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HEAR THE NATIVE AMERICAN PERSPECTIVE

Moulton joins the race

6th District voters react to Salem Democrat's big plans

By Chris Stevens and William J. Dowd
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After months of speculation, U.S. Congressman Seth Moulton has become the 19th Democrat to officially announce he's running for President.

"It will be interesting and exciting for Marblehead to have

a native son running for president," said Co-Chairman of the Marblehead Democratic Town Committee Renee Keaney.

"Seth has never shied away from a challenge on the battlefield or in politics, so a crowded field would probably not deter his ambition to be president," said state Rep. Lori Ehrlich on Monday, shortly after Moulton made his announcement on Good Morning America. "I wish him the best of luck on the national stage."

Moulton said he is running

for the country's highest office because he's a patriot, because he believes in this country and "because we have to beat Donald Trump."

"And because I've never wanted to sit on the sidelines when it comes to serving," he told GMA. "That's why I joined the Marines. That's why I ran for Congress to try to prevent what I saw got us into Iraq from happening again. And it's why I'm running to take on the most divisive president in American history to bring this country back

together."

The 40-year-old Democratic congressman was re-elected to a third term just last November. Speculation has been working overtime on whether he will run again in 2020 or instead focus solely on his bid for the presidency.

"Seth does not intend to give up his House seat," wrote Moulton's press secretary, Matt Corridoni, in an email Monday. "Should he not get the Democratic

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Celebrating 25 years of being 'Up All Night'



'Up All Night' host Rhod Sharp keeps the gloves that the late, great, comedian Robin Williams spontaneously handed him during an interview, on the corner of his desk. (WICKED LOCAL PHOTO/CHRIS STEVENS)

Rhod Sharp takes broadcasting milestone in stride

By Chris Stevens
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One would think that Rhod Sharp would be exhausted. After all, the the BBC 5 Live broadcaster has been "Up All Night" for 25 years and counting.

"It's kind of a gift to work the night shift," he said. "Not everyone is good at 3 in the

morning."

"Up All Night" is a world news program broadcast on BBC Radio 5 Live, which Sharp has been with since its inception in 1994. The show airs across England and Scotland, but for the last 15 years, it's been broadcast from Marblehead.

Tucked on the third floor of the Franklin Street home he shares with his wife, Vicki Staveacre, Sharp's studio is a desk, crowded with a large computer monitor, a big microphone, a small box that allows him to connect with London,

knickknacks, a few books and a pair of knit gloves that Robin Williams gave him after the comedian noticed Sharp's hands were shaking with cold.

"I was at the Yankees/Marlins World Series," he said. Sharp said his producer thought they should take an interest in baseball, so they went to a game and ran into Billy Crystal and Williams.

"We talked for about 10 minutes and (Williams) said he was listening to every word I said

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Article 38 asks voter to elect for change

If approved local elections would be streamlined

By Chris Stevens
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It might be the only article on the Town Meeting warrant actually designed to save the town's money; yet, due to a technicality, it doesn't have an endorsement from the Finance Committee.

Article 38 seeks to change the date of the annual election to the "third Tuesday after the first Monday in June each year." The idea is to align town elections with override elections, which would save the town money.

Walter Horan sponsored the article, but was out of town the night of the Finance Committee's warrant hearing. Fin Com only votes on articles with a financial impact on the town and will typically vote to indefinitely postpone an article if no one is there to speak on it.

"This was my first time doing this," Horan said. "I didn't know I had to be there."

Horan said the Finance Committee agreed to add a notation to the town warrant that would allow him to speak on the article on Town Meeting floor.

Horan said he was being proactive when he decided to seek the change in dates.

"The single biggest comment we hear (on Election Day), the wardens and poll workers, and we'll hear it again this year, is, 'Where are the debt exclusion overrides?'" Horan said. "And the second biggest question we get is 'how come I voted in May and I have to come back and vote again in June?'"

Town elections, according to the bylaw, are held on the

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MAA TO PRESENT MAY/JUNE EXHIBITS



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BBC Broadcaster Rhod Sharp, center with his wife Vicki Staveacre, celebrate 25 years of 'Up All Night,' during a surprise party staged by Staveacre. (WICKED LOCAL PHOTO/CHRIS STEVENS)

SHARP

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because he needed to work on his Scottish accent," Sharp said with a laugh.

In the beginning

Sharp said he was working in San Francisco when Staveacre received a big job offer in London. The former BBC employee didn't think he'd go back to his old stomping ground "because I did my time there."

But fate had other ideas. Sharp said he began working the foreign news desk largely at night, which he liked. Later, he heard they were going to launch a first of its kind 24-hour live news and sports network.

"I said to them, 'I bet you didn't think about what you're going to do overnight,'" he said.

Sharp said he thought if they reached out to all the foreign correspondents they knew, they'd be happy to simply get air time, particularly since bonuses often depended on their airtime. He hit the airwaves from 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. Sharp said their correspondents loved it.

The timing was also perfect for reaching American news makers.

"By the time it's 1 a.m. in London, it's 9 p.m. here," he said. "They're wrapping their day, just sitting down with a scotch and like nothing better than to pick up the phone and call the BBC."

Sharp said the first year was a roaring success, so much so they won a silver

medal for news and current affairs, a big deal in London.

"A year later came 24-hour-television news and it completely swamped us," he said, shaking his head.

It might have rocked them, but by then, "Up All Night" had found its footing and not only survived, but thrived.

In the middle

By 2001, Sharp had been doing the show for seven years and needed a break.

"I was headed to Harvard, Mass., which is where Vicki had found a cabin for me to have a sabbatical," he said. "It was going to be great. I was going to be gone for almost a year. Then 9/11 happened... it got very busy."

Sharp said when the BBC moves on a story, it moves like an army. The station chartered a plane, but couldn't get clearance to fly. In the day, immediately following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers in New York City, all flights in and out of the country were grounded.

"We kept a rolling reservation, though, with a travel agent," Sharp said. "Eventually, we got two seats for me and my producer. We were the second flight out. I was proud of that."

Sharp said he met up with an old friend, The Gabby Cabby, and they did a walking tour in New York. Later, he headed to the Pentagon, "which was virtually ignored by the British news."

Finding Marblehead

Eventually, he got his sabbatical and during that break, Staveacre, who decided they

needed to explore the state Sharp was temporarily calling home, found Marblehead. She said she was intrigued because it seemed the kind of place one had to intentionally go to.

"It's not the kind of place you pass through," she said.

One of the first people the pair met was the late, great Frattie Welch, former Reporter columnist and office manager.

"A fierce, respectable woman," Sharp said with a smile.

It wasn't long before Welch found them a place on Darling Street and practically moved them to Marblehead.

Welch also helped Sharp move his show to Marblehead by introducing him to Jay Asher at WESX, the local radio station, which proved to be the perfect set up.

"I said we go on the air around half past four and he said that's perfect because we go off the air around half past 4," Sharp said.

It was a great match up until Asher decided to sell the station. That was when Sharp figured out how to put together his own compact station and before long was "covering the world from the kitchen counter of number 12 Darling St.," though he admitted it was not in his best interest to broadcast that bit of news.

For awhile, Sharp and Staveacre bounced back and forth between London and Marblehead until he realized he couldn't keep coming and going on a journalist's visa.

"But if we were going to make the move and work here, we'd need green cards," he said.

Sharp said it took a year



BBC Broadcaster Rhod Sharp shows off his studio where he delivers the news of the day worldwide three nights a week from his attic office in Marblehead. (WICKED LOCAL PHOTO/CHRIS STEVENS)

and a half and references from every influential person he'd ever interviewed before his 180-page application was accepted.

"Anyone who says it's easy to get into the U.S. is ridiculous," he said. "It is phenomenally difficult to get into the U.S. legally."

Settled in Marblehead, the tiny condo got crowded fast and it wasn't long before the studio was shifted from Darling Street to Franklin Street.

How he does it

Sharp's day starts with a phone call with his show planner. They run through the top news stories of the day and decide what is most important to tackle, he said. On the day he spoke with The Reporter, the big story was the Mueller Report, the investigation into whether the Russian government attempted to interfere with

the 2016 presidential election, which he had read.

"Russia put its finger on the scale and that's why Donald Trump is president," Sharp said. "That sticks out like a sore thumb and everything else is a sideshow."

By 4 p.m., Sharp said his computer screen fills up with an outline of the night's show on one side and a script on the other. He also simultaneously messages his producer and checks online news outlets throughout the show to make sure everything is on track.

He said the toughest thing about his job is to "not make things up." He said it's a great temptation to make things up when you don't know exactly what is unfolding.

"But you have to be honest and say you don't know," he said. "I try and stay on the side of the facts and I try and be as fair as I can."

Over the years, Sharp has

had numerous interesting interviews and covered big events. When he covers large stories, like former President Barack Obama's first inauguration, he prefers to hang back and find stories on the fringes, rather than wade into the fray.

Over the years, Marblehead has figured into his show as well. Sharp said he had to explain to his British listeners what a nor'easter was as he broadcast through more than one, and he's made the Driftwood and its employees stars.

"Everyone in London knows about the Driftwood," he said.

And he's had fun doing it, for 25 years, but when asked if he had another 25 years in him, Sharp laughed.

"Like hell," he said. "I don't think I'll be around that long."

VOTE

Steve Williams

APRIL 30

★★★★

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