

The Montague Reporter

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also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 27, 2019

Thunder Season Ends One Win Short Of Lightning



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Turners pitcher Jade Tyler nails the ball in the top of the first inning.

By MATT ROBINSON

Last Saturday the Turners Falls Thunder softball team lost the D-III state championship game, 3-0, to Austin Prep at Worcester State University. It was Powertown's sixth straight appearance in the game, and their 17th overall. It was Austin Prep's first state title.

"The unfortunate part of the Turners program is that success is determined by that state final game." That's what coach Gary Mullins told me afterwards.

I know from experience that losing a Super Bowl or World Series can be traumatic. I grew up a Minnesota Vikings and Boston Red Sox fan, and when they lost in the championship, it was devastating. People tended to forget how the team beat every other team in their bracket just to get to the big game.

But for the 2019 Turners Falls softball team, one loss does not make a losing season.

Blue, the designated visitor, batted first, and when leadoff Cassidhe Wozniak stepped into the box, the crowd became raucous. The AP

pitcher wasn't a speedball hurler, and Taylor and Aly Murphy both hit meatballs into the outfield in the top of the first. But the timing of her pitches seemed to throw off the Powertown bats. Two other batters hit the ball, but the hits went directly at Austin's gloves, and Turners came up empty.

Turners pitcher Jade Tyler, with a little help from her infielders, kept Prep quiet in the first. Powertown hit again going into the second, to no avail: two high flies to the outfield and a fielder's choice negated a base hit by Eliza Johnson. And so it went on, Turners putting wood on the ball but flying or grounding out.

In the third, Prep decided to bunt. The batter reached base and advanced before being knocked home by a line drive. Prep was on top, but only by one run.

To lead off the fourth, Aly Murphy sliced the ball into left field. Courtesy runner Taryn Thayer was called out on a fielder's choice, and Olivia Whittier took her place at first. Hailey Bogusz advanced Whittier to see **THUNDER** page A4

Town Caught Between Large, Small Hydro Companies At Strathmore

By JEFF SINGLETON
with MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – Last week the town of Montague received a plan for a "partial demolition" of the former Strathmore paper mill, with a price tag of \$2.6 million. The cost of the project – and the partial nature of the demolition – are products of the engineers' finding that a total demolition of town-owned buildings in the complex would endanger the stability of a structure they surround, a hydroelectric plant called Turners Falls Hydro (TF Hydro).

This hydro plant was originally part of a functioning paper mill, but was sold separately in 2001. Nine years later, the larger complex that surrounds it, after several failed development efforts by private owners, was taken by the town for back taxes.

While Montague has struggled to develop the complex and is considering demolishing it, the hydro plant is still going strong. The company that owns it is filing for a new 30-year license with the Federal



JACKSON PHOTO

The Turners Falls Hydro tailrace under the Strathmore mills. The company, whose powerhouse is propped up by publicly owned buildings, only operates its turbine when FirstLight diverts more water into the power canal than it can use at Cabot Station.

Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). That process runs parallel with a better-publicized license application by the FirstLight Power Resources, the company which owns the dam and canal that feed water to the plant.

However, TF Hydro derives a substantial portion of its revenue by not producing electricity. (Several attempts to reach its parent company for comment this week were unsuccessful.)

see **HYDRO** page A2

GILL SELECTBOARD

LaClaire Third Big Retirement This Year

By GEORGE BRACE

The Gill selectboard received another retirement notice at their Monday meeting, that of highway superintendent Mickey LaClaire, effective August 14. Following the retirements of treasurer and tax collector Ronnie LaChance earlier this year and town clerk Lynda Hodsdon-Mayo as of July 1, LaClaire will be the third town employee in a key position to retire in 2019.

LaClaire has served as highway superintendent since October 2004. He is currently recovering from an accident that occurred several months ago, and said in his letter that during that time he had come to the "agonizing conclusion" that it was time for him to retire.

He said he intended to assist with the transition, and thanked those who supported him over the last 15 years, which he has "fully enjoyed." LaClaire closed by saying, "I thank you all very much for allowing me to serve

see **GILL** page A8

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Teachers' Union, Board Spar Over Notice of Healthcare Plan Changes

By JERRI HIGGINS

Leverett Education Association leader Bill Stewart, co-presidents Alyson Bull and Tracey Supple, and Massachusetts Teachers Association field representative Paul DeMarco were invited to the Leverett selectboard's meeting Tuesday night to share information.

As Stewart began explaining that the union leaders came at the invitation of town administrator Marjorie McGinnis, selectboard chair Peter d'Errico interjected. "We're here because we've got a letter that basically feels like extortion, and a threat to sue the town," he said. "So maybe you could explain that."

"I'm the alleged extortionist," DeMarco responded, "and I don't feel that the letter is extortion at all."

At issue was a complaint by the teachers' union that

see **LEVERETT** page A4

Exit Interview: Jocelyn Croft

By EVELYN AUGUSTO

TURNERS FALLS – If Turners Falls were a seaside village, The Franklin County Technical School would be its lighthouse. It welcomes all students; it guides the inexperienced and sometimes lost; it offers an abundance of hope!

Since the opening of its doors in 1976, FCTS has graduated over 5,000 students, focusing on supporting individual teens and offering prescribed instruction in their chosen vocations as a way of preparing them for full and successful lives.

On June 29, students, staff, and teachers will be saying *adieu* and thank you to the school's Vocational Curriculum Director of six years, Jocelyn Croft.

Ms. Croft has a long history with the technical school, and has been affiliated with it in various ways since 1999. As chief mate, Jocelyn has helped to implement the school's mission, making FCTS a model of inclusive education here in western Massachusetts.

Here is her "exit interview."

Montague Reporter: What, after all your experience with educating young people, as well as your role with organizations like the Job Training Partnership Act, could you say to these words: "Work is dignity, and a reason for being?" How do those ideas fit in with what you are trying to teach the kids at FCTS?

Jocelyn Croft: I think that that is



AUGUSTO PHOTO

This week, Croft is wrapping up her job as vocational curriculum director at Franklin County Technical School.

absolutely what we want. We want them to go to work. We want them to have dignified jobs – jobs that support them and their families.

It is what everybody wants. As parents, you want your kids to succeed. And success means to be able to stand on your own, live on your own and be part of society; whether that path is to leave high school and go to college, or leave high school and go to the military, or do what we do for many of the kids: leave school and go to work.

MR: What brought you to FCTS?

JC: I saw an ad for a tech job at the school. I did not get that job, but shortly after they had interviewed me, one of the computer repair teachers suddenly passed away.

They called me back and said:

see **CROFT** page A4

Park Mural Seeks to "Build Bridges"

By NINA GROSS

TURNERS FALLS – This Saturday an all-day festival will take place to mark the debut of a new mural on the west wall of the Unity Park Field House. The celebration of the Building Bridges mural project will begin with activities for children from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., followed by Native American blessings and songs from 2 to 4, and concluding with drumming and dancing until 7 p.m. All are invited to participate in the festivities.

Finishing touches to the paintings are still being made, and children are invited to add their handprint to the mural before it is coated with a protective sealant.

The project is a collaborative effort involving Native and non-Native artists, elders, historians, students, and volunteers. It was conceived by Turners Falls resident Elyssa Serrilli, an activist artist engaged in community building.

"I really think it's a cultural treasure for our town," Serrilli said. "I've been coordinating service learning projects since 2002, usually with an environmental focus – tree plantings, river clean ups – but the last

see **MURAL** page A6



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

Artists work on the field house's newest mural.

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The Montague Reporter

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August 2002

HYDRO from page A1

According to a pre-application document filed with FERC, the company has a “Water Exchange Agreement” (WEA) with FirstLight to only use water from the canal when its flow rate exceeds 15,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). At lower rates, the gates to the hydro plant are closed and all the water flows down to Cabot Station, FirstLight’s much larger power plant at the end of the canal.

In return, TF Hydro is reimbursed for half the electricity generated at Cabot Station by the water it would have used.

The pre-application document estimates that in 2014, TF Hydro sold 1,595 megawatt-hours (MWh) of electricity it generated to the Reading Municipal Light Department (RMLD) through a power purchase agreement. That same year, the company was reimbursed by FirstLight for 7,855 MWh of electricity it did not produce. The next year, TF Hydro produced 1,857 MWh for sale, and was reimbursed for 7,597 MWh it did not produce.

The data seem to suggest that the plant generates most of its revenue by not producing electricity.

Water On Paper

The origins of this arrangement between the power companies have deep historic roots. The “power canal,” carved out of an older transportation canal, was constructed after the Civil War to provide water power to factories in the new industrial village of Turners Falls. Thus the original power source for the Strathmore, built in 1873 as the Keith Paper Company, was water. Founder John Keith purchased not only the land for his paper mill but also rights to the water from the canal company, the Turners Falls Company.

According to the research of Peter Clark, a former TF Hydro official, the Turners Falls Company began to produce electric power in 1906, and the powerhouse at the Keith paper mill began producing electricity in 1918. The Keith mill produced power for its own use, but also sold some to the Turners

Falls Power & Electric Company.

In 1951, the original Water Exchange Agreement was negotiated between the Western Massachusetts Electric Company (WEMCo), the successor to Turners Falls Power, and the Keith Paper Company.

Keith essentially exchanged the first use of its water rights for half the power the water generated downstream at Cabot Station. The agreement was a win-win for the two companies, since a given volume of water could generate more than twice as much electricity at Cabot, given its higher elevation from the Connecticut River.

Keith sold the mill complex to the Strathmore Paper Company in 1953. The building continued to be called “the Strathmore,” though that company was sold to Hammermill Paper in 1962 and then the International Paper Company (IP) in 1986. The mill shut down in 1994, but IP leased space in the property for light industry, artists and small business. When IP sold the powerhouse and turbine to TF Hydro in 2001, the Water Exchange Agreement remained in force.

TF Hydro’s parent company, the Swift River Company, was acquired in 2016 by Eagle Creek Renewable Energy, and last fall, Eagle Creek became a subsidiary of Ontario Power Generation, a Canadian crown corporation. FirstLight Power Resources also traded hands in 2016, and is now owned by the Public Sector Pension Investment Board, another Canadian crown corporation.

When FirstLight diverts more than 15,000 cfs of the Connecticut River into the canal, it notifies TF Hydro, which switches on its turbine and draws in 288 cfs.

But if environmental and recreational stakeholders in FirstLight’s relicensing process get their way, FERC may require the company leave more water in the river, which could mean an even higher portion of TF Hydro’s revenue would be earned while its turbine is off.

Didn’t Win That One

The fact that the hydro plant is structurally dependent on other

buildings in the Strathmore complex, preventing the town from tearing them down, has raised questions about the wisdom of allowing it to be split off in 2001. The town of Montague did not own the property at the time, but the planning board did approve a subdivision proposal, and the zoning board of appeals (ZBA) approved a variance and special permit.

A review of the planning board minutes of July and August 2000 show the discussion focused on a claim by the owners of the neighboring Esleek Paper Company property – later Southworth – that they controlled part of the right of way on Canal Road. The board approved the subdivision, but sent the matter along to the ZBA.

At one point, an audience member named Rich Conley asked, “If this project is approved, what do the proponents propose to do with the mill complex itself, the building, the remaining portion of the subdivision?” According to the minutes, “no one offered an answer to this question.”

The hearings before the ZBA in 2001 also featured a good deal of debate involving the owners of Esleek. But questions were also raised about the impact of the turbine’s sale on the rest of the Strathmore complex.

ZBA member John Reynolds said his concern was “how are you going to maintain the two ends, if you pull the money out of the middle?”

Chair Ernie Brown said he understood Reynolds’ concern to be: “you are taking a portion of this, a section of that, you are going to revitalize, refurbish it, fix it up. Will the remaining part fall down around you, if nothing is ever done to it?”

The board voted to endorse both the variance and special permit, with one dissenting vote on the variance cast by Dennis Booska.

Looking back on the decision, then-building inspector David Jensen said to the *Reporter*: “Would history have been any different had we rejected the proposal? We had someone who wanted to buy the power plant, and who hoped that would serve as an ‘anchor’ for the rest of the building.”

Jensen also stressed “security concerns” at the time. The operating hydro plant meant that “someone was staying there – there was a presence on the property.”

Former ZBA member Reynolds recalls that “my memory is that they were going to rehab part of the building, and we wanted to keep the one part that was generating revenue. And why not?”

He went on to say that “it was a gamble, and obviously we didn’t win that one.”



*At right:
Fourth-generation
roofer Richard Sweeney
demonstrates an essential tool
of his trade, a treasured slate
cutting device that he has
had for as long as he
can remember.
His team has been
doing a lot of work in
Franklin County these
days, and he says he would
like to relocate here
from Springfield.*



NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Letters to



the Editors

Beyond Pesticides

Are you using pesticides on your property?

Americans use toxic herbicides to kill weeds and reduce manual weeding on our lawns and yards. We turn to toxic insecticides to kill insects around our homes. We are causing problems in our immediate environment by increasing our own exposure by walking in our yards and bringing the residues into our houses.

Because the impact is not immediate, we think everything is fine, but these toxic chemicals accumulate in our bodies and in other creatures sharing our environment. According to the Rachel Carson Council, our companion dogs are particularly susceptible to some pesticides, because they are more likely to roll around in the herbicide-treated grass and then lick themselves.

We also cause problems beyond our immediate environment because the toxic chemicals in the pesticides may remain in the environment, poisoning life forms up the food chain. The pesticides or their chemical residues get washed

into storm drains, affecting fish in our rivers and sea life.

The website Beyond Pesticides states that linking pesticides to harming fish can be difficult unless the exposure is high because they are highly mobile, and the effects may not show until much later, but chemical exposure can disrupt their endocrine systems, affecting development, growth and reproduction. Up the food chain, researchers have found California sea lions with terminal cancers as a result of pesticide exposure.

We may say that it’s agribusiness that causes the problem because of the amount of pesticides they use. However, residential use accounts for about a third of pesticide usage, or \$3 billion in sales, according to 2012 EPA statistics. 2012 is the most recent year for which statistics have been issued.

Let’s help our environment by turning to non-toxic ways of maintaining our lawns and yards.

Ella Ingraham
Turners Falls

Great Photos!

I am not much of a sports fan but very much enjoy the action-filled photos that appear weekly in the MR. They are wonderful and suggest the care and patience your photographer takes in clicking these split second moments: a ball at full speed suspended half way between the pitcher and catcher, or a player sliding safely into home base with her ponytail flying.

They encourage the reader to follow the story and celebrate local athletes for their dedication and accomplishments.

This is news that we would not get otherwise. Thanks for the *MR* for being there.

Brooke Thomas
Leverett

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by CHRIS PELLERIN

There have been so many great things going on in the area this month, but I feel like all I’ve been doing is **picking strawberries**, eating them, freezing them for smoothies, or making jam. The season is so fleeting I don’t mind spending the time. Soon I’ll be doing the same thing with all the blueberries and raspberries.

The **Kidleidoscope program** continues through the summer at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls on Friday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Come learn about our wildlife neighbors who share our home in the Connecticut River Watershed.

Each program includes a story, interactive games, and a craft to introduce young children to wildlife along the river. Meet in the Great Hall. For ages three to six, accompanied by an adult. Siblings and friends welcome.

The theme for Friday, June 28 is **Turtles**; for July 5, **Eagles**; and **Coyotes** on July 12.

On Friday, June 28 from 6 to 9:30 p.m., come to Peskeomskut Park on Seventh Street off Avenue A for family-friendly activities, including crafts, food, live music from **Home Body**, and the **classic family movie: ET the Extraterrestrial**. Bring a folding chair or blanket.

This Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon, Danny Botkin will be teaching a **workshop on goat husbandry** at Laughing Dog Farm, 398 Main Road, Gill.

Unlike my slacker, frou-frou fiber goats who get sheared once a year and do nothing else but eat us out of house and home, Danny will teach wannabe farmers the ins and outs of bountiful dairy goats, including housing, feeding, breeding, kidding, milking, and more. A farm tour and snacks are included.

Call to register, as space is limited: (413) 863-8696. There is a suggested donation of \$25 to \$35, but no one will be turned away.

Do you want to challenge not only your mind, but also your patience? Come and **swap puzzles** with other fellow puzzle-masters! Stay and chat for a few minutes in a comfortable climate-controlled environment with light refreshments, all courtesy of Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, Turners Falls on Saturday, June 29 from 10 to 11 a.m. No reservations required. All ages welcome with a puzzle to swap!

Saturday is a busy day at the Great Falls Discovery Center. From 10:30 a.m. to noon, in the Great Hall, **try your hand at wet felting**, using an array of colorful fibers to create a fish and the river. For ages six and up – teens and adults welcome, too! Free.

And from 1 to 2 p.m., **local performer John Porcino** will present his One Earth program of stories, songs, and music that celebrates the beauty of the natural world.

Don’t forget about the **Building Bridges Mural** festivities, which I wrote about in last week’s column! This event begins at 11 a.m. and activities go on all day at the Unity Park Fieldhouse, 56 First Street, Turners Falls. (See article, page A1.)

Explore edible plants at Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center, 99 Millers Falls Road, Northfield on Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m.

Jean Bergstrom, co-founder of Her Wild Roots, will lead a hike in the forests and fields around the mountain to **identify edible and medicinal plants**. Following the outdoor adventure, enjoy some wild treats and beverages. Pre-registration is required by calling (800) 859-2960. There is a fee of \$5 per person.

The **Montague Community Band** will play at Peskeomskut Park on Monday, July 1 and July 8 from 7 to 8 p.m. The theme of the July 1 concert is “Songs for America,” and “Over the Rainbow” on July 8. Be sure to bring something to sit on.

On Independence Day, Thursday, July 4, a group of Gill residents plan to read the **Declaration of Independence** from the steps of the Gill Church, 6 Center Road, Gill. They will ring the bell 243 times. Anyone who would like to participate should plan to arrive before noon.

Greenfield celebrates the holiday on Friday, July 5 with activities and **fireworks at Beacon Field**. If

it rains, the festivities will be held July 6.

On Sunday, July 7, from 9 a.m. to noon, Graham Skorupa of Wendell teaches an alternative method for **harvesting mushrooms from your backyard**. The class includes an introduction to mushroom metabolism and life cycles as well as hands-on demonstrations of cold pasteurization and bed inoculation in the garden.

The workshop takes place at Laughing Dog Farm in Gill. RSVP to the phone number given above for the Backyard Goat Husbandry class. Suggested donation \$25 to \$35.

Looking ahead...

On four Mondays in July (8, 15, 22, and 29) kids ages eight to 11 can earn their **Mass Parks Junior Ranger** patch. This four-part nature and history education workshop is from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and meets at the welcome desk at the Great Falls Discovery Center.

Prospective Junior Rangers should bring their parent or guardian; friends and siblings are also welcomed to attend this free program. Space is limited so you must register by calling (413) 863-3221.

The Millers Falls Community Improvement Association wanted me to give you a heads-up that they are sponsoring an **Ice Cream Social** on Saturday, July 20 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meet your neighbors, stroll through the village, check out local businesses, and have a free ice cream at the Millers Falls Library, 23 Bridge Street, Millers Falls.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Powertown Hears From “21st Century”

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – This week the Gill-Montague school committee reviewed a “final” report from Powertown In The 21st Century, a group studying the possibility of transforming Turners Falls High School into a more student-directed, or “competency-based,” educational environment. Earlier this spring the group announced it would not be recommending the district undertake such a transformation at this time.

On Tuesday night, project director Rebecca Mazur explained the group’s perspective and outlined ways it would continue to channel Barr Foundation funding toward the work of changing the school.

Mazur spoke of “fluctuating school identity... people feeling, perhaps, that this community does not accept them.” “There are ways that we need to come together,” she said, “and the coming together would be a condition that would support change.”

The school’s size, rural location, and economic condition, Mazur said, were also constraints, as is state educational policy. “That’s not to say that no schools that are similar to us are doing excellent work,” she said. “It is to say, however, that we haven’t seen them yet.”

Barr’s funding will continue, for the time being, in small ways, supporting social justice programming for students and professional development for teachers, and giving

four teachers stipends to make site visits to other schools in order to learn more about student-centered approaches to the curriculum.

“You’re waiting to see how we figure things out, settle down, bring in new staff, and reach some stability,” Montague member Michael Langknecht summarized.

“We’re not really waiting for anything,” Mazur replied. “We have permission to go forward and pass the torch to people who, with our support, want to take up this work within the school.”

Erving representative Theresa Kolodziej asked whether high school students – “14, 15, 16, 17-year-old kids who don’t know what they want” – could be entrusted with directing their own educations.

Montague member Heather Katsoulis responded that she had worked at a small public alternative school in the Keene, NH school district that used self-directed learning through internships, and that “it was utterly amazing.”

“I really, really, really suggest at least visiting one school,” she said. “Without seeing how other schools do it, you can’t picture it.”

Bill Diehl, director of the Collaborative for Educational Services and a member of the project’s design team, clarified that Barr had still “left the door open” for the district to apply for an implementation grant, “down the pike.”

“We need a united sense of what Turners Falls is, and what we’re

about, and who we are,” he said.

All In The Job

The meeting began with a visit from veteran school committee member Joyce Phillips, who addressed a conversation at the previous meeting in which members expressed frustration at what they saw as the limits of the committee’s role.

Phillips reminded the committee that a set of “operating norms” were developed in 2012, laminated copies of which used to be placed in front of each member during meetings. She shared printouts of that document.

The annual evaluation of the superintendent, she pointed out, is meant to be used as a tool to enhance student performance. “There must be an ongoing, collaborative effort of goals and feedback,” she said.

Phillips also cited district policies regarding student input, school-community relations, and how the committee should respond to public complaints. “I only share this information with you hoping that it will help you connect your roles and responsibilities with your policy,” she said, “rather than viewing them as micromanaging, which seem to be creating an unnecessary challenge sometimes.”

Later, the committee was riven by a debate over whether to reimburse Langknecht for money he spent out of pocket to purchase group meals during two negotiating sessions with the teacher’s union.

Langknecht explained that the

Unit A negotiators had footed the bill previously, and the negotiating subcommittee had responded in kind.

Gill member Timmie Smith said she disapproved of spending school committee funds on food eaten by members. “I believe this will open up Pandora’s Box,” she warned, before asking whether every other bargaining subcommittee would now expect to dine on the district’s dime.

Smith also suggested that the entire subcommittee – Langknecht, chair Jane Oakes of Gill, Katsoulis, and Montague member Haley Anderson – should recuse themselves of the reimbursement vote, but district counsel Russell Dupere, on hand for an executive-session meeting, said that in his opinion only Langknecht should need to sit the vote out, since the value of the others’ meals each amounted to less than \$50.

Eventually, the motion to repay Langknecht passed by six votes to one, with Montague member Thomasina Hall joining him in abstention, and members vowing to clarify a working-meal policy at a future date.

A motion to reimburse Montague member Cassie Damkoehler for a barre class she taught, funded by a wellness grant, passed eight votes to none, with Damkoehler abstaining.

Other Business

Newly hired secondary school principal Joanne Menard introduced herself and said she was beginning to meet the community, and had attended the softball championship

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game over the weekend.

The committee voted to declare a 1991 GMC Sierra lift and bucket truck, a 2002 Dodge Caravan, a 2006 Chevrolet pickup truck, and a sander, with a total combined estimated value of less than \$3,500, as surplus.

In response to a question from Hall about quantitative data concerning student harassment at the middle and high school, Sullivan said that disciplinary figures for the school year were being tabulated, and would be presented at the committee’s next meeting.

Business manager Joanne Blier said that food services had run at a deficit for the year, partly because even though free lunch was introduced at the high school after it qualified for state reimbursement, not as many students opted to eat the school food as expected.

The committee ratified, by a 6-2 vote, a settlement with United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1459 to increase the wages of four food service employees by one step on the salary schedule, retroactively for the past two years. Hall and Damkoehler voted against the motion, and Langknecht stepped out of the room before the vote.

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CROFT from page A1

“You didn’t get the other job, but would you like to become a teacher and teach your trade?” My trade was computer programming and computer repair.

MR: *Then how did you become Career and Technical Director – although the FCTS website identifies you as Vocation Curriculum Director?*

JC: I got a call from FCTS saying that the position for which I originally applied, that of technology coordinator, had opened up, and they asked if I were still interested in it.

I worked that job for about five years, then I taught business. Then I became Career and Technical Director.

MR: *How has your job changed over the years?*

JC: I can only see it from my eyes now. When I was a teacher in 2005, I was caught up in teaching, and at the time saw the position of C/T Director as that of a supervisor. Now that I have that same job I try to be a support system for the teaching staff.

There is a difference: I do what I can to support the teachers. I know their jobs are difficult – I know that there is a lot to it. I try to lighten their load as much as possible because I know, from personal experience, that they are very busy.

I think I am a supportive supervisor, and that is the person I strive to be. There may be some who don’t agree with that, but I know how hard the job is. I have been a teacher. That is probably the biggest thing: I have been a teacher!

I have been a shop teacher. I know exactly what those days look like. They are complicated days: You have to teach the curriculum, and the theory, and the science to it. Then you are putting all those

kids out there into their little work stations and on the machines... it is like a juggling act at all times. It is like you are a puppeteer and you are trying to master it all.

And I know what it is like. It’s not a classroom with 20 students, 20 desks, and everybody is doing the same thing; it’s this choreographed mayhem that somehow comes together. I know that because I was a shop teacher, and I have a complete understanding of what those teachers do every day.

What I say to the teachers all the time is this: even if that day you can’t see what those kids are taking in, you are giving them something they are going to use in the future. You are changing these kids.

And I think their jobs are amazing and wonderful, and super important... more important than people realize.

MR: *As you prepare to leave FCTS, what would you write on the hearts of your replacement Matt West, your teachers, and the students?*

JC: I would say to Matt: Listen to the teachers. Don’t react. Ponder their concerns, issues, needs and excitement, and only then respond.

I would tell the teachers that every new person is going to bring an unknown strength that the other person didn’t have. Matt is going to bring something new to the job, so welcome it.

MR: *And what would you have to say to the kids?*

JC: I would say continue to do what you are doing. Be good, be strong. And live through those difficult teenage years as best you can.

And value this education from FCTS, because it will really jump start you!



LEVERETT from page A1

the town did not properly notify them, according to Massachusetts law, of changes to their health insurance plan through the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust.

“The health insurance for the employees at the elementary school here has changed, and their co-pays and their deductibles are going up,” Demarco said. He cited MGL Chapter 32b, sections 21 and 22, which lays out the procedures that must be followed when changes are being decided.

The selectboard and union representatives debated back and forth about whether the town followed legal procedures.

“The requirements are not for the adoption of the law,” McGinnis argued, “but for the adoption of changes, and I confirmed this with the HCOG. They say that the notice to you guys was required before the vote of the adoption of changes, *not* for the vote of the adoption of the law.”

DeMarco replied, “The regulations clearly state that the bargaining units affected must be notified at least 48 hours – two days in advance – of the intent to vote on sections 21 and 22.”

“We did that,” d’Errico countered. “And you’re telling us we should... give more money, because [the LEA] missed, by two days, getting a hand-delivered personal invitation when the selectboard adopted this? Even though we had it in the public record? Even though it was posted, even though it was in the newspaper?”

“The timelines are really specific, by state law,” said Stewart. Subscribers signed up for insurance, he said, and “agreed to pay through open enrollment for something that they didn’t know – the increased fees, the co-pays, the deductibles. People agreed to pay for something without advance notice of that, and that’s against the law. Then, when the [LEA] asked to continue to bargain and negotiate, the town said, ‘we’re done, we’re not going to bargain,’ and walked away. That’s also not following the law!”

“Now we’re splitting hairs,” selectboard member Tom Hankinson responded. “You’re saying that our 48-hour notice, ahead of the selectboard meeting, is insufficient. We consider it sufficient, and you’re calling it ‘gross negligence.’ I hope you agree there was nothing deliberate going on.”

The union claims that the changes to the plan were first discussed in January, but no notice was given until June, with a July 1 implementation deadline.

Stewart claimed that McGinnis agreed the union should have been notified earlier.

“Of the planned change vote – that this board did not take,” McGinnis shot back.

McGinnis said the town first learned of the planned change in a March email from the Hampshire Trust. “I sent it out to all department heads that had employees,” she said, “including the school, and said ‘here’s the plan changes, you should send this to all your employees.’”

The discussion came around to next steps.

“We’re asking for recognition that we were not notified, for whatever reason, or whoever was at fault,” said Bull. “And we now would like to sit down and make an agreement.... We do not want to get into a big fight over this, but we would like an opportunity to be heard, and have a negotiation.”

The selectboard and union agreed to set a date to negotiate on the matter.

Housing Issues

Board of health chair Michael Fair came before the board requesting “some guidance about how to finance some of our occasional housing issues.”

He described a state law enacted within the last two years that allows only lawyers to present in housing court. His board is looking into various local agencies for help resolving difficult housing situations, and accessing their services.

D’Errico and McGinnis both said the law

THUNDER from page A1

second for the second out. A deep fly by Reynolds ended the side.

Tyler K’d the first batter in the AP fifth, but the next girl hit a sneaky one between third and left field. Johnson came in hard and had to make a quick decision: take it on the hop or make a diving catch. She dove. The ball caromed off her glove and bounced to the fence. By the time she corralled it, the runner was heading to third. She wasn’t assessed an error because it was ruled uncatchable.

The next batter was walked, and the third walked intentionally to load the bases. A throw to home gave Blue the second out of the inning with no damage done, but a base hit scored two Preppies, and Turners was down 3-0.

Taylor Murphy swung at the first pitch in the sixth, scorching the ball into the outfield. Then Tyler hit one deep, but it was caught at the warning track. Aly Murphy hit a line drive, sending her sister to second base and putting CR Thayer at first. Whittier then hit a sharp drive, which the second basewoman miraculously caught, but Taylor reached third. With two outs and runners at the corners, a hard shot to third ended Blue’s hopes.

In the last inning of the year, Caitlin Reynolds led off with a standup double, putting courtesy runner Maralee Wiles in scoring position. The next three batters

also hit the ball, but each hit it to an AP fielder, and Turners Falls season ended with a 3-0 loss.

So the Turners Falls team is not the best in the world this year. Because of their level of success, the temptation is to consider this a losing season, but it was a remarkable run.

Their two regular-season losses were against Minnechaug (4-3, in ten innings), the Division I Western Mass champions, and Wachusett (1-0), the Division I state champions.

And they beat teams like Hampshire Regional (1-0), the D-II Western Mass champs, and Hopedale (9-0), the Central Mass D-III champs. And they beat Greenfield – twice.

As in other years, Turners will lose key players to graduation. This year, the team says goodbye to Cassidy Wozniak and Lexi Lacey, the shortstop and first baseman.

Next year, when the eighth- and ninth-graders step up to fill their cleats, whether they win or lose, they’ll be part of that very exclusive club known as the Turners Falls Softball Thunder.



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Turners’ Eliza Johnson singles in the second inning.

sounded like an unfunded mandate, and said they would talk with state auditor Suzanne Bump to request her determination that the law is an unfunded mandate.

McGinnis said funds might be available to building owners through the Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority to help eligible residents with health and safety issues.

Citizen Involvement

Though she was not on the agenda, Leverett resident Patricia Duffy inquired about the selectboard’s committee appointment process, and that she would like to see the town develop a more formal process to elicit diverse citizen involvement.

“Seven people applied for the revenue committee,” Duffy said she was told. “Five were selected, and I just want to point out a lack of diversity: there are four men and one woman. And I know there were at least two women who applied, so there was an opportunity to select more women. I feel it’s important to get women in leadership positions, and our town can do that.”

Duffy also said she’d like to see more diversity in age, gender, class, and identification.

“Revenue and sustainability are major issues facing our rural towns,” Duffy continued. “These issues also encompass the idea that people have a sense of being able to become involved in their government, and the sense of ‘little-d’ democracy is chilled by the lack of protocol and diversity in appointments. It seems to work against the very reason the committee was formed.”

Selectboard members Julie Shively and Tom Hankinson suggested Duffy could attend the meetings, which are open to the public, and have her ideas heard. Hankinson pointed out that there are often issues with members showing up to meetings, and Shively said Duffy would likely have the opportunity to become a committee member.



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Best of Luck to The Class of 2019!

MURAL from page A1

few years, I’ve been getting more involved in social justice projects.”

Before moving to the area, Serrilli served two terms in Americorps. She led a New Jersey Youth Corps worksite and started her own Americorps program based on service learning and permaculture. She now makes her living in community development, teaching primitive skills, and mentoring youth, with the aim of fostering personal empowerment and connections to nature.

I asked her how she got the idea for this project. “When I was attending the ‘change the high school mascot’ forums, I saw a lot of misunderstandings and disagreements. I wanted to bring people together in a positive way. I really wanted to do something that promoted greater understanding and connection with Native culture and Native community in a way that everyone could support, and I think we are doing that,” explained Serrilli.

“Everyone I’ve talked to in town agrees that Native history is really important,” she continued. “I see the mural as a homage to the town’s Native history. I also wanted to bring our community into close contact with what Native people really look like, to connect with the people who are still here.”

Native contributions have informed her personally, she noted. “Through my work, I learned how much I teach, how much I know, comes from Northeastern Native peoples,” she said. “I’m grateful for what I’ve learned, and want to give back.”

A Collaborative Design

Building Bridges became the theme, and the available wall, facing the bridge to Gill over the Connecticut River dam, lies on the west side of the Unity Park fieldhouse, which has two other murals already adorning its surfaces. Jon Dobosz, director of Montague Parks and Rec, agreed to the idea, and Serrilli sent out the call through social media and word of mouth.

Then she stepped back to concentrate on fundraising and organizing, or “fertilizing” the project to bring it to fruition. Along the way she cultivated a community of artists, elders, children, historians, and many volunteers. Serrilli spoke to students at the Great Falls

Middle School, Turners Falls High School, and the Brick House, inviting them to participate. About twelve youth came out to be part of the initial drawing and design stage. They heard stories from three historians – an Elnu Abenaki, one from Amherst College, and one from the Nolumbeka Project – about the area and its significance. Native artists talked to them about “what it’s like to be Native, and what they incorporated into the mural and why,” said Serrilli. “The kids’ ideas are in the mural, too. The last panel features a water protector woman on a skateboard!”

The mural is divided into five sections: North, Winter, and midnight are depicted by Nohham R. Cachat-Schilling, a Nipmuc elder living in Northfield.

The East, Spring, and sunrise section was conceived by Elizabeth James-Perry, an Aquinnah Wampanoag artist living in eastern Mass, and painted by Eric Grab, an Armenian-American artist living in Turners Falls.

In the center, there is a medicine wheel, with 13 moon phases representing the 13 Indigenous grandmothers, designed by Lily-Rakia Chandler, a Mohawk artist, musician and educator living in Northfield.

The South, Summer, noon section is designed by Geni Dedam, a Micmaq artist living in Shutesbury.

The West, Autumn, sunset panel is designed by Anthony Melting Tallow, a Blackfoot artist and water protector living in Chicopee.

Luis Felipe Gonzalez Perez, a Mayan artist and cobbler living in Turners Falls, designed the eagle and condor on the end panels.

Challenges and Triumphs

I asked Serrilli what stood out for her. “One of the coolest parts,” she said, “is that I’ve gotten nothing but positive feedback from both Native and non-Native members of the community. It was really touching to speak about the mural at the Day of Remembrance at the Discovery Center in May. A number of Elders came up and spoke to me,” expressing approval of the project.

Another memorable event, she said, was “hearing and learning the Mohawk Water Song from artist Lily-Rakia Chandler. It really sounds like the river in a way that I never thought was possible.”

And the challenges? “I didn’t expect it to be so time-consuming,” Serrilli confessed. “We wanted to show the passage of time, but how do you show 13,000 years? We had to take a break for the winter, and write more grant proposals. The mural handbook expressly says that there should be no more than one artist. We’re working with seven different artists, most of whom had never met before...”

Nevertheless, they came together to share their ideas, and seem to have come to consensus with mutual respect. I spoke with two of the artists, Geni Dedam and Anthony Melting Tallow.

“I’m enjoying the chance to tell some of our family stories in a picture where lots of children play,” Dedam told me. “I was really happy to be collaborating with my father, painter and woodworker John Dedam, who came down from Elsipogtog (Big Cove) New Brunswick to work on the picture with me. He worked on the drawing so I could continue on the stories.”

I asked her to describe the story she was painting.

“The spirit of the falls reaching into the water, and our ancestors that died in these falls will be in the water – it’s important to remember the people in the water,” she said. “It’s important to remember our ancestry; we come from the water. The three sisters are also there. The Sleeping Giant will be there in the land; his hand will be stopping the water from destroying the land. It’s about rebirth and destruction: everything looks one way, but it’s really something else.

“It’s always changing,” Dedam reflected. “We are the ancestors of the future.”

Artist Anthony Melting Tallow, who hails from Alberta, has been a resident of Chicopee since 2006. “I’m proud that there is an Indigenous presence represented in the art here, that there’s pride in the stories,” he commented. “The way the mural is laid out, the circular nature of the seasons – it’s a circle itself that’s represented here, bringing us back to ourselves.”

Melting Tallow went on to say that the mural “represents the Indigenous presence here in western Massachusetts, particularly associated with the sacredness of water, the sacredness of



Artist Anthony Melting Tallow.

land, and it recognizes the history of the area.”

Working together with the other artists “felt like family,” he said. “There was a commonality to our personal stories and the strength of the culture that we all carry, and it’s a gift to the community for future generations – the people who enjoy this park in all seasons.”

Melting Tallow says his portion of the mural speaks about the contours of the land, the importance of the harvest, and the coming together of the people.

“The spirit of the mural honors the cycles of nature,” he explained, and “honors the traditions of sharing. The area around the Great Falls was an important meeting place, a place of peace, of celebration, a place of gathering and the spirit of collaboration. This is represented in the work of the mural... New generations will have to grapple with how they will care for the environment,” Melting Tallow noted.

For Native people, he said, this caring for the environment “reaches deep into the past.”

The Building Bridges mural was made possible by grants from Mass Humanities, The Grass Roots Fund, Montague and Deerfield Cultural Councils, Art Angels, and local donations.

While the finishing touches are being made, fundraising efforts continue. Readers can donate online at gofundme.com/building-bridges-community-mural, or contact Serrilli at (413) 279-4194 or buildingbridgesmural@gmail.com.



NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Board Discusses “Disturbing” Music at Rod and Gun Club Event

By JEFF SINGLETON

Summer is here, and so, at Montague’s June 24 selectboard meeting, the issue of outdoor band music emerged once again. The board called in the Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club and the promoters of RPM Fest to discuss their outdoor festival, which is scheduled for Labor Day weekend.

Last year the Fest, which bills itself as “the heaviest party of the summer – three days of rock, punk, and metal in the woods of Western Massachusetts,” generated numerous complaints from local residents. But festival promoter Brian Westbrook and Sean Werle, a representative of the gun club, said they had carefully monitored music decibel levels last year, and had not violated the town’s sound ordinance.

The festival is located at the Rod and Gun Club’s site on Turners Falls Road, which is technically in the woods, but also within screaming distance of several neighborhoods.

“First and foremost, I like loud music, so it pains me to say this,” said town administrator Steve Ellis. “But there is no single event that I have heard people more upset about in terms of the intensity.”

“I understand our style of music isn’t what everyone wants to hear,” said Westbrook.

“It’s the level,” said selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz.

“We were monitoring the dB

levels, and we did not break the ordinance,” said Werle.

“That’s shocking,” said Ellis, to which Werle replied, “I know its shocking, but it’s true.... it’s the nature of the music that’s disturbing to some people.”

This year’s event features bands named Psychostick, Extinction AD, and Wasted Theory.

Westbrook said he had come up with a number of ideas to mitigate the sound problem, including switching the date of the event to Labor Day weekend, “which will mean, hopefully, more residents will be out of town, or will be celebrating outside anyway.” The festival will begin and end an hour earlier, so music on the main stage will finish at 10 p.m. and on the second stage at 9 p.m. A truck will also be parked behind the main stage for “sound absorption.”

“I feel that it’s really critical that you get it right this year... in order for this to continue, it’s got to be moderated,” said Ellis.

“We want to see you come back next year, and we want people in the neighborhood not even to think twice about it,” said Kuklewicz.

The board did not take a vote on the issue.

Getting Across

The town has decided to prioritize the Fifth Street pedestrian bridge over the Turners Falls power canal for pedestrian and utility access to the newly designated

“Canal District.”

The bridge, which sits next to a state-owned bridge for automobile and truck traffic, was closed last year due to structural instability. Pedestrians attempting to cross the canal have had to use the state auto bridge, or the so-called “Bailey Bridge” approximately 100 yards to the southwest, neither of which has a sidewalk.

There are two other closed bridges that cross the canal in the same vicinity – an overhead pedestrian bridge into the former Strathmore paper mill, owned by the FirstLight power company, and the town-owned Sixth Street Bridge, which the owner of a proposed cidery on Canal Road has proposed turning into a “bridge of lights.”

Ellis told the selectboard at Monday’s meeting that the Fifth Street pedestrian bridge had been chosen due to its proximity to both the recently closed Southworth paper mill and the cidery.

He requested that the board authorize contracts to two firms that would assist the town in applying for a state MassWorks grant for the bridge work. He said MassWorks grants are “extraordinarily competitive,” and that the town would need “some engineering support, and would also like some technical assistance in writing the narrative.”

Ellis proposed that the board award a contract of \$7,000 to McMahon Transportation Engineers &

Planners for engineering services. He said the company has “specific expertise with canal bridges.” He also requested that the board award \$4,100 to CJC Development Advisors, LLC, led by Jeff Daley, to assist in writing the grant. Ellis called Daley an “insider” who has had a “good track record of successful pursuit of state grants.”

The board approved both requests.

In response to a question from the audience, Ellis said the new pedestrian bridge would also include new sewer and water lines, but “it is not contemplated that we would go onto any private land. We would create trunks that could be connected by a new owner of Southworth, or by the ownership at 42 Canal Road,” the location of the proposed cidery.

Other Business

Ellis announced that he had received a communication that the Federal Emergency Management Agency would be conducting a “field survey in support of floodplain mapping updates” in the Millers River watershed. He said that the mapping could be used for “updated flood insurance studies.”

While most of the work would be on public land, Ellis said, “some private citizens may be approached for survey work on private land.” He said the contractor doing the work will carry identification, and that anyone with questions should

call the town hall.

Ellis announced that the building committee for the new public works facility had received bids for the general contractor for the project. “We are currently in the process of vetting the three lowest bidders with the [state] Division of Capital Assets Management,” he told the board.

“The real positive news in all this is that next week, we expect to be able to present the board with the opportunity to award a contract.... We will be able to begin work this summer.”

The board appointed Jacob Lapean to the position of detective at the Montague police department and approved a cell phone stipend for officer Jacob Dlugosz.

A request for the use of public property for a wedding on October 5 (Peskeompskut Park) and for a 5K road race on October 20 (Masonic Avenue) was approved.

The board approved a memorandum of understanding with the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District for hauling and disposal of solid waste, bulky wastes, scrap metal and appliances.

A new part-time library assistant was appointed by the board, as requested by library director Linda Hickman. Other appointments were made to numerous committees, commissions, boards, and positions in town government beginning July 1.

The next scheduled board meeting will be on July 1.

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GCC Program Provides a “Bridge” for Adult Learners

By JOE KWIECINSKI

GREENFIELD – In just four days Greenfield Community College will launch a pilot program to support adult learners embarking on a degree or certificate study path.

Funded by the state Department of Education, the “Bridges to Success” program is headed by coordinator Dorothy VanDeCarr, who, among other duties, has been reaching out to the Franklin County community in her seven weeks on the job.

“We’re very excited about our offerings,” says VanDeCarr, who has more than two decades of experience in education, working with under-served populations, teaching elementary school, and instructing on both the college and adult education levels.

What are some of the benefits for non-traditional learners who enroll in the program? Well, for starters, Bridges to Success kicks off its busy summer next Monday (July 1) with a two-week “summer boot camp” designed to bolster prospective students’ experience in a

post-secondary atmosphere.

The intensive orientation features visits of representatives from GCC’s services including financial aid, admissions, wellness center, academic advising, peer tutoring, the food closet – an on-campus food bank on campus – and library services. In addition, activities and workshops will focus on attainment of success in the college setting, “math anxiety,” styles of learning, and team building, along with students’ examination of values and feelings pertaining to the education process itself.

“Following this intensive introduction to college,” says VanDeCarr, “adult learners will work with an advisor to help select and register for a free seven-week course at GCC. While studying during the second summer session, students will benefit from textbooks underwritten by the Bridges to Success program.”

VanDeCarr points out that transitioning students may have been away from the classroom for a significant amount of time. “We want our learners to hit the ground running if they

choose to return in September as GCC students,” the program’s coordinator said. “We want to facilitate their academic development, emphasizing new ways of thinking, achievement of needed skill levels, and – perhaps most of all – boosting their confidence that they can succeed academically.”

Students in the program will enjoy access to free, drop-in lunch-hour workshops concurrent with the summer semester. Here the spotlight will be on time management, personal finance issues, scientific literacy, and other topics.

VanDeCarr also notes that the beautiful College Drive campus is a big plus for transitioning adult learners. “GCC is located in a beautiful setting,” she said. “It’s a nice backdrop for prospective college students who will be working hard as they negotiate potentially life-changing decisions.”

VanDeCarr is clearly an advocate of educational equity. In fact, Dorothy refers to herself as a “lifelong learner.” She earned her master’s degree in education at the University of Texas in Austin following her own return to school,

when she pulled down a bachelor of arts in psychology at UMass-Boston. She also directed an educational outreach program for five years in Austin as a prelude to teaching basic “adult ed” at Holyoke Community College for the past three years.

In all, VanDeCarr has logged more than two decades in public school and adult basic education instruction, program coordination, and work in non-profit organizations, buttressing underserved communities and populations.

“I’ve seen first-hand the connection,” VanDeCarr said, “between quality support services and a thriving educational community.”

Anyone contemplating starting or returning to college may contact VanDeCarr for additional information at (413) 775-1468 or vandecarr@gcc.mass.edu. Students who require disability accommodation can also call GCC’s Disability Services department at (413) 775-1812.

As of this writing, the Bridges to Success program is still accepting applications, and reserving time for campus visits.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Original Sewage Deal With Erving Industries Restored

By KATIE NOLAN

On Tuesday night, Erving Industries, Inc. chief executive officer Morris Housen, chief financial officer William Westcott, and the Erving selectboard agreed on terms for a three-year contract specifying how the company and the town will share revenue earned at POTW#2 for third-party wastewater. The previous agreement, signed in 2017, ends on Sunday. The negotiations were conducted at the conclusion of the special town meeting at Erving’s senior and community center.

The town of Erving owns POTW#2, but it is operated by Erseco, an Erving Industries subsidiary, under the agreement. POTW#2 treats wastewater from Erving Paper Mill, wastewater from some Erving residences, and – for a fee – septic waste from out-of-town (“third-party”) sources.

The new agreement returns to the terms of the original 2007 operating agreement, and will increase the payments from Erving Industries to the town. Selectboard chair Jacob Smith said that the board had spoken with “experts and advisors” about the arrangement and decided the 2007 terms were “fair and equitable,” that it had been based on expense and revenue data, and that a “body of work went into devising the [cost sharing] table.”

The terms of the 2007 payment schedule are: no payment to the town for third-party revenues under \$200,000; a \$30,000 minimum annual payment to the town plus 30% of revenues over \$200,000; 7.5% for revenues over \$500,000; and 10% for revenues over \$1,000,000.

In October 2017, the minimum payment was dropped, and the town was given a flat 10% of third-party revenues. In return, the town was to receive free processing of sludge from POTW#1, its plant in Millers Falls.

However, after receiving several shipments of POTW#1 sludge, POTW#2 refused to accept additional shipments, indicating that it did not meet the standards specified in the agreement. POTW#1 chief operator Peter Sanders told the board

at that time that testing performed by the town showed that his plant’s sludge met the standards.

On Tuesday, Housen told the board that Erving Industries would prefer to share “zero to 10% of the revenues” with the town. After the initial discussion, Housen and Westcott left to confer privately in an empty room, and the board went into executive session. Meeting again publicly, Jacob Smith proposed a 20% share for the town, while Housen said that Erving Industries would agree to the payment schedule in the 2007 table.

The board voted to sign the agreement with the 2007 payment schedule, the deletion of the section regarding free treatment of POTW#1 sludge, and a provision that the agreement can be changed if both parties agree.

Anonymous Complaint

Selectboard member Scott Bastarache addressed an anonymous letter which claimed that a speed monitoring unit had been set up on Pratt Street “in front of a selectboard member’s house.”

Bastarache lives on Pratt Street. He said that the unit was not set up in front of his house, but at another location on Pratt Street based on the request of a different resident, and that “no one on the board told the chief [Christopher Blair] where to place it.”

Selectboard chair Smith confirmed that the board does not consult with Blair about the placement of speed monitors.

IP Mill Cleanup

The board approved a \$63,300 contract with Tighe & Bond for asbestos and hazardous materials abatement at the former International Paper Mill on Papermill Road.

Tighe & Bond proposed to conduct an audit of the buildings, design an asbestos abatement project, support the town in soliciting bids for abatement, oversee abatement contractors, and provide licensed site professional services to investigate potential polychlorinated biphenyl contamination from exterior transformers at the former mill.

A New Summer Special in Wendell

By ANNA GYORGY

A highlight of local Saturday mornings for years, set up by the gazebo on the Town Common, the Wendell Farmers’ Market offered much more than fresh vegetables, rain or shine.

This season, the key organizers have switched to a monthly schedule, with four dates starting July 6, each on the first Saturday of the month, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Find the Farmers’ Market in Wendell Center on July 6, August 3, September 7, and October 5, 2019.

“This is a perfect way and place to sample the richness of our town,” says co-coordinator Shawn Jarrett. “Besides the local produce, eggs, cut flowers, and local maple syrup on offer, it’s a place to find artisan soap, crafts, baked goods (ServSafe only), herbal remedies and bric-a-brac, and to meet up with friends. Local healers offer bodywork sessions, and musicians are invited to play by the gazebo on the Town Common.”

Jarrett adds that the organizers plan to expand the range of local vendors, and book the nearby Town



Wendell Farmers Market vendor Danny Botkin of Laughing Dog Farm serves produce to happy customers.

Hall in case of rain. “We will add events every month, starting with a tag sale on August 3, with more to follow. Anyone can set up a blanket or a stall on the town common, free of charge. Everyone is welcome!”

If you are interested in selling, or for more information, contact Shawn Jarrett at sjarrett51@gmail.com or Laurel Facey at lfacey88@crocker.com.

Other Business

Highway foreman Glenn McCrory presented the plans prepared by Weston & Sampson for sidewalk replacement and construction at River, Water and Strachan streets. The project, at a cost of over \$600,000, will be paid for from state Chapter 90 highway construction funds and town appropriations.

Bastarache said that, eventually, sidewalk improvement projects will be “rolling out over town,” and that the board will seek grants beyond Chapter 90.

Administrative coordinator Bryan Smith said that a community meeting introducing the River, Water and Strachan streets project will be held this summer.

Rural Development, Inc. (RDI), a non-profit organization created by the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority, provided the only response to the town’s request for proposals for constructing senior housing at the town-owned property behind the senior and community center.

Selectboard member William Bembury noted that RDI’s response included public housing as well as senior housing and suggested that the senior housing committee should continue discussions with RDI.

Bryan Smith said that the town would need to “go out to developers” and sell the project in order to get more response.

Final Library Items Funded

By KATIE NOLAN

ERVING – Tuesday night was hot and humid. As voters arrived at the Erving senior and community center for the special town meeting, they passed a red fire truck parked on the grass in front of the building. Two large yellow flexible hoses extended from the Department of Fire Services truck into a window of the meeting room, one hose carrying cool air into the building and the other an air return hose.

The building’s geothermal heating and cooling system, after years of problems and repairs, stopped working this spring. As a short-term measure, to keep the building open on hot days, fire chief Philip Wonkka has borrowed the mobile HVAC unit from the state until July 2, when installation of a new compressor-based heating and cooling system will be underway.

The approximately 50 residents at the meeting voted coolly, quickly, and unanimously to approve each of the nine items on the warrant.

With no comments or questions, they approved an extra \$550,000 to pay for the library’s photovoltaic system and for furnishing, fixtures, and equipment at the new building. The majority of the money will be transferred from free cash, and about 13% will come from taxation.

The meeting voted to pay for

the library construction out of stabilization rather than borrowing. Selectboard chair Jacob Smith told the meeting that using stabilization funds was “the most responsible decision,” because it will save money on interest payments and loan fees. He said the selectboard was committed to returning the money to stabilization within five years.

The voters approved funding a 2% cost-of-living adjustment for town employees. Smith explained that the town had not yet received the UMass job description and compensation study, which would allow the town to set compensation for town employees at rates similar to those in comparable towns. The meeting also approved appropriating \$50,000 for other potential compensation adjustments once the study is completed. Asked if the study would be made public, administrative coordinator Bryan Smith said it would.

The voters also accepted the 2019 town report, established a revolving account for library fines and fees, set a \$3,000 spending limit for that account, transferred \$7,200 from the consulting account to plan for future development in Erving village center, and paid a bill from FY’18.

At the meeting’s end senior center director Paula Betteres thanked Wonkka, saying that without the mobile HVAC unit, “it would be pretty warm in here.”

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GILL from page A1

you and the Town of Gill, a time in my life that means so very much to me.”

Selectboard chair John Ward observed that he could tell it was a difficult decision, due to LaClaire also retiring as a volunteer firefighter. Before his time in Gill, LaClaire served as chief of the Erving fire department, and volunteered in Gill since then. All three board members reciprocated LaClaire’s sentiments of appreciation, and hesitated for a moment before making a motion to accept the notice.

“I don’t think we have any choice but to accept,” said Ward.

Randy Crochier added, “It’s going to happen whether we accept it or not.” The board voted to accept the notice with regret.

Town administrator Ray Purington later said that LaClaire had been an asset to the town, and that he would miss his friendly smile, wave, and “How’s it going?”

The board discussed the next steps in finding a new highway superintendent, as well as general staffing concerns in the department.

Purington said he would update the job description using examples from other towns, as well as input from LaClaire and the department’s two remaining employees. Purington noted that he didn’t want to automatically assume that because it had always been a three-member department, it always will be, but said “I’m certainly convinced that we have a need for a three-person department.”

The board agreed. Crochier pointed to the fact that over the past several years there has been a large amount of time where only two employees were available, and “our roads are starting to feel it.”

“We’ve gotten by,” Purington said, “but our roads, our equipment, our buildings, are too important to just get by.”

Board member Greg Snedeker said the nature of the work argues for three people, in part because “it can be difficult, if not dangerous, at times.” With two people, he ob-

served, “if one’s on vacation, and the other one gets sick, then what?” It was noted that department staff are on call 24/7, like the fire and police departments.

Ward brought up the possibility of looking into some form of regionalization in the future, but the board agreed not to start that conversation at this time.

Buying Equipment

Highway department employee John Miner presented the board with an offer from the town of Northfield to buy out Northfield’s and Vernon’s interests in a bucket truck the two towns co-own with Gill, for \$1,000. The truck’s primary purpose is for tree work.

Miner said the town is currently paying \$1,250 per day when it needs to hire an outside contractor. He also noted the town already had saws and other equipment it uses with the truck, and pointed out that the truck can be used for other purposes as well as tree work, such as pressure washing and putting up flags. Purington added it could also be useful for work on gutters.

Crochier said the truck has been offered at a higher price in the past, and that \$1,000 was “short money.” He moved to purchase the truck, with three conditions: that the money comes out of the “trees and forestry” budget; that repairs over \$350 require prior approval; and that the purchase “in no way signifies that we will always own a bucket truck.”

Snedeker asked for a paper trail so the board could evaluate the truck’s use and financial impact. Miner responded that he had been computerizing the files on all the vehicles at the department, and will include the bucket truck.

The board approved the purchase.

The board also approved a fire department request for the purchase of a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) pack for \$839. Purington read a description of the pack, saying it contained equipment to be used “to rescue a firefighter in case of an emergency.”

Other Business

The board approved a slate of annual appointments to town positions. Snedeker said he was always amazed at how many positions there were. Crochier agreed, and noted the majority are unpaid. “We thank them all for their participation,” said Snedeker.

Chris Pelletier was granted a sewer abatement of \$62.94.

The board approved request by the agricultural commission to use the town common for a “Gill Harvest Fair” on Sunday, September 22, from noon to 3 p.m. Purington said the fair was an offshoot of a similar event held last year as part of the town’s 225 anniversary celebration.

He went on to say the Fireman’s Association would be on hand with food, the Friends of Gill would provide strawberry shortcake, and the agricultural commission invites anyone in town with an agricultural connection to bring items to sell or show.

“Like a mini-farmers market,” said Crochier. Ward asked if the common would be large enough for the event. “I certainly hope not,” Crochier replied.

The meeting closed with an announcement of a talk on “Attracting Birds, Butterflies & Other Beneficials” by naturalist John Root at the Slate Memorial Library this Saturday, June 29 at 1 p.m. The free event is supported in part by a grant from the Gill Cultural Council.

Snedeker commented that he had been out riding his bike and recently saw “the entire bike rack at the library filled with kids’ bikes,” bringing a smile to his face. “The new library is getting used, which is really nice,” he said.

Ward commented, on the topic of the talk, that the Japanese knotweed on the riverbank in the Riverside district had been knocked down by a recent mowing, allowing milkweed to sprout nicely and provide an essential food source for monarch butterflies, which are in “precipitous decline all over the world.”

CLEANUP DAY ON THE HILL!

Cleanup of the wooded area and trails in Turners Falls, located between High Street, Park Street, Unity Street, and 7th Street, will take place on Saturday, July 6, from 9 a.m. to noon. The meeting place will be the grassy section along High Street near the intersection of Crocker Ave.

The public uses this area and its trails that connect downtown and the “hill” section of Turners Falls. There is even a resident deer that wanders through each morning and evening. These woods need attention to keep the area safe for everyone. As this area is town property, the Montague Selectboard has given approval of the cleanup, and the Montague DPW will support it by disposing of the collected trash and materials collected. FirstLight has donated bags and gloves for children and adults who wish to participate. Thanks to this collaboration, we have been able to put this plan into action.

We were inspired by the Source to Sea Cleanup, and modeled our organization of the event on their model. Now is an especially good time of year to clean up the woods and paths since there is much less ground cover and leaves. We ask that you join us in this effort, and show up to help on July 6!

Thank you,

Jennifer Lively & Kara Klempner, Turners Falls



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Above: This former electrical switch building for the John Russell Cutlery and Montague Paper Company has been put to new use.

One Image is Worth Many Thousand Words: Peter Monroe’s Photography at the Greenfield Gallery

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

GREENFIELD – Peter Monroe doesn’t believe the old adage that one picture is worth a thousand words. It may be worth close to 30,000 words. That’s how many words he has written as a commentary on one of his own photographs. In his latest show “Signs: Volume I: 1977 – 2019,” opening on June 28 at the Greenfield Gallery, each image is accompanied by text. None of the photographer’s commentaries in this exhibition run for 88 pages, but most are unable to be displayed in their entirety next to the photograph they describe. The curious are invited to continue reading about the images in a separate folder. Writing extensively about one’s own photographs is unusual. Indeed, most photographers avoid even explaining what their images are about beyond the title. But for Monroe, each photo has resonance in his own experience of how and what and why the image even exists. Indeed, the Turners Falls-based photographer has been writing lengthy commentaries for even longer than he’s been taking photographs. “When I was in third or fourth grade we were always assigned to write book reports. Most kids just wrote a page or so based

on the blurb on the back cover. I usually wrote around eight pages,” says the photographer. But if viewers are expecting him to explain his work, this is not what they are going to get. They will get far more: a glimpse inside the mind of a highly-skilled creator. A stunning black and white photograph, shot through the window of a midtown Manhattan lunch counter, features a tired young woman looking out at the world. Monroe’s text speculates on who she might be, where she might be from, what she does for a living, even what she might be thinking. He then explains how this practice of imaginative observation developed: “This photograph and its relative-text is dedicated to my mother, for the fact of inheriting that trait of conjecturing what people she saw on a bus (or me at a midtown lunch counter) might be

see **MONROE** page B5



Peter Monroe in front of the Greenfield Gallery, which is featuring his work this summer.



WEST ALONG THE RIVER CHASING MUSKETBALLS, CONNECTING DOTS

By DAVID BRULE

PESKEOMPSKUT BATTLE ZONE – Crashing through the underbrush, brambles, past shadbush in bloom, 150 men were running for their lives that late morning of May 19, 1676. Panic choking them, hearts pounding, they were fleeing from the scene of the atrocity they

had just committed on the banks of the great falls. Some were on foot, some were on horseback. Desperately running pell-mell through swamp and thicket, Captain William Turner’s men were racing back the way they came, and the Native soldiers knew where to expect them, where to set the ambushes. These dragoons had just finished murdering close to three hundred Native elderly, women, and children in the refugee camp of non-combatants at the head of the falls. Now, scores of well-armed Pocumtuck, Nipmuck, Abenaki, Narragansett, and Wampanoag were chasing them down the steep banks of the Fall River at Factory Hollow and up the other side, firing into the rear guard of the catastrophic retreat of the colonials. They were trying to get back to Hatfield, and they only knew one way: the way they came. Indigenous soldiers knew every nook, swale, terrace, and chokepoint in this, their own homeland. Cutting cross-country, they raced ahead of the colonials to set up ambushes along the path the English would have to take. They were making the colonials pay for the slaughter of the innocents they had just inflicted in the surprise land raid. Charging blindly into the White



A map of the battle’s geography, from a National Park Service report.

see **WEST ALONG** page B4

THEATER REVIEW Silverthorne’s The Fantasticks is a Delight!



Jasmine Goodspeed as Luisa, and Andy Zane as Matt, in the Silverthorne Theater Company production of The Fantasticks at Hawks & Reed.

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

GREENFIELD – The latest production of the Silverthorne Theater Company, *The Fantasticks*, opened on Thursday, June 20, at Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center in Greenfield to great enthusiasm. An entertaining musical theater production, with music by Harvey Schmidt and lyrics and book by Tom Jones, *The Fantasticks* first played off-Broadway in New York City beginning in 1960. It is the longest-running musical in the world with 42 years (until 2002) of performances in New York and thousands of productions worldwide. This production brings together a talented group of local actors, and provides a fresh new perspective to the show. The foundation of the play is simple, offering great opportunity for invention. There is a young man and an even younger girl living next door to each other, whose parents conspire to have them fall in love, which they do – for a while. The hope is that they will marry, but their parents know an arranged marriage will not do. Director Carmela Lanza-Weil has succeeded in casting a group of skilled actors with outstanding vocal ability. The young man, Matt, is played by Andy Zane, who has a strong tenor voice with a wide range. Luisa, the young girl, just sixteen, is played by Jasmine Goodspeed. Her pure soprano voice rings out throughout the theater and blends beautifully with Zane’s. There are throughout the show many great duets, with several full-cast musical moments that just fill the room with magic. Lanza-Weil brought her creative mind to this show and decided to have the parents, originally fathers, be mothers instead.

Casting Stephanie Carlson as Matt’s mother, Huckabee, and Autumn Tustin as Luisa’s mother, Bellamy, brings a wonderful energy to these parts, changing the dynamic of the show and creating an opportunity for these two women to interact as both rivals and conspirators. They show their hand when they sing “Never Say No,” explaining that the way to get children to do what you want is to just tell them *no*. Their interaction brings many laughs, while their voices blend in perfect harmony. A very quiet member of the cast, whose voice we never hear, is the very elegant and lovely Madeleine Bolles Oldenberg, who plays the Mute. She also sometimes stands in for The Wall, which has been built to separate the two families. Madeleine, while silent, is a strong presence on the stage, slipping in and out of scenes, moving sets, assisting in small ways to move the story along. She sprinkles tinsel above the lovers, holds an umbrella of fall leaves as El Gallo and Luisa sing together, and sometimes just stands with grace while others perform. As a quiet presence she is quite lovely, her small gestures and glances to the audience a perfect balance to the action around her. Central to the story is the part of El Gallo, played by Larry Picard. Both narrator and villain, El Gallo shows the innocent Luisa the dark side of life after enticing Matt to seek excitement in the big city. Before that, he is the one who conspires with the two mothers to bring Matt and Luisa together through a pretend abduction. Picard’s deep baritone voice is strong and rich, resonating wonderfully in solos and blending with the others in duets with Luisa or in full cast numbers. The music of

see **FANTASTICKS** page B5

Pets of the Week

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Senior Center Activities JULY 1 THROUGH 12

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.
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12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 7/4
Senior Center Closed
Friday 7/5
12 p.m. Pizza Party
Monday 7/8
8 a.m. Foot Clinic (by appt.)
NO Morning Classes
10:30 a.m. Brown Bag
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday 7/9
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga
11:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share
Wednesday 7/10
12:30 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 7/11
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga
1 p.m. Cards & Games
4 p.m. Mat Yoga
Friday 7/12: Open

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 7/1
8:45 a.m. Step & Sculpt
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance
11:30 a.m. Breakfast Brunch
12:30 p.m. Pitch card games
Tuesday 7/2
8:45 a.m. S.W.A.P. Exercise
9:30 a.m. Ask the Nurse
10 a.m. Stretch & Balance
12 p.m. Soup & Sandwich
Wednesday 7/3
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
12 p.m. Homemade Lunch
12:30 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 7/4 and Friday 7/5
Senior Center Closed
Monday 7/8
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 7/9
8:45 a.m. S.W.A.P. Exercise
10 a.m. Stretch & Balance
12 p.m. Soup & Sandwich
1 p.m. Bazaar Brainstorming
Wednesday 7/10
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
12 p.m. Homemade Lunch
12:30 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 7/11
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Muscles
12 p.m. Congregate Lunch
Friday 7/12
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

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

ERVING
Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Lunch is at 12 p.m., with reservations required two days in

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.

JULY LIBRARY LISTING

Montague Public Libraries
Turners Falls: Carnegie (413) 863-3214
Montague Center (413) 367-2852
Millers Falls (413) 659-3801

Erving Public Library (413) 423-3348
Gill: Slate Library (413) 863-2591
Leverett Public Library (413) 548-9220
Wendell Free Library (978) 544-3559
Northfield: Dickinson Library (413) 498-2455

ONGOING EVENTS

EVERY SUNDAY
Wendell Free Library: *Sunday Morning Yoga*, 10 a.m.; *AA Open Meeting*, 6 to 7 p.m.

EVERY MONDAY
Carnegie Library: *Family Movie* with an outer space theme. Snacks. 3 to 5 p.m.

EVERY TUESDAY
Wendell Free Library: *Strength Training Classes for Adults of all Ages* with Kathy Sward. Must pre-register. Intermediate at 9 a.m., beginners at 10:15 a.m. \$. *Adult Watercolor Group*, working from YouTube painting tutorials. BYO brushes and paper. 6 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Qigong* with Dvora Eisenstein, 5:15 p.m.

Erving Library: *Tech Tuesday*. Questions answered. 4 to 6 p.m.

Carnegie Library: *Legos*. For all ages. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

1ST TUESDAYS
Carnegie Library: *Youth Advisory Committee*. Snacks served. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

3RD TUESDAYS
Dickinson Library: *Genealogy Group*, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Wendell Free Library: *Sylvia’s Awesome Play Group*, sand table and activities for newborn to 5 years old and their guardians, 10 to 11:30 a.m.; *Healthy Bones and Balance* with Marianne Vinal, geared to older town residents, 10 to 11 a.m.

Carnegie Library: *Story Time with Karen*. Young children with caregivers. 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

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

Erving Library: *Crazy 8s Math Club*. For 2nd- to 6th-graders, except first Wednesdays. 1:45 p.m.

1ST WEDNESDAYS
Dickinson Library: *Readers’ Choice Book Group*. 10 a.m.

Erving Library: STEM activities for 2nd- to 6th-graders, with Jean Daley. 1:30 p.m.

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

EVERY THURSDAY
Montague Center: *Music & Movement* with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson, bilingual Spanish/English fun for kids. 10 to 10:45 a.m.

1ST THURSDAYS
Carnegie Library: *Genealogy Club*. 6 to 8 p.m.

Dickinson Library: *Environment Awareness Group*. 6:30 p.m.

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

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

Dickinson Library: *Story Hour*. For pre-schoolers and caregivers. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

EVERY SATURDAY

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

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

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

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

EXHIBITS

Dickinson Library: *Bhutan Himalayan Kingdom*. Photographs by Carol Pike. Through mid-July. *Exhibit of astro-photography*, presentation July 30.

EVENTS

TUESDAY, JULY 2
Dickinson Library: *Make-and-Take Craft: Space Collage*. All day.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3
Dickinson Library: *Touchdown to the Moon*. For kids. 1 to 2 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 6
Leverett Library: *Read to a Therapy Dog*. (Contact library for details.) 1 to 2 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: Movie, *At the Earth’s Core*. 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 7
Erving Library: *Crafts with Maggie*. Pre-register. 1:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JULY 9
Carnegie Library: *Visit from Toto the Tornado Kitten*. 3 to 4 p.m.

Dickinson Library: *Make-and-Take Craft: Galaxy Mobile*, all day; *Train Like an Astronaut*, physical astronaut activities for kids, 1 to 2 p.m.

Erving Library: *Intergalactic Slime and Galaxy Playdough*. 1:30 to 3 p.m. Book discussion, *Liar’s Candle* by August Thomas. Author will join the discussion. Snacks. 6:30 p.m.

Leverett Library: Deb Habib’s memoir, *Making Love While Farming*. Author talk and book signing. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10
Dickinson Library: *Readings: Nonfiction, Fiction & Poetry*. This month: *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe. 3 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 11
Leverett Library: *Summer Craft-ernoon with Georgie*. Origami or do your own thing. Children 8 and under must be with an adult. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Music on the Patio: Beth Logan Raffeld & Jazz Trio*. 7 p.m.

Dickinson Library: Space-themed *Trivia Night at Cameron’s Winery*. For adults. 6:30 to 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 12
Carnegie Library: *Dino Adventures!* Children and caregivers can see and touch fossils, dinosaur skulls, velociraptor claws, and dinosaur skin. Also live animals: monitor lizards, alligators, scorpions, birds, and snapping turtles! 11 a.m. to noon.

SATURDAY, JULY 13

Leverett Library: *Fern Presentation and Nature Walk* with Randy and Janice Stone. 1 to 3 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 14
Erving Library: *Katie Tolles at the Riverfront Park*, Tales and Tunes. 10 to 11 a.m.

TUESDAY, JULY 16
Dickinson Library: *Make-and-Take Craft: Sun-catcher*, all day; *Share Your Memories of the Moon Landing*, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17
Dickinson Library: *Circus Minimus*, one-man show traveling the world. At Northfield Elementary. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Erving Library: *Moon and Stars*. Eat your way through Oreos to see the phases of the moon and constellation lamps, 1:30 to 3 p.m. *Extra-terrestrial Life!*, presented by Hampshire College professor Salman Hameed (call for time).

THURSDAY, JULY 18
Leverett Library: *Drawing Workshop for Kids* with Julie Lapping Rivera, 3:15 to 4:45 p.m. *Music on the Patio: Little House Blues*, 7 p.m.

Dickinson Library: Get discounted tickets from the library for *Movies Under the Stars* at the Northfield Drive-In.

SATURDAY, JULY 20
Carnegie Library: The movie *Wonder* will be shown for those who have read the book by RJ Palacio before the event, followed by a discussion. Ages 11 to 15. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Dickinson Library: *Jazz Trio: Moon & Songs of Celestial Bodies*, with Sara Clay. Noon.

TUESDAY, JULY 23
Erving Library: At the Erving Senior/Community Center: 1 p.m., *Virtual Reality for Seniors and Adults*; 3 p.m., *VR for Teens*; 5 p.m., *VR for Families*.

Dickinson Library: *Make-and-Take Craft: Sundial*, all day; Movie, *2001: A Space Odyssey*, 6 to 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24
Leverett Library: *Visit from the Leverett Fire Truck!* 10:30 a.m.

Dickinson Library: Movie, *A Beautiful Planet*. 1 to 2 p.m.

Erving Library: *It’s the Sun!* Cook snacks in a solar oven and make sundials. 1:30 to 3 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 25
Leverett Library: *Music on the Patio: Danse Cafe*. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 27
Dickinson Library: *Reading is Magic* with Ed the Wizard. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Leverett Library: *Dorothy Cresswell & the Curious Giraffe Show*. 1 to 2 p.m.

TUESDAY, JULY 30
Dickinson Library: *Make-and-Take Craft: Wearable Asteroid Belt*, all day. *Astro-Photography Lecture* with the Aldrich Astronomical Society, 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31
Dickinson Library: *War of the Worlds*. Coffee, donuts, and the radio recording. 10:30 a.m.

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SPIRIT SHOPPE

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week On MCTV

By MIKE SMITH

Summer is here – along with some fresh new videos from MCTV! We would like to congratulate the Turners Falls Softball team for making it all the way to the MIAA Division III Championship! We have videos of their playoff games being released on our Vimeo page which you can find at montaguetv.org.

More new releases include the 5th Annual Montague Music Festival, as well as *Let Your Love Shine: The “She Said” Documentary*. She Said is a local band of female musicians, writing and performing “all originals, all the time.” Go to montaguetv.org for the toe tappin’ good times!

Historian and author Jim Gildea gave a lecture at Greenfield Savings Bank on June 1 about the Atlantic Tsunami of 1755 and its impact on the American Revolution. His fascinating presentation is available now

at montaguetv.org.

While you’re visiting the site, be sure to check out the details of our upcoming 120-Second Film Festival! The registration deadline has been extended to July 28, so don’t delay. The awards ceremony will be hosted by the Shea Theater – don’t miss the opportunity to see your work up on the big screen!

Looking for something to do this summer? Why not learn how to make your very own videos! We here at MCTV love training people on proper camera use and video editing. Come learn an exciting new hobby, whether it’s shooting town events you’d like to see on MCTV or starting your own show altogether. Our producers are standing by to help you every step of the way.

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

WEST ALONG from B1

Ash Swamp, into the wetlands at the foot of Canada Hill, thirty-eight settlers never left that swamp alive.

Captain Turner and Lieutenant Holyoke had tried to gather the disorganized troops into a more orderly retreat, but the men of this farmer militia were beyond listening. None but one had ever been this far north in their lives, and they knew only one way home. They wanted to get there by any means. Several spent days wandering before straggling back to Hatfield; others never made it.

They retreated as best they could along a path through White Ash Swamp, picked up the trail along Cherry Rum Brook, heading for the Green River ford near today’s Nash’s Mills site.

There at the ford, William Turner caught a bullet and was thrown from his horse.

John Wecopeak, a Narragansett soldier, testified later at his trial in August 1676 held in Newport, RI:

“I saw Turner get shot. I know it was Turner because he told me that was his name.”

This is the actual eyewitness account of Turner’s mortal wounding, written down by the court clerk that day in Newport, and it tells us of the last minutes in the life of the infamous William Turner.

As for John Wecopeak, who spoke the truth, who did honor his personal dignity and integrity as a soldier, he was then taken out, and in the typical harshness of British justice, executed on the spot, right after his testimony.

Lieutenant Holyoke managed to get the remaining men rallied enough to defend themselves as they crossed the ford and headed down the Green River to the Deerfield River ford. There, more Pocumtuck were waiting on the ter-

race above the river. The trail down the bank and up the other side was only wide enough for one man at a time on horse or on foot. They had to descend, cross the ford, try to get up the Deerfield bank and into the North Meadows. Again, indigenous knowledge of the terrain proved fatal for a number of Turner’s men.

These tribal soldiers were not limited to fighting only with stone-age bows and arrows, although some likely used them. By this time, arrows were often tipped with brass or copper arrowheads, fashioned from pots and kettles acquired in trade. Those arrowheads were capable of piercing the heavy waistcoats worn by many of the colonials. In addition, the tribal soldiers had relatively modern muskets and ammunition supplied by the French and the Dutch, or collected on the field of earlier battles.

These were battle-hardened warriors compared to the mostly untrained farmer colonials. The tribes had skilled men who could repair muskets, had the means to produce musket balls, and had stocks of replacement parts for their weapons.

In many ways, the settlers were not only outnumbered but were lacking in experience and weaponry. Many of them were armed with fowling pieces, muskets for hunting, and were not seasoned soldiers as were the Natives, who in addition, were fighting for their homes and their way of life...

So now, fast-forward to this early summer of 2019. Three hundred and forty-three years later, we are organizing new archaeological efforts to recover the artifacts, to piece together the story of that deadly, panicked retreat of Turner’s men.



LOOKING BACK:
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was June 25, 2009: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Regionalization Discussion

In January, Mary Kociela, then chair of the Gill-Montague school committee, convened a meeting of representatives from the 15 school committees in Franklin County. Since then, the group has met five times, and formally elected representatives from each of the local school committees have met and formed the Franklin County School Committee Caucus.

At the June 22 meeting, Glen Koocher, director of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, compared the Department of Education to the king of England, and the FCSCC to the Committees of Correspondence of pre-Revolutionary War New England. The king, Koocher implied, has been failing to heed the petitions of the colonists about taxation without representation.

He praised the group for providing “credible dissent, credible pushback” to pressure the state to bundle smaller school districts together into larger districts, or to eliminate split districts where K-6 students go to hometown elementary schools before attending upper school outside the district.

Erving Senior Center Fails by Four Votes

Once again, the proposal to build a new \$2.3 million senior center for the town of Erving has failed by four votes.

Previously, the annual town meeting fell four votes shy of the two-thirds majority needed to approve the senior center. Although there had been some speculation in town that fewer people would turn out for a subsequent special town meeting, leaving proponents a clearer shot at passing the measure, in fact on June 22 both the “yeas” and “nays” increased their showing, and the senior center again fell four votes shy.

Southworth Paper Thanks the Town

David Southworth, of the Southworth Paper Company, opened the June 22 meeting of the Montague selectboard by presenting framed certificates of appreciation to the town’s fire and police chiefs, water pollution control facility superintendent, and also the town in general, for the swift and efficient response to the Strathmore fire in May 2007.

“Without the help of so many people,” he said, “Southworth would have been lost.”

Southworth also read a list of the dozens of other Massachusetts fire departments who responded to the arson blaze at the Strathmore Mill’s Building #10. The building, then used as a warehouse for recycled paper, was set ablaze in the middle of the night by Jonathan Tanzer, in an act of vengeance against former Strathmore owner Jerry Jones, under whose supervision he had been seriously injured in an electrical accident.

In fact, new findings have already revealed that the events of that day are of a different character than has been portrayed thus far.

The surprise dawn massacre of the inhabitants in the sleeping Indian village may have been touted as a major blow to the Natives’ efforts in the war, but the disaster of the retreat is actually indicative of a Native victory on the battlefield, which stretches over seven miles.

The research team composed of University of Connecticut professors Kevin McBride, David Naumec, and Ashley Bissonnette, in collaboration with tribal consultants from the Nipmuck, Abenaki, Narragansett, and Wampanoag nations, completed the first phase of the field work in 2017. They covered the terrain from the massacre site in Riverside to the counter-attack by Native forces along a route to Factory Hollow, which drove the colonials back into the Fall River and up the Greenfield side. That summer’s field work essentially ended there.

They had uncovered close to

300 artifacts from that fateful day, including mostly musket balls fired from east to west, presumably by Native forces chasing the colonial raiders. In addition, the team identified new terrain features which had not ever been analyzed before, and which played a major role in the Native victory. They also were able to make more clearly defined assumptions about Native strategies, tactics and personnel.

Another source that became available in 2017 was the archive containing the significant eyewitness accounts recorded by Stephen Williams. These were recently transcribed by Dr. Peter Thomas, who painstakingly deciphered the mid-1700s interviews of Native and colonial combatants in the Falls fight.

This new 2019 phase will lead the UConn archaeological team and tribal historic preservation officers along the retreat route from the high western banks of the Fall River, through White Ash Swamp, and down Cherry Rum Brook to the Nash’s Mills site near the Green-

field Swimming Pool. They will scour both sides of the Green River and continue on down to the ford site on the Deerfield River.

With permission secured from the City of Greenfield to survey City properties, we are hoping also to secure landowners’ permission along the Turner escape route to help us piece together the story. The primary archaeological tools will be metal detectors and subsequent non-invasive removal of artifacts from targeted six-inch locations identified by the metal detectors. The neighborhoods of Colrain Road and Nash’s Mills will be the primary sectors of interest.

The team will be chasing musket balls that were fired or dropped and left there in the rout. We will be trying to uncover the retreat route of the ill-fated raiding party of Capt. William Turner on that day of May 19, 1676, and to write another chapter in the story of the event that changed the history of this region forever.



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By MISHEL IXCHEL

TURNERS FALLS – I write this with the hopes of channeling all the anger, resentment, exhaustion, sleep deprivation, stress, uncertainty, and anxiety I am currently feeling into something that is useful. Something that can nourish.

For the last decade, on and off, I’ve taken the time to connect with that which is bigger than all of us. Some call it God, others Spirit, others Universe; the names are endless. And whenever I do, I ask to be guided: I offer myself up to be of service. I realize I cannot solve all the problems of the world, but I know I am here to do *something*. And so, over the years, I’ve fervently prayed to be guided to whatever that may be.

I learned the hard way that it’s

Reporting From the Trenches of Single Parenthood

not up to me to plan my life. Since adolescence, I’ve stood my ground and refused to be swayed by what others have wanted me to be. But it wasn’t until my late 20s that I began to understand the importance of also saying no to what my ego thought I should be doing with my life.

When I was fresh out of college, I stumbled into the world of museums, and intuitively knew that with my passions and interests I could thrive in this industry. I clung to my daydreams of traveling the world, working behind the scenes as a highly coveted curator. Lo and behold, I caught wind of a fellowship that would allow me to do just that. So I laser-beamed on this goal, and jumped through every single hoop to get there: I learned Italian, got my masters in museum studies, and ended up working at one of the best museums in NYC.

Ironically, after finishing my studies, which had exposed me to feminist writings on museums and exhibits, I couldn’t help but see museums in a new light. Given the racist, colonialist, classist, and capitalist roots of museums, it became hard to stomach working in one, let alone to build a whole career in the field.

The last straw: I stumbled into the museum I had worked at, about a year after I had left the position, and stood before an exhibit I had given them the idea for. When I had first voiced this idea in a staff meeting, I’d gotten little more than fake smiles and condescending nods.

I walked away from the museum field the way action heroes walk away from massive explosions: without looking back, completely determined, all in slow-mo.

What followed was a decade of prayer to be guided, and doing my best to listen. And last year, it hit me all at once: I was somehow living and breathing the worklife I’d always wanted. I teared up at this realization, closed my eyes, and took a deep breath.

There I was, on a Zoom video meeting, in my hotel room on the Mayan Riviera. I had been flown there and would be paid for my time and my work while I was there. I had succeeded in becoming a kick-ass event producer, getting paid to travel the world, working behind the scenes, and helping curate experiences. The main difference? None of it was planned, and my heart was fully on board with this work.

So why so sullen? you ask.

The realities of single parenthood are that somehow, one must juggle supporting oneself and

child(ren) while simultaneously parenting. And things get very real when by the end of the month, there’s not much money left, if any at all. Month-to-month-ing is a reality for countless people. And for me, it’s become apparent that unless I do something differently, and fast, I can count on month-to-month-ing it for the rest of my life.

This past week, I’ve felt the weight of unpaid bills, looming rent, and a new commercial lease nearly cut off my oxygen supply. Oh yes, and single-parenting my child while his dad is off pursuing his own dream.

It’s all temporary, and I know I’ll be resourceful and figure out how to get through this, but combined, it’s been enough to send me down a dark spiral. The transition between freelancer to brick-and-mortar business owner feels financially terrifying, and yet, I know the decision to do this has everything to do with praying and listening.

This past winter, I allowed the land to lay fallow, so to speak, taking zero action other than active listening. Day after day, I kept getting the same message to open this business. In an effort to tame my impulsiveness, I kept asking for clarity, promising in return that come spring, I would jump through

whatever hoops necessary to make it happen. Winter came and went, and as soon as spring sprung, I’ve had to live to my word and thus I’ve been going nonstop, musing at how quickly and easily it’s all happening. Spring has left me spinning, and as we now venture into summer, I am reminded to shift my focus from all that is lacking, to everything that is flourishing in my life.

There is a lot to be grateful for. Because, as all the great teachers remind us, it’s all about having an attitude of gratitude. What we focus on expands, and while I don’t know what this season will bring, at the very least I will start by appreciating all that I have in this very moment.

Ecuadorian-born and New York City bred, Mishel Ixchel is mama to a toddler, and currently resides in Turners Falls where she practices and teaches the art of sacred self-care. You can find her on Instagram @rootsandembers.

MONROE from B1

thinking about.”

Monroe began taking photographs when his father gave him a Minox camera when he was 11. “I learned how to use an exposure meter but because the viewfinder was skewed, I had trouble focusing. But from my first shots, I loved photography,” Monroe recalls.

From that moment on, Monroe began exploring what taking pictures was all about. “I had some good friends who were photographers,” he explains. “They taught me how to shoot. I could call them day or night for advice.”

And then there was just practice. And more practice. At 66, Monroe says he has thousands of negatives, many of which have never been printed. But that’s about to change.

For this exhibition, Monroe culled through many of these vintage images to come up with those he decided to include. As the show’s title implies, the focus is on signs of all types, from peeling lettered signs on the side of an industrial building in Greenfield, to vintage telephone exchanges featuring location prefixes – “UL,” etc. – to the rusting metal Swift Cleaners sign on Greenfield’s Main Street.

Greenfield Galley owner, photographer, and the show’s curator, Kate Hunter, further worked with Monroe to assemble the show, even digitally printing a majority of the images, most of which were originally shot on film. “This was the first time,” says Monroe, “that I did not print my own work. But Kate’s prints are first-rate.”

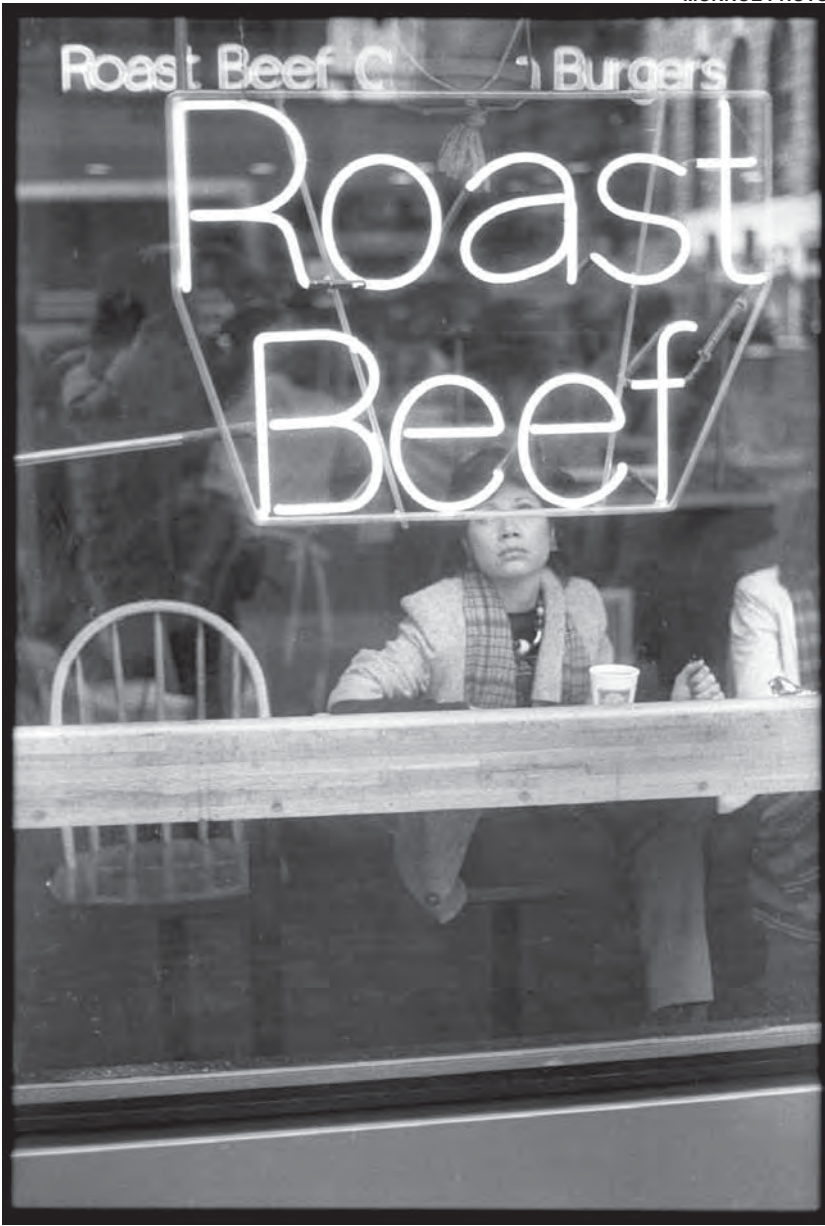
For Monroe – and for me – the vintage photographs are simply records of time stopped, as familiar now as they were 40 years ago. “For me, all those images still exist even though I know they don’t,” says Monroe. “I guess they are views into a past, but a past that is still, at least for me, still present.”

The oldest photo in the exhibi-

tion, “Sixty Special,” dates from 1977 and features a Coney Island amusement ride and the stunning tailfin of a 1958 “Sixty Special” Cadillac. The newest was shot earlier this year in Connecticut, and is a digitally-photographed panorama, expertly assembled from four separate images by Kate Hunter, of a view outside Monroe’s motel room featuring a variety of sky-poking signs for fast-food chains.

Many of the older photographs were taken in and around Brooklyn, particularly the Fort Greene neighborhood, where Monroe lived from the early ‘80s onward until around 2000. Coney Island, “a heaven for signs,” was also a frequent locale, but there are also many from places a little closer by, such as Chicopee, Springfield, and Greenfield.

Although this clearly is street photography in the best sense of



One of Peter Monroe’s images in the “Signs” exhibit at Greenfield Gallery. The show opens with a reception this Friday, June 28 at 6 p.m. and runs to September 1.

the word, these are far from random shots. Indeed, despite many of them being fortuitous in that the photographer happened to be in the right place at the right time, each image on display reveals a high level of composition, an exceedingly keen eye for framing, for detail, and for recognizing that the mundane might very well be magical when isolated from its surround.

Monroe has had a distinguished career as a photographer with solo exhibitions of his work nationally and internationally including the OK Harris and WOHO galleries in New York, the Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art in Israel, and the Fullerton Museum of Art at California State University. His work has also been featured in a number of magazines and newspapers including *Harpers* and *The Village Voice*.

In 2002 he bought a house in Turners Falls, and though he still occasionally commutes back and forth to New York, he spends much more time here than in the big city.

This current exhibition is the first of what Monroe and Hunter say will be an ongoing series of “collections.” At least five more are planned over the next couple of years. They also will be issuing a limited edition, fine art quality book for each exhibit which will include images and text, as well as other images and text not displayed in the gallery. Those interested can preorder at the Gallery.

Reflecting on the forthcoming book of “Signs,” Monroe notes that he did hope to make a little money on it: “I never wanted to monetize this, but I wouldn’t be averse to it.”

The Greenfield Gallery’s hours are Tuesdays through Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information on the show, see bit.ly/SignsVol1.

FANTASTICKS from page B1

Tom Jones is the sparkling glue of the show. Whether or not you’ve ever seen this show, much of the music is familiar to most everyone.

Adding to the frivolity are John Reese as Henry, the old actor, and David Cavallin as Mortimer, a clown-like figure who does a grand dying act on cue. Reese has a way of changing expression moment to moment, with his body language changing as well, and that is a sight to see. His gift for humor is unsurpassed.

Henry and Mortimer climb out of an old trunk to join in play sword-fighting, pretend abduction, and various evil deeds. If this sounds silly and overly dramatic, I assure you that it is all that and more, which is what makes it both charming and hilarious. There is just enough art involved in the music and terrific performances of the cast to make it quite wonderful, while at the same time, the very silliness of some of the scenes creates an atmosphere of joyous celebration.

Holding it all together is music director and accompanist Ted Trobaugh. Sitting behind a curtain, it is his piano the audience hears supporting all the musical numbers. Trobaugh got a strong and very well-deserved round of applause from the audience at the end of the show.

No theater production happens without the work of the people behind the scenes. Rebecca Daniels’ fine work as producer makes all this possible. Technical director John Iverson provides lights, sound, fight direction, and all those necessary bits that make the magic happen. Stage manager is Sharon Weyers; set designer, Hannah Trobaugh; costumer is Jazmine Carroll; choreographer, Molly Fletcher Lynch; master carpenter, Cole Payne.

Performances of *The Fantasticks* will continue this weekend in the Perch at the Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center, located at 289 Main Street, Greenfield with shows at 7:30 p.m. on June 27, 28, and 29. For tickets or information, contact silverthornetheater@gmail.com or call (413) 768-7514.

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It is difficult
to get the news from poems
yet men die miserably every day
for lack
of what is found there.

- William Carlos Williams

edited by Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno
Readers are invited to send poems to the
Montague Reporter at: 177 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376
or to: poetry@montaguereporter.org

June’s Featured Poet: David Bulley

Another Elvis Sighting

As I wandered the pedestrian mall in
Charlottesville Virginia, I heard the most exquisite
Version of “Love me Tender”
From a stunning, but probably homeless man
Well past 79, with sturdy and clear features
and lips of such full tenderness that
They must be adding some ghostly tremolo to his tone.
His hair was full and touched his collar
Shining like dirty, crystalized snow in sunlight.
His guitar was a 68 Gibson LGO
With a voice as aged and perfect as the singer.
Both wore age like a purple cape.
I might have missed it.
I probably would have passed right by but for
As I dropped a twenty into his bucket-hat I heard,
“Thank you. Thank you very much.”
And I was transported to a paisley couch
And new color TV, little spooning with my mom
As the most beautiful man in the whole world
Got a new job as a “Roustabout” in the carnival
Solving all his issues with fake anger and real music.
Elvis drifted through all his movies,
In the scene but not part of the scene,
Repeating his lines, wearing a James Dean angst that did not fit
Until the music started.
When Elvis sang he belonged.
In any situation: at any party, in any beach, at any hotel
He sang, he belonged.
I learned this. In my own way, when I felt as if
I was drifting through, saying my lines, not really a part of things
I would sing! Perform, orate, dance, shuffle,
Poem, drum, do pull-a-rabbit, or disappear a coin.
It worked for Elvis.
Now here he was, The secret majesty on the mall
Beyond, so far beyond anything he’d ever done, more perfect even than his
Leather-clad come-back special.
Before I could utter his name
He held me with his chestnut eyes, compelling me
Not to tell. Which I did not, until now.
I thought this question so loudly he answered it
“Why?”
And Elvis regarded me with a kindness only the
Most powerful can possess and he said,
“It may seem calm in the middle of a tornado
But nothing can live there.”
I wanted to sit as a disciple, for the rest of my days
But he sang an old folk song called “Long Black Veil”
Until we both cried.
Then he shooed me away.

Chuppy

To insure my chickens avoided a popsicle death
At forty below I felt compelled to check the glow lights in the
hen house.
When I groaned open the door and peered inside
I spotted a sad little Chupacabra with a lifeless chicken in his
lap.
Even with blood dripping from his sharp teeth
he seemed pathetic.
So, I offered him the tip of my shovel which he perched on
Like a sad bird of prey, but not an owl, more like
A falcon with anxiety and bulimia and no feathers.
Thusly, I carried him into the warmth of my home
And I prepared for him warm chicken soup, because
Why waste?
After our stringy, egg-hen feast
We relaxed by the fireplace with a nice merlot
And chuppy opened up a little about his lonely
life and unspeakable compulsion.
I, myself, cannot walk past
The grocery store fried chicken counter with indulging
So we commiserated over our strange addiction.
Until finally late into the night we drifted into sleep
Each in our armchair, strange afghans on our laps
Flicks of the fire lighting our faces in odd ways
And playing across our closed eyes in a way
Where I wondered if I was asleep or not
But figured I must be because
Why waste?

The Pied Piper

Unaccompanied, I improvised soft blues
In the key of E, (My guitar’s favorite key)
noodling out notes and chords
Fingerstyle in a way that
Was not blue at all, but a little jaunty.
When this mouse just strode out onto the lip of the recliner
Like all, yo, good music I’mma listen to it
right here in this chair. And the way he cocked his head
Was all “and there ain’t shit you can do about it.”
Which he was right, as he could easily retreat
If I leapt.
The next night I poured a tiny amount
Of beer into the cap and
Left it on the recliner so mouse could
Properly jam with me, which he did.
Tchkkk, chkk, chikking along in time
Which got to be a problem as I tried to change tempo
And that damn mouse just kept right on Tchkkk, chkk,
chikking
In 4/4 time around 98 beats per minute no matter
How damn monotonous!
Next night,
I bought a cat.

Nessie

But you knew Nessie was everywhere right?
Try this: The next time you float over water
More than 100 feet deep jump.
Tread water or swim in circles, but just be.
Allow that sensation of oily immensity
To glide under your feet, slither
Along those hairs on your leg
Standing out like antennae, detecting
The tiniest hint of what must be dangerous, somehow.
Once, while water skiing I had to
Zoom over to the other side of the wake
In order to avoid some monstrous calamity
Just beneath the surface. As I cut hard to the left
A plate-sized eye, offered a slow wink which was
Part thanks and part conspiracy
Nessie acknowledging that She knew that I knew
Of the astonishing frigid depths
Of water, and of life and of human souls.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

EVENTS

THURSDAY, JUNE 27

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Jenny McAvoy, Austin & Elliott, Rob Adams*. Coop Concert Series. 6 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The O-Tones*. Swing and Motown from New England. \$. 6:30 p.m.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Music on the Patio*. Country with *Bruce Colegrove*. Bring a lawn chair. In the event of rain, concert moves inside. 7 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Annie Guthrie*. Folk and country, punk, blues. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Ten Forward, Greenfield: *The Leafies You Gave Me, Bunnies, Fred Cracklin*. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Dirty Double Crossers*. 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 28

Riverfront Park, Erving: *Bad News Jazz and Blues Orchestra*. First of three summer concerts in the park. This 19-piece band celebrates jazz and blues from the '20s and '30s. Bring a chair, blanket, snack and listen to great music. Rain date at the Erving Elementary School. 6 p.m.

Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *Home Body, E.T. Movie*. Electronic dance music duo *Home Body* performs before the film *E.T. the Extraterrestrial*, a 1982 movie classic. Part of the Movies in the Park series sponsored by RiverCulture. 6 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Happy Valley Guitar Orchestra*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Ten Forward, Greenfield: *Lily & Lucy, Baby;Baby, Isa Reisner*. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Heath Lewis*. 9:30 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 29

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *John Porcino*. Join acclaimed performer *Porcino* in the Great Hall as he shares song, story and music celebrating the beauty of the natural world. 1 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Butterfly Swing Band*. Fun, dance-

able, joyous. \$. 7 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Snack Pack*. Rock and roll, hippie country, and cosmic jazz. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Ten Forward, Greenfield: *Luxe, I Love You!, Bong Wish, Plants of the Bible*. \$. 8 p.m.

Hampshire Mall Pinz, Hadley: *Uranium Club, Urochromes, Gloyd*, special guests. Free. 9 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Roots All Stars*. Roots and reggae lineup. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *No Lens, Destructive Charm, ZoKi*. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 30

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Literary Rendezvous*. Featured poet Amy Laprade, plus open mic hosted by Beth Filson. 2:30 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Southern Rail*. Mix of blue-

SUBMITTED PHOTO



Snack Pack are four veteran musicians with a repertoire pulled from a variety of sources, a grab-bag of rock and roll, hippie country, and cosmic jazz. They perform at the 1794 Meetinghouse in New Salem this Saturday, June 29 at 7 p.m.

grass and gospel. \$. 4 p.m.

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

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Native Howl*. This show is 16 and over only. \$. 8:30 p.m.

MONDAY, JULY 1

Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *Montague Community Band*. Bring something to sit on for this free concert in the park! 7 p.m.

Flywheel, Easthampton: *Landowner, Casual Hex, Post Pink, Dreamdecay, Dump Him*. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bingo*. 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, JULY 2

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3

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

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

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

THURSDAY, JULY 4

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Jim Eagan and Dennis Avery, Joe Graveline and Nina Gross, frost heaves and hales*. Coop concert series. 6 p.m.

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

Looky Here, Greenfield: *The Big Draw*. Figure drawing session

of the earth, where they encounter evil prehistoric birds and their attractive human slaves. Preceded by an episode of *Fireball XL5*. 7:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Alice Howe, Dave Dersham*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Ten Forward, Greenfield: *PussyVision, Jake Meginsky, Nemesister, Madison Palfy, Odiosa*. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Strange Fate, Headband, New Parents*. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 7

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

Ten Forward, Greenfield: *Space Cubs, Allegra Geller*, more TBA. \$. 8 p.m.

MONDAY, JULY 8

Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *Montague Community Band*. Bring something to sit on for this free concert in the park! 7 p.m.

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

TUESDAY, JULY 9

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10

Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum, Hadley: *Viva Quetzal*. World, Afro-Andean-Latin-jazz fusion group in the sunken garden at the museum. Bring a picnic; grounds open at 5. \$. 6:30 p.m.

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

THURSDAY, JULY 11

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Music on the Patio. Beth Logan Raffeld* jazz trio. Bring a lawn chair. In the event of rain, concert moves inside. 7 p.m.

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

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Windborne*. Folksongs and harmony. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Deerhoof, Blank Spell, Hot Dirt, Tundrastomper, Carinae*. Green River Festival Kickoff Party. \$. 8 p.m.

EXHIBITS

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

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Brattleboro: New exhibits for the summer include beach scenes, activist photography by *Dona McAdams*, immersive installations, and more.

DVAA Center for the Arts, Northfield: *Beauties, Bugs, and Beas-ties*. An animal-themed exhibit by invited New England artists celebrating creatures real and imagined. Beautiful paintings and whimsical folk art and sculpture. This show will be complemented by several animal visits,

book readings, activities for children, and food collections for local animal rescue organizations. Exhibit runs to July 28.

Flourish with Grit, Turners Falls: *James Willette: Crepuscular Skies*. Photographic works by New Hampshire artist. Through July 28.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *#rightupmyalley: Photographs by Edite Cunhã*, shot in and around alleyways of Turners Falls, including poetry. Through June 30. Followed by an art display by youngsters in the Montague Parks and Rec Summer Camp who interpret Raptors, our magnificent birds of prey. Through July 28, with an art reception Tuesday, July 2 at 2:30 p.m.

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *Signs [Volume I, 1977 to 2015]*. New and vintage photographic prints on the theme of signage by Peter Monroe, curated by Kate Hunter. June 21 through August 10. Reception on June 28, 6 p.m. See article on B1 for more information.

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

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

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Gathering My Wits*, pen and ink drawings by *Linda Baker-Cimini*, through July 20.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Garden Structures*

and Ornaments: works by *Piper Glass & Steel* and *Waterside: Man-Made Structures in Natural Landscapes*, paintings by *Paul Hoffman* through June. *Chris Hill: Nocturnal Landscapes*, through September 1. Surreal botanical paintings depicting farmland and fallow fields "as they should be." Also opening July 5: *Sarah Holbrook: Driving Home*, photographs of the winding back roads of southern Vermont and western Massachusetts.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Albyn Davis*, photographs. Architecture, street scenes, details that can become abstractions in black and white and color. Through July 1.

Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton: *Plastic Entan-*



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SAT 6/29 9:30 pm
No Lens, Zoki, Destructive Charm

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THE AUTHORS' CORNER: MARGARET PETERSON HADDIX

By **IZZY VACHULA-CURTIS**

TURNERS FALLS – Happy Summer! Before I went to the Book Expo in New York, I started reading a fantasy novel by Margaret Peterson Haddix called *The Strangers*. *The Strangers* is about three kids: Chess, Emma, and Finn Greystone.

The Greystones are just like any other family, except their dad died when Chess, the oldest, was really little. Chess is in sixth grade, and is very protective of Emma and Finn, responsible, and mature. Emma is really intelligent and loves math, including codes, probability, etc. Finn is the youngest out of the three, and is humorous and full of energy!

One day after school, the Greystones come home to find their mom staring in shock at her computer, watching the news. The kids saw that the news reporter was announcing three missing kids, but they had the same first and middle names, birthdays, and ages as the Greystone kids.

The next morning their mom leaves on a surprising business trip, and Emma, Chess, and Finn are being babysat by a lady named Ms. Morales and her teenage daughter Natalie Mayhew. But when the Greystones stop by their house to see their pet cat, Rocket, they see seemingly impossible things, which lead them to question what their mom is *really* doing.

This book is fast-paced, and has so many surprising twists and turns! I'd recommend it to anyone who loves mysteries, or science fiction. I think younger kids would really like it, because it's funny, but also mysterious, and I think it's more exciting than some of the other mystery novels geared toward littler kids.

At the Book Expo, the Katherine Tegen

publishing booth gave me the display advanced readers copy (arc) of Margaret Peterson Haddix's new book, *The Remarkables*, which is coming out September 24!

I'm so excited I got to interview Margaret Peterson Haddix; the questions and answers are below!

Izzy V-C: *In The Strangers, the three main characters are really close siblings. Are these based off of real relationships in your family? Do you have siblings and how do they get along?*

Margaret Peterson Haddix: I have two



Our correspondent, back from the Book Expo with fresh interview quarry.

brothers and a sister, and we were very close growing up, and are still close now. So I end up putting a lot of sibling relationships in my books. Like Emma in *The Strangers*, I am sandwiched between an older brother and a younger brother. And my older brother was always pretty good about taking care of the rest of us.

But the similarities don't really line up otherwise.

IVC: *Which of your characters are you most like, and in what way?*

MPH: Which one did you like best? (Kidding! Sort of...) I have to share some characteristics with all my characters, in order to relate to them enough to write about them. I am probably most like a blend of Chess and Emma, though I can only aspire to being as nice as Chess or as smart as Emma.

IVC: *If you weren't an author, what would you be?*

MPH: I would probably do one of the jobs I had before my first book was published. I worked for a while as a newspaper reporter, and then a freelance writer – though maybe that's too close to being an author, and you wouldn't allow that. I also taught for a while, but what I was teaching was writing, so maybe that wouldn't work either!

IVC: *If The Strangers was made into a movie, who would you want to play the main characters, Emma, Chess, and Finn?*

MPH: I would want actors who aren't already known otherwise. It would be fun to see some new actors/actresses getting their first big break with that movie.

HAPPY SUMMER to OUR READERS!

The *Montague Reporter* will now revert to our traditional biweekly July and August publication schedule. Expect your paper:

July 11 • July 25
August 8 • August 22

We will resume regular weekly publication in September.

IVC: *What was your favorite book growing up?*

MPH: Oh, there were so many! I've had people tell me that *The Strangers* reminds them of *A Wrinkle In Time*, so it probably wouldn't surprise anyone to know that that's one of the books I loved as a kid.

IVC: *In The Strangers, some of the story is set in an alternate universe. Do you believe in alternate universes? What kind of alternate universe would you like to live in?*

MPH: I believe that scientists who know a lot more than I do say they are possible, and that's good enough for me!

If I were in charge of creating an alternate universe to live in, I can definitely think of changes to make: People would be kinder. Politicians would take problems seriously and look for honest solutions, instead of lying. We'd all take care of each other.

(And I'm sure you will see that that's nothing like the alternate world I created in *The Strangers*... There's a big difference between the type of alternate world that would be good to live in and the type of alternate world that's interesting to write about.)

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