

Free Fridays!

Mohawk Trail Concerts begins its 2011 season July 1 & 2.

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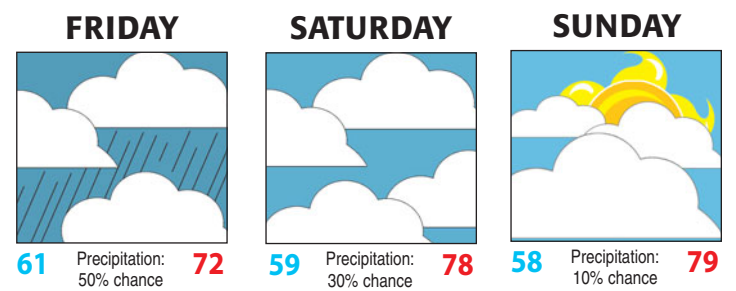
Trolleyfest 2011

There's a full day planned, but riding Trolley No. 10 will likely be the top draw.

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Weekend Weather



Detailed Pioneer Valley forecasts run daily in the A section

Arts

AND

ENTERTAINMENT

THE RECORDER'S WEEKLY CALENDAR LISTING

JUNE 23, 2011

Passing the Hat

'Under Construction' fundraiser prompts area artists to put their thinking caps on

Story by Arn Albertini

It's probably safe to say you've never seen a hard hat with a wide purple brim and flowers, feathers and a bird's nest perched on top. Is this design part of a new OSHA code? No, it's among the 35 designed hard hats by area artists that will be modeled and then auctioned off Saturday, June 25, from 7 to 11 p.m. at The Shea Theater.

The event, Under Construction: RiverCulture's Hard Hat Auction, is a fundraiser for Turners Falls RiverCulture, which promotes the arts and culture of the Turners Falls area.

"I have always been fascinated with really, really large ladies' hats. The kind that were popular in the early 20th century," said Laura Herbert of Erving, the artist responsible for that purple brim, flowers and bird's nest.

"It's a fashion piece, but it also provides function and protection. It has the feature of a hard protective shield."

You can't see the hard hat she started with, but it's there, under all that purple fabric laden with decorations. There's even a bit of green tulle that hangs down around the sides of the hat.

"The work was actually a lot harder than I thought it would be," Herbert said.

Especially challenging was getting the fabric to drape correctly. "There was a lot of folding and pleating and I had to pin it all over," she said. "It was a real labor of love between the hot glue and pins and cutting myself with scissors. But, I had a ton of fun. It was clearly worth it."

Once she finished, the hat reminded her of Mary Poppins. She decided to call it "Jolly Holiday," after a song from the movie. "It's a very whimsical hat and, of course, Mary Poppins is a very whimsical character. Mary Poppins' hat is not quite as over the top, but it's the same style."

Herbert is a consultant who works on corporate team building and training. She also performs as Lady Elvis and is in the band Shag, which performs easy-listening hits from the 1970s and 1980s. Previously, she had a booth where she sold crafts at the Greenfield Farmers Market.

History lesson

With his creation "Mink N' Sync," Jack Nelson of Turners Falls said he wanted to pay tribute to all the activity that's happened over the years at the site of the Gill-Montague Bridge, which spans Connecticut River near the Great Falls and the Turners Falls Dam.

The area has a rich history and has been enjoyed by a variety of types of peoples as well as creatures, Nelson said.



Submitted image

"Brick Falls" by Barbara Milot, Turners Falls



Submitted image

"Bridge Tribute" by Andrew Knox, New York City.



Submitted image

"Mink N' Sync." by Jack Nelson, Turners Falls



Submitted photo

Laura Herbert of Erving calls her hard-hat creation "Jolly Holiday," after a song from the "Mary Poppins" movie.



Submitted image

"Blue Sky" by Daniel Brown, Greenfield



Submitted image

"DVAA" by Edith Hursberger of Shutesbury



Submitted image

"For the Love of a Hydrangea" by Helen Pleasant, Gill

See HATS Page D4



"Felt Landscape"
by Fafnir Adamites of Turners Falls



"Construction Bling"
by Ann Hamilton of Greenfield



"June Bride"
by Sharon Lamonakis of Turners Falls



"Turners Falls Diorama,"
by Al Dray, Deerfield, worn by Tom Bergeron, Montague DPW director.

Hat: 'The bridge is something that ... caps it all'

From Page D1

"It's a magical place. The falls, the curve on this great, majestic river."

The materials used in his helmet came from a collection of supplies and found objects he'd collected for his art work, Nelson said. Stretched across the hard hat is an old mink stole or throw, which he found at the Survival Center. The beady eyes and snout of the animal are stretched out flat at the front of the helmet. The mink is a tribute the animals that lived in the area over thousands of years, he said.

An arrowhead hangs off the front of the helmet, a nod to the Native Americans who gathered in the area to fish at the falls for thousands of years, Nelson said.

That arrowhead is connected to a medallion of cupid.

"I've seen a number of couples enjoying the area," he said. "In the park walking, or on the bridge. I'm sure being at the falls has secured many relationships."

On the back of the hat is a little heart made of clay and an "I love Turners Falls" button.

Straddling the top of the hat is a piece wicker chair caning, which is mounted on a pair of talons, most likely from a chicken, he said. The talons are a nod to the birds, like the eagles, that make their homes and fish in the river, Nelson said.

When he was building the hat, workers on the bridge were laying down the steel framework of the bridge. "It almost looked like wicker," he said.

"The bridge is something that kind of caps it all."

Creating and executing the design "was a long journey with my mind playing over many options and different (ideas). It was a really interesting project for me.

"I really enjoy the challenge of how to put things together. That's what keeps me interested in sculp-



Bird's Eye Views photo

The "Under Construction" fundraiser was inspired, in part, by work on the Gill-Montague Bridge that has restricted traffic to one way. In this 2009 file photo, Gill is on the left and Montague on the right.

ture. Figuring how to fasten things together."

Nelson is an artist. He and his wife, Eileen Dowd, own Carriage House Designs, a ceramic design and product business. They moved the business to Turners Falls in 2002 and moved their home to the village about a year later, having lived in Northfield since the late 1980s.

Back to Africa

Louise Minks of Leverett brought a little bit of her travels in Kenya to her hard hat, "Safari."

"I wanted to do something with black-and-white stripes," said Minks. "I've been to Kenya, so zebras came to mind."

"I got to do big, fun ears and make it a bit more fun than a standard construction hat." Ears made of foam core stick up from the top and eyes are hidden in the hat's stripes.

Getting those ears to stand up was a bit of a challenge, she said. "It's plastic, so it's hard to get anything to

stick to it. I used a good, old favorite, duct tape."

Besides being a piece of art, the hard hat is a way for the wearer to transform into an animal, she said. "It's another head. The human head becomes a zebra head."

Minks is a full-time professional artist. Her studio and gallery are at the Montague Bookmill in Montague Center. She is also a member of Sawmill River Arts, a group of area artists

"Blue Sky"

Daniel Brown's helmet is capped with sky blue and a few puffy, white clouds. One of those clouds peeks over rolling green hills, thick with green trees, which rim the bottom of the hat.

It's a familiar New England scene, but that hat, called "Blue Sky," is not specifically tied to Turners Falls, he said.

"I use a lot of vivid colors. When I'm not doing southwest scenes, I do

a lot of New England (scenes)," he said.

Brown said it was a challenge painting on the shapes and contours of the helmet. And because the helmet was plastic, he had a hard time getting the paint to stick, Brown said. He ended up spraying the helmet with a fixative after each layer. "It was a very delicate process."

"It was a good challenge. I'm very happy with the way it came out."

Brown tried to create the appearance of rolling hills by matching the rounded contours of the helmet. "When you're painting on something like that, you want to use the shapes to your advantage," he said.

He got involved in the project because he wanted to help support a group working to make people aware of the importance and beauty of the Connecticut River.

"I've lived in the area for over 40 years and the Connecticut River is a vital piece of our geography."

Brown has worked as a professional painter for 10 years, showing

all over New England and the Northeast, including shows in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Boston, along with Taos, N.M.

The show

During the fundraiser, there will be a fashion show of some 35 hard hats followed by an auction. There is a \$25 admission charge. There will also be cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, music by Michael Nix and a dance party after the fashion show.

Montague Police Chief Raymond Zukowski will be the master of ceremonies and Lou Ekus, co-owner of Holy Smokes, will be the auctioneer. Tami Beaugard of Wilson's Department Store in Greenfield will direct the fashion show.

Artists will be among those modeling the hard hats, but the models also include workers on the bridge and other locals in the building trades, like Bob Demers, a state engineer overseeing the project and Bob Obear, who serves on Montague's Planning Board and owns his own construction company.

Besides the need to raise money, the auction was prompted by construction that restricts traffic to one way on the Gill-Montague Bridge. People were concerned about how this would affect downtown while it was in the midst of a revival, said RiverCulture Coordinator Lisa Davol.

"We wanted to make the best of it and have some fun. When the bridge is finally done, we're going to be really happy to have a brand new bridge that's going to be really safe."

Tickets for the event are available at World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield and online at:

www.turnersfallsriverculture.org.

Staff reporter Ann Albertini has worked at the Recorder since 1999. He covers Montague, Erving, Gill and Wendell. He can be reached at aalberti@recorder.com or 413-772-0261 Ext. 264.



"Safari"
by Louise Minks of Leverett



"Steam-Punk-Mongolian with Garam Masala"
by Nina Rossi of Turners Falls.



"Hey Cupcake"
by Melinda Baughman of Greenfield



"Matisse Fantasy"
by GCC Art Department Alumni

CALENDAR

Saturday

From Page D3

Party continues inside with DJ COV at 9 p.m. in The Extra Point Nightclub. No cover.
DEJA BREW, 57A Lockes Village Road, Wendell: Nobody's Fat. Jazz Trio. 9 to 11 p.m. 978-544-2739.
EASY STREET NIGHT CLUB, 10 Fiske Ave., Greenfield (next to Mesa

Verde): Metal for Mud. 7:30 p.m. Benefit for families affected by mud that flowed into their Greenfield neighborhood in March. Bands include Domination of Presence of Greenfield, The Aberration of Vermont, Psycho Magnetic of Greenfield, My Pet Carcass. \$5 cover. Raffle. A bank account has been set up to benefit the Luippold and Torres families at Greenfield Co-operative Bank. 376-4230. www.myspace.com/easystreetclub

IRON HORSE, 20 Center St., Northampton: ■ 7 p.m. The Bad Plus. \$25. ■ 10 p.m. Wolfman Conspiracy. Doctor Doom Orchestra opens. \$13. 586-8686. www.iheg.com.
THE LAST CHAIR, Route 100, West Dover, Vt.: Kevin Parry plays requests from his list of more than 400 songs. 6 to 9 p.m. 802-464-8600, www.kevinparrymusic.com.
THE PEOPLE'S PINT, 24 Federal St., Greenfield. Sweet Exorcist Vinyl Showcase, 10 p.m. No cover. www.thepeoplespint.com

ROUTE 63 ROADHOUSE, 32 Federal St., Millers Falls: Turn It Loose. Classic rock band. 9:30 p.m. \$5 cover. 659-3384.
TAYLOR'S TAVERN, 238 Main St., Greenfield. Red Sox vs. Pittsburgh at 7 p.m. Red Sox Madness 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. Win Red Sox tickets. Watch 11 50-inch HDTVs. (413) 773-8313.

Coffeehouses

MOCHA MAYA'S, 47 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls: 8 p.m. Salvation Alley String Band.

Country folk rock band. Free. Please tip the musicians. 628-3805.

Dance

GUIDING STAR GRANGE, 401 Chapman St, Greenfield. Top Hill Music Contradance Party, Rumblestrip with Lisa Greenleaf calling. 8 to 11:30 p.m. \$10. www.guidingstargrange.org.
MONADNOCK TRI-STATE DANCE CLUB, Elmm Hall, Durkee Street off Parker Street, Winchester, N.H.

Music by Lone Star. 603-392-0177.

Films

POTHOLE PICTURES: "The Blues Brothers" concludes. See Friday's listing.

Libraries

GREENFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY, 402 Main St., Greenfield: 10 a.m. "Time Flood" performed by young actors who work with the Piti

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