sound, light, and fly systems are in the works as well.

We wound our way to the side entrance, where the dance and preschool students will enter the building. We passed our way through two

SPORTS from page A1

singles 8-0, Joe Kochan and Josh Gaulin won first doubles 8-3, and Michael Boyle and Corin Wisnewki took second doubles, 8-5.

The win gives Big Blue a 14–2 record, the top seed in D-3 West and a first-round bye in the playoffs. This Thursday, June 6, they host #4 Lee, who defeated Mount Everett 3-2.

Girls Tennis

Belchertown 5 – TFHS 0
Greenfield 5 – TFHS 0

The Turners Falls girls' tennis team finally got out of the rain and squeezed in two matches.

They traveled down to Belchertown to challenge the Orioles on Wednesday, May 29. In this match, the Birds swept four matches in straight sets and took the fifth in a forfeit, giving them the 5-0 shutout.

The girls played their last match of the season last Friday. It would have been Senior Day, but they don't have any seniors. However, veterans Carlie Kretchmar and Rachel Tucker showed up to cheer on their former teammates.

In first singles, Haley Green made a surge in the second set, but couldn't win the fourth game, eventually losing 6-3. Izzy Farrick forced several deuces in second singles, but was unable to take advantage, and also lost in straight sets.

In third singles, Steph Peterson won the first set, outlasting her opponent 7-5, but she was swept in the second set and lost the tiebreaker 10-1. In doubles play, Ceci Wood and Maria Labelle were beaten 6-1, 6-1 while on the second court, Emily Dennison and Mercedes Bailey dropped their match 6-1, 6-2.

This marks the end of the road for the team. I've been impressed by their sportsmanship throughout the season. Even in defeat, they maintained their senses of humor, and always gave their opponents the benefit of the doubt.

Baseball

TFHS 4 – Mahar 0

The Powertown baseball team finished their regular season on a high note – actually two high notes. After an extended losing streak, Blue beat the Belchertown Orioles 1-0 in 10 innings. Five days later, on Thursday, May 30, they beat the Mahar Senators to extend their winning streak to two games.

In Thursday's game, Turners put

three runs across in the third inning and added another run in the fourth to shut out the Senators 4-0.

In the third, Bryce Waldron and Jake Labelle led off with walks. Jake Dodge flew out to center, advancing Waldron to third base. Waldron scored on a wild pitch and Jon Fritz got a single, advancing Labelle to third. Then Labelle scored when Dom Carme reached on an error and Fritz scored on an E2.

Jacob Burnett led off with a walk in the fourth, and Jack Patala scorched a double to put Burnett on third. Burnett then scored on a passed ball.

And that's all she wrote. The Boy Thunder took the game 4-0 and earned a #7 seed in the postseason. Powertown gets back to work on Thursday when they host #10 Lee.

Softball

TFHS 1 – Hampshire 0
Minnechaug 4 – TFHS 3 (10)

The Powertown softball team traded runs with two of the best softball teams in the state this week.

On May 30, they defeated Hampshire Regional, the best D-2 team in Western Massachusetts, by a run.



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Will Turn bests Chicopee Comp's Nate Roberts 8-3 at first singles on Senior Day at Turners Falls High School, contributing to the Thunder's 5-0 shutout in their final home match. Turners Falls hosts a Western Mass D-3 semifinal this Thursday, June 6, against quarterfinal winner Lee or South Hadley.

huge multi-function rooms added for the expansion of the preschool and performance school. Purple and turquoise, they join the existing orange, green, blue, and yellow rooms.

Well-planned interconnections to the original building have been designed, and along the way are separate bathroom, kitchen, and office spaces for the school.

Our final stop was the official home of the Ja'Duke Driving School, which has been operating since September. More than 100 students have been through the program. There are currently four active instructors, and Williams has taken the certification as well. Their spaces include an office, instructional rooms, and yet another set of bathrooms.

There's an aggressive construction schedule as the project nears completion, and Williams is planning a series of monthly work bees for interested students and parents. They are setting the stage for the gala opening event, which is scheduled for Friday, September 13.



The Turners Falls Athletic Club Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the following two students that have been selected to receive our scholarships. The awards, in the amount of \$1,000 each, are payable to the individual student for their second semester to the college of their choice.

John Putala of Erving • Ryan Campbell of Turners Falls

We would like to congratulate the scholarship winners and thank all the student athletes who applied; we wish you all the best of luck. We especially want to thank all of the active TFAC members whose donations make these scholarships possible.

Sincerely,
TFAC Scholarship Committee
Christian S. Couture – TFAC President

The Turners Falls Athletic Club
Supporting Sports & Academics for the Youth of Turners Falls Since 1934

Then on Saturday, they lost to Minnechaug, the best D-1 team in the West, also by a single run.

The Hampshire game was a one-run, no-hits affair for Blue. Although they came up empty with hits, Turners snuck a run by in the fourth.

In that inning, with two outs on the board, Ally Murphy walked and was relieved on first by pinch runner Paige Sulda. Sulda managed to steal second, and then Jade Tyler rocked a scorcher to the outfield. With two outs, Sulda didn't slow down. The

fielder dropped the ball, and Sulda crossed the plate, giving Blue the thin victory.

Then on Saturday, Blue Nation traveled to Wilbraham to challenge the Falcons for the top spot on the Western Mass leader board.

The Thunder made noise early. In the first inning, leadoff batter Cassidy Wozniak clocked a double right out of the gates. Jade Tyler reached base, and Ally Murphy knocked Wozniak home. Minnechaug tied it up in the second with a solo homer.

In the third, Wozniak scored on a catch and carry. I had to look this one up. If a fielder catches the ball in bounds and then goes out, the runners advance. Wozniak was awarded home, and Blue went up 2-1. Minnechaug is a great team, one of the best in the state. In the very next inning, with two outs, the ball was hit between two diving infielders, sending a run home and tying the game at 2.

The defenses took over from there, and after four scoreless innings, Blue finally retook the lead. In the top of the eighth, Wozniak scored when Aly Murphy popped the ball into center field. The inning ended with a pickoff to home.

In the bottom of the eighth, Minnechaug hit a SAC to tie it again, and the game continued.

Neither team scored in the ninth, but in the bottom of the tenth, a throwing error gave the Falcons the win, and bragging rights for Best in the West.

Turners Falls heads into the postseason as the #1 seed in D-3 West, joining Hampshire and Minnechaug as the top seeds in their divisions.

Next week:
The second season begins!



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JACKSON PHOTO

Breakdown's initial offerings occupy several tables.

RECORDS from page A1

and maintained an online store.

“I’ve always kept a regular job,” Magnuson says, adding that he plans to switch to a morning shift soon so he can run the record store on regular afternoon and evening hours.

The records appear to be priced to move, and there is a mixture of new, sealed reissues, bargain-bin fare, and a few particular pockets that betray the owner’s deep genre interests.

“I don’t like to pigeonhole by telling people I’m a hip hop store, or a punk rock store,” Magnuson says. “I have some of everything. But I have a lot of underground hip hop, ‘90s hip hop. I like to carry a lot of punk rock and metal – not mainstream metal, but stuff that’s harder to get – though I don’t really have a big selection of that right now, because it sells well.”

Nevertheless, there is *some* grindcore on hand, and a nice little offering of classic east coast rap singles, albums, and compilations.

Magnuson says he is interested in hosting events in the space, and welcomes sellers. “Bring it in and trade it out, I’m cool with that,” he says. “It’s a big spot... I’m willing to take

anything on consignment.”

Hours of operation are posted on the store’s website, *breakdownrecords.net*, where zines and comics are listed for sale in addition to some of the store’s records, tapes, and CDs. Magnuson says he is working on pricing a backlog of hundreds of items, but will generally put them out for sale at the brick-and-mortar location before listing them online.

When he left western Massachusetts in 1999, Magnuson says, his favorite record stores were Turn It Up! and Mystery Train. “Those were the best places, and they’re still here,” he says.

Two other record stores in the county sell used vinyl, but Magnuson says he isn’t worried. “I think that it’s complementary to have more options,” he says. “I don’t believe it’s competition. Just getting people into buying records and CDs, it helps everyone else.”

Breakdown Records is currently open Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Tuesdays from 4 to 9 p.m., and Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Watch the website for changing hours.



NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

More Head-Scratching Over Depot Road Property

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Several people attended the Wendell selectboard’s May 29 meeting for the discussion about the town-owned property at 97 Wendell Depot Road. The property, which includes a house and 12 acres, was bought by Lake Grove School, and then taken for unpaid taxes after Lake Grove left Wendell.

National Grid has an easement for an access road so the company can install a mobile substation on a fenced-in three-acre piece in the back of that property. The substation will allow them to make improvements to the Wendell Depot substation, and those improvements will allow the local power grid to accept more locally sourced solar generating fields.

Also within the 12 acres is a section of just under two acres which may become the site for a community solar project. The planners of that project worked with the conservation commission to avoid wetlands, and given their buffer zones and the area designated for that project to be economically viable, the project’s outline is too close to the house to fall within the town’s setback requirements, assuming the solar lot is subdivided from the house lot.

The house was built close to 1800, and is of interest to the historical commission, but the commission does not have enough money to do anything with it. It needs some work, but the building inspector said it is sound.

Historical commissioner Adrian Montagano said he took 400 pictures of the interior for documentation, and said that the building’s dry-laid stone foundation is worth going to see. He has been in contact with the descendents of the original builder, and they would like to see the house preserved.

Selectboard chair Dan Keller said the building contains 40-foot-long chestnut beams that are still in good condition. The house could be a gem for the right person or family to restore and live in, but high-voltage wires pass almost directly over it, and make the property unattractive.

Anna Seeger, an assessor and also a builder, has expressed interest in restoring the building for occupation where it is now. At the May 29 meeting she said she would

renovate it into a two-family rental, and that renters are less likely to be concerned about high-voltage wires than a buyer would be.

The lot has enough frontage around the corner on Farley Road. The house lot could include part of the proposed community solar project and comply with Wendell’s three-acre lot size.

Selectboard member Christine Heard suggested creating a request for proposals that would allow the town to select a buyer who would preserve the building, allow the community solar project, or reject any proposal.

Finance committee chair Doug Tanner said the fin com wants the property out of town ownership and back on the tax rolls. He added that if renters come with school-aged children, the cost of their schooling would be more than the property’s tax income.

Down the Road

Fire chief Joe Cuneo came in to talk about another house that the town owns on Wendell Depot Road, number 120. This house was built without a permit, was never occupied, and after years of work by town treasurer, Carolyn Manley, was taken for unpaid taxes. Its interior is moldy, and the building inspector condemned it.

The fire department would use it for training, but there are complications. The most apparent complication is the forest of young pines that has grown around it dense enough to hide the house from the road. Before a training fire, the pines would need to be cut down, but Cuneo said that is not a daunting prospect.

Removing the material is more of a problem. The shingles and vinyl siding would need to be disposed of as hazardous waste. Even if the WRATS takes them, it will still cost the town money for disposal from there.

After the building is burned, the remains would also have to be removed and disposed of within 21 days.

One good thing is that the house was built on a slab, so debris would not have to be pulled out of a hole.

Cuneo said that before the training fire, the fire departments could use the building for other training, such as escape with air packs, search and rescue, and forcible entry.

Broadband Dissent

Wendell has borrowed \$450,000 in anticipation of broadband expenses. The town has spent money on a concrete air-conditioned hut, which will act as the brains of the system. That hut is now sitting on a stone-filled base behind the office building, and make-ready work for the network is starting.

The town is ready to start using some of the borrowed money, and the board held a vote to authorize it.

Keller abstained. He cited his ongoing concern for people and households that do not subscribe to the fiber-optic network – estimated to be 40% of the town – who would still be paying for it through increased taxes. He said the broadband committee has worked hard, but unsuccessfully, to find a way to overcome that issue, and that it is a lot of money to borrow for what could be a risky enterprise.

Keller’s reasons for voting yes would have been that “the train has already left the station,” with the hut purchased and in place, and make-ready work starting. He said this broadband committee is a group that will find the way to make the internet system work if a way exists. He brought a written statement (see sidebar).

Other Business

Board members approved July 4 as the day for the town’s annual roadside cleanup.

New Salem has approved a 3% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for its employees, and the Wendell fin com is recommending a COLA of 1.7%. Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich is paid by both towns, and to address the discrepancy, the selectboard approved a 1.3% raise on top of her COLA so the two towns will continue to pay an equal share of her salary. It is the first raise, other than COLAs, that Aldrich has received.

With input from fin com chair Doug Tanner, board members discussed the town meeting warrant. Along with the normal town expenses and processes that must be approved annually, there are several articles unique to this year:

Article 6 would approve an amount of money for replacement of doors and windows at Swift River School. Although not guaranteed, 76% of that money is expected to be refunded to the towns by the Massa-

chusetts School Building Authority.

Article 8 would establish a \$10,000 revolving fund for the wiring inspector, plumbing inspector, and town hall kitchen, and a \$5,000 revolving fund for the recreation commission.

Articles 9 and 10 would establish a broadband enterprise fund and a broadband enterprise capitalization fund, and **Article 11** would appropriate \$227,530 for the MLP enterprise fund.

Article 22 would authorize \$2,500 to pay for library director transition costs.

Article 24 would take \$25,000 from stabilization, and authorize borrowing \$100,000 for a backhoe.

Board members signed the warrant, and constable Dan Keller posted it.

Open Letter from Wendell Selectboard Chair Dan Keller

When I voted No on the last broadband borrowing, I gave a list of concerns I had at the time, and I still do have real concerns about Wendell borrowing so much money for this project, a business that could be risky, which could lead me to vote No again.

One of those concerns is for the people who don’t want the service, or those who won’t be able to afford it, yet will have to pay for the debt through their property taxes. This has been discussed by our Broadband Committee, and they do understand that this is a problem, but the effort to find a way to address it has not produced any results.

On the other hand, some facts on the ground have changed that would lead me to vote Yes. The most obvious fact is that the train has left the station, meaning that the project has begun, and Wendell has already spent over \$800,000 to begin the process of preparing the telephone poles for the new wires. We’ve spent more than \$50,000 on a high-tech concrete “hut,” the brains of the system, which now sits behind the Town Office building.

With that kind of money having been spent, there’s no turning back, and it may be that the best

thing Wendell residents can do at this point is to subscribe to the service, encourage our neighbors to join, and do everything we can to make this business a success. It is possible that if enough people sign up there will be enough revenue to help repay the debt and reduce the property tax burden.

Another incentive for me to vote Yes is my feeling that we have a first class, hard-working and talented team making this project happen. The broadband effort was begun more than 10 years ago by dedicated supporters, who learned a lot along the way and have kept the idea alive.

The current Broadband Committee and our Finance Committee have both unanimously supported the project and its financing and are now working overtime to make sure all the moving parts of this complicated job work right. I feel that if anyone could make this Wendell business succeed, this is the team that could do it.

That being said, I will Abstain from this vote as a symbolic support for people who will not take the service – estimated at 40% of the town – unless I am a tie-breaking vote, in which case I will have to reconsider.

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ERVING from page A1
the town will receive an additional \$100,000 grant from MBLC.

Smith said that, if the array is not built, the town will need to find other energy-saving improvements for the building.

Library building committee member Jacqueline Boyden said she was disappointed that there was only one bid, but added that, if the town delays in awarding the bid, “given the tariffs, it’s going to cost more later.” She also noted that installing the array would be useful when the town submits future Green Communities grant applications.

Library director Barbara Friedman told board members that at the most recent building committee meeting, architect Philip O’Brien of Johnson Roberts Associates, Inc. was “doubtful that the project will generate enough credits without the solar array.” “This is part of our package,” she added. “The grant is based on the whole ball of wax.”

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith replied that the town is spending “over the \$5 million they said they would match the grant against,” and that perhaps the grant amount should be renegotiated to reflect that.

Noting that the building committee’s estimate for FF&E was \$180,000, Jacob Smith asked, “Do we have any actual quotes?” He commented that there were still no comprehensive quotes for furnishing the entire building.

Friedman said that the original estimate for FF&E was \$279,000, but that \$180,000 “is a realistic figure.” She said that the FF&E subcommittee had obtained quotes for furnishing the children’s room for \$44,000, and added that they had obtained used shelving from the town

of Webster for a savings of \$12,000 to \$15,000. Boyden said that when the senior and community center was constructed, there was an interior designer to work on FF&E, but for the library, a town subcommittee was “working diligently on it.” “That furniture is downright expensive!,” she added.

Jacob Smith asked Friedman to provide the selectboard with a range for the FF&E costs. “This is the last request” to the town for construction money, he said.

Friedman replied that the \$180,000 figure “is the lowest possible amount that we could be comfortable with.”

The board asked Friedman to consult with MBLC about whether the PV array was essential to the grant amount, and to provide more information about FF&E costs. They decided to discuss the array and furniture further at the June 10 selectboard meeting, and determine the amount to include on the special town meeting warrant then.

After the meeting, Friedman provided an email from Lauren Stara of MBLC, stating that the PV array “...was a programmatic element included in [Erving’s] application. Elimination would be considered a reduction in the scope of the project and would not be allowed under the terms of the grant.”

Reserve Fund Requests

The selectboard requested the finance committee to release \$35,077.28 of the \$40,000 reserve fund for the FY’18 financial audit, email service migration, the trash and recycling program, and unanticipated highway department expenses.

Reserve funds are established to provide

for unforeseen or extraordinary expenditures, and any transfers out of a reserve fund require a majority vote of the finance committee.

The request included \$8,977.26 for the audit. The selectboard and fin com agreed to an audit annually rather than every three years, but the money was not included in the FY’19 budget.

It also included \$9,000 for curbside trash and recycling collection, because the amount voted at annual town meeting was based on an estimate, and the actual costs were higher.

It would transfer \$4,000 for migration from the current Zimbra email platform to a Microsoft 365 platform. The project was originally planned for FY’20, but the current provider is discontinuing service at the end of June.

The request also included \$13,100 for highway expenses, including repair to the 2010 F550 dump truck, safety equipment, installation of backup cameras for the plow trucks, replacement of two tires for the loader, and placement of five cement barriers at the corner of Papermill Road and Prospect Street.

Selectboard member William Bembury questioned using the reserve fund for this type of expense. Jacob Smith commented that there was only one month left in FY’19 and, if not used by June 30, money remaining in the reserve fund would be classified as “free cash” and be unavailable until certified by the state Department of Revenue.

The Rising Cost Of Living

Expenses for FY’20 employee cost of living adjustment (COLA) and merit raises were not included in the operating budget voted at the May 1 annual town meeting. According

to an introductory letter to the FY’20 budget prepared by the board, “The Town is currently engaged in a study to review all non-union jobs, classifications, and the compensation schedule. The Board and the Finance Committee have agreed to review the findings in May and recommend compensation adjustments at the June 2019 Special Town Meeting.”

As of Monday, the study had not been completed and sent to the town. Bryan Smith said he expected to receive it by Wednesday. Board members said they would try to review it quickly and recommend COLAs for town employees by their June 10 meeting, so they could include the adjustments on the special town meeting warrant.

However, they also said that if the study proves too complex to review in a few days, they might use a single COLA for all employees for FY’20, and then use the study to adjust compensation in future years.

Other Business

Bryan Smith said that fire chief Philip Wonkka has agreed to serve on the patrolman search committee. The board decided to re-advertise the position.

The board engaged in a philosophical discussion regarding whether to fund major projects, such as the library construction and wastewater plant upgrade, by borrowing or by spending from savings (stabilization).

A memo from treasurer Julie Wonkka recommended that the town use existing funds from stabilization, and avoid loan origination and interest fees. Wonkka also recommended the town develop an annual plan to replenish the stabilization account.



BRIDGE from page A1

through a line over the bridge. He had purchased the former county housing authority building, he told the board, not only to make cider, but to create a cider bar and event space. Soon after acquiring the building, however, he was told that its small septic system would only allow him to serve 23 customers at a time, which he called a “no go” for his business.

At the December meeting, town administrator Steve Ellis said Montague was very aware of the need for sewer access for a number of potential projects along the canal, but that state aid for infrastructure was contingent on a “multi-million dollar project” that was not immediately on the horizon.

Ellis also said the bridge would need an inspection when the canal was drawn down, probably in September, to determine the condition of its deck. The selectboard seemed “intrigued” with Sherrer’s idea, in the words of chair Rich Kuklewicz, but said they wanted to see “more development” of what the private non-profit, which did not yet exist, would look like.

Six months later, the non-profit has not been formed, but significant work has been done on the former mill that houses the cidery. A used clothing store and a yoga center have rented spaces in the front of the building, and some cider is being stored in the basement.

A Facebook page was created last month touting the project, soliciting a “collection of dedicated folks” to carry it out. And Sherrer seems as enthusiastic as ever about

a tourist “destination venue” that would also bring sewer access to the canal district.

Every Option Available

We caught up with Sherrer, hard at work in the previously undeveloped back portion of the old mill on a beautiful, sunny June day. The spring waters were flowing fast through the old canal.

Sherrer said he believed the bridge was potentially viable without a \$500,000 investment just to rehab the upper structure, as town officials seemed to think. As for the lower deck, he said the bridge was constructed for truck traffic, but “what you need for trucks is not what you need for pedestrians.” He suggested that an evaluation of the deck could be done relatively cheaply.

Sherrer’s main argument, as he had told the board in December, is that an analysis of the bridge could be done more quickly and cheaply by a private non-profit whose mission was focused on rehabilitating the structure. The organization could make the deck viable with minimal work, he said, and then make the upper structure a “long-term project.”

We asked Sherrer if it might not appear to be a conflict of interest for a non-profit that he created to be a vehicle for funding sewer access to his business. “That’s why I want to help start it, but then back off,” he told the *Reporter*.

Town planner Walter Ramsey said that the town recognizes the importance of sewer access to the “Canal District,” a name derived from a 2017 planning study by a

group of University of Massachusetts graduate students. He pointed to a potential state Massworks grant to fix another nearby bridge – the closed Fifth Street pedestrian bridge.

“The town definitely needs dreamers, and sometimes, those dreams become reality.”
Steve Ellis, Montague town administrator

He also spoke of the possibility of the Department of Transportation replacing the Bailey Bridge, the one-way bridge into the Patch built immediately next to the Sixth Street Bridge in 1988, and the foot bridge owned by the FirstLight power company that passes over the bike path into the Strathmore complex.

“We are pursuing every option available,” Ramsey told the *Reporter*.

Good Historic Integrity

According to a 1986 state historic bridge inventory, the Sixth Street bridge was deemed historic in the process of identifying downtown Turners Falls as a national historic district in 1982. “Visual appeal has been lessened by large water mains (?) running just outside the lower chords of both trusses,” the evaluation reads. Sewer and water mains are currently attached to the side of

the bridge’s deck.

The volunteer-run website *historicbridges.org* gives the Powers Street Bridge an “Historic Significance” rating of 7 out of 10 points. By comparison, the Fifth Street Bridge, with its famous “hump” recently removed by the state, is rated 5, while the controversial General Pierce Bridge received a rating of 6.

The website calls the Powers Bridge “a significant example of an uncommon structure type, the double-Warren truss. The bridge appears to retain good historic integrity.”

“While the fact that the bridge is fenced off when it clearly could support pedestrians is unfortunate,” the site continues, “it is nice to see that at least this bridge has been left standing next to its replacement, when many other states would have torn such a bridge down just for the sake of scrap metal and laziness.” The website notes the bridge also might be “a candidate for relocation and reuse in a new location as a historic bridge for non-motorized traffic.”

Real Property?

In support of his claim that the selectboard could sell the bridge to a private non-profit without a bidding process, Sherrer cited MGL Chapter 30B Section 15(g), which deals with disposing of property with “resale or salvage value.”

According to this section, “a governmental body may by a majority vote, unless otherwise prohibited by law, dispose of a tangible supply no longer useful to the governmental body but having resale or salvage value, at less than the fair market

value to a charitable organization which has received a tax exemption from the United States...”

Section 15 also states that this part of the law “does not apply to the disposal of real property,” though the “definitions” section of the chapter does not define “real property” for the purposes of the statute.

When we asked Steve Ellis if a “bridge of lights” was the idea of a “dreamer,” he said “the town definitely needs dreamers, and sometimes, those dreams become reality. But the selectboard would definitely need to be confident of the economic viability of any entity that purchased the bridge.”

In defending the realism of his proposal, Sherrer points to an aggressive effort by the state of Pennsylvania to market its historic bridges, including to non-profits. He also points to the work of organizations like the Historic Bridge Foundation, which began in the state of Texas.

Sherrer, who still needs to find the personnel to populate the proposed private non-profit, responded to the selectboard’s concerns: “Let [the non-profit] do it, and if it doesn’t work – if it’s a no go – then they’ll give it back to the town. I see no downside.”



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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Sewer Solar May Be Back on Track; “Junker” Confusion Delays License

By JEFF SINGLETON

According to Bob McDonald, superintendent of the Montague Water Pollution Control Facility, the solar array planned for the Montague City treatment plant may be back on track. The town recently received a grant to design the solar project, but the deadline for construction is due to expire before there is certainty about the future of a key state solar subsidy program called SMART.

McDonald had told the board in late April that for the solar project to be viable, the town needed to qualify for state incentives, but that these had been entirely used up in the region under SMART.

At Monday night’s selectboard meeting, McDonald said that he, town administrator Steve Ellis, and Natalie Blais and Joanne Comerford, Montague’s representatives in the legislature, had “some positive conversations” about how quickly the SMART incentives in the region had been “used up” by private solar firms, while public projects were required to go through a longer process to apply.

“They’re going to go back and review and they’re saying ‘you’re right, municipalities are not getting the same shake as the private companies,’ McDonald explained. “So they’re going to try to create more incentive programs for us in the near future.”

McDonald went on to say that the state “did not anticipate so many private companies. Because western Mass has so much land, they consumed all the megawatts [in the incentive program] in two days. Eastern Mass is still trying to fill all the blocks.”

He said he “felt confident” that there would be future opportunities for municipal solar in the region. McDonald also told the board that the state had extended the deadline for implementation of the Montague project required by the current design grant.

“There’s been a pretty strong and solid drumbeat from small communities in western Massachusetts, where the SMART incentive allocation was almost immediately consumed, and therefore not available for projects as anticipated,” said Ellis. “We don’t have assurance that the state is going to alter the program on our behalf, but we do know that they have heard a consistent message.”

McDonald also requested that the board execute a contract for \$46,000 with the environmental engineering company Wright-Pierce to investigate “I&I” issues in the Millers Falls sewer system. Sewage from Millers is pumped to Erving for processing. “I&I” refers to infiltration and inflow: excess water entering the sewer system through leaks or from outside sources, such as storm drains and sump pumps.

“It is causing our total flow to Erving to exceed our averages, and what our contract [with Erving] is designed for,” said McDonald.

The budget for the project was approved at the annual Montague town meeting in May, but McDonald said that if the contractor began the project

before the end of this fiscal year (June 30), he could finance “a very small amount of it” out of his budget.

McDonald said he hoped the investigation would be completed in August. “The goal,” said Ellis, “is to investigate the source of the leak as soon as possible, so we can have an accelerated capital project.”

Junk Uncountable

A request by Mark Johnson of Mark’s Auto on Federal Street in Montague Center for a Class II used car dealer’s license produced an unexpectedly long and inconclusive discussion about how many “junk” cars and old buses could be parked on his property. Johnson told the board he has purchased a property on 44 Federal Street that was once a used car dealership, and would like to have a similar license.

At first, Johnson said he would like to be allowed to have 24 cars on the property. Administrative assistant Wendy Bogosz said that under the previous license, 20 cars were allowed in front of the building, and 15 “out back.”

But Wayne Jenks, an abutter, noted that the previous owner had 90 to 100 “junk cars” in the back, exceeding his limit, and pointed out that the property was in the “aquifer protection district.”

Eventually Johnson estimated that he might want 20 “junkers” at one time, in addition to the 24 cars for sale, which would be a total of 44.

“Is that what you are proposing?” asked Ellis. “That would be a huge increase in the ask, then.”

Ellis was about to request a motion for 24 cars for sale and 15 junk cars out back when Jenks asked, “Does that include the school buses that were left there?”

“No,” Johnson replied, “those were grandfathered in as storage.”

“I think that makes them an inoperable vehicle, so they would be counted as your essentially junk vehicles,” responded Ellis.

Eventually the motion was rescinded, pending more research and discussion among Ellis, Bogusz, and Johnson. The board then quickly approved, without incident, a Class II dealer’s license for Jeffrey Koch of 98 Turners Falls Road.

Other Business

Nick Waynelovich, his daughter Kim Williams, and a baby who was not officially introduced to the board came to the front table to give an update on the progress of the new Ja’Duke Theater in the airport industrial park. “We’re not asking for anything,” said Waynelovich.

“Just bringing good news,” said selectboard member Mike Nelson.

Waynelovich announced that the new 540-seat theater, the largest in Franklin County, would open on Friday the 13th of September, with a production of *The Sound of Music*. (See article, page A1.)

Linda Tardif of the Shea Theater Arts Center requested the use of public property in front of the Shea for a “sidewalk café” on August 24. The café will be used during Tardif’s wedding, but Shea board member Monte Belmonte said the event could also be seen as a “marketing device” for similar events at the Shea. The selectboard approved the request.

The board approved a license agreement between the town and the Turners Falls Fire District to use and reconstruct the rear access to the fire station on Turners Falls Road. The reconstructed access will be used by both the fire station and the soon-to-be-constructed department of public works facility.

Following a hearing on a new malt beverage and wine license for Mystic Pinball at 104 Avenue A in Turners Falls, the board approved the license, which will only be transferable to another entity located at the same address.

Brian Camden, manager of the Turners Falls Airport, came before the board for approval of purchases of eight pieces of equipment. The purchases, which included a mower with a “solar canopy,” an equipment trailer, and “forestry equipment,” is being financed by state grants. The board approved the requests.

The selectboard approved a transfer of \$6,000 from the reserve fund for police dispatch overtime. The transfer still must be approved by the finance committee.

The board also approved disbursements of \$12,775 to the engineering firm Tighe and Bond for the Strathmore demolition design project, and of \$16,015 to Aqua-Turf Irrigation for the Rutters Park improvement project in Lake Pleasant.

The board then retired into executive sessions to discuss the purchase of real estate in the industrial park, and litigation concerning the former Southworth paper mill. The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, June 17.

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June 15th & 16th

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LOOKING BACK 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was June 4, 2009: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Biomass: An Ongoing Debate

As Greenfield continues to debate whether to proceed with a 47-megawatt biomass-fueled power plant proposed for the I-91 Industrial Park, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments met Thursday to hear presentations from Gordon Boyce, of the state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), and Dwayne Breger of the Division of Energy Resources (DOER), on the availability of clean, harvestable wood in western Massachusetts.

Boyce, the marketing and utilization forester at DCR, told the council that Franklin County was the most forested in the state -- at 83% -- and that the total amount of cubic feet of wood had increased about 400% since the state had first been inventoried in 1952.

Breger, director of renewable energy resources at DOER, cited studies that show that in the five western counties of Massachusetts, 2 million tons of green wood per year could be harvested sustainably from private and state-owned lands. DOER estimates this could fuel about 165 megawatts of electricity per year.

Burning wood as biomass is considered “sustainable” because – ide-

ally – only as much wood is burned as is produced each year through natural growth and culling.

Chris Matera of Massachusetts Forest Watch noted that a figure of 900,000 “dry” tons included in the estimate of annually available wood by DOER and DCR was an “upper limit” from a January 2008 Umass study of state and private harvestability. He also noted that, including Greenfield’s, biomass plants currently proposed for the state would generate 202 megawatts per year, which would require 2.6 million tons of green wood annually, more than the state’s estimates of supply.

A second meeting to hear presentations from opponents of the plant is scheduled for June 25.

Erving Senior Center Plans Discussed

The Erving selectmen focused on regrouping after the negative vote at town meeting complicated the effort to proceed with plans for the new Senior Center. The selectmen developed a draft warrant for a special town meeting scheduled for June 22. The main article will concern a funding package to put the senior center back on track.

Article One will involve borrowing one million dollars from an outside lending agency, a transfer of \$900,000 from free cash, and a vote

to raise and appropriate \$445,364 to round out the financial package.

G-M Budget Chaos Returns

Following months of lengthy evaluation by the previous school committee, the newly elected Gill-Montague school committee has urged Montague to vote its budget down.

Jeff Singleton said he would prefer to bring the current budget to Montague Town Meeting on June 6, and added that he hoped it would be defeated -- a sentiment that Joyce Phillips echoed in a formal motion.

The article asks that Montague approve \$7,363,135 for its share of operating the schools. The town will have the option of passing or rejecting this assessment.

I’ll Take “Things That Still Haven’t Happened” For 1,000

Wendell selectboard member Jeoffrey Pooser reported back from a meeting in New Salem with the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, governor Deval Patrick, and others.

He said Patrick views internet access as a utility, no longer a luxury, and that the state’s goal is to expand service to all of Massachusetts by the end of 2011, using whatever variety of technologies is necessary.

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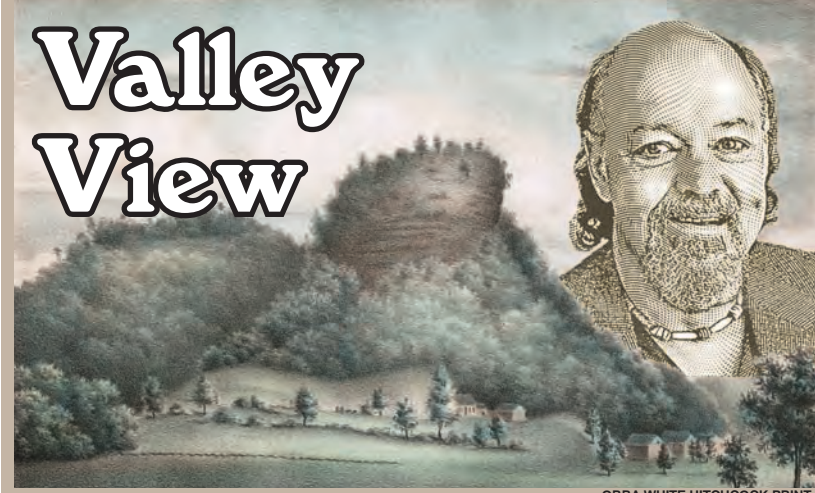
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By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD – It’s after 1 on a Sunday afternoon in Conway, where a high, hot, hazy sun greets our hilltop fieldtrip. Pale blue skies have displaced the thick, grey, morning cloud cover and showers, some heavy, that lingered past noon, threatening our gathering. The air is warm and thick, visible humidity rising like steam from rich, saturated upland meadows.

Organizing the event were Conway Historical Commissioners who, about three years ago, in an exploratory spinoff from the Franklin County hill-town’s 250th birthday-celebration plans, embarked on a cooperative study of an old, discontinued road network from the distant past. The local research team found its step back in time so exciting and fulfilling that it continues to this day, bringing with it exciting new twists and turns reaching back into deep history and our arcane indigenous past.

We were there to view a large, peculiar slab of Conway bedrock lore, an inauspicious site pointed out to generations of children by farmers as an interesting Indian relic. Hollowed into the flat stone surface is a deep, circular mortar said to be used by Stone Age people grinding corn into grain.

At least that was the tale told to the few folks who today remember family adults sending them to clean a blanket of leaves and debris off the surface to expose two bedrock bowls, close together, one

large, one small, both typically water-filled. The smaller one is a foot in diameter, 4½ inches wide at its base, and five inches deep. The larger, trough-like depression is five feet long, 20 inches wide, and three feet deep.

“Why don’t you clean out the Indian corn-grinding holes,” working adults would say to their kids in an effort to keep them occupied as they tended to their nearby dry cows in summer pasture. The farm kids knew the drill, enjoyed it, eagerly awaited the suggestion, and never objected. The chore spun their imagination off to an esoteric place they enjoyed visiting.

By request of the organizers who want to protect the site, we won’t pinpoint it.

Two folks from different farm families were on site that day to share their childhood memories. A man and woman, both were Conway natives north of 70 who remember their town as a rural farm community. Today, few Conway dairy farms remain and cows are not pastured near the bedrock mortar stone. Instead, a few stylish, secluded, modern homes have been built on the footprint of 18th- and early 19th-century farms marked by stone-clad cellar holes.

Now is the time to record for posterity the folklore at such sites. Left to wither on the vine, old tales vanish like summer puddles or, yes, the indigenous people who called Conway home before colonial Europeans arrived on our shores. Soon there will be

see **VALLEY VIEW** page B5



PHOTO COURTESY CONWAY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Conway residents have long believed these holes were once used for grinding corn.



Close To Home And Otherworldly

Two exhibits explore different planes of existence.

TURNERS FALLS – Edite Cunha started photographing the alleys near her Turners Falls home a couple of years ago, when she upgraded from her flip phone and “got something smarter.” Walking the alleys between her house and her daughter’s apartment, Cunha realized that she was seeing the way Mary Edith, a character in a novel she’s writing, sees. Mary Edith, a young Portuguese girl transplanted to a Massachusetts mill town, narrows her vision in order to see beauty in what Cunha describes as a “crazy, ugly, industrial landscape.”

Quoting her character, Cunha says, “Mary Edith says, ‘You have to lower your eye a little so you don’t see the smokestacks.’” Instead, Mary Edith notices the chicory blooming along the train tracks.

Mary Edith’s story is based on Cunha’s own experience. When she was seven years old, her family moved from Portugal to Peabody, Massachusetts.

“Portugal is bright and colorful, and the buildings are covered with mosaic,” Cunha says. “Buildings will be pink or blue or yellow. Someone will say, ‘Turn left at the pink building,’ and you get there and realize there are a lot of them.”

In stark contrast, her first glimpse of the US was in April, at the end of a bad snowstorm. “Flying over Boston, it was all dark brick, with ugly piles of snow.”

Her Portuguese neighborhood in Peabody had “pretty little gardens, but there were factories all around,” Cunha says. Learning to “curate my angle of vision” helped Cunha – and Mary Edith – find beauty, and became a habit she carried with her.

Years later, Cunha’s smartphone camera allowed her to frame the slices of beauty she saw in the Turners



One of Edite Cunha’s photographs, part of her #rightupmyalley series of photos taken in Turners Falls at the Great Falls Discovery Center this month.

Falls alleys: a full rain barrel with a bright yellow origami swan floating on the water’s dark surface; a stack of plastic lawn chairs against a brick wall; the diagonals of fire escapes against the upright walls of buildings; a neighbor’s back porch muted by fog.

Her daughter encouraged her to post the images on Instagram, and the response she got there was so positive, it gave rise to the idea of a show called #rightupmyalley, currently on view at the Great Falls Discovery Center for the month of June. Cunha received partial funding from the Montague Cultural Council, which gave her a small grant that helped cover some of the printing costs.

“But what I printed is only a small amount of what I’ve taken,” she says. “Every time I walk around, I see a new picture in the very same alley.”

The light will be different, or someone will put something out – like a beautiful old bed that was leaning up against the bricks in the Third Street alley, or a toy hobby-horse she spotted on a third floor back porch, perched on top of a round laundry line.

“I haven’t been able to take that picture properly,”

see **ARTBEAT** page B5

THE AUTHORS’ CORNER: AT THE BOOK EXPO

By IZZY VACHULA-CURTIS

TURNERS FALLS – On Wednesday May 29, Thursday May 30, and Friday May 31, I attended the Book Expo in New York City with my mom and my aunt in order to make contact with authors for my future columns. Book Expo is a big event held in the Javits Center, where there are a lot of authors signing samples, or advanced readers copies (arcs) of their new books. Publishers – such as Disney, Hachette, and Penguin Random House – set up booths, and at the beginning of each day, you get a copy of Publisher Weekly’s *Show Daily* telling you when certain panels are, when authors are going to be signing, and when arcs are going to be handed out.

On Wednesday, we got to the city around 11 a.m. It was really, really exciting when we checked in at the Javits Center and got our badges.

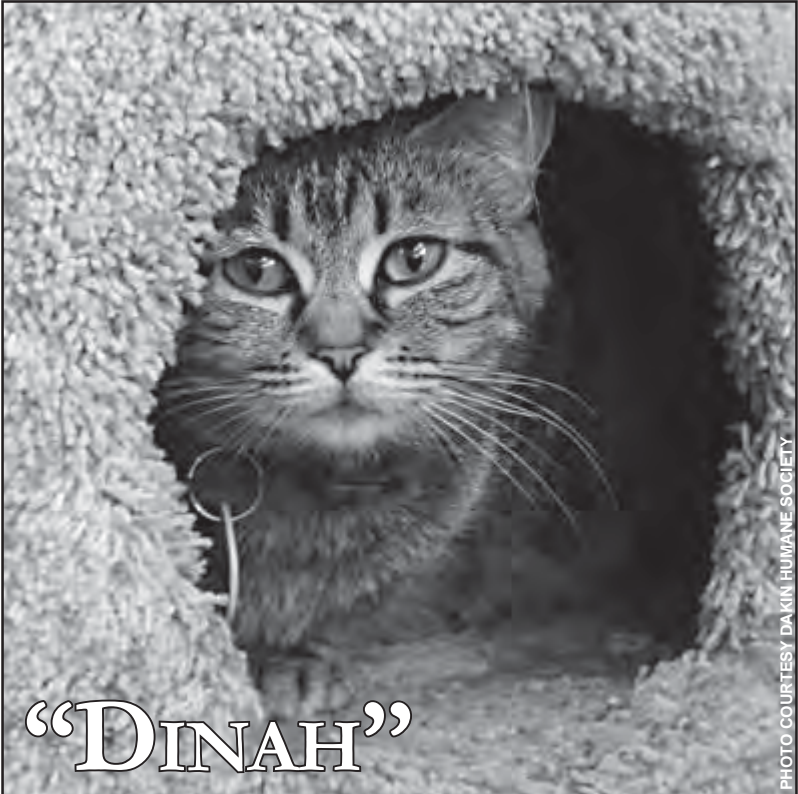
One of the highlights of the trip was meeting Brandon Mull’s editor. We went to the Shadow Mountain Publishing booth, and there was a table with posters, and stickers, for Mull’s new book, *Dragonwatch: Master of the Phantom Isle*. Mull wasn’t at Book Expo because he was finishing the edits for the new *Dragonwatch* book. His editor was at the *Dragonwatch* table,

see **AUTHOR’S** page B8



PHOTO COURTESY IZZY VAC
Our fearless correspondent hobnobs with Esteban, the green crayon from The Day the Crayons Quit.

Pet of the Week



“DINAH”

PHOTO COURTESY DAKIN HUMANE SOCIETY

Why hello there! I’m Dear Delightful Dinah, but you can just call me Dinah for short. I was brought to Dakin in the middle of a snowstorm by some concerned citizens who found me wandering about. I was in good health and, *surprise!*, pregnant! I spent a week at Dakin just in case my family saw the flyers that my finders posted. When nobody

came forward I got to go into foster care to give birth and raise my kittens. My three beautiful babies have found wonderful homes, and now it’s my turn! I can’t wait to be spoiled rotten by my new family. Come meet me today! Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or info@dpvhs.org.

Senior Center Activities

JUNE 10 THROUGH 14

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 6/10
8 a.m. Foot Clinic (by appt.)
1 to 3 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday 6/11
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga
3:30 p.m. Meditation (pre-reg.)
Wednesday 6/12
9 to a.m. Veterans’ Outreach
12:30 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 6/13
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga
1 p.m. Cards & Games
4 p.m. Mat Yoga
Friday 6/14
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 Betters, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation

can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.
Monday 6/10
8:45 a.m. Step & Sculpt
9:30 a.m. COA Meeting
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance
11:30 a.m. Breakfast Brunch
12:30 p.m. Pitch card games
Tuesday 6/11
8:45 a.m. S.W.A.P. Exercise
10 a.m. Stretch & Balance
12 p.m. Soup & Sandwich
1 p.m. Blanket Making
– Need Volunteers!
Wednesday 6/12
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
12 p.m. Homemade Lunch
1 p.m. Juggler Bryson Lang
Thursday 6/13
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
12 p.m. Homemade Lunch
12:30 p.m. Bingo
Friday 6/14
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.



By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – Buoyed by old memories and energized by the thought of a brief get-away, Ken broaches the subject of a four-day trip to Old Quebec. Ken has first made this journey on a motorcycle with a friend who makes a living as a traveling troubadour. They stayed at a motel just a few miles short of Old Quebec eleven years ago. Ken has returned there twice the following two years and found it just the same. I love stepping back in time, and imagine the pleasure of using eight years of schoolgirl French again.

We set the date for the end of the following month, put it on the calendar, and engage our wonderful cat-minder. We plan on two travel days, leaving on Tuesday and returning on Friday, which will leave us two days wandering the old city. The morning of our departure is not propitious. We wake after a poor night’s rest to gray skies and light rain, which increases as we head up the full length of the state of Vermont. Large semis drown us further, cutting off our vision for minutes at a time.

We reach the border customs around three, with a few hours more to get to our goal. We stop there for an intensive search both verbal and hands on. Everything is searched thoroughly: the car, the suitcases, and the cooler.

Our passport information is run through the computer in a search for any illegal activities, arrests, etc. I think of the two serious infractions in my past: one, an overnight in a fraternity house which could have resulted in immediate expulsion (oh my poor mother!); and a couple of shoplifting episodes in sixth grade at the five-and-dime. I review these all guiltily, but of course the computer knows nothing of all that.

Ken receives a lecture about the hunting knife next to the spare tire which he forgot to mention when asked if we had any weapons. It is okay, however, as it does not operate like a switchblade. However, he should have listed it, just the same. We understand that in the nature of the times, such intense scrutiny is warranted. Nonetheless, it consumes the better part of an hour, and we’re not there yet.

As we prepare to continue northward, we are further subdued when the customs officer asks us where we are staying. She is concerned that we have no reservations, but hopes that we can still find a place. Until now Ken has felt quite confident about returning to his small motel outside the city of Old Quebec.

We are briefly heartened by the fact that the rain has abated, and the skyline of Quebec is lighter as we finally come into view of the “new” Quebec. We have been delayed some more by getting lost on the route a couple of times, and it is getting dusky by the time we finally stop for directions in a town called Levis.

At last, just before eight o’clock,

THE GARDENER’S COMPANION

A Journey Northward

we see a motel sign and turn right in. We are lucky enough to snatch one of their two remaining rooms, and further, to find clean, quiet accommodation.

We snack from the contents of the cooler and break out the bottle of wine (duly declared). A couple of hours later we have unwound enough to sleep, although the word “refreshed” would not be an apt description of our condition in the morning. At eight o’clock there is no one in the office yet, and no sign of coffee.

Back on the road again we cross one of the large, busy bridges over the St. Lawrence River. We veer quickly onto the Boulevard des Hôtels and pull up to the first one. We are speedily assured that everything in the city is booked. The tourist season has begun early this year.

We are exhausted, frustrated, and frazzled by the need for coffee. I am the first to cave in – this is a trip to celebrate my birthday, after all. As we climb back in the car, I say hesitantly that I am okay with turning back and spending our two days exploring northern Vermont instead. I note the alacrity with which Ken turns the key in the ignition, and we bumble backwards, finding the bridge again. We are soon on the big Route 20, heading west and then south. Huge sighs of relief fill the car with a sense of euphoria.

At ten o’clock there is a rest area. We climb out, assemble ham-and-cheese sandwiches, and finish off the wine. My French has deserted me, and it is all I could do to read the abbreviated signs fast enough to respond to the rush of the cars behind us.

Nothing pleases us more than to be tootling down Route 20, which will connect to Route 55, the road south to the border.

Not so fast: the Canadians are not finished with us yet. Out of nowhere, a sudden Detour sign takes everyone off the westbound lanes. We crane our necks and see that a fully-loaded logging truck has taken a curve too quickly and rolled over, logs like tinker toys on the verge.

We have been dumped on a side road with no further directions about the detour. After twenty minutes or so, Ken wisely chooses to look for another entrance to Route 20, this time eastbound, where we can reverse our direction at an exit.

On the way back we are passed by a metal-slatted trailer full of enormous pigs. They have been packed in like sardines, and are lying on top of one another. As they go by, one large snout pokes through the slats to sniff the air. These piggies are bound for slaughter, although they don’t know it. The French word is *abattoir*, a bit more mysterious and concealing, but it is still the same hard end. We empathize, feeling much the same.

Several years ago I read a painfully graphic description of how these poor creatures are prodded electrically and, squealing with pain and fear, forced through a narrow channel for the final stabbing. It put me off of eating pork for a year.

At last we have resumed our original course by bumbling our way through, and are once more

at the border, where we are speedily dispatched after confessing we had stayed only one night and had bought nothing.

We spend two beautiful days and nights in the warm and sunny arms of the Green Mountain State. We make our first stop in Newport on beautiful Lake Memphremagog, about ten miles from the Canadian border.

This pleasant, rather retro town, which calls itself a city, has hung onto all its old buildings even as it has developed. The bricks still spell out the old inhabitants; Montgomery Ward is one. There is a lovely walkway around the end of the lake where the marina is. We walk the city and the lakeside, and take our time before stopping at the Newport City motel – no reservation needed – and enjoy lunch and dinner at the Tavern on the Hill, and the following day a sumptuous breakfast at the Brown Cow.

We amble slowly down the state on Route 5, admiring the wonderfully prosaic names of the side streets: Old Covered Bridge Road, Fishing Hole Road, and Post Office Road. Direct, succinct like the old Yankee who, when asked “Does this road go through?” answered with a laconic “Ayuh.”

We revisit old favorites: the King Arthur Flour School and bakery, and the Old Vermont Country Store, before stopping for the night in White River Junction. We stay at the old Coolidge Hotel where Ken often stayed after working the railroad run from East Deerfield. The hotel is charming, if a bit tattered around the edges: sloping floors and sluggish plumbing, for example. She is still a grand old lady from 1849.

The trains still run through regularly, so it is very atmospheric. This city has changed as well, while retaining its old charm. There are now Turkish, Spanish, and Asian restaurants, and a natural foods coop, as well as the old diner Ken remembers.

That day is the start of an indie film festival. Like Newport, the old signs are still there on the brick walls. One well-preserved beauty still advertises “Room with Bath.” We have coffee and elegant pastries in the Hotel’s café before rambling homewards.

We had hoped to stop for lunch at a newish pub on the Connecticut River in Brattleboro, but it is jammed full of thirty-somethings on vacation, so we muscle on home and are fed a delicious curry at Namaste restaurant in Greenfield. We are back at home by four.

We are as thrilled to be there as the cat is ecstatic to get out of doors.

Bienvenue chez Nous!



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MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week at MCTV

By MIKE SMITH

TURNERS FALLS – This week on MCTV, check out the video of the recent Memorial Day Ceremony. Also, the 4th annual Heart to Heart raffle at Our Lady of Peace Church is now posted.

The Child Haven International Raffle and Dinner benefit has also been posted, so check out the video to see the music, dance, and poetry performances that accompanied the event. And keep an eye out for Episode Two of *Home Cooking in Turners Falls* with Tammy Aiken, brought to you by producer Hannah Brookman.

To see all these videos and more, check out our website at *montaguetv.org*.

Don't forget to sign up for MCTV's 120 Second Film Festival. The registration deadline is June 25, and you can check out *montaguetv.org* for contest rules and forms.

As always, if there's something going on you want to see on MCTV, just get in touch with us! We would love to show you how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment. Contact us at (413) 863-9200, *infomontaguetv@gmail.com*, or stop by 34 Second Street between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. We'd love to work with you!

Students *Speak Truth* at the Shea

TURNERS FALLS – Four Rivers Charter School will present *Speak Truth to Power: Voices from Beyond the Dark*, written by Ariel Dorfman. The show on Tuesday, June 11 is directed by Leah Plath and will feature Four Rivers high school juniors.

Organizers write that this project grew from a book by human rights advocate Kerry Kennedy, who interviewed human rights defenders from more than 36 countries and five continents who are willing to stand up in the face of imminent danger, speak out and make a difference.

The book inspired this play by Chilean writer Dorfman, which examines human rights on issues as far ranging as political rights, free expression, honor killings, demilitarization, environmental activism,

mental health, women's and children's rights, and national self-determination. The defenders come from all parts of the world and face every form of oppression and abuse, but hold in common a profound capacity to ignite change.

Students will present a photo exhibit based on the defenders and adapted from the original *Speak Truth to Power* publication. Speak Truth is a program of the Robert F. Kennedy Centre for Justice and Human Rights; see *rfkhumanrights.org*.

Speak Truth to Power will be held Tuesday, June 11 at 7 p.m. at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls. Admission is \$5 to \$15, though no one will be turned away from attending. All proceeds will go to the Traprock Center For Peace and Justice.

Review: The Radical Interconnectedness Festival

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

TURNERS FALLS – April 26 was the first day of this year's Radical Interconnectedness Festival, which I decided to go review because I have gotten seriously into going to the festivals that seem to happen quite frequently in Turners Falls. Ironically, I went to one called the Full Disclosure festival, where this Radical Interconnectedness was the theme. Now this is the namesake of one.

The first thing I saw during this one was an exhibit of photographs of Native Americans in a section of the Great Falls Discovery Center called the Great Hall. In the photographs they were shown to be actual people, and not mascots – one individual was quoted as saying “my ancestors are not mascots” below a picture. The whole exhibit was called “Vital. Vibrant. Visible,” and the photographer was Sara K. Lyons.

When I went to the Shea Theater to see what they had going on for this festival, they had a live stream of something called “Artifact of the Ephemeral,” by Katherine Adler. The whole thing looked like some sort of mime-like performance that was being done at St. Anne's church that is in the town. I didn't really understand it at all.

The Shea also had performances by individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This had Alex DeMelo and United Arc behind an individual named Maria, who lip synced nicely to a song on stage for the audience.

A fashion store called the Fab had an exhibit of sorts that resembled a kid's bedroom out of the '60s or '70s, with one exception being a slideshow featuring photographs from a man's childhood I think. I think the whole thing resembling a kid's bedroom out of those times was what the artist was going for.

The Discovery Center seemed to have more performances that day. One of them was women from a group called Voices from the Inside, which is basically a group of formerly incarcerated women who help others like them through creative writing. They ended up discussing things like female empowerment, and what their writing has accomplished, I believe. They have also done a poetry book to raise awareness of the opioid epidemic. The women have also had their writing published in an anthology book called Women Writing in Jail. Some of their creative writing is done in workshops. I am somewhat of a fan of people doing creative writing for various reasons.

Another one they did was by Ezekiel Baskin, called “Queer Intimacies.” It was apparently some sort of conversation between two individuals. I didn't really get it at first, but then I understood it was about them being homosexual, and what they grew up with. It was a little easier to understand the concept going on than what was happening with Adler's performance.

I didn't really have any favorite of this festival, but the one in the Fab store was cool and nice to look around in.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Canoe Misunderstanding; Loose Horses; Chalk; Illegal Camping; Drug Arrest; Trapped Raccoon

Sunday, 5/26
11:07 a.m. F.L. Roberts employee reporting pregnant female walked into the bathroom; after she left, caller found four empty bags of heroin in the bathroom. Plate number provided. Officer went to address of involved parties, and spoke to female.
8:27 p.m. Caller states that while he was taking photos today on Avenue A, a male pickpocketed him. His wallet contained two credit cards and his ID. Cards have already been cancelled. Caller is from California and is heading back tomorrow; not looking for a police response, but if his wallet is turned in, he would like to be contacted.
8:46 p.m. Officer reporting motor vehicle accident with possible injuries near the Pizza House. AMR and FD responding. Tow requested for both vehicles.
Monday, 5/27
7:13 a.m. Caller from Federal Street reporting that a car hit two trees and is now in the woods. No smoke, flames, or fluids. Occupant is out of vehicle and bleeding from mouth and nose. Transferred call to AMR; Shelburne Control contacted for MCFD. Tow requested for vehicle. Medical attention refused.
1:50 p.m. Caller from I Street reporting they just returned home from fishing and noticed that their canoe has been stolen from their property. Caller called back stating that their neighbor has left them a message on their cell phone asking to borrow their canoe. Officer advises that caller is OK with neighbor borrowing canoe and bringing it back later.
8:58 p.m. Caller states that there is a large group of people yelling at each other near Fourth Street and Avenue A. All quiet on arrival. Spoke to a group of kids who were in the area and advised them of the complaint.
Tuesday, 5/28
9:53 a.m. Post office called and stated one of their carriers reported to them that there are two horses loose on West Chestnut Hill Road. Horses are on side of road grazing. Animal control officer contacted and headed that way. ACO advises horses are back in pen.
11:12 a.m. Caller reports that their bank book was stolen out of their handbag on Sunday while attending church at the National Spiritual Alliance. Caller only wanted this on record.
11:27 a.m. Environmental police called about a male with a beard wearing a camo hoodie who is camping in an orange tent on the left side of the foot path going down to the dam near the Discovery Center. Male reportedly has a machete. Officer advises that parties will be moving along.
1:39 p.m. Caller from K Street requesting to speak with officer about a camper that has been parked out in front of their house for the last week. Officer advises camper is legally parked; will follow up with owner of camper and see if they can park somewhere else.
1:51 p.m. Caller reporting that a male in a gray vehicle stopped, rolled down the window, and yelled an obscenity at them in the alley behind St. Kaz. Officer spoke with party, who denied any involvement.
2:57 p.m. Caller from Lake Pleasant Road reports that someone knocked down the lamppost on her property; she heard what she believes to be the incident/accident around 9 or 10 this morning, but did not realize what was damaged until about an hour ago. Report taken.
5:30 p.m. A 49-year-old Montague man was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a license suspended or revoked for operating under the influence.
Wednesday, 5/29
7:12 a.m. State Police fugitive unit and MPD officers out searching for a suspect on Avenue A. A 30-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a straight warrant.
10:17 a.m. Caller from Farren Care Center states that her roommate has been using hate speech toward her and harassing her. Caller advised of various civil options.
2:20 p.m. Anonymous walk-in reporting that railroad crossing on Lake Pleasant Road needs some serious maintenance; could be hazardous for motorcycles. Dispatch made contact with Pan Am. They will have someone come out to take a look.
10:55 p.m. Caller from

Lightlife Foods reporting that they just had an assault take place between two employees; advises they have been separated at this time. Officer providing courtesy transport to one party. Victim advised of options, and does not want to pursue any charges.
Thursday, 5/30
10:20 a.m. Caller states that there are two large horses along the side of Federal Street. Officer and ACO responding. Horses were escorted back to their property.
11:13 a.m. School resource officer reporting that 10 to 12 vehicles believed to be operated by students of TFHS just came through the tech school parking lot and were being disruptive and using lewd gestures. Area checked; nothing found.
1:10 p.m. Caller from Second Street states that there was a man carrying a child while riding on a motorized scooter. Neither had on helmets, and they were traveling at a high rate of speed. Area checked; unable to locate.
8:40 p.m. A 35-year-old Bernardston woman was arrested on two default warrants and also charged with resisting arrest, possession of heroin, and possession of a Class B drug.
Friday, 5/31
5:17 a.m. Caller from Clark Avenue reporting green Subaru with Vermont plates that has been parked across from her house for just shy of a week. Vehicle does not appear to have moved. Officer checked on vehicle; same is locked up; no one around. Request day shift go back to area, knock on neighborhood doors, and attempt to locate owner or operator of vehicle.
8:42 a.m. Caller from Millers Falls Road reporting injured raccoon in yard. Animal doesn't appear to be rabid; right leg is injured. Officer unable to locate raccoon.
10:49 a.m. Caller reporting a white pickup truck with a trailer that has a load of refrigerators that

are not tied down; no plate on trailer or lights. Truck is on Millers Falls Road heading toward Greenfield. Officer has truck on General Pierce Bridge; owner has plate for trailer in vehicle; it fell off, and they will be attaching it once they get back home.
11 a.m. Caller from Our Lady of Czestochowa reporting that a raccoon is stuck in an empty dumpster and has been there for a couple of days. Raccoon is moving around in the dumpster. Officer advised caller to put a board into the dumpster so the raccoon could crawl out. Caller called back and stated that the raccoon has climbed out of the dumpster.
7:42 p.m. Caller from Bridge Street advises that a thin male came into his tenant's apartment with a full bookbag, stayed for five minutes or less, and left with an empty bookbag. Caller thinks male could be dealing drugs. Officer will be on lookout in area.
Saturday, 6/1
12:17 a.m. A 51-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a default warrant.
12:57 a.m. Caller from Millers Falls Road concerned about two males who have come across the street from Hillside Plastics multiple times today; same have been smoking and drinking, and they have been very close to his house. Advised of options.
11:41 a.m. Two calls reporting loud altercation near the Fourth/Fifth Street alley. Units clear; verbal only.
5:43 p.m. Caller reporting that there are several people down at Cabot Camp drawing on the building with chalk or something similar. Officer advised one family about to leave; it was only sidewalk chalk.
11:08 p.m. MPD and Greenfield PD took calls reporting possible gunshots coming from area of General Pierce Bridge. Unable to locate; officers did hear fireworks in area earlier.

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REFLECTION

A History Lesson By Comparison

By EVELYN AUGUSTO

GREENFIELD – This is the last of a three-part series about Juanita and Wally Nelson, famed pacifists and tax resisters. In part one, I offered that today’s America desperately needs heroes. This part of the story originates from my question: in Trump’s America, what would Juanita and Wally do?

Another question might have been: What would the Nelsons think about Trump’s America? My sense is that it would be an America that would seem in one way ridiculously foreign to them, and yet remains sickeningly familiar. Why? Because Wally and Juanita were the descendants of slaves and grew up with segregation and racism. Juanita, at sixteen years old, boarded a train in Ohio and was asked to sit in the Jim Crow car. The year was 1939. Instead of complying, the ornery teenager sat in every seat, in every car on the segregated train. She refused to let the color of her skin be an obstacle.

If the Nelsons were still alive, they might acknowledge feeling all at once disappointed with and sadly comfortable in Trump’s America. On the other hand, asking what they might think or say might be the wrong question to pose when discussing this dedicated duo who lived for more than 40 years in Deerfield and Greenfield.

As I ruminate on the Nelsons’ possible reaction to our current sitting president, a glaring irony becomes apparent.

Juanita and Wally weren’t talkers, they were doers. They would not have complained excessively about the condition of their country like many of us do; instead, they would have put their heads down and continued on their path, walking their talk, leading by example, and focusing on being the best version they could be of themselves.

Kathleen O’Rourke, resident of Shelburne Falls and an admirer of both Wally and Juanita, remembers that “Wally’s genius was in his innate ability to counsel people who were trying to find their way, because he was just so clear about what was the right thing to do.”

A former hospice nurse, Kathleen joined me to reflect on this quote, which I read aloud to her. Wally Nelson had said, “Nonviolence is the constant awareness of the dignity and humanity of oneself and others; it seeks truth and justice; it renounces violence both in method and in attitude; it is a courageous acceptance of active love and goodwill as the instrument with which to overcome evil, and transform both oneself and others. It is the willingness to undergo suffering rather than inflict it. It excludes retaliation and flight.”

“That’s very Christ-like... don’t you think?” I asked Kathleen. She chuckled at my question and nod-

ded. Kathleen admits she was not one of Wally or Juanita’s closest friends, but she spent time with the two on occasion over the years, and had even danced with Wally at his 75th birthday celebration.

As Juanita lay dying, Kathleen visited the legendary civil rights activist.

“I spent a wonderful afternoon with her. We always had this kind of ‘zing’ connection. We always enjoyed seeing each other,” said Kathleen. “In those last few days, Juanita was kind of in and out – she was sort of semi-comatose. At the side of her bed, I leaned in close to ask her what I could do for her. Juanita said, ‘Sing.’ She knew I sang out of key.

“I asked, ‘Do you want Irish lullabies or Gospel?’ She said, ‘Yes.’ So, I lay down on the bed alongside her and sang, ‘Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand. I’m tired, I’m weak, I’m alone....’ I sang ‘Sweet Chariot’ to her. Juanita smiled and nodded and said, ‘Yes!’”

“When I was a kid I went to church with my friend,” she continued. “So, I kind of grew up on that old kind of Gospel music. It was pretty remarkable. No one came in that day, which was unusual. It was just me and Juanita. We just spent this lovely afternoon, with her going in and out of consciousness. And as I sang, she kept on encouraging me: ‘Go on...go on.’ It was a lovely day for both of us. I’m grateful for that time with her.”

As I ruminate on the Nelsons’ possible reaction to our current sitting president, a glaring irony becomes apparent. I recognized their commonality: All three avoided paying taxes.

In 1948, Wally and Juanita began refusing to pay taxes because they didn’t want to pay for war. They understood that the revenue’s intended use was for armaments and killing. So, they just didn’t do it. They lived a sustainable lifestyle, living on the least amount of money possible. And they openly refused to pay income tax. Once this “resistance to the machine” led to Juanita’s imprisonment, albeit for only a short time, but jail time just the same for a noble cause.

Contrast this with Trump’s evading taxes. In October 2018, *The New York Times* reported that: “The president... received at least \$413 million in today’s dollars from his father’s real estate empire, much of it through tax dodges in the 1990s, including instances of outright fraud.”

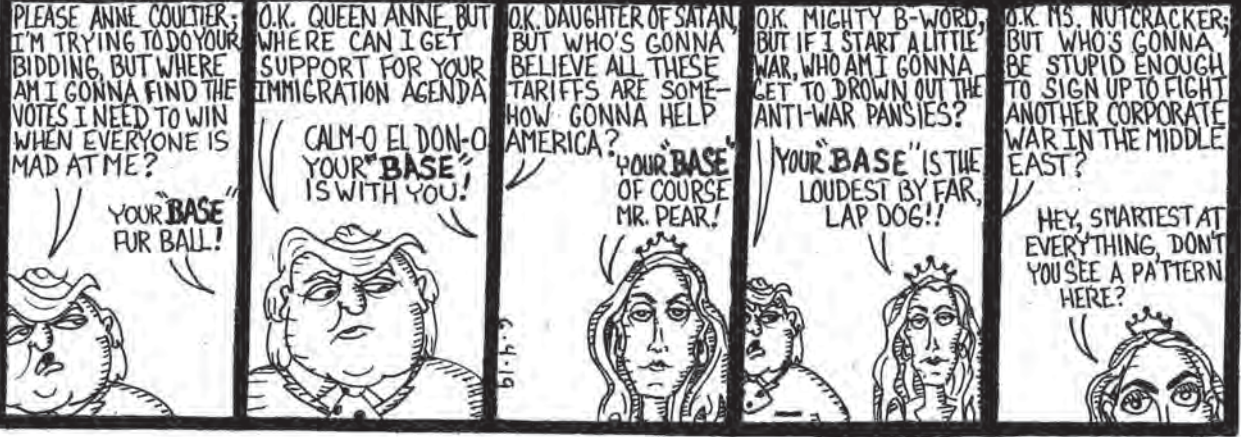
Racial equality was important to Juanita, but in later years it became her conviction that “we have to get over race,” said her friend Randy Kehler of Colrain. To compare and contrast these three famous, or sometimes infamous, Americans is in itself a history lesson as it makes clear how Juanita’s truth was spot on: Being the wrong color isn’t the problem. Being poor is.

This concludes my series on Wally and Juanita Nelson. Wally and Juanita’s collected writing can be found at the Peace Collection at Swarthmore College. Take an afternoon to study the Nelsons’ private papers, and recognize the characteristics of heroes.

OVER THE HILL



T-RUMP



By J. BURKETT

TURNERS FALLS – OroborO is a newer band: they formed at UMass in ‘06 or so, and this newest version of the band came together in 2016. They were an instrumental band until Emily Carter joined on vocals at that point. OroborO have been more active then ever lately, with tours, releases, new videos, and local shows. They played at the “Mixed Nuts Co-Op” at Hampshire recently, and word is that they were in really good form. Catch them ASAP if you can at places like Flywheel, Hawks and Reed, and other area venues.

This interview was done with Nate, the guitarist, through emails in the last couple months.

MMM: Hi! OK... so... what does your name mean?

ORO: Long story short, the band name is a kitschy palindrome of “Ouroboros,” a pervasive symbol of the self-eating snake. It means many different things, often indicative of cycles and connections, and it appears across many cultures and religions.

MMM: How would you describe your band? Has other music influenced you?

ORO: If I had to use a phrase to describe our band, it’d probably be “out of left field.” Words like “odd,” “noisy,” and “energetic” come to mind also.

Each of us are influenced by all sorts of music, including Sonic Youth, Queens of the Stone Age, Boards of Canada, Death Grips,



The current four-piece version of OroborO came together in 2016.

Unknown Mortal Orchestra, Pile... Too many to list.

MMM: You toured last year, right? Any highlights? Do you have favorite places to play?

ORO: Our first legitimate tour was last February 2018. It was a learning experience, but overall very great and reassuring.

We loved our time in Wilmington, NC, even though we played to a pretty empty crowd there. Louisville, KY was great too, tons of kind, supportive, passionate and creative folks out there.

We also toured in Montreal this past August and absolutely loved it, the city was beautiful and the people were so friendly, it was amazing.

On both tours we played mostly smaller DIY and house venues or bars. We don’t have a preference

on big vs. small venues exactly – wherever we can find the most engaged and energetic crowd interests us the most.

MMM: So you’ve been playing around the valley quite a bit... What do you like about it?

ORO: We love the valley because of its sheer, dense variety, you can find crazy talented artists and musicians from all sorts of epochs and genres. That kind of diversity is challenging and refreshing.

MMM: Do you guys have a favorite Neil Young album?

ORO: Yes, *On the Beach*.

MMM: How about hip hop album?

ORO: Kendrick Lamar’s *To Pimp a Butterfly*.

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VALLEY VIEW from B1

no Conway dairy farmers to expose the mortars and pass down the oral history explaining their importance.

On this day we had in our company the right man for such a field trip. Friend Peter A. Thomas traveled with me to offer his considerable archaeological, anthropological and historical expertise. Author of *In the Maelstrom of Change: The Indian Trade & Cultural Process in the Middle Connecticut River Valley, 1635-1665*, Thomas is considered a preeminent scholar pertaining to our valley’s contact period and indigenous culture. Among the local archaeological excavations to his credit are three at Riverside/Gill, one at Fort Hill/Hinsdale, NH, and another on Wills’ Hill/Montague Plains. Thomas grew up in South Deerfield, graduated from Frontier Regional School, and attended UMass-Amherst through his doctorate.

Though at first glance skeptical, Thomas left the Conway mortar stone convinced that it had archaeological or anthropological significance worthy of additional investigation. Unsure that what he was



Archaeologist Peter Thomas believes this artifact found at the site could be the broken-off top of a hand-worked pestle used for grinding.

viewing was the work of human, Stone Age hands and not the forces of nature during deglaciation runoff, he wanted to see a culturally-associated artifact pointing to a mortar.

Sure enough, not 200 feet away in a stone pile atop a filled cellar hole, the required evidence was uncovered by Wil Burnett. I saw him pick something up and walk toward me with it. He displayed a four-inch-long piece of stone that looked like it had potential, but was beyond my expertise.

“You’re showing it to the wrong man,” I smiled. “Show it to Peter. He’s the man to evaluate it.”

Thomas identified it as the broken-off top of a hand-worked pestle used for grinding, precisely the type of human tool he was looking for to prove the mortar had an indigenous pedigree. Yes, case closed. We were viewing an important upland archaeological site, one that could potentially reveal much about our River Indians’ life ways.

Although the interpretations at such a site can vary among experts, its indigenous, deep-history origin cannot be challenged. What we have is a classic, upland, hunt-

er-gatherer site that could have been used annually, probably in fall and winter, right through to the valley’s 17th-century contact period. Out of this settlement period emerged the nascent river towns of Springfield, Westfield, Northampton, Hadley, Hatfield, Deerfield, and Northfield.

By then, yes, perhaps the Indians using the site were grinding Connecticut Valley maize – that is, corn planted in spring, when the oak leaves grew to the size of a squirrel’s ear and harvested in August and September. However, for a much longer duration, the mortar would have been used to grind nuts, a crucial pre-agricultural, hunter-gatherer protein source.

Remember, the agricultural phase of our valley’s indigenous past began only about 1,000 years ago, give or take. Thus, by the time Conway was established in 1767, the Three Sisters – corn, squash and beans – had been on the scene for a mere seven centuries. Human beings began settling our valley as early as 13,000 years ago. So, do the math. Corn was a new twist in our deep-history narrative – one that pulled Natives to the fertile valleys in spring and summer to grow and harvest their crops before retreating to the mountains for winter hunting and shelter.

According to one of the historical commissioners who had read about the site’s old forest makeup, it was known for its butternuts, which fit the bill as an important food source that would attract hunter-gatherers. Also within reach would have been other preferred nuts, such as chestnuts, acorns, walnuts, beech, hickory, and hazel nuts. A sheltered ravine in such woods would have made an ideal winter campsite.

Remember, nuts also attract important small and large game, including bear, deer, and moose, all important meat and hide sources. Could it be that the Indians maintained nut orchards as hunting and

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July 15-18 AM Programs	July 15-18 PM Programs
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Classic Cars-the works!	Mountain Biking & bike repairs

July 22-25 AM Programs	July 22-25 PM Programs
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ARTBEAT from B1

Cunhã says. “I might have to go up on the porch.”

She adds, “I’ll probably be shooting these alleys forever, as long as I live and am walking around.”

The exhibit will also feature work by local poets written about or in alleys.

Meet Edite Cunhã at the artist’s reception for *#rightupmyalley* on Sunday, June 9 from 1 to 3 p.m., with a poetry reading at 2 p.m. Follow Cunhã on Instagram: *@edite.cunha*. The Great Falls Discovery Center is at 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls and is open seven days a week, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and online at *greatfallsdiscoverycenter.org*.

Imaginary Worlds

Colrain artist Linda Baker-Cimini will be showing her pen and ink drawings at Nina’s Nook from June 6 to July 10 in an exhibit she calls *Gathering My Wits*. The exhibit features both framed and loose prints, as well as Baker-Cimini’s two books of drawings, *Peculiar to the Region: A Field Guide to the Alphabet* and *From Here to There*.

Baker-Cimini grew up in the Berkshires, at the end of a dead-end road in a tiny town of only 176 people.

“I was pretty much a feral child. I spent hours and hours in the woods by myself,” she says, adding, “when people didn’t worry about children spending hours in the woods.”

The woods, the bookmobile, and the dictionary were her main sources of entertainment. And, like many people, she says, her first introduction to art was in illustrated children’s books.

“I think people that respond to my work are often book people,” she says.

One of her first memories is of a reproduction of a print by German artist Albrecht Dürer – a well-known image entitled “Young Hare,” which shows a long-eared rabbit sitting still, paws placed delicately forward.

“My mom found it in a magazine, slapped it in a frame, and put it above my bed,” Baker-Cimini says. “And I spent hours staring at that image, wondering how it was done.”

Baker-Cimini’s work shares Dürer’s attention to fine line, but departs in a decidedly more humorous direction, depicting humans and other creatures caught in predicaments

that can seem both otherworldly and uncomfortably close to home.

In one drawing, a barefoot yet otherwise bundled-up human stands in a dark wood with a Seahorse who appears to be on wheels and a crow with human hands for wings. The text below reads: “‘My dear Mr. Mumbletoe,’ exclaimed the little grackle named Hoodwink, ‘How do you expect to think straight if your head is round?’”

In another image, a monkey with a tiny parasol rides the unicycle of its own tail while a fish with a goat’s face and two hoofed



One of Linda Baker-Cimini’s drawings, part of her *Gathering My Wits* exhibit at Nina’s Nook.

legs tiptoes above a birdbath. And whose are those feminine feet either dropping into or rising out of the top of the frame?

“They abandoned the idea and carried on splendidly without one,” the text reads.

Baker-Cimini’s detailed pen-work, odd characters, and lines of text that hint at larger, surreal stories can call to mind the work of Edward Gorey, but her humor is kinder.

“I take a more humanistic approach,” Baker-Cimini says. “I enjoy his humor; it’s very dark. But it’s not my humor.”

She adds, “I’ve never liked slapstick because I don’t like to see people get hurt. Somebody falling down – that’s not funny to me.”

Even when her humor pokes fun at her characters, it never belittles them.

“I never put myself outside the frame,” she says. “Anything I draw, I am capable of.”

Baker-Cimini sees her work as coming from the perspective of being inclusive of all people and emotional states.

“Art is, of course, a coping mechanism for dealing with an overload of emotional input,” she says. “Humor is a way of controlling uncomfortable emotions. I like to cheer people up. You can’t live to be the advanced stage I am without realizing that life is really absurd.”

See more of Linda Baker-Cimini’s work online at *baker-cimini.com*. Meet the artist at her reception at Nina’s Nook on Saturday, June 22, from 4 to 6 p.m. Nina’s Nook is next to the Black Cow Burger Bar at 125A Avenue A, Turners Falls, and online at *ninasnook.com*. The gallery is open on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 12 to 5 p.m. or by appointment: (413) 834-8800.

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NatureCulture: The Science Page



Contributions to NatureCulture are welcome. What are you interested in? Would you like to write about birds, weather, science of any kind? We need your input. Send articles for consideration to: science@montaguereporter.org. Thank you!
— Lisa McLoughlin, editor

Mapping the New Magnetic North

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

NORTHFIELD – True north is the axis around which our planet turns. That doesn’t move all that much – it does “wobble” a bit on a 26,000-year cycle called *precession*, so that the “North Star” it currently points to, Polaris, has not always been at true north, but this is not something that will change noticeably over our lifetime.

Magnetic north, though, does move noticeably.

Magnetic north is the north that compasses point to. Its relationship to true north varies according to location on the globe, and over time. Its location has just been updated on the World Magnetic Map this spring. The model change will affect satellite air and sea navigation, especially around the North Pole.

This matters to those of us using compasses to navigate. If we’re trying to correlate our location with maps and navigate a specific heading, it’s important to have magnetic north be correct. The rest of us won’t notice much – our compass always points to magnetic north, wherever it is. It is currently in northern Canada.

Why Magnetic North Moves

Earth’s core is solid iron and nickel, surrounded by an outer core made of the same stuff, but under less pressure and therefore liquid matter. The liquid is also ionized by the heat – ionization means the metal particles are charged, positive or negative.

Inside the earth, the liquid rises toward the earth’s crust, cools, and then sinks toward the core, making convection eddies. The Coriolis effect, caused by the planet rotating, also contributes to the motion of the liquid outer core. This effect is defined simply as the reason why objects moving in the northern hemisphere seem to veer to the right, and left in the southern hemisphere, such as hurricanes or water going down a drain.

So we have charged particles

moving around mostly in the same direction. Moving charged particles produce electric fields, and moving electric fields produce magnetic fields. Thus, our planet produces its own magnetic field that can be measured thousands of miles into space.

In addition, the sun influences our planet’s magnetic field with its own field, and with emissions of magnetic particles from sun flares. On days when the sun’s surface is especially active, compasses will be less accurate.

When Things Don’t Line Up

In general, the liquid metal inside the outer core of the earth circulates in the same direction. But if there’s a disturbance in that pattern, or one from the sun, the earth’s magnetic field will shift – sometimes just temporarily, and sometimes more long-term.

In response to the longer-term changes, the location of magnetic north is updated on the World Magnetic Model every five years. But because there have been such severe changes recently, they updated magnetic north’s location one year earlier than expected, and slightly later than it would have been had the US government not shut down while the budget was being contested. The US military had the new data as a pre-release update in October, while the rest of us just got it this spring.

In between updates, the European Space Agency measures and maps the earth’s magnetic field with three satellites that orbit Earth 15 to 16 times a day.

The rate of change in magnetic north has been increasing in recent years. The last century it moved fewer than seven miles a year; now it moves 34 miles a year, possibly due to a jet of molten iron strengthening the magnetic field under Siberia or weakening the one under Canada. Strangely, the south pole is not moving very much.

Records of the Magnetic Fields

Rocks, for example those on the



The movement of the earth's north magnetic pole across the Canadian Arctic from 1831 to 2001.

North Atlantic sea ridge, record the earth’s magnetic field when they solidify. These lithic records suggest that the position of north and south pole have flipped places about 183 times over the past 83 million years.

NASA models of our current situation indicate that the poles wouldn’t just neatly flip. More likely it would be a gradual weakening of the pattern we have, a process that takes anywhere between 100 to a few thousand years in total, and then our neatly arranged north-south pole system might devolve into a new north and south pole. One computer model even predicts three north poles, with three corresponding south poles.

Despite the strange movements of magnetic north, scientists say there is no reason to expect a reversal now. In the past the location of magnetic north has moved even more strangely, even heading southwards for a few years in its generally northerly trek. And even if we had a weaker magnetic field, we would still be protected from the magnetic vicissitudes of the sun, although some areas of the globe might be more protected than others. Climate refugees might, at some future date, include those escaping excessive exposure to space weather.

tional Dark Sky Association at darksky.org.

This website is useful to visually demonstrate the changes our planet is undergoing, even if most of them, such as the shrinking sea ice border and rising of ocean levels, are depressing reminders of climate change.



Artificial night lights on the Northeast coast of North America in 2010.

Generation Z: Not Chillaxed

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

NORTHFIELD – The American Psychological Association (APA) released a survey last year highlighting the stress level of America’s Generation Z. It was conducted in English and Spanish over the summer of 2018 and included 3,458 adults between 15 and 21 years old.

The survey found that “headline issues” including immigration, deportation, sexual assault, racism, and mass shootings are stressing them out more than other segments of the population. (However, the 18- to 21-year-olds are still the least likely to vote – 54%, vs. 70% for adults overall.)

Overall, 27% of Generation Z Americans report their mental health as only “fair” or “poor,” which is almost double the number of Millennials, despite being slightly more likely than Millennials to have received treatment or therapy from a mental health professional. I guess they have a point that “no one gets them.”

Overall, money and work were the highest stressors for adults, with 64% of people worrying about them both. Gen Z-ers said personal debt (33%), housing instability (31%), and getting enough to eat (28%) were significant sources of stress.

A January 2018 APA report

showed that uncertainty about healthcare was a major stressor for adults, too. Taken together, it sounds like the basic needs of many Americans are not being met.

While the APA does not provide any hints about how to fix this myriad of problems (short of suggesting that voting might be a good idea), they do stress the importance of managing stress. Linked to the ancient, and possibly hard-wired, “fight or flight” response, stress can induce heart attacks in the short term, or if chronic, can eat away at your health by making you tired, irritable, and unable to concentrate, and encouraging you to take up bad habits like drinking and smoking to deal with it.

Reduction of stress involves identifying and working to reduce or eliminate the causes, building strong relationships that help you cope, walking away from anger-inducing situations, getting enough sleep, and getting professional help when you need it.

Mental healthcare professionals who are available to help include psychiatrists (medical doctors who can prescribe meds), psychologists (therapists), clinical social workers (also therapists), and others, such as primary care doctors, and guidance or school counselors.

June 2019 Moon Calendar

New Moon
Monday, June 3

First Quarter
Monday, June 10

Full Moon
Monday, June 17

Summer Solstice
Friday, June 21

Last Quarter
Tuesday, June 25

A map of the gravity field on our moon.
NASA/ARC/MIT IMAGE

BOOK REVIEW

Kathleen Winter, *Boundless: Tracing Land and Dream in a New Northwest Passage.* (Counterpoint Press, 2016; French version: *Nord Infini*, Boreal, 2015.)

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

I picked this book off the shelf for its fascinating subject matter, and chose it again when I realized that it’d been translated from the French. I’ve been working on my French by reading each chapter in English and then in French, and can honestly say it’s a fun book in both languages.

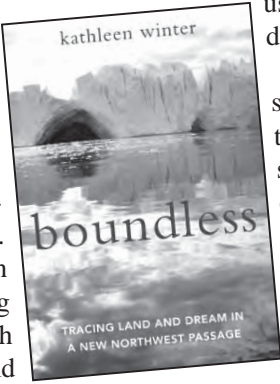
The author was invited to be writer-in-residence on a ship making the Northwest passage, a pas-

sage through the ice that didn’t used to exist, and now does due to global warming.

While the author is not someone I would enjoy travelling with, I like how she brings history and science into her own experience. Her travelling companions include people Native to the regions she passes through,

as well as geologists, birders, and of course, the professionals running the ship.

This book is a great read, a mélange of memory, history, science, and various types of exploration.



FEATURED WEBSITE

NOAA’S View Data Global Explorer

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

This website from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, nnvl.noaa.gov/view/globaldata.html, allows you to view land- or ocean-related data over time. The data is color-coded, and a map of the world allows you to zoom in or out and move around depending on what part you’re most interested in. The data can be run as a movie, changing monthly or yearly, to show progressions.

Data for the oceans includes salinity, dissolved oxygen, and temperature. Data for land includes vegetation, fire, geology, and the earth at night.

I was disappointed not to be able to display more than one data set at a time. My favorite data set was the nighttime lights, which show how untenably bright our planet is becoming. A related data set, change in nighttime lighting, showed which areas are changing the most quickly. Surprisingly, there were small pockets where nighttime lighting was decreasing.

If you’re interested in dark skies and reducing artificial light pollution, locally or globally, visit the Interna-

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

EVENTS

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

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

Unitarian Church, Peterborough NH: *Suzzy Roche & Lucy Wainwright Roche, Ryley Walker, and Noel Wells*. Night 2 of The Thing In The Spring. \$. 6 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Valley Voices: Open Road*. Season 5 of the Valley Voices Story Slam series. True stories told by your friends and neighbors. \$. 7 p.m.

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

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

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

Ten Forward (Root Cellar), Greenfield: *Eric Sommer*. Rhythm and blues guitarist. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

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

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

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Caddyshack*. Immortal comedy featuring Bill Murray, Chevy Chase, and Rodney Dangerfield, full of unbridled improvisation and filmed amidst chaotic partying by out-of-bounds actors. Preceded by live music at 7 by *Lila Coleman*. 7:30 p.m.

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

Ashfield Lake House, Ashfield: *Downtown Boys, OroborO, Nemesisister*. \$. 8 p.m.

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

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

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *West Mass Brass Concert*. An ensemble of 30 musicians playing in the British Brass tradition featuring notable hymns, marches and symphonic pieces. 2 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Traditional Music Open Session – contra, Irish, old time, etc*. Open Jam session. 3 p.m.

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

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

SUBMITTED PHOTO



The Rebirth Brass Band has been called “the working model of the New Orleans musical ethos” and unleashes New Orleans funk all the way into hip hop and beyond. They bring their groove-laden collection of hip shaking music to Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center in Greenfield on Friday, June 14 at 8:30 p.m.

Pushkin Gallery, Greenfield: *Ona Canoa*. \$. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Misty Blues*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Friends Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Windborne*. Mount Toby Concerts presents the four Windborne singers and “Song on the Times,” their project inspired by working-class movements of the last 400 years. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Caddyshack*. (See June 7 listing.) Preceded by live music at 7 by Dan Hales and the Frost Heaves. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Greg Abate Quartet*, featuring Paul Arslanian, Jon Fisher, and George Kaye. \$. 7:30 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Christine Ohlman & Rebel Montez with Mitch Chakour*. Soulful roots rock and blues. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Ashfield Lake House, Ashfield: *She Said*. Female rockers, all original tunes influenced by rock and blues, country, a little punk. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Ten Forward (Root Cellar), Greenfield: *Readings: Jay Weingarten, Patricia Hartland, Chris Weisman, Claire Crews, Oona Robertson*. sliding scale. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Obliquity, Chronophobia 5000*. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

Toadstool Bookshop, Peterborough NH: *Village of Spaces, Gilliver, Sweater Mouth, Party of the Sun*. Thing In Spring closing show. Free. 1 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Traditional Quebecois Music Session*. 3 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Quabbin Valley Pro Musica*. Choral music. \$. 4 p.m.

are we from?” Through June 9.

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, June 6 through July 10. Reception with the artist, Saturday June 22, 4 p.m.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Garden Structures and Ornaments*: works by *Piper Glass & Steel*. Structures providing visual interest and functional support in the garden.

Hawks & Reed Greenfield: *Chris Devine and Michael Nix*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Ten Forward (Root Cellar), Greenfield: *Creative Healing, Hot Dirt, Sam Gas Can*. \$. 8 p.m.

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

MONDAY, JUNE 10

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 11

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Speak Truth to Power: Voices From Beyond the Dark*. Directed by *Leah Plath* and featuring Four Rivers High School juniors, this production will bring the struggle for dignity and human rights to the Pioneer Valley. Sliding scale, \$. 7 p.m.

Ten Forward (Root Cellar), Greenfield: *Thelma, Dustseeker, Plants of the Bible, Tuft*. \$. 8 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Shout Lulu*. 7 p.m.

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

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

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*. 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. Refreshments available. Donation. \$. 7 p.m.

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

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

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

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. May 28 through July 1.

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

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Schwaber, Mikey Flynn

SAT 6/8 9:30 pm
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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.

EXHIBITS

Barnes Gallery. Leverett Crafts & Arts Center: *Deerfield Valley Arts Association* show, with reception June 9, 4 p.m.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Brattleboro: Large paintings by *Sandy Sokoloff*; glass creatures based on children's drawings; narrative paintings by *Amy Bennett*; collaborative fiber art of *Jackie Abrams* and *Deidre Scherer*; immersive mixed-media installation by *Joey Morgan*; paintings documenting several generations of an African-American and Cape Verdean family on Cape Cod by *Joseph Diggs*. Through June 16.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *#rightupmyalley*: Photographs by *Edite Cunhã* shot in and around alleyways of Turners Falls, including alley music and poetry. June 2 through 30. (See article, Page B1.) Reception Sunday, June 9, 1 p.m.

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *Origins*, by *Melissa Rudder*. “The point or place where something begins, arises, or is derived.” Rudder's work is a query of identity and origin that explores the experience of being human in a spiritual world: how we anchor ourselves and find meaning, metaphor, and connection. Using multiple media, Rudder asks the question, “where

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