

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 17 – NO. 14

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JANUARY 31, 2019

## Cheapside Bridge Closed to Ladder Trucks; Officials Review Recent Repair Confusion

By JEFF SINGLETON

**MONTAGUE CITY** – Turners Falls fire chief John Zellman told the Montague selectboard this week that the state Department of Transportation had recently denied Montague and other towns waivers allowing ladder trucks to get over the General Pierce bridge for “mutual aid,” due to that bridge’s condition.

The bridge, which runs from

Montague City to the Cheapside neighborhood of Greenfield, has been in a state of serious disrepair for a number of years. Zellman said he had convinced the state to allow fire engines to cross the General Pierce for mutual aid, but that the heavier ladder trucks would no longer be able to use the bridge.

The board also asked Zellman and Montague police chief Chris Williams for information about the

bridge’s closure on Friday, January 18, which created large traffic jams on Route 2 and Avenue A. “I want to bring up how the bridge closure was handled – about people not getting notified,” said selectboard member Chris Boutwell.

Williams said that the police department had received a request for a road detail for the work ten days in advance, but he did not believe that the MassDOT office in Northampton had been notified, so they did not initially send the required engineer. “The company that did the work was out east,” said Williams. “They did not have [a MassDOT] engineer scheduled to be on the bridge.”

Williams said he went down to the bridge and talked to an engineer, “who was sent on an emergency basis, because no one knew. He told me if he had been there, he would not have let them work on it, because the Fifth Street bridge was closed.”

“When I got the phone call and emails from several people, I called the town administrator, and Mr. Ellis did not know about it,” said Boutwell.

“We didn’t receive a formal  
see **BRIDGES** page A8



DENISE MILKEY PHOTO

According to a state database, the General Pierce Bridge is due for rehabilitation in spring 2020. It was closed unexpectedly earlier this month for emergency repair. Denise Milkey captured this photograph during the sunset on January 20.

## Erving STM Approves All Items, Mourns Klepadlo

By KATIE NOLAN

In less than an hour on Monday night, Erving voters approved spending over \$500,000 from free cash toward construction of the new library building, approved spending \$225,000 from the sewer enterprise fund to upgrade sewer lines on Northfield Road to Care Drive, and authorized the selectboard to negotiate a structured tax agreement for a solar installation. All of the expenditures and proposals listed on the special town meeting warrant were approved unanimously.

As the meeting began, moderator Richard Peabody asked for a moment of silence in memory of former selectboard, finance committee, and fire department member Eugene Klepadlo, who died January 25. After the moment of silence, Peabody asked the voters to clap in honor of Klepadlo, because “his life should be celebrated.” The voters clapped enthusiastically.

None of the voters had questions about using \$500,000 from free cash for library construction, rather than borrowing that amount. Selectboard chair Scott Bastarache said that the board had consulted the town

see **ERVING** page A3

## Rep. Blais Announces Weekly Office Hours at Montague Town Hall

By REPORTER STAFF

**TURNERS FALLS** – Incoming First Franklin representative Natalie Blais (D-Sunderland), who started her term on Beacon Hill earlier this month, announced this week that she will hold open office hours for her constituents at Montague town hall every Monday from 1 to 6:30 p.m.

“It is a priority for me as State Representative to be accessible and to meet people where they are,” Blais wrote Wednesday in response to a request for comment. “As my largest community, it was important for me to have regular office hours in Montague.”

The arrangement began when Blais approached town administrator Steve Ellis for his advice on accessible office space. On January 7, the selectboard approved a policy governing the use of the building by elected officials, ensuring that no individual or party would receive special favor.

Blais, the former director of the county Chamber of

see **BLAIS** page A2

## Throngs Greet Director At Hometown Premiere

By MIKE JACKSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – “We’ve traveled the world with this film, and I’m the most nervous to show it to all of you tonight,” Robert Krzykowski told a packed Shea Theater audience at last Saturday’s screening of his feature-length directorial debut, *The Man Who Killed Hitler and Then The Bigfoot*.

The Turners Falls native – and Turners Falls High School graduate – wrote, directed, and co-produced the indie film, which was filmed locally and in Berkshire County two summers ago. The project’s profile gained a consider-

able boost when the popular Hollywood actors Aidan Turner and Sam Elliott took the title role.

The town-owned Shea Theater appears within the film as the venue for a children’s play, and the rowdy crowd that filled its seats at sold-out 7 and 10 o’clock screenings seemed at times to play the part of proud and doting parents. The Shea rolled out an actual red carpet for the event, the Avenue A block was closed to traffic, and Montague’s new state representative could be seen among the volunteers handing free sleeves of popcorn to well-dressed moviegoers

see **PREMIERE** page A5



JACKSON PHOTO

The Shea rolled out the red carpet for the movie’s Western Mass premiere.

## Outlaws Here to Stay? Rethinking Our Stories About Invasive Plants

By ANNABEL LEVINE

**TURNERS FALLS** – For nine months in 2018, a group of folks on the fringes of the food system gathered monthly to eat, talk, and share their stories. The group, called the “Future of Flavor Fellowship,” was put together by Northfield resident Kyra Kristof as the third step of a grant project facilitated through Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA) and the Lydia B. Stokes Foundation. Through months of discussions, the group became interested in the idea of sharing stories and creating spaces that facilitate dialogue and allow us to connect fur-

ther with our surroundings.

One topic of the group’s focus was the idea that species can be “invasive,” and what the existence of these invasive species mean for the future of food systems. Instead of using the term “invasive,” Kristof and the group used the term “outlaw” to describe this group of non-native, fast-spreading, and prolific plants that includes Japanese knotweed, oriental bittersweet, and black locust.

She says that in a system that’s static, outsiders are not welcome, and “anything that’s newly arrived doesn’t belong.” Change becomes feared as it uproots the status quo,

see **INVASIVE** page A5

## The Week in Turners Falls Sports



DAVID HOIT PHOTO

Turners Falls’s Ryan Kucenski goes up for a shot between Greenfield defenders Mason Meadows (left) and Hunter Campbell (right) as the Green Wave squeaks past the Thunder with a 64-60 win at TFHS last Friday.

By MATT ROBINSON

This week the Franklin Tech Wrestlers, the Turners Falls Swimmers, and the Powertown Cheer Squad all prepared for tournaments.

In basketball, the Turners Falls girls got stung in the Berkshires, delaying their quest to break the goose egg. The Turners boys hosted their Green rivals, while the Franklin Tech Girls faced a future rival.

Also this week, Franklin Tech got another banner for their gym, and another snowstorm postponed the winter sports season by a day.

### Girls Basketball

Frontier 55 – TFHS 36

McCann Tech 51 – TFHS 46

Renaissance 54 – FCTS 25

On Thursday, January 24, the Turners Falls girls’ basketball team traveled down to South Deerfield to take on the Frontier Red Hawks.

Turners is a young team, and they continue to make mistakes, but their fervor keeps them in most games. In the first quarter alone, Blue amassed seven fouls with three girls racking up two fouls apiece. Also in the first, they were charged with a five-second penalty and gave the ball away several times. But they kept hustling, and overcame these mistakes to pull within 5 points, 12-7.

In the second quarter, several missed passes, a three-second violation, and more fouls helped Frontier increase

see **SPORTS** page A4



BRIDGETTE CHAFFEE PHOTO

This spread incorporates plants growing in a Turners Falls backyard, including such “invasives” as nettles, hemlock, arugula, lambsquarter and hardy kiwi, as well as regional natives like chestnut and oak acorn flour.



# The Montague Reporter

*"The Voice of the Villages"*

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## Flowing Upward

Here we are, a week after the longest-ever federal government shutdown ended – and two weeks before it is scheduled to begin again.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates the 35-day shutdown will ultimately take a \$3 billion toll on the national economy, as a result of “loss of furloughed federal workers’ contribution to GDP, the delay in federal spending on goods and services, and the reduction in aggregate demand.”

Or not. Larry Kudlow, director of the president’s National Economic Council, has said he “won’t acknowledge” the CBO report!

The argument is politically relevant because the shutdown hinged on a demand for \$5.7 billion to harden the country’s southern border against migration. Opinion polls already show that most Americans blame the stalemate on the GOP, who seem not to have gained anything from the conflict. But while the parties spar over a mere few billion dollars back and forth, up or down, a much, much more significant economic story is unfolding, though at a slower pace.

In December 2017, Republicans pushed through a massive tax cut package, amounting to \$1.5 trillion over ten years. Thirteen Republicans in the House, and one senator, broke from party lines.

Savings will flow overwhelmingly to those at the top, and then actually worsen over the ten-year period. This year, when reduced healthcare subsidies are figured in, those in the under-\$20,000 bracket will actually lose money on the “cut.” By 2027, it’ll be everyone who makes under \$75,000.

The parties disputed the long-term effect of this policy at the time, but the Republican theory was that the cut would trickle down in the form of increased economic growth. The enlarged tax base would offset the rate cuts, they said, so they wouldn’t simply be increasing the federal deficit.

“Even the administration’s appointee-run Office on Tax Policy acknowledges the economy would need to grow at an average rate of 2.9% for a decade to generate enough revenue to offset the loss,” is how we summarized it in this column (December 14, 2017).

Okay, so... one year in, are we on track?

In December, projections released by the Federal Open Market Committee – responsible for the Federal Reserve’s official best

guess – were for 2.3% growth in 2019, 2.0% growth in 2020, and 1.8% growth in 2021.

Whoops. But at least it’ll create jobs, right?

According to a respected quarterly survey National Association for Business Economics, 81% of businesses reported in October that the tax overhaul “has not caused their firms to change hiring or investment plans.” This week, that figure rose to 84%.

And only 4% of American firms reported that they had increased hiring due to the tax cuts.

There are some glimmers of hope for workers – studies are also showing half of all goods-producing businesses investing more in domestic hiring, and a third of small businesses increasing employee compensation.

But a staggering portion of the tax cut has flowed into corporate stock buybacks, which spiked in the first quarter of 2018 and have only continued to grow since.

According to TrimTabs Investment Research, they rose from about \$600 billion in 2017 to just over a trillion dollars in 2018.

And then there are the most egregious corporate offenders, who publicly celebrated the cuts and then screwed their staff. General Motors took a half billion and announced 15,000 layoffs in November. And AT&T pocketed \$20 billion thanks to the tax cut package, and promised publicly to invest it in their workforce – then turned around and slashed 10,000 jobs in 2018.

To summarize, after Year 1, it’s clear that next to none of the money is trickling down to workers in wages, or to the 46% of Americans who own no stocks. (If you’re in the 10% of wealthy households that own 84% of all stock, then you probably view the whole buyback rush differently.)

“The rich will not be gaining at all with this plan,” our president promised in September 2017. Hilarious. Outside of the judiciary, the so-called “Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017” may well prove to be the most important and longest-lasting legacy of the 2016 election.

Stripped of all sophistry, it is a transfer of wealth from the bottom and middle of American society to the top. Though many other issues are important, this naked cash grab should be the central issue of the 2020 election cycle.

We should tax the rich harshly, rebuild our social safety net, and never let them hold office again.

BLAIS from page A1

Commerce, fills a seat long occupied by Steve Kulik. She won 40% of the primary vote in an eight-way race in September, and faced no challengers in the general election. Last week, she jointly filed a bill with Second Berkshire representative Paul Mark to create a state “Office of Rural Policy.”

Blais said her legislative aide, Lily Wallace, “will be covering the

district office hours when [she] cannot attend.” Wallace, Blais wrote, “grew up in the Pioneer Valley and currently resides in the district. She studied Political Science and Civic Engagement at UMass-Amherst.... I want to provide a high level of constituent services with a focus on accessibility and responsiveness. I am confident that Lily shares these goals....”

The Monday hours in Turn-

ers Falls will be complemented by Thursday afternoon hours at the Hilltown CDC in Chesterfield, toward the far end of the district. “Both of these locations allow for confidential meetings and walk-ins are always welcome,” a statement released earlier this week read, before recommending constituents email [Natalie.Blais@MAHouse.gov](mailto:Natalie.Blais@MAHouse.gov) to set up appointments with the representative.



NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Beverly Ketch cleans the office formerly occupied by the Montague town nurse so that state reps can use it a few times a week.

Ketch has been on the job at 5 a.m., cleaning town buildings before they open to the public, since she joined the DPW in September.

## Letters to the Editors

### Likes Our B Section

This letter of thanks for *MoRe*’s bounty is long overdue. Each edition is fascinating, brimming with a vast array of reports and articles that catch my interest. From news around town and around the Pioneer Valley to pieces from overseas, I appreciate the myriad words, sketches and photos.

Really, *MoRe* is akin to a magazine, with its quality writing and wide-ranging coverage. The prose of David Brule’s pieces border on poetry and often become poetry, Nina Rossi’s features are engrossing... there is so much quality material.

I can’t play favorites. It’s impossible to decide which article(s) I might prefer! I absolutely enjoy just about everything (and wish I spoke/read Spanish). Thank you.

Sincerely,

Hazel Dawkins  
Greenfield

### Two Whole Sticks?

The recipe for chocolate chip cookies you printed as from the Second Street Bakery (January 17, page B5: *Beloved Bakery Continues, Decorator at the Helm*) needs a little clarification on the matter of butter. Do I use a half cup of it, or do I use two sticks – one cup!??

I suspect the latter amount would create cookies somewhat butterier (and flatter) than those that have successfully drawn me there for years...

Jonathan von Ranson  
Wendell

### THREE WHOLE CORRECTIONS

• Thanks to sharp-eyed reader Jonathan von Ranson for questioning the proportions on that January 17 recipe – it turns out to have called for not a half cup, but a *half pound* (yep, two sticks) of butter...

• Anna Gyorgy’s scene report about a symposium on pollinating plants (January 24, page A1: *Cross-Pollinating Resources To Give Bees a Chance*) erroneously gave the symposium’s date as “Tuesday, January 16.” It was on Tuesday, January 15. We are grateful to Anna for owning up to her mistake.

• Our Leverett selectboard notes from the same issue held that “fire chief John Ingram proposes to switch from low-frequency UHF to the higher-frequency VHF, which is better for hilly terrain.” VHF waves are actually *lower* frequency; their longer wavelength is what helps them over hills. Thanks to Peter d’Errico for sending us an article breaking this down!

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Compiled by CHRIS PELLERIN

As you know, **February 1 is Groundhog Day.** The Great Falls Discovery Center’s Kidleidoscope program on Friday, February 1 will feature a story, craft, and games based on the theme of, you guessed it: Groundhogs! The program is geared toward tykes three to six years old and their caregivers, and meets in the Great Hall from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Kids ages eight and up might enjoy the **“Mystery Activity”** at the Carnegie Library on the first Friday of each month. Meet at the library at 3:30 p.m. on February 1 to find out what the activity is this month.

There is a special program at the Great Falls Discovery Center on Saturday, February 2, co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Montague Cultural Council. The Nolumbeka Project presents a program called **“Full Snow Moon Gathering: An Island Perspective on Wampum.”**

From 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., there will be a free presentation by Aquinah Wampanoag researcher and artist Elizabeth James-Perry on historic wampum arts including adornment, diplomacy, and record keeping from the perspective of a Native woman and will include a demonstration of wampum weaving.

From 1 to 3:30 p.m., there will be a workshop on traditional wampum bead making for those ages 15 and up. The cost for the bead making workshop is \$40. Pre-register for the workshop at [nolumbekaproject@gmail.com](mailto:nolumbekaproject@gmail.com), and check [www.nolumbekaproject.org](http://www.nolumbekaproject.org) for information regarding postponement due to weather. The snow date is February 3.

Do you have treasures in your attic or cellar? Need some extra cash?

On Saturday, February 2, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Turners Falls branch of Greenfield Savings Bank, Gary Konvelski, the owner of Gary’s Coins and Antiques located at 56 Avenue A in Turners Falls, will **evaluate your treasures** and provide you with an estimate of their value.

Bring broken jewelry or items you might not wear any longer, and Gary just might buy them right on the spot! Got any local currency from Crocker National Bank or Crocker Institute for Savings? Come on down! Light refreshments provided by GSB.

Also on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the **Greenfield Winter Farmers Market** will be held at Four Corners School at 21 Ferrante Avenue.

From there, go to the Friends of the Greenfield Public Library **February Book Sale** going on between 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. in the basement of the library. They have amassed over 9,000 books on their shelves, all alphabetized and categorized for easy searching. Volunteers are also available for assistance.

Hardcovers are priced at \$2, and paperbacks are \$1. In their special bargain section, you can fill a shopping bag full of books for \$2. They also have a large selection of children’s books, CDs, and DVDs. All proceeds from the Friends Book sales go to support the programs at the Greenfield Public Library.

Greenfield is celebrating its **97th Annual Winter Carnival** February 1 through 3. “Winter’s Majesty” will feature fun events all week-end long, all over town. There are so many things to do that we don’t have space to list them all here, but you can see the complete schedule of events at [www.greenfieldrecreation.com/wintercarnival.html](http://www.greenfieldrecreation.com/wintercarnival.html).

There will be a **gala opening**

**reception** this Saturday, February 2 from 1 to 4 p.m. for the Annual Small Works Exhibit at Sawmill River Arts, the gallery at the Montague Bookmill.

Banish the winter blues at this community-wide event! The annual exhibit and sale, a collection of works 10” by 10” or smaller by community members, runs from February 1 through February 25.

“Wild Life” is the theme of the **Center School’s Open House** from 12 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, February 3. Free activities include a family hike in the woods; open classrooms with nature, science, or animal-themed activities; an exotic animal rescue presentation; screenings of “Mother Nature’s Child: Growing Outdoors in the Media Age;” and food at the Menagerie Cafe. It all concludes with a bonfire.

The Center School is a private elementary and middle school located at 71 Montague City Road in Greenfield. More information on the event and the school can be found at [www.centerschool.net](http://www.centerschool.net).

Gill-Montague school students get a **half day off on Wednesday**, February 6! They are invited to join Olivia and Sam from the Student Conservation Association from 1 to 2 p.m. for a fun-filled hour learning about **how animals make it through harsh winters.**

The program is geared toward children ages six to 12, but all are welcome to participate in stories, games, and crafts at the Great Falls Discovery Center.

Join the Millers Falls Community Improvement Association for **Valentine Cards and Crafts** on Thursday, February 7, from 3:30 to 6 p.m. at the Millers Falls Library, located at 23 Bridge Street.

Mike Naughton and Tammy Ketcham will guide you through valentine-inspired origami and beading projects. They will have plenty of supplies on hand for you to make your own valentine cards.

The program is appropriate for adults and children. Light refreshments will be provided.

Cultivate warmth from within in the forested landscape of Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center on Saturday, February 9, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Those ages 16 and older are invited to relax and warm up with **hiking or snowshoeing along the trails**, exploring the vitality and stillness of the winter woods.

Led by Janice Doubleday, certified yoga instructor and avid hiker, and Northfield Mountain’s Kim Noyes, this new winter program will explore the confluence of two healthy activities in a beautiful outdoor setting. Dress in warm layers that can be shed as you get moving and wear warm, waterproof footwear. Bring water, an open mind and a sense of adventure and, if available, poles for hiking and a yoga mat.

The fee for this program is \$5 with your own snowshoes, or \$21 if you need to rent. Pre-registration is required by calling (800) 859-2960.

Volunteers are needed to help **split and stack wood at the Montague Wood Bank** on Saturday, February 16, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the end of Sandy Lane (turn left at the county dog shelter). Weather permitting.

Bring work gloves and dress warmly. Hand tools will be provided. For more information contact [david-detmold@gmail.com](mailto:david-detmold@gmail.com).

Looking ahead, the spring session of the 60+ community chorus, **Greenfield Harmony**, will begin on February 18 and run each Monday evening at 6:45 p.m. until the first week in May. Their concert will be the first weekend of May.

The guest teacher this session will be Dr. Kathy Bullock from Berea, Kentucky, who will come at the end of April to teach a set of African-American gospel songs for the concert. I’m told that Kathy Bullock is a powerhouse gospel piano player, gifted singer and teacher of African American music.

If you love to sing, contact Mary Cay Brass at [mcbrass@vermontel.net](mailto:mcbrass@vermontel.net) to register or get more information. No audition is required.

Send your local briefs to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).

## ERVING from page A1

treasurer and found that the costs of borrowing would be greater than potential revenue from interest on the funds. “The board sees it as the best way to save the town money,” said select-board member William Bembury. He added that the board will consider the costs of borrowing at each phase of the \$4.9 million project, which was approved by voters in May 2017.

“Why is this coming forward at a special town meeting, and not the annual meeting?” one voter asked about the appropriation of \$265,000 from the sewer enterprise fund to upgrade the sewer line on Northfield Road to Care Drive.

Bastarache explained that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation will be opening Northfield Road in 2019 for the installation of a new sidewalk to Care Drive, and after this work, the road will not be allowed to be opened for at least five years. “We had to get it out as soon as we could,” he said.

According to the information on the warrant, the existing line is sufficient for the senior and community center and the new library, but would not have enough capacity for the planned senior housing development off Care Drive.

“It’s the senior housing that’s making you do this pipe,” one person commented, adding that the cost of the sewer line should be added to any senior housing costs. Bastarache replied that there would be no additional cost to the town for constructing senior housing, because the developer would pay for building it.

Bastarache supported transferring \$149,418 from the account established to re-side town

hall in order to conduct a design and feasibility study, and take actions for renovation of town hall. He mentioned problems with the elevator, inefficient office space, ineffective design of the basement, and mold.

Bastarache said that the capital planning committee had received a request for \$8 million to build a new town hall. “Capital planning kicked it back to the selectboard,” he said, adding that a study would answer the question, “How can we make this building something that is viable for the next hundred years?”

Selectboard member Jacob Smith noted that the money would be used to fund both the study and action items.

Using \$25,000 from free cash to buy a propane generator for the police station was approved after police chief Christopher Blair told the meeting that the 16-year-old generator had cost almost half of the request in repairs recently. “It always seems to be down when we need it,” he said.

When Peabody observed that he was considering getting a generator for his home, Blair replied, “We have a nice generator for sale...”

Regarding the \$15,000 requested for a personnel policy review and wage study by the University of Massachusetts Collins Institute, administrative coordinator Bryan Smith said that the last such study was done in 2010-11, and was never completed. Jacob Smith called that previous study “well out of date.”

One voter asked, “What’s going to happen if they find we pay more in Erving?” Bastarache answered that it was too early to answer that question, and proposed “dialogue when the

study is done.”

Library trustee Mackensy Bailey said, “I don’t want them [town employees] to see 0% raises,” if the study shows that Erving’s pay scale is generous.

Jacquelyn Boyden said the comparable towns used in the study would be “more encompassing, not just Franklin County.”

“We’re an anomaly in Franklin County,” Bastarache added. “The various comparables might not be neighbors in the towns around us.”

Bastarache explained that transferring \$7,200 from the open space and recreation plan would allow the town to create a plan for Erving Center that would dovetail with the master plan for the rest of town. Bryan Smith said the consultant would prepare a plan showing “how we envision downtown Erving Center.”

The voters authorized the selectboard to negotiate a structured tax agreement with solar developer Poplar Mountain Solar 1 LLC to establish an annual payment in lieu of a personal property tax bill. “We will not be losing any tax revenue,” Bryan Smith told the meeting.

Voters easily approved paying \$598.41 in bills owed from FY’18.

Several residents commented positively on the deep-blue floor-length tablecloths covering the tables where the selectboard, finance committee, administrative coordinator, and town clerk sat facing the voters. A town seal printed on fabric hung from the center table.

The town purchased the tablecloths recently, with guidance from senior center director Paula Betters.

LIVE IN

EST. 1754

MONTAGUE?

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local gossip, news & business listings

Montague Center  
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Pancake  
Breakfast

profits to support  
Deacons Fund

Saturday, February 9  
8:30 to 11 a.m.

Buttermilk Pancakes  
w/Real Maple Syrup,  
Sausage Links or  
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Great Falls Middle  
School Students  
of the Week

Week ending Jan. 18:

Grade 6  
Noah Titman

Grade 7  
Anne Kolodziej

Grade 8  
Tommy Hall

Related Arts  
Stephanie Peterson

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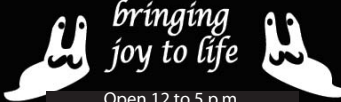
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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

# Still Unclear If CDBG Can Fund Broadband

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The last item on the agenda for the Wendell selectboard’s January 23 meeting was a request from National Grid for a lease of some of the town-owned property at 97 Wendell Depot Road. Their stated purpose was to house a mobile substation, which would allow repairs and maintenance on the system – presumably the Wendell Depot substation – without interrupting regular electric service.

There is precedence for this. National Grid has an easement, given to New England Power in 1922 by Marion Whitney, for the high-voltage wires that pass through the property. A graded, fenced-in area is still on the property left from when the company put a temporary substation there to allow them to increase the capacity of the Wendell Depot substation without interrupting service.

The same company recently squashed a proposed community solar project that was first proposed by Wendell citizen Don Stone, and supported by Wendell’s energy committee.

Over several years supporters went through the entire permitting process, which included creating a legal framework for a true community-owned solar array, owned by community members, and then

shaping the array to fit wetland and road setbacks.

The project was ready for construction when National Grid said it would require a \$3 million connection fee to help upgrade the Wendell Depot substation. The project was called off, but supporters claim the real reason the substation must be rebuilt is because the Orange planning board approved a solar farm of over 100 times the capacity of the Wendell community solar project.

Selectboard members agreed to invite a representative of National Grid to their February 20 meeting so the request can be clarified.

## (Re)development

Brian McHugh from the Franklin Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority met the selectboard to describe and clarify what may be available for Wendell in a new round of community development block grants (CDBGs). For this round of CDBG applications, Wendell and Shutesbury would apply jointly, and Wendell would be the lead town.

The grants’ original focus was on no-interest loans to help bring houses up to code standards, and that is still a priority. Repayment of those loans is not due until the houses change ownership.

McHugh said he did a “wind-

shield survey,” driving through town and looking for deficiencies that a CDBG loan could address. He also sent letters to people on the waiting list for those loans – 18 houses in Wendell and Shutesbury, with up to a \$40,000 loan available for each house.

At a prior visit, selectboard chair Dan Keller had asked McHugh whether CDBG money could be used to pay for internet drops to Wendell houses. McHugh said he had done some research, and that the drops could be paid for only after the fiber-optic buildout is completed, and the money may not be used to repay the town for drops the town has already paid for.

Selectboard member Christine Heard said that construction of the network has been pushed back to early 2020. The grant period is 18 months.

Selectboard member Laurie DiDonato suggested that if 51% of Wendell’s or a neighborhood’s population has low or moderate income, some of the fiber-optic buildout itself could be paid for with CDBG money. McHugh could not answer with certainty.

A public hearing is the first step in any part of the CDBG process. That hearing is scheduled for 7:30 at the next regular selectboard meeting, February 6.

## Other Business

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments has offered Wendell and other towns technical assistance, with a range of options for each town to choose from in ranked order.

From the available options, board members chose developing a pollinator habitat corridor as #1, a culvert assessment as #2, library collaboration as #3, and as #4, older driver safety, mobility, and transportation options that do not involve personal vehicles.

Assessors Luke Doody, Anna Seeger, and Chris Wings recommended a single tax rate of \$22.61 per thousand dollars of valuation. The selectboard approved their recommendation unanimously.

The total assessed value of Wendell property is \$94,949,941, and the excess capacity is \$336,817. Wings said this was a big year for the assessors, with a new software program that integrates property assessment with tax collection.

Wendell’s share of the Swift River School budget, after capital expenses, is up to 52%.

The board approved a purchase of a new three-stage snowblower seen at Hamshaw Lumber for \$2,800. The old snowblower has called for too much in repairs. Money will come from the “maintenance of town buildings” line, which still has \$6,300 available.

## SPORTS from page A1

their lead, but Powertown scored 11 points in the period to keep it a 10-point game at halftime, 28-18.

The margin stayed at 10 points halfway through the third, but the Reds went on a 13-2 run to close out the period, and after three, the Birds led 47-26. In the fourth, Turners could only chip 2 points off the lead, and the Hawks took the game 55-36.

Dabney Rollins led Blue with 20 points. Most of her points came from underneath, with several baskets coming off offensive rebounds. Lindsay Whiteman (6), Hailey Bogosz (4), Lily Spera, Vanessa Moreno, and Lucy Spera (2) also scored for Powertown.

On Monday, the Blue Thunder traveled over the mountain to take on the McCann Green Hornets of North Adams.

In this game, like in so many others, Blue had a chance to win but in the fourth quarter, the Hornets pulled ahead and Turners went to 0–14.

In the first quarter, Blue streaked out to a 15-3 lead, and in the second quarter, Powertown increased it to 16 points, 33-17. But the second half was all Green. McCann outscored Turners 15-8 in the third to narrow the margin to 41-32, and in the fourth, Turners could only muster 5 points, losing the match 51-46.

Rollins had another monster night for Blue, putting up 18 points which gives her 164 points on the season and 337 lifetime points. Aly Murphy pumped in 9 points while Whiteman helped out with 7. Karissa Fleming put up 5 points, Lily Spera sunk two buckets for 4, Moreno hit a 2-pointer, and Sarah Waldron shot a free throw.

The Blue Ladies next face the Southwick Rams. Southwick is one of the teams that beat Turners by a point.

Meanwhile on Monday, the Franklin Tech girls’ team hosted the Renaissance Phoenix of Springfield.

It’s always a treat to go to Tech games. They usually have a pretty good spread, and Kevin Hollister always opens the varsity games with his rendition of the National Anthem.

I’ve been to two Tech girls’ basketball games since the Holiday Classic. In one, Tech played against a winless team, Pioneer Valley Christian. In Monday’s game, Tech went against an under-

feated team, the Renaissance Phoenix.

The Lady Eagles should make the playoffs this year, and will face teams like this in the later rounds. In this playoff preview, the Franks put on a great defense, stealing the ball, fighting for rebounds, and ignoring the raucous crowd.

But Phoenix had the height advantage, and several times, they kept shooting until it finally went in the hoop. Tech’s front three, Jocelyn Crowningshield, Desiree Doane and Isabelle Duga used their speed to score baskets, and center Germanaia Cruz fought the big girls for rebounds.

But the Rens were able to pull away, and won the game 54-25.

## Wrestling

The Franklin Tech wrestling team earned another championship this week. With the tie against Frontier on January 23, the Eagles clinched the Suburban League Title for the third straight year.

This Saturday, February 2, they will host the Eagles Duals II. It begins at 10 a.m. and will probably go on for most of the day.

Then on February 9, they host the D3 Western Mass Tournament.

## Cheer Squad

The Turners Falls Cheerleaders have come a long way under the tutelage of Sarah Underwood.

Not too long ago, the Cheer Squad consisted of four junior high girls. Now, for the second year in a row, they go on to compete against other squads. Their first event is Sunday, February 10 at Chicopee High.

In acknowledgment of their rowdy and endless school spirit, I want to give them a shout out: Otilia Bartolon, Mckenzie Girard, Captain Kaitlyn Miner, Karissa Olson, Kelli Schneider, Captain Emily Sisson, Journey Smalls, Chloe Sumner, and Captain Jackie Thibeault.

By the way, what sport causes the most injuries to women? You guessed it. So applaud when they do that crazy throw-and-catch maneuver!

## Boys Basketball

Greenfield 64 – TFHS 60

The Turners Falls boys’ basketball team is

dancing on the playoff bubble. With the team flirting with a 500 record, every win counts.

But on Tuesday, their game against Mohawk was snowed out, leaving Powertown with one unsatisfying loss for the week, and a game under .500.

Last Friday, January 25, the Greenfield team and their entourage came to town. Their entourage included several avid fans and the entire Cheer Squad.

Blue-Green games are always high energy and competitive, no matter what. In this game, both teams were sporting even records and both needed wins to keep their playoff glass half full.

The first quarter was pretty even, and at the buzzer, it was a 2-point game, 12-10 Turners. But Green outscored Powertown by 9 in the second to take a 34-27 lead at the half. In the third quarter, Green held onto to an 8-point lead, but a late-period surge gave Powertown a 52-50 edge after three.

Green came out quick in the fourth to regain a 6-point lead, and with 1:40 left in the game, Blue was forced to intentional foul. This worked, and with 15 seconds left, it was a 2 point game, 62-60. But the Wave scored the last 2 points of the game with eight seconds to go, and won it 64-60.

Anthony Peterson put up 19 points in this one, 7 of which came from the foul line. Chace Novak hit four 3-pointers and ended up with 18. Tyler Lavin hit three from downtown, a 2-pointer, and a freebee for 12 points.

Ryan Kucenski got three field goals and a foul shot for 7 points, Ryan Campbell hit a 2-pointer, and Jeremy Russell sank two from the line.

Turners plays their snow-delayed game against Mohawk this Thursday, January 31.

## Swimming

This Saturday, February 2, the Turners Falls swim teams travel to West Springfield to compete in the PVIAC Fast Chance Meet.


The postseason in swimming is a little different than some other sports. Although team scores are tallied, it’s the individuals who advance. The top swimmers in each event will go on to compete against the best swimmers in the state.



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INVASIVES from page A1

and that has logic that spans across disciplines, particularly evident with some of the uglier sides of our national discourse on immigration. Stories pervade our daily life and influence how we think about the environment around us, and group members’ opinions on invasives varied greatly, depending on the stories they carried.

Kristof gives an example of an “outlaw,” the wineberry (*rubus phoenicolasius*), whose presence in our state is actually “prohibited” under Massachusetts law. A list of wineberry’s characteristics reads like a plant nursery’s dream sales tag: the plant is cold-hardy, is a heavy producer of delicious fruit, grows easily from seed, is vigorous, and is resistant to disease and pests. It seems a perfect choice for a smart gardener looking for a return on a low-maintenance plant.

However, if the story you’ve been told is that the plant in question *threatens* to change your environment which you are working to keep the same, the attributes that seem objectively good can turn sour. The plant’s vigor becomes something to fear, and the high-quality flavor of the fruit becomes a temptation rather than a gift. The word “invasive” implies a militaristic lens, and can convey the feeling that the plant is a kind of weapon, here to destroy the status quo of what is “natural” and native.

This is not to say that all of the negative discourse surrounding invasives is wrong, and we should let them be without intervention. These species need management, and can cause new problems to deal with. But Kristof stresses the importance of seeing these “outlaws” in their context: What happened to allow these plants to spread in the first place? Was it improper land management? Do we perhaps operate in a system that keeps its populace too disconnected from the nature around them?

Perhaps there is another story, one that sees invasives as signs of deeper systemic change, not necessarily good or bad. Perhaps we can enjoy the gifts of food, medicine, and fertility that many of these plants bring with them, while we figure out how to move forward together in an evolving ecosystem.

Mapping and Gathering

The Fellowship was not Kristof’s first project, but rather the third stepping stone on a path that is still winding. She began the journey three years ago with a project mapping latent food systems in the valley.

Kristof says that progress and change happens on the fringes, and that it’s no longer useful to have statistics on hand about crops already being grown, or agricultural outputs, when talking about new systems of food production. These new systems often come without precedent or context, which can lead to difficulties interacting with the system already in place when old systems of thought no longer apply. It can be hard to get a conventional bank loan when, instead of entering a market,



The “Future of Food Fellowship” held a wrap-up potluck this week, over a range of locally sourced food; founder Kyra Kristof is at right, in glasses.

you are creating one. Even language poses a barrier, when one is looking to redefine concepts like “work,” “productivity,” and “success.”

In its second year, the cartography project morphed into a system of technical support for local food growers operating on the fringes of the food system. As this second step progressed, one question became clear. To provide useful assistance, it’s essential to ask those folks working on the edges, “what do you need?”

Out of this question rose the Fellowship, a place created to bring those folks together, to build community and see where a discussion may lead.

The discussion led to place-making, and the group held its first event, a “Speakeasy,” last year at the Great Falls Harvest restaurant in Turners Falls. Attendees were advised to dress up and practice their very best secret knock. They were asked to meet at a doorway on Avenue A, which unbeknownst to some was connected to the Harvest. After being intentionally disoriented, they arrived at the Speakeasy, a new reality.

Cocktails were custom-made according to what was going on in each attendee’s life, and Carly Leusner of local food and foraging group Acorn Kitchen prompted rich conversations about the invasive species paradigm, playing devil’s advocate and exploring the light and shadow inherent in each of these species.

The Fellowship created a space for one night where people could let go of their reality and form new stories. Even though the “place” was temporary, the story created from the experience was taken home by everyone in attendance.

Alternate Realities

With the Fellowship now concluded, Kristof and the group are ready to move on to their next project, inspired by the Speakeasy’s success. Their next goal is to “create pockets of alternate reality that are exciting and beautiful and maybe really delightful, [that] really addresses the grief and the fear that culturally is really present.” Whether this is through immersive theater, or art installations, Kristof wants to be able to affect cultural change through a new lens of story and play.

Story and place-making don’t end when an event is over. When I

reached out to Kristof and offered to meet her downtown for an interview, she suggested Great Falls Harvest. I got to the restaurant a few minutes before it opened, but I saw her in the parking lot; making a correct guess, I introduced myself and we walked in together. We were two minutes early, but the door was open, and I found myself entering a space I’m not normally allowed: a patron walking into a closed restaurant.

Opening the door, the restaurant already seemed to be bustling. After a moment of confusion I realized that what I took for patrons were actually kids. A group of girls were spilling out of a booth, and a few were hard at work on their homework at the bar. One of the girls at the bar looked up, and Kristof introduced me to her daughter, who had come home from school with her friends whose parents happened to work here, which made it a perfect place for Kristof to meet me.

I realized I wasn’t just walking into a restaurant, I was walking into a place where community, business, and family intermingled. It’s not a paradigm I have a lot of context for, and as our conversation turned to the idea of place-making, I saw interesting parallels between our conversation and the setting.

These parallels make sense, as the owners of Great Falls Harvest, Bridgette Chaffee and Chris Mene-goni, were members of the Future of Flavor Fellowship. Sitting in their restaurant, I was observing family and business and life happening simultaneously in a space that they had created. I was seeing a context at work, a modern interpretation of a family business, a story I now have on hand to add nuance to my own personal connection to our world.

This is what Kristof is getting at with her talk about stories. In order to grow and adapt to change, we need to be able to pull a variety of stories out of our back pocket. The more context and precedent any new idea has, the easier it is to digest. In a time of rapid change, we don’t have the benefit of generations of physical connection with a relatively stable environment to teach us how to interact with our surroundings. Kristof hopes that through storytelling and play, we will gain another tool to help us adapt to, and connect with, our swiftly-changing environment.

PREMIERE from page A1

in the freezing cold.

The event also marked the premiere of the theater’s new projector and screen. Christopher “Monte” Belmonte, president of the venue’s non-profit operator, said the installation had cut it close. “Knowing that the movie was being filmed in town here, and that it would be the perfect debut, that was our deadline, and since it opens wide on February 8, we needed to do it as quickly as we could,” he said. “It got delayed until December, then January...”

But, other than a lobby too tightly packed before each screening as ticketholders huddled indoors for warmth, the show went off without a hitch. Emboldened by specific prior permission from emcee Belmonte, the audience clapped and cheered whenever a familiar locale graced the screen – basically, nearly every minute of the film, including scenes when clapping and cheering might not ordinarily be expected, such as whenever Elliott’s older Calvin Barr would stare into space in mute regret over a life he wished had somehow gone differently.

Krzykowski described his film, a quirky project nurtured for years and executed with full creative control, as “a love letter to American myth-making, and to the town of Turners Falls.”

Indeed, it only took seeding the Ave with period-appropriate cars to create the Campbell Falls of 1987. The audience roared at the opening scene, as Billy Squier’s “Lonely Is the Night” pumped through the Shea speakers and Barr’s mute regret was introduced over a whiskey at what all knew was the bar at Hubie’s Tavern and Restaurant.

Again and again, pieces of Turners Falls were transformed into this parallel fictional universe, and the thrill did not wear off: the fountain at Peske Park; the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge; Sheffield School; “Barr’s” house on the Hill, and a number of all-America-looking streets to drive regretfully down in that neighborhood; an encounter with street thugs in the alley behind the Shea; an arsenal on the Gun Rack wall.

Others set the scene for the film’s extensive 1940s flashbacks: Tangible Bliss became a fancy hat shop, and the French King Bridge did not fare well in war-ravaged Europe. And the Russian peasant boy who must sell his beloved German Shepherd to an American spy, headed across the front to assassinate the

Führer? That was Julian Mayo – the Shea’s back row went wild.

At times, Krzykowski even let his hometown determine elements of the story. Ed’s Barber Shop, here named after Edward Podlenski, was owned in Campbell Falls, sign unchanged, by Calvin’s supportive brother Ed (played by comedian Larry Miller). The signs for Mystic Pinball and Stuff were also visible in the background.

Thematically, *The Man Who Killed Hitler and Then The Bigfoot* seemed to be about aging, in the vein of *About Schmidt* or *Nebraska*, or about letting go of regret – or else about disappointment that things don’t go the way we might expect. (“It’s nothing like the comic book you want it to be,” the elder Barr drawls in booming baritone, just before heading out on his second hero’s quest, this one even more fantastic than the first.)

How audiences beyond Franklin County receive the film remains to be seen; so far it has received generally positive reviews. Krzykowski is clearly interested in undermining expectation, and repeatedly shifts gears, from character-driven drama to action to comedy and even, briefly, schlocky body horror. Life does not always go how you want it to, and the movie seems intent to remind the viewer that with its very form.

The director was joined after each screening by co-producer Lucky McKee and Joey Kramer, who composed the soundtrack, for a question-and-answer session.

Asked about his future plans, Krzykowski said he needed to wrap up obligations on *Hitler/Bigfoot*, and assess its success, before making his next step. “When you’re making independent films, you’re asking a lot of people to come together for not a lot of money,” he said, “so the next thing I do needs to be something that the crew feels good about being a part of.”

“After 25 years of scoring movies, this is the first film I’ve worked on where I really feel like it says something,” Kraemer told the audience. “What it means to see those around you have fallen by the wayside as you’ve survived... I’m glad it wasn’t the sort of Roger Corman/Troma film that the title may have misled people to think.”

“I’ve watched it a thousand times, and I think this time was the most emotional,” Krzykowski said. “I feel like we all own a big piece of this movie.”



The film enjoyed back-to-back sold-out screenings at the premiere.

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the poetry page

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  
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# January Poetry Page

## New Year Fear III

The newest calendar may say  
2019, better continue scanning for  
viruses within legislative/administrative entities;  
dark motorcades; passing bodies still  
slumped in doorways; opioid void, unnatural  
disasters still sweeping across the  
weather channel. It's the 21st century,  
some things never change, are  
they finally doing something about it  
in an 17th century sort of way? You see,  
it's still in the air, in the wind,  
check your watches, stay alert,  
you're on duty tonight.

- Don Ogden  
North Leverett

## For Bailey

You rumbled  
and the skies parted,  
and I knew you were mine.  
Stubborn, strong willed,  
always purring,  
my furry, beautiful ball of light.  
I know you would rumble if you could,  
because that's who you are.  
But now you are too weak,  
and you fade from this life  
while my memories of you  
overwhelm me  
and take your body's place in my heart.  
I hold you while your muscles tighten and lock,  
and you say something to me,  
something plaintive,  
over and over  
until you tense up one final time  
and go silent.  
I sit here now,  
in the chair you always inhabited with me,  
and I miss you.  
And yet I'm forever glad  
that we looked into each other's eyes  
as you died.

- Kevin Smith  
Turners Falls

## Remains

America: dirty laundry,  
Tattered and filthy  
Heaped on the floor,  
A shrine to the human stain.  
Takes only one to sway  
Others to divide the core  
Then, mold as clay  
The blistering sores  
Of social decay,  
Where no bleaching words  
restore  
The radiant light of day.

- Jake Brown  
Spokane, WA

## To Let Men Be Kings

Time and again  
Everything will change.  
While in the eyes of men  
The place for women  
Remains the same,  
The callous depth  
Yet to be ascertained.

Ascend from the abyss.  
Create from what you gain,  
That sense of you  
And from that, be sustained.

Your heart and man's  
May be touched  
And may entwine.  
For a fraction in time  
Clarity, then unwind.

We must stop and reflect,  
There is no strength  
When hearts are kept  
At arm's length.

To no man fall prey.  
Your greatness shines.  
Follow suit, or lead the way  
Whichever you're inclined,  
You are strong and majestic,  
Never be resigned  
To let men be kings  
Lest you, they define.

- Jake Brown  
Spokane, WA

## Contributors' Notes

Kevin Smith, tuba player, lives in Turners Falls, with his wonderful and inspirational girlfriend, Stephanie, along with a dog and two cats.

Originally from Western Massachusetts, Jake Brown is a painter of landscapes, a songwriter and poet.


Don Ogden is producer & co-host of The Enviro Show on WXOJ & WMCB. He is a longtime activist and worker who lives in North Leverett. His writing has appeared in numerous publications and anthologies over the years.

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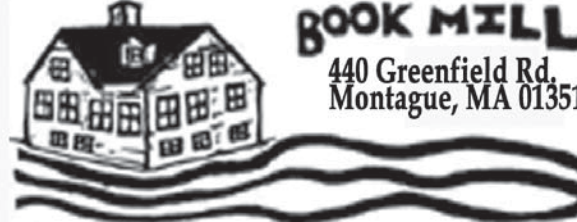
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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

# Planned Spinner Move Decried

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard voted at its January 28 meeting to send the town’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application, which totals \$612,030, to the state Department of Housing and Community Development for consideration. But the largest expenditure on the application, a \$403,000 renovation of Spinner Park on Avenue A in Turners Falls, unexpectedly encountered opposition from neighborhood residents.

They strongly objected to the project design, which would move a statue of a female mill worker from the center of the park to the rear. The statue, a replica of one created by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century French sculptor Louis-Leon Cugnot, was placed at the center of the small “pocket park” in 1985. Since then the park and statue have deteriorated considerably.

One of the goals of the proposed project is to return the statue to its “original form,” in the words of town planner Walter Ramsey.

David Detmold of Fourth Street began the discussion by saying that Spinner Park is “the one spot [that] people who live downtown frequent on a daily basis... it is the halfway point [to local stores], where they can sit on a bench and talk to one of their neighbors and the benches were very comfortable. The way the Spinner Park statue was in the very center allowed people to sit very close to each other, facing each other.”

Detmold said the current position of the statue allowed children to play in a “little nook” behind it.

“What I’m seeing here is a mini-plaza to allow a better utilization of the space for special events,” he continued. He said that though the town’s outreach via Facebook may have engaged people who visit downtown, “and the more the better,” it did not reach out to those who use the park most.

“You don’t necessarily put out leaflets in Spanish,” he added, for those “who use the park, and consider it their focal point.”

Detmold went on to argue that some of the criticisms of the design had been raised at a meeting at the Gill-Montague Senior Center, but had been ignored. “I think if it was a statue of a man instead of a woman, I don’t think we would be moving it to the back,” he concluded.

Edite Cunha, who lives near the park, supported Detmold’s comments: “What effort was made to engage the people who actually use

that park, other than the concert users, and Wonderful Night Santa users?” she said.

Added Jean Hebden, who also lives in the neighborhood: “I think it’s a shame to hide her in the back. I don’t want to get into the whole sexist thing, but that’s the way it looks to me.”

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz noted that there had been “two or three” previous selectboard discussions of the park design without these objections being raised by local residents.

Ramsey noted a community input meeting at the senior center in 2017, and postings on Facebook on which downtown residents could voice their opinions. He said the statue would still be the focal point of the park, “completely restored, and properly illuminated and elevated,” with bushes in the background. “Right now, the backdrop is a parking lot,” he said.

Bruce Hunter of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority, which administers the CDBG grant for the town, said that changing the proposal would require “additional design services,” the cost of which would fall on the town. Detmold pointed to the skate park project in Unity Park, which required additional design and construction services, as a precedent.

“Do we have a slush fund somewhere?” asked Kuklewicz. Town administrator Steve Ellis said the Community Development Discretionary Fund had a good balance, but was going to be used for refurbishing the park’s statue.

In the end, the board voted to approve the CDBG grant as proposed, but promised to revisit the Spinner Park design with more community input. “This is a 2020 construction project,” said Kuklewicz. “We have time in 2019 to have these discussions.”

The hearing included presentations on four social service programs funded by the grant: a meals on wheels program for the elderly; a literacy project organized by Montague Catholic Social Ministries; a youth leadership program at the Brick House; and a recovery learning program organized by the Western Massachusetts Training Consortium.

## Springfield Dispatch

The board approved a request from Turners Falls fire chief John Zellman and Montague police chief Chris Williams for a contract with American Medical Response

(AMR) for ambulance dispatch services.

AMR has recently taken over the service from MedCare, and has moved its dispatch office to Springfield. Williams said the \$3,000 cost of the service will be reimbursed through a state grant.

Kuklewicz asked Williams and Zellman to “walk us through the process” of responding to an emergency medical call. Williams said that when the police receive an emergency call, the information is routed to Springfield. Then AMR will call an ambulance in Franklin County.

“Presumably they will have people who are knowledgeable of our topography here?” asked Kuklewicz.

“I wouldn’t say they are familiar with Montague,” said Zellman. “They will verify the address... the information. They will call us, or [Montague police] dispatch.”

The board unanimously voted to approve the dispatch services agreement.

## Other Business

The board discussed reopening Greenfield Cross Road, a small road which creates a short cut between Greenfield Road and Hatchery Road in the southern part of town. The road has been closed and reopened a number of times over the years.

The latest closure was the result of a “road rage” incident. Ramsey said the road had been improperly closed on September 17 because it is a county road, and its closure would need to be approved by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments.

The board did not vote on the issue, because the road had effectively been opened when barriers were removed during a recent snowstorm.

The board voted to increase the salary of treasurer/tax collector Eileen Seymour by increasing her position on the pay scale from Grade G, Step 3 to Grade G, Step 7. The increase will be phased in over a two-year period. They also voted to appoint Elizabeth Irving to the board of registrars through June 30, 2021.

The town’s current lease agreement with the Gill-Montague School District for the property on which the Sheffield and Hillcrest Elementary schools are located was extended until April 1, 2019. This will give the town and school district more time to negotiate a new 15-year lease.

The board approved the warrant for a special town meeting on Tuesday, February 19. The warrant contains three articles: \$47,975 for repairing the Shea Theater roof; \$165,000 for repairing or replacing the town hall and town hall annex roofs; and a major revision of the town zoning bylaws and map.

Ellis announced that on Tuesday, February 5 there will be a presentation at the senior center of the findings of the “Efficiency and Regionalization” study of the Gill-Montague regional school district.

The board then retired to two executive sessions, one to discuss collective bargaining and the other to consider “potential litigation” concerning the closed Southworth paper mill. The next scheduled selectboard meeting will be on Monday, February 4.

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# LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was January 29, 2009: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

## Erving May Withdraw From FRCOG

On Monday night, January 26, after the selectboard appointed town treasurer Margaret Sullivan to represent the town of Erving with the Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program, board chair Andy Tessier called for the town to pull out of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, a move Erving voters are likely to consider at the May annual town meeting.

“I asked them, ‘What are you doing for Erving?’” Tessier said. “I got kind of a haphazard sheet in reply. I think it’s time to withdraw.”

The town spent \$39,000 last year to be a member of the countywide body. Tessier said he had objected to the extent of raises granted FRCOG administrators at an advisory board meeting he attended last year.

Town administrative assistant Tom Sharp will meet with FRCOG administrators in the coming weeks, before the matter is discussed again at the selectboard.

Tessier pointed out that the town has paid extra for FRCOG assistance in the town’s master planning process, and the development of a proposed new senior center.

## G-M School Committee Advances 2.7% Increase

In a very long, wide-ranging meeting on Tuesday, January 27, the Gill-Montague school committee agreed to a 2.7% budget increase as a starting point for the preliminary FY’10 budget, due by February 1.

School committee chair Mary Kociela made it clear the 2.7% figure was only a placeholder to meet the deadline, and details of the budget would be determined as the committee goes through various line items in the district operating budget.

Interim superintendent Ken

Rocke said that at this point, no one knows what kind of cuts or additional spending will come from the state, so there is no way to determine an accurate budget so early in the year. School choice numbers and special education spending are also unpredictable.

Committee member Linda Kuklewicz objected to the fact the committee only held a 20-minute discussion on the budget at the very end of a meeting that began at 6:30 p.m. and adjourned five hours later.

## Wendell Holds Emergency Planning Sessions

Wendell may have weathered the storm, but it won’t be caught unprepared the next time.

After most of the town lost power for three days or more following the severe winter storm of December 12, Lonny Ricketts, Wendell’s emergency management director, came up with a series of coordinating meetings to help residents and the town to better plan for a future emergency.

The second of these meetings was held last Sunday at the town offices. Ricketts began by listing planned workshops to be held after snow melt on the town common, including chainsaw use and safety, cooking without electricity, bread making, and generator use and safety.

He went on to show some of the equipment each household should have ready for an emergency, including candles and flashlights, a first aid kit, a crank-powered weather radio, a car battery jump starter, the 750-watt inverter that Jim Dunn and Jenny Fyler used to maintain their freezer during the power outage using electricity from their tractor’s 12 -volt battery, even a hand coffee grinder and stovetop percolator for households with electric drip pots.

Neighborhood watch sections for Wendell have been proposed, but not yet developed. Fire chief Everett Ricketts suggested residents could fly a flag at each house where power is out.



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

The disputed proposal would move the spinner statue away from the center of the park.

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BRIDGES from page A1

notice,” said town administrator Steve Ellis. “What I learned from DOT was fairly limited, but they said there was some miscommunication about the job contractor going to the site without full notification.”

“Knowing that we sometimes don’t get good communication from MassHighway, is it possible if you get called for a detail... Let’s do an internal thing, so you can give Steve [Ellis] a heads up,” selectboard chair Kuklewicz told Williams.

Williams noted that another contractor wanted to work on the lights on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge on the same day, but “they were told no.” Kuklewicz said the town should send the DOT a thank-you note after the lights are fixed, and the message “please let us know if you want to do

any other work!”

The General Pierce discussion came on the heels of a “public comment” comment from Turners Falls resident David Detmold about the state’s failure to plow the sidewalk on the Turners Falls-Gill bridge.

Detmold noted that a number of residents in Gill and Montague regularly cross the bridge on foot, but could not do so during snow season. Both towns, he said, have “given up” trying to get the state to plow the sidewalk.

“I wrote to the state highway department about four years ago about this, and they still have not gotten back to me,” he said. Detmold suggested that the Gill and Montague highway departments share the plowing of the sidewalk.

Kuklewicz said he believed there

was concern about the snow “going over the edge of the bridge.”

“It all melts into the river anyway,” said Detmold.

Kuklewicz said the board would discuss the issue with department of public works superintendent Tom Bergeron.

On Wednesday, the morning after another snowstorm, Ellis said that the state had sent “a team of several people” that day to clear the bridge sidewalk.

“I just walked it and it is cleared,” he said. “I did not address this matter with DOT yesterday and I’m not aware of anyone else having done so from the Town side. Perhaps the work was already planned or was a response to another party’s request.”

“They did a pretty good job,” he added.



It’s been five years since you’ve been gone. We miss you more and more as time goes on. The night we lost you, we didn’t know how to feel. We all hoped it just wasn’t real. We’ve had to learn how to move on, ever since you’ve been gone. We would gladly walk for miles if we could just see you smile. You inspired so many others, but no one more than your mother.



In loving memory of Greg Ellis and Fern Gallison

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Opioid Taskforce Holds Open Meetings

**GREENFIELD** – The Opioid Task Force for Franklin County and the North Quabbin Region invites the public to two important community conversations next week.

First, the Task Force’s Public Safety & Justice Committee is convening a gathering about “Public Safety, Behavioral Health & Community Responses to Drug Overdoses” on Monday, February 4, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Franklin Justice Center, 43 Hope Street in Greenfield.

Northampton police chief Jody

Kasper and officer Adam Van Buskirk will be talking about their Drug Addiction and Recovery Team (DART). Cherry Sullivan and Michele Farry of Hampshire HOPE will also be on hand to talk about these efforts in Hampshire County.

After a reported overdose, the DART team visits the individual with a police officer, recovery coach, and harm reduction specialist in tow. The Task Force hopes to learn from this effort and discuss how to launch or support similar efforts in our region.

Second, the Task Force’s Housing & Workforce Development Committee is hosting a follow-up meeting to its 1st Annual Sober Housing Summit. Held on December 14 and attended by nearly 70 people, the Summit yielded a number of concrete action steps to increase the supply of sober housing.

These recommendations will be reviewed in more depth on Friday, February 8, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Olver Transit Center, 12 Olive Street in Greenfield.

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CYNTHIA FRITZ PHOTO

CONCERT PREVIEW

Wendy Eisenberg:  
Close To Her Heroes



MAGDALENA ABREGO PHOTO

Eisenberg is playing Saturday evening at the Root Cellar in Greenfield.

By MIKE JACKSON

**GREENFIELD** – This Saturday, two darlings of the area *avant-garde* will team up for a benefit show at the Root Cellar bar to raise funds for Looky Here, a volunteer-run art workshop space around the corner on Chapman Street. One is Chris Weisman, who over the years has gathered quite a following for the stream of carefully measured, jazz-steeped art pop he has released from his Brattleboro hideout.

The other, guitarist Wendy Eisenberg, is a newer arrival to this region, but making up for lost time. Eisenberg is conservatory-trained and a bit of a theory nut, and she rotates between improvised solo and group work, the spiky, heavy rock of bands like Editrix and the now-defunct Birthing Hips, and art songwriting of her own.

Notably, she released two very different-sounding records back to back in October. *Its Shape Is Your Touch*, Eisenberg’s contribution to the VDSQ series of solo acoustic guitar records, features compositions that claw at the instrument’s boundaries. On *The Machinic Unconscious*, recorded for New York downtown fixer John Zorn’s Tzadik label, Eisenberg lets loose alongside drummer Ches Smith (Secret Chiefs 3, Xiu Xiu) and bassist Trevor Dunn (Mr. Bungle, Fantomas).

We caught up with Eisenberg this week over a breakfast burrito, mango chicken sandwich, and bottomless coffee at the Wagon Wheel in Gill. The interview has been abridged and edited for clarity.

**MR:** How long have you been in Northfield?

**WE:** Since mid-August. I live across the street from the old campus... It’s a beautiful town, and they have really cheap breakfast sandwiches, and I work in the library there on Saturdays.

But I’ve been promoting those

two records – the solo one and the Tzadik one – and I’ve been traveling a lot, so it’s felt for a lot of the time that I haven’t been living there. It’s been a very weird near-half a year....

**MR:** Were the releases intentionally timed to come out together?

**WE:** No, and it’s a source of mild contention between VDSQ and Tzadik.... [John] Zorn was just like “hey, I want you to make a record for Tzadik – come down to New Jersey on the first day of July,” and then put it out in a matter of six months. It was ultra-DIY.... It’s a really energetic record.

**MR:** Had you played with either of those guys before?

**WE:** Once. I had played with them at a jam session that [Zorn] puts together, one of those Improv at the Stone things.... He put me with them and the piano player Chris Davis, and we sounded really good, and he remembered it.

**MR:** I saw you play the VDSQ material at Flywheel last fall...

**WE:** Yeah. For that concert I took a bunch of the heads, and the theoretical material from it.... I love solo guitar. That’s what I do in Northfield – everybody who goes to that house just noodles their brain away. It’s kind of deep.

**MR:** How has it been playing in that group with [Andy Allen, Ruth Garbus, Donny Shaw, and Neil Young]? It’s really entertaining to watch, never having seen any of you do that before.

**WE:** The best! These people are so cool.

I feel like for Neil and Donny, it’s more in the wheelhouse of how they perform around here. But Ruth and I are song people, and Andy is all over the place but mostly rock – they’re all so smart and considerate, so when we’re playing together in a

see INTERVIEW B4

Hey, Kiddo, It’s Complicated:  
Graphic Novel Author to Read at Shea

By NINA ROSSI

**TURNERS FALLS** – I gobbled down Jarrett J. Krosoczka’s graphic memoir *Hey, Kiddo* in two hours the other night, so greedy was I for the kind of realistic, badly behaving adults that he sketches for his readers. I love and am horrified by these perverse characters, similar to the grown ups that author Roald Dahl (*Matilda*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Danny the Champion of the World*) specialized in portraying in his books for children.

Krosoczka is presenting his story at the Shea Theater, projecting illustrations on the theater’s new screen during a live reading on Saturday, February 2.

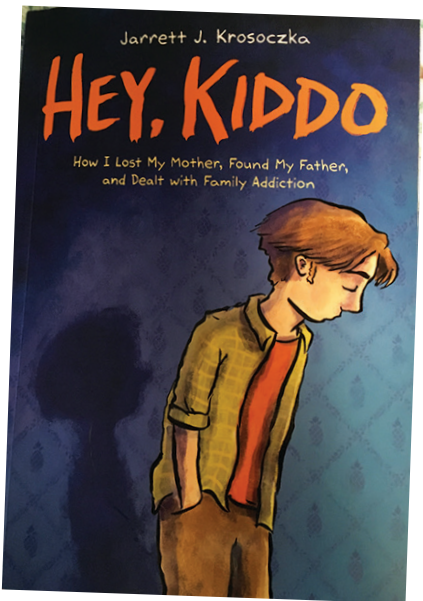
Krosoczka, born in 1977, presents his story of growing up in Worcester and being raised by his grandparents, Joe and Shirley, because his mother was a heroin addict and incarcerated throughout much of his childhood. He describes how loss renews itself in the cycle of collateral damage caused by family addiction, and also how

love and art and small acts of encouragement can nourish enough of the good parts so a body and soul can thrive, and even make peace with a troubled past.

The tough-talking Shirley gets drunk and is angry a lot; she is always pictured with a cigarette in one hand and clouds of smoke around her as she lambasts anyone in the vicinity with her caustic remarks, even if it is just the television she is talking back to.

Her hard-working husband also smokes two packs a day. He runs a ball-valve factory; both have already raised five kids and are pretty old-school, Depression-era, tough-love type parents. Shirley has been a homemaker and has a lot of conflicts with her children and husband; she’s not very nurturing, and takes an unsentimental view on life. (For instance, she finally consents to Jarrett getting a pet hamster, but threatens to “flush it down the goddam toilet” if she ever finds it out of its cage.)

The memoir, published by Scholastic Books, is aimed at middle



school readers. There is no mincing words here about addictions to cigarettes, alcohol, and drugs, right down to the profanity of the crusty grandparents which is transcribed in a faithful manner. Despite all their faults, the older couple obviously love this grandson and encourage him to pursue his art, sending him to extra lessons at the

see HEY, KIDDO page B6

THE GARDENER’S COMPANION

Leaving Old Man Winter

beachside city and a frequent stop for cruise ships.

We walked the beautiful beach until we were hungry, finding that the further down the beach we went, the less expensive the lunch menus were. We enjoyed a wonderful fish meal and a pleasant browse along the beach. Although the water was warm enough, we were totally unprepared for swimming. We had a good laugh with the bus driver on the way back to the city, thanking him for our trip to the beach.

A more exciting adventure occurred when we went for a few days to stay beachside in Belize. It is a long bus ride from Merida to Campeche, and like everyone else, we got out at the border to pass through customs. When we flew into Mexico from Texas, we were given documents similar to visas, and were told that we would need to present these when we left the country. We took this all very seriously, and stashed the visas in our hotel safe.

So there we were at the border of Belize and we needed to present these papers, as we were leaving Mexico for however brief a time. The irate customs official asked for the visas over and over again, and

I replied that they were in the safe at the hotel in Merida. We were at a stalemate, and it was unclear if we would have to return to Merida and forfeit our stay in Belize.

We waited in line waiting to learn our fate. At last this stern individual demanded what amounted to fifty dollars per person, and let us pass through. Ironically, when we came through customs after our stay in Belize, no documents were required, although there was a long bus stop at the customs gate while they checked the luggage compartment for stowaways. Whew!

Of course, we do have to say that in some ways, traveling south in our own country is also a bit like entering a foreign country, as we listen carefully, deciphering the twangy drawl. We love our vegetables and so do the southerners, offering an extensive list of options in the home cooking restaurants. What a disappointment to learn that they are all canned and boiled to death, or worse yet, deep fat fried. Luckily, there is always fresh green salad.

On our first stay in Florida, we stayed near the Ocala National Forest and encountered a hiking trail

see GARDENER’S B3



# Pets of the Week

Have you ever seen a cuter pair of rabbits?

I can answer that no, you have not, because we are the cutest!

Thumper and I are a bonded pair of lionhead mix rabbits. We love each other, and do need to go home together. We are curious and love treats like yummy greens. We'll coming running over if you have some for us.

For more information or to inquire about adoption, contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society in Leverett at (413) 548-9898 or at [info@dpvhs.org](mailto:info@dpvhs.org).



## “THUMPER & BAMBI”

### Senior Center Activities FEBRUARY 4 THROUGH 8

**GILL and MONTAGUE**

The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted.

Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs, call 863-9357. Messages can be left on machine when the center is not open.

**M, W, F:** 10:10 a.m. Aerobics; 10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

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

**Monday 2/4**  
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

**Tuesday 2/5**  
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga  
12:45 p.m. COA Meeting

**Wednesday 2/6**  
9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach  
12:30 p.m. Bingo

**Thursday 2/7**  
9 a.m. NO Tai Chi  
10:15 a.m. NO Chair Yoga  
10:30 a.m. to noon: Brown Bag  
1 p.m. Cards & Games  
4 p.m. Mat Yoga

**Friday 2/8**  
1 p.m. Writers’ Group

**ERVING**

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 2 days in advance. Call (413) 423-3649 for meal information and reservations.

For information, call Paula Betters, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.

Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.

**Monday 2/4**  
8:45 a.m. Stretch & Sculpt  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance  
11:30 a.m. Breakfast Brunch  
12:30 p.m. Pitch/Bridge game

**Tuesday 2/5**  
8:45 a.m. S.W.A.P. Exercise  
10 a.m. Stretch & Balance  
11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch

**Wednesday 2/6**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch  
12:15 p.m. Bingo & Snacks

**Thursday 2/7**  
8 a.m. Foot Clinic  
8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
12:30 p.m. Brown Bag Pick-Up

**Friday 2/8**  
9 a.m. Quilting Workshop  
9:15 a.m. Flex & Stretch  
9:30 a.m. Bowling Fun  
10:15 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.

**LEVERETT**

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

## FEBRUARY LIBRARY LISTING

*Weather, etc., sometimes causes changes in library events; you may want to call ahead to confirm.*

**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 TUESDAY**

Wendell Free Library: *Intermediate Strength Training Classes for Adults of all Ages* with Kathy Sward. Must pre-register. 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Leverett Library: *Beginner Strength Training Classes for Adults of all Ages* with Kathy Sward. Must pre-register. 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.; *Spanish Conversation Group*, 4 to 5 p.m.; *Qigong* with Dvora Eisenstein. 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.

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

**2ND TUESDAYS**

Carnegie Library: *Youth Advisory Committee Meeting*. Youth ages 10 to 15 are invited to meet monthly at the library to volunteer, plan programs, meet new people, and make a positive impact in their community. Snacks served. 5 to 6 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. (not on school vacations). *Healthy Bones and Balance Class* with Marianne Vinal, geared to older town residents, tea afterward. 10 to 11 a.m.

Carnegie Library: *Story Time with Karen*. Young children with caregivers. 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. *Home-school Science*. Hands-on STEM activities. 1 to 2:30 p.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.

**1ST WEDNESDAYS**

Dickinson Library: *Wednesday Morning Book Group*. 10 a.m.

**2ND WEDNESDAYS**

Dickinson Library: *Readings: Non-fiction, Fiction & Poetry*. 3 p.m.

**EVERY THURSDAY**

Carnegie Library: *Music & Movement* with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson. For children. 10 to 10:45 a.m.

Leverett Library: *Yoga for Stress Reduction* with Nancy Paglia. 5 to 6:15 p.m.

**1ST THURSDAYS**

Carnegie Library: *Genealogy Gathering*. Informal discussion of local family research led by Sarah Campbell. 6 to 7:45 p.m.

Dickinson Library: *Environment Awareness Group*. Topic facilitated by Emily Koester. 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*. Stories, crafts, music and movement with Dana Mengwasser. Pre-schoolers and their caregivers. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. *Friday After-school*. Variety of activities for kids after school. 2 to 3 p.m.

**1ST FRIDAYS**

Carnegie Library: *Mystery Activity*. Some possibilities are crafts,

science experiments, tech-tools. For ages 8+ and teens. 3:30 to 4:45 p.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.

**EVERY SUNDAY**

Wendell Free Library: *Sunday Morning Yoga*, taught at an advanced beginner/intermediate level. In February the instructor is Donna Horn. 10 a.m. \$ *AA Open Meeting*, 6 to 7 p.m.

Erving Library: Science Technology Engineering Art Math (STEAM) activities for 2- to 6-year olds. Pre-register. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

**EXHIBITS**

*To apply for a show, find forms on library websites.*

Leverett Library: *Jackie Pueschel, “Adventures Around the World.”* Landscape paintings from the Grand Canyon, China, Canada, and French Polynesia. Through February.

Dickinson Library: *On the Feminine Side: paintings by Mary Field*. Through February.

Wendell Free Library: *Textile/Fiber Art by Phyllis Lawrence*, featuring her hooked rugs. Through February.

**EVENTS**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1**

Dickinson Library: *Friday After-school: Legos*. 2 to 3 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Under-standing Racism, Part II with Dawn Lovegrove*. 7 p.m.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2**

Wendell Free Library: *Movie, Tremors*. Part of Science Fiction/Fantasy and Horror/Monster Series. 7:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3**

Erving Library: *Iris Eye Craft with Betty Sokoloski*, sponsored by *Friends of the Library*. At the Senior/Community Center. Based on papercraft from Holland. Pre-register at the library. 1:30 p.m. to 3.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6**

Dickinson Library: *Wednesday Morning Book Group*. Book discussion this month *Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt. 10 a.m.

Erving Library: *Once-A-Month STEAM - Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math Fun* for 2nd to 6th Graders. 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Dickinson Library: *D.A.R.E Program*. First week for 10-week series aimed at 5<sup>th</sup> graders to help them learn to make healthy decisions. Pre-register at library and find out the weekly topics. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7**

Dickinson Library: *Environmental Awareness Group*. See library’s calendar online for links to readings for this month’s meeting on *Climate*. 6:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8**

Dickinson Library: *Dissect Owl Pellets*. Science is Everywhere Series. Find out what owls have been eating by taking a close look at what they regurgitate. Limited to 15 participants from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Pre-register. 2:15 to 3:45 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Under-standing Racism, Part III* with Dawn Lovegrove. 7 p.m

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9**

Carnegie Library: *Valentine Party*. Make fun, valentine-inspired crafts, cards and other heart-themed projects. Designed for children of all ages and their families/caregivers. Refreshments. 10:30 to noon.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10**

Leverett Library: *Henna with Carolyn Roust*. Art of henna design. Try it yourself! 2 to 4 p.m.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12**

Dickinson Library: *Winter Birds* with David Small, president of Athol Bird and Nature Club, sponsored by the Northfield Bird Club. 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Erving Library: *David Brule* discusses his most recent book, a personal story of self-discovery, *Looking for Judah: Adventures in Genealogy and Remembrance*. 6:30 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13**

Dickinson Library: *Nonfiction, Fiction & Poetry*. This month’s selection is *The Plot Against America* by Philip Roth. 3 p.m.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14**

Leverett Library: *Ukulele Strum-Along with Julie Stepanek*. Focusing on two- and three-chord songs. Ukes provided. 6:45 to 7:45 p.m.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15**

Dickinson Library: *Friday After-school: Making a Thinking Hat*. 2 to 3 p.m.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16**

Dickinson Library: *Making and Tinkering: Hands-on Science & Engineering*. This program will focus on circuitry. How do you light a bulb? Make a fan run? Come explore with a teacher from the Hitchcock Center. For grades 3 to 5. Pre-register. 10 to 11 a.m.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

Leverett Library: *Literature Group*. 6:30 p.m.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

Dickinson Library: *Trivia Night* at Cameron’s Winery. Form a team (6 max) or come without a team and we’ll hook you up with teammates. Food and drink available for purchase. Must be 21+. 6 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Al Norman* reads and discusses a book-in-progress about some notorious figures in American history. 7 p.m.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22**

Carnegie Library: *Legos*. Come in during school vacation and play with the library’s collection of Legos. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Dickinson Library: *Friday After-school*. Movie Matinee, *Frozen*. 2 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Movie, Juliet Naked*. Based on novel by Nick Hornby. 7:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

Carnegie Library: *Family Movie, Small Foot*. Snacks. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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**GARDENER’S** from page B1

through the wilderness. It seemed daunting enough to find all of the roads through the park built of deep, heavy, white sand.

But when we finally located our planned hike, we were dismayed to read a sign which said, “Do not be alarmed! This trail is also home to panthers, alligators, poisonous snakes, cougars, and other wild creatures. Stay on the trail and you will be safe.”

Considering that the trail was all of eighteen inches wide, we said a firm “no thank you,” and quickly found our way out of the quagmire of heavy sand to the main and paved road.

Seems like southerners are tougher than we are.

Compared to all this, the area south of St. Augustine seems pretty tame, although last year Ken did make the acquaintance of a copperhead snake right at the entrance to

our lodging. Nonetheless, we are undaunted, and will pack up the car tomorrow, leaving the cat to a wonderful pet and home sitter, and escape the coming snow and cold, returning in early March to the joys of New England.

We will look forward to starting the tomato seeds and watching for the emergence of the early spring bulbs. We’ll be ready to be home then, as the days lengthen and the pleasure of time away wanes as we anticipate reconnecting with our sweet cat, fires in the woodstove and spending time with family. What better New England treat than the gradual emergence of spring, listening for the peepers, watching for the return of the song sparrow, noting the red buds on the trees.

We may not have the meekness of the southern winter, but what can be sweeter than the emergence of spring, as it teases itself and us into being?



# Phyllis Lawrence: Fiber Artist Extraordinaire



Phyllis Lawrence speaks at her reception at the Wendell Library on January 13.

By **HEATHER WILLEY**

**WENDELL** – Phyllis Lawrence’s *Circling Round* at the Herick Gallery is a contemplative collection of fifteen individually crafted hooked rugs. They are small to medium in scale, and each provides for a much larger and luxurious cerebral experience. There is a bonus glimpse of her work that extends into the library lobby’s glass showcase. Three of Phyllis’ sewed and hooked wool pillows are displayed here, alongside some of her smaller fiber projects and examples of the raw materials she uses in her artistry.

This show will be on display through February; Phyllis Lawrence’s work is fiber art at its finest.

Cherished as neighbor, teacher, and artist amongst the surrounding communities, Phyllis has been playing with process and design for the last seven years during her retirement, specifically in the hooking of rugs. Her love of fiber began in the early 1970s when she was taken by the woven linen work of Lenore Tawney.

Around this time, her husband Jim brought home a pair of Scottish Blackface sheep, and sheep farming began... which of course was soon followed by chickens, goats, a workhorse, and a vegetable garden... (Hmmm, still really not much to take care of, right?!)

And then began the spinning, the weaving, and the birthing of children, which lead to almost 30 years of teaching preschool, where Phyllis continued to be compassionately practicing a different sort of art that was the daily nurturing of the communities’ children. *Phewwww.*

You’d think Phyllis would take small breaks in retirement, but we are all happy that she remains so busy, as her show *Circling Round* is a warm gift to the eye. It is a playful transportation of light during this season of cold half-frozen mud sometimes mixed with rain, ice, and snow.

Her opening reception on January 13 was a wonderful opportunity to talk to Phyllis about her work. Some members of the local chapter of the Association of Traditional Hooking Artists to which she belongs were also there to provide rug-hooking demonstrations. This local chapter meets monthly, and is part of a larger association encompassing over 4,000 member artists globally.

Phyllis writes that the craft of rug hooking may have begun as long ago as the Vikings, but took hold in early 19th century Yorkshire, England as weaving mills producing fabric rugs had 9” pieces of yarn waste called “thrums.” Some of the less privileged population began using these scraps to make rugs and other coverings, using burlap or grain bags for the base.

The majority of hooked rugs made presently are created using traditional techniques and challenging patterns developed over time.

Phyllis Lawrence’s fiber art is unique in the variety of materials and visual subjects she uses to hook her original contemplations into artistic compositions. In each of Phyllis’s rugs, process and reflection take off together, so that each creation starts loop by loop with imagination being the only pattern followed.

Heather Willey serves on the Wendell Art Commission.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

# Town Snow Plows Strike Resident, Police Cruiser; Flooding; Towing; Potholes; Bridge Trouble

**Sunday, 1/20**  
3:36 p.m. Caller from Millers Falls Road reports that a town plow truck struck her vehicle and continued on while she was parked on the side of the road. Caller states that her vehicle was on the side of the road because her driveway was being cleaned at the time. Caller was in her vehicle at the time of the accident and reports back pain but refused medical attention. Officer advised and en route. DPW superintendent advised and en route. Report taken.  
3:50 p.m. Sgt. Laster advising that his cruiser was struck by a DPW worker on Millers Falls Road while he was responding to the previous call. DPW superintendent was on scene at the time of the accident. Report taken.  
4:48 p.m. Greenfield PD advising of a 911 open line from a 911-only phone mapping near J Street. Officer confirmed misdial.  
4:56 p.m. Shelburne Control received an open 911 line from J Street from a 911-only phone. Officers advised and en route to search the area for anyone in distress. Party called to advise that he may have called 911 again while using a cell phone with which he is unfamiliar. Officer spoke with party, found him well, and advised him of the 911 process. Units clear.  
5:03 p.m. Officer out on Turners Falls Road with broken-down DPW truck that could become a travel hazard. Officer advises that he is assisting Rose Ledge in towing the truck to the DPW.  
10:41 p.m. Shelburne Control requesting TFFD ladder truck to North Main Street in Orange for a second alarm structure fire. TFFD and MPD units advised.  
**Monday, 1/21**  
7:09 a.m. Report of box truck with damage on top just before the General Pierce Bridge on the Greenfield side. Conferred with GPD.  
1:33 p.m. Report from H Street of loud truck idling for at least 10-15 minutes. Ongoing issue. Officer checked area; gone on arrival.  
9:15 p.m. Caller states that there is a van parked on the far side of the lot at Highland School Apartments and a man got out and is trying to do something to the parked cars. Area checked; nothing found.  
**Tuesday, 1/22**  
8:24 a.m. Caller from West Mineral Road reporting injured owl at her home. She has been trying to get in contact with Environmental Police for two days.

EPO officer contacted and is going to get dressed and head to the home.  
12:12 p.m. Caller states that there is a blue Chevy sedan covered in snow driving down Avenue A. Unable to locate.  
7:04 p.m. Caller reporting a small deer injured in the road on Turners Falls Road. Animal was dispatched.  
7:58 p.m. Walk-in party from Coolidge Avenue who had previously reported his iPad as lost now thinks it may have been stolen. Report taken.  
**Wednesday, 1/23**  
7:39 a.m. Multiple 911 calls reporting a two-car accident at Federal Street and Ripley Road. One car rolled over. No injuries reported. MCFD toned out. Rau’s responding to tow both vehicles.  
1:55 p.m. Caller from Millers Falls Road is behind a tractor-trailer unit that hit some signs on the Greenfield side of the General Pierce Bridge. Officer stopping truck on Industrial Boulevard; has driver’s info and will pass it along to Greenfield PD for follow-up re: the damage he did.  
3:33 p.m. Caller from H Street was told by his father that an officer was looking to speak to him and to call MPD when he got home. Officer spoke with caller, who understood the complaint and is working to reconcile the problem by either fixing his truck or getting a new one.  
5:44 p.m. School resource officer advising of a Code 5 deer in the road on Turners Falls Road before Hatchery Road. Officer advising that deer has been removed from the road at this time.  
**Thursday, 1/24**  
6:51 a.m. TFFD responding to Johnson Controls for report of odor in the building.  
2 p.m. Caller reporting water on road near Cumberland Farms. DPW advised and en route. Officer advising that the flooding

is minor at this time and DPW is on scene.  
2:09 p.m. School resource officer advising of a minor accident in the parking lot at Hillcrest Elementary School. Officer advises that school staff member who struck a parked car with a school-owned vehicle is no longer on scene. Staff will handle this internally with insurance companies.  
3:05 p.m. Montague City Road closed from Walnut to Turnpike due to flooding. AMR, TFFD, and Shelburne Control advised. Officer advising of broken barricades; DPW advised and en route with additional materials to block the road and alert drivers. TFFD chief requesting DPW to respond to Hillcrest School with a truck of sand to fill bags to protect doors. DPW advised and en route.  
8:03 p.m. Caller advising that a lamp post has fallen down in the Great Falls Discovery Center parking lot and that the wires are exposed. Caller states no sparking, arcing, or flame at this time. Officer checked on this and found it in the upper parking lot off Second Street. DPW advised.  
**Friday, 1/25**  
4:20 a.m. Caller from Fourth Street reporting a disturbance in downstairs neighbor’s apartment. Caller reports hearing loud banging and possible faint screams. Units en route. Officer advises units clear; female and baby were awake upon arrival. Female was at first uncooperative. No problems.  
9:45 a.m. Report of what appears to be a black backpack unattended on the side of Montague City Road across from Kingsley Avenue. Responding officer advises that from a distance the item appears to be a backpack, but upon closer inspection it is a black sweatshirt hung on a branch.  
9:47 a.m. Motorist flagged down officer reporting four holes on the General

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**INTERVIEW** from page B1  
more private context, like rehearsals, they’re such receptive listeners...

**MR:** *How was the New England Conservatory? I’ve noticed that there’s a lot more NEC graduates washing into the New England DIY scene these days.*

**WE:** It was amazing, but I feel like I don’t remember any of it. I had gone to a school that beat me up, this place called Eastman School of Music – that was a Juilliard-level thing, in Rochester, New York – hardcore classical shit, but I was in the jazz program.

It was pretty conservative and rigorous, we had to do a zillion things to make the basic credits... and then NEC was just like, “have you listened to DNA? Or what do you think about this Camille record from 2006?” So it was a little bit more abstract, so it felt like a release, but it almost feels like how I talk to humans rather than a school environment....

I got priced out [of Boston], and I didn’t want to go to New York, ‘cause I’m money-conscious and afraid. [I was] like, do I want to move to Providence or Western Mass? Then I moved out [to Amherst] and it was amazing – it was like, it would be sick to be close to my heroes, and live in the nature.

**MR:** *Close to your heroes in this area?*

**WE:** When I was at Eastman they didn’t take singing and songwriting seriously... I think that’s actually for the best, because you’ve heard conservatory rock bands that just sound absolutely sexless and terrible.

But I got into Chris [Weisman] my junior year, and I was like “whoa, you can incorporate all my favorite shit from music, and music school, and theory?” I had been writing songs since I was 11, and stopped because I wanted to be a serious jazz person. So I had taken a decade off of writing songs, and then heard Chris and was like “oh, I can do this!” It was pretty major!

**MR:** *In terms of being able to use [jazz] progressions?*

**WE:** Or just to use songs as – hmm. You end up engaging with what you come up with, your first riff for the song – it’s a very automatic, autofiction thing – but you don’t have to make your lyrics dumb or your music dumb: they can both be really elevated, and they don’t have to be in a band context.

And the elevation doesn’t have to be in like a “high art” way, it can be like, we’re going to make these songs sound as compelling to us and our tastes –

**MR:** *Care.*

**WE:** Care. Intentionality, too.

**MR:** *You said “heroes” – were there other people out here who you’d listened to before you got here?*

**WE:** Fat Worm. Which is why being in that group [ed. note: the quintet with Fat Worm of Error alums Shaw and Young], and being in the Ches and Trevor group is like, *whoa!* All of the shit that I grew up with, in different parts of my growing-up period – it’s just crazy.

**MR:** *Your “growing-up period” involved listening to Fat Worm of Error and Mr. Bungle?*

**WE:** Yeah [laughs]. Which is, I guess, how this happened.

Well, Ruth was huge for me, too. She’s one of the very rare performers

who, when I hear her, time stops. It’s not because she’s trying to be anything, it’s just because her rhythmic sensibilities are cosmic in their proportion and scope.

She’s the best singer in the world, probably, and her songs make me cry. I want her to be the queen of the world.

And then Andy lived here; I had listened to him before because of the NEC connection; and Olivia W-B is from Worcester, but I always knew that they were playing out here. They’re truly the most incredible guitar player I’ve heard in my life – unreal, innovative, perfect composer, total auto-didact....

There’s a really good poetry scene at Bennington... there’s a literary technique thing here, and at UMass too. And I was a huge fan of Speedy [Ortiz] when I heard them, because I thought they were from the ‘90s.... I grew up listening to Lou Barlow and Dinosaur, Jr., and that led me to Sibylle Baier.

**MR:** *Did she have a connection to this area?*

**WE:** I think the Dinosaur Jr. dude found her tape – that’s the mental association for me! *[This leads to conversation about the “freak folk” movement.]*

I don’t really care for it anymore.... I have this joke with my punk friends that I’m really conservative at heart, but I like music to be held to a standard of care, and that feels conservative in those scenes.

**MR:** *Okay. Jazz: How is that?*

**WE:** That’s probably the part of my life that’s the most confusing, because there’s not a clear set of dualities or opposition, or squares. With songs and punk rock, that’s one thing. With jazz, that’s something I committed my life to at age 15, and then bowed out of – in large part because I heard Chris, though he’s kind of a jazz guitar player, truthfully.

I’ve been playing a lot of these jazz gigs, because of the newfound interest in my work, and it’s really weird because these are places that wouldn’t have been allowed to me when I was at school. I was always not good enough, or didn’t swing hard enough, or sucked at the language.

But the real thing is, why would you want to be performing a master narrative that has nothing to do with the race, or class, or gender in which you’re born? And what does “jazz” mean, if it’s not tied with that historicity?

So when I look at jazz, I’m like “hmm, I don’t know.” But when I play it, the most successful sets that I do with jazz musicians are the ones where I cut loose and just do the improv thing. And then they’re like “oh, this is pushing the music forward!” when actually it’s just introducing a language that’s never felt like I was lying, whereas jazz feels like a profound code-switching, like you’re applying for a job or something.

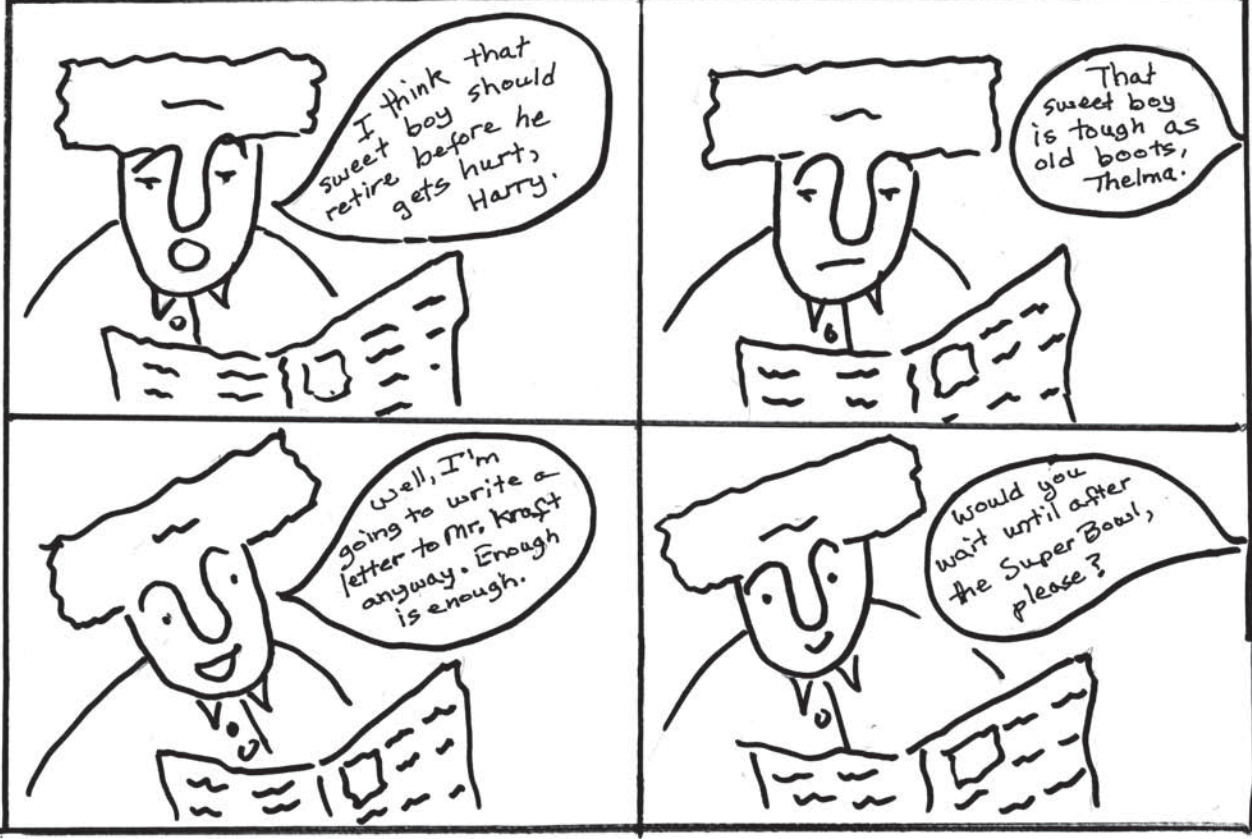
Though, the best songs that I write are the ones that sound like jazz standards....

**MR:** *Do you think learning all the standards just rubbed off?*

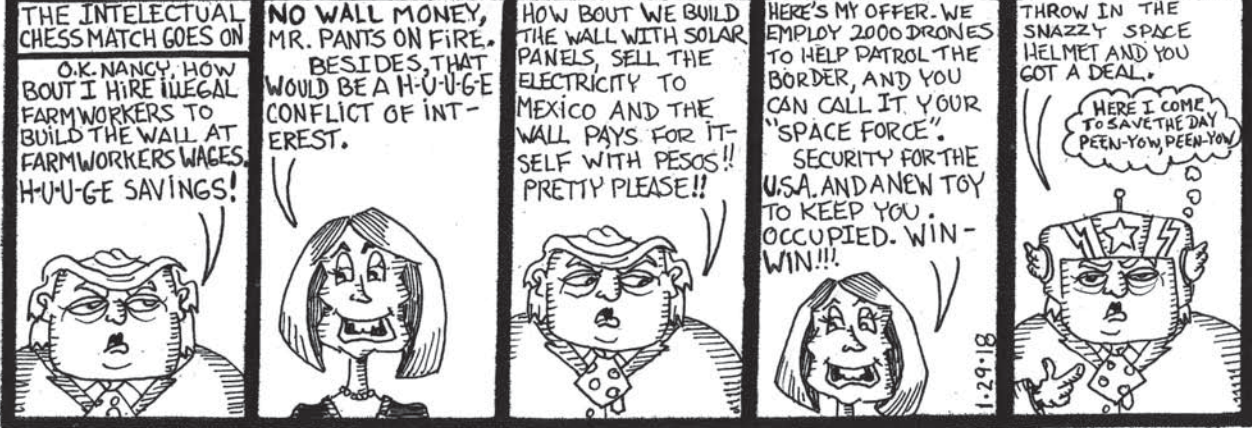
**WE:** Yeah – well, melody is everything there, and harmony isn’t harmony, it’s rhythm there. And that’s why what happened in the mid-late ‘60s, with Miles’ second quintet especially, was so important – it was about the distension of that harmony, so the harmonic rhythm really rested on the drummer.

And so, when you listen to

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Chris’s music, it feels like he’s playing with a broken-time rhythm section to me, because the harmony is moving at its own will.... This presupposes that we agree that harmony is rhythm, because it gives a sense of stability or instability to the form, and creates a framework.

Wayne [Shorter] was writing these progressions that were not really based off the songs from the ‘30s, ‘40s, and ‘50s that they were all adapting – or, their contrafacts were bebop harmony, necessarily – it was all really personal to him. So personal harmonic languages became really important.

But also there’s these innovations in the rhythm section that happened after bebop’s stridency went one other way in free jazz, where it became broken, so harmony became more of a suggestion, and then the rhythmic form became a suggestion, so melody was all you were left with as something central. And that was something you could hear as early as the beginning of jazz – it was just melodies Beefhearted together, in 1917 – but in free jazz, it became “how does the rhythm section react?”

**MR:** *What do you think about Looky Here? Have you seen similar spaces?*

**WE:** It’s incredible – I love what those folks are doing!

I’ve played spaces that feel like it, but nothing exact. It feels like a pure alternative to one of those capitalist WeWork spaces, where you just buy rent and people use their computers – you can go there and do your thing, and people will support you. There’s a convivial atmosphere.

It’s dicey because you don’t want it to be entirely privatized, but you also don’t want people to be valuing rent-space in such a way – and also, [coworking spaces] create a culture that’s pretty for-

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week at MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

This week we direct your attention to our website *montaguetv.org*, where you can find the Civic Leaders meeting from January 16, 2019.

This meeting brought together community members who serve on finance and school committees in Gill, Montague, Northfield, Leyden, Warwick, and Bernardston, as well the HEART (Honest Education and Retaining Trust) Committee. The meeting continued the discussion on possible

cooperation or regionalization between the Gill-Montague School District and the Pioneer Valley School District.

Stay tuned for more!  
Something going on you think others would like to see? If you get in touch, we can show you how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment.

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bidding, like a handlebar-mustache culture. But at Looky, they genuinely care about the art life.

I find that in ethos, the record store Strange Maine in Portland, and pretty much the entire art and improvised music and poetry scene of New Haven, feel like Looky Here. Not in the sense of ‘70s-whatever that they have there, but in “we’re going to do it to our own specifications, and we’re going to give you space to do whatever you want in the context we’ve created,” which is not neutral, but definitely open.

You can look into historical things that people have done, like jazz rent parties, which is what this is. What ties them to New Haven and Portland in my mind is that they have an aesthetic: brightly colored, almost like some ‘70s revival of some Liberty of London shit, patterned fabrics and all that. There’s all of these images that they’re using, and they’re not dumb but they’re simplistic on

purpose, which kind of gives people permission to learn what care means for them. Because care doesn’t have to mean what Chris and I do.

In New Haven I’m usually playing a show where there’s a poet.... Looky is not doing a thing that they could easily do; they’re just like, “This is for you. We’re going to care about the things that we care about, and you’re invited.” It’s cool. I like karaoke nights there.

**MR:** *What are you planning on playing on Saturday?*

**WE:** I don’t really know! What I’ve been doing when I play solo is a hybrid of the improv guitar and the songs, but I was so inspired by Chris’s set in New York that I just want to do songs. But it’s also really intimidating, because his are masterpieces, and I like mine, but to put them up to someone who’s inspiring to me... I’ve gotta make a decision.



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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## EVENTS

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 31

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Music and Movement*. For children and caregivers, with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson. 10 a.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Kids Music Series with Under the Tree Music Company*. A five week music series for young children combining music, laughter, song and movement. Adults and infants under 1 year are free; small fee per child or \$20 for five weeks per kid. 10:30 a.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Cars Go West*. 8 p.m.

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1

DVAA Gallery, Northfield: *Farms Art Reception*. Members show with agricultural theme. 1 p.m.

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *First Friday Mystery Activity*. Children 8 + and teens are invited to join us for a mystery activity: crafts, science experiments, tech-tools, etc!. 3:30 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Ticked Off Tapes Showcase #1. Cruudeuces, Spiritual Claymation, Two Years on Welfare*, more. \$. 8 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Mike Bullock & Vic Rawlings, Mon.ark Ammo, and Beige*. Electro-acoustic improvisation, noise, etc. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Tap-roots, Wurliday*. Soul-funk-reggae fusion. \$. 8:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sunny Lowdown Jam*. Open mic, Americana music show, Jam. 9 p.m.

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

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Great Falls Discovery Center: *Full Snow Moon Gathering*. The Nolumbeka Project presents Full Snow Moon Gathering: An Island Perspective on Wampum. Join Aquinah Wampanoag researcher and artist Elizabeth James-Perry for a presentation on historic wampum arts including adornment, diplomacy and record keeping from the perspective of a Native woman, including a demonstration of wampum weaving. Free. All welcome. Traditional Wampum bead-making workshop to follow, 1 to 3:30 p.m., \$40 fee. Workshop pre-registration recommended at [Nolumbekaproject@gmail.com](mailto:Nolumbekaproject@gmail.com). Ages 15 and up. Check [nolumbekaproject.org](http://nolumbekaproject.org) for weather updates. Snow date: Feb. 3. 11 a.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Looky Here Benefit* with *Chris Weisman and Wendy Eisenberg*. A night of songs to benefit community art space, Looky Here. \$. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Hey Kiddo*. Graphic novel author Jarrett Krosoczka discusses his book, *Hey Kiddo*, which features his dysfunctional family and is aimed at middle school readers. \$. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Reggae Benefit*. for the World Central Kitchen and the Next Day House. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *From Logan to Lima*. 9:30 p.m.

Wendell Library: *Tremors*. Film about a small town defending itself against strange underground creatures. Preceded by an episode of Fireball XL5. Part of monthly SciFi and Fantasy and Horror/Monster movies series. 7:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3

McCusker's Market, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic Sessions*. Musicians, all levels welcome. 10:30 a.m.

Green Fields Market, Greenfield: *Co-Op Straight Ahead Jazz*. Balcony in the afternoon. 12 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Superb Owl*. Men in tight pants on screen. 4 p.m.

STEM learning. Call to register.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Meditation Group*. Self-led meditation group. Bring a cushion to sit on. 7 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, FEBRUARY 7

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Music and Movement*. For children and caregivers, with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson. 10 a.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Kids*

SUBMITTED IMAGE



*Come see Chris Devine and Michael Nix at the next Great Falls Coffeehouse event on Friday, February 8 at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls. They will perform energetic music for violin, guitar, mandolin and Banjar, a seven-string classical banjo. They are the founding members of the music trio The Pioneer Consort. Refreshments will be served, concert starts at 7 p.m. Suggested donation \$6 to \$12 goes to fund programming at the Center.*

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Quabbin Harvest, Orange: *Chocolate Shortbread Workshop*. Learn how to make this Valentine's Day treat. 3 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Story Time*. Stories, projects, snacks for young children and their caregivers. 10:15 a.m.

Leverett Library: *Tales and Tunes Story Hour*. Ages 0 to 5 and caregivers. 10:30 a.m.

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Homeschool Science*. Hands-on

*Music Series with Under the Tree Music Company*. A five-week music series for young children combining music, laughter, song and movement. Adults and infants under 1 year are free; small fee per child or \$20 for five weeks per kid. 10:30 a.m.

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

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

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Exit Hound, The Feldons, Thee*

## EXHIBITS

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *Annual Teen Art Exhibit*.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Brattleboro, VT: Five new exhibits include a six-decade survey of the work of abstract artist *Emily Mason*, Open Call *NXNE*, and artwork by *Orly Cogan*, and *Elizabeth Turk*. Open Call *NXNE* features 13 juried New England and New York artists.

DVAA Gallery, Northfield: Member's exhibit in February: *Farms*.

Geissler Gallery, Stoneleigh Burnham School, Greenfield. *Deal With It*. Prints and artists books by *Esther S. White*. Through February 14.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: East African Textiles: *Talking Kanga Cloth*. Through February 15. Talk by curators N.

S. Koenings and Peggy Hart on February 9, 11 a.m.

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *Marjorie Morgan's The Long View*. Dreamlandscapes. Through March 15. Opening Receptions: Friday, February 22, 6 p.m.

Herrick Gallery, Wendell Library: *Phyllis Lawrence*: Textile arts and hooked rugs. Through February.

Leverett Crafts & Arts Center, Leverett: *Resident Artists' Show*. Informal exhibit of work from artists who have studios at the Center. Through February.

Leverett Library: *Jackie Pueschel: Adventures Around the World*, a collection of paintings featuring landscapes from the Grand Canyon, China, Canada, and French Polynesia. Through February.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *In the Vicinity*,

*Sonomatics*. Power rock trio followed by rock quintet. \$. 8 p.m.

Gill Tavern, Gill: *Trivia Night*. Come with a team or by yourself, \$5 to play. Winning team receives \$25 gift certificate to the tavern, and all proceed go towards a monthly good cause. 8:30 p.m.

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Brother Brothers*, Eavesdrop. Americana. \$. 7 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center: *Chris Devine, Michael Nix*. Great Falls Coffeehouse series brings you *Devine* and *Nix* with high energy, entertaining music for violin, guitar, mandolin,. Refreshments available. Suggested donations to support educational programming at the Center, \$6 to \$12. Museum and museum store open during intermission. 7 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Nite Owl*. Legendary *DJ IPL* from Boston with a *Soulelujah!* dance party. 9:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Great Falls Discovery Center: *Talking Cloth Presentation*. An encore presentation in the Great Hall features a talk about the history and cultural context of kanga cloth from East Africa, currently on display in the Hall. This is also a kid friendly opportunity to try on kangas, and participate by imagining and drawing your own kanga design. Design a border and center, and then think about what message you might want to convey. Do you have a mantra or favorite proverb? 11 a.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Montague Common Hall Open Mic #31*. Featured artist *New Leaf*, an Irish music trio. Open mic afterwards in a beautiful space and friendly environment. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Comedy with Anita Wise, Jon Ross, Tony Sykowski*. Stand-up comedy. \$. 8 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Mni-beast, Bunnies, Picniclunch*. \$. 8 p.m.

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10

McCusker's Market, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic Sessions*. Musicians, all levels welcome. 10:30 a.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*. 9 p.m.



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**HEY, KIDDO** from page B1

Worcester Museum School in grade school, deciding on a private high school for him, and eventually sending him on to college to get an art degree.

As a boy, Krosoczka was also inspired to draw by the artwork sent to him by his mother while she was in prison. A piece of important advice was offered by a teacher at the Museum School, who told him to follow his own unique style instead of imitating commercial cartoons like Marvel Comics.

Life around the boy was explosive and gruff at times, but the love

and encouragement from some special mentoring teachers and the underlying support from his grandparents nourished his interest in drawing and art. Krosoczka credits this with saving him from what could have been an abyss of anger at his situation. For several years he worked at camps for terminally ill children; this also probably helped to save him from being warped by an excess of self-pity, while also inspiring him to create stories for them. He manages in the end to establish a relationship with his father, although he didn't meet him until he was 17 and for many years

did not even know his name. He found he had a half-brother and sister that he also got to eventually be friends with, and now as an adult has established his own stable and loving family.

I like how Krosoczka presents people as complicated and contradictory characters, mightily flawed in interesting and sometimes very appalling ways. Nobody is "the villain" or "the victim" – they are basically good people who sometimes (or even, sadly, often) make bad decisions. As the cover of the book says, it's "a true story about how complicated the truth can be."

Krosoczka respects his young readers by not oversimplifying and cleaning up his messy past. The book opens with a prologue set in a graveyard; death and addiction are not shied away from within these covers, and there is always smoke in the air from the many cigarettes that polluted the inside of private and public spaces in the 1980s.

The drawing style is loose, expressive lines with washes of grey and browns. He incorporates real letters and other memorabilia with collage to add to the story, and in a special section at the back of the book he explains his artistic process which combines hands-on artwork and digital manipulations. He still works at the same drafting table he got as a gift from his grandpa for his 14th birthday, though.

In *Hey, Kiddo*, Krosoczka recounts an author visit at his grade school from a graphic novelist, who paused by his desk to look at one of his drawings and offered mag-

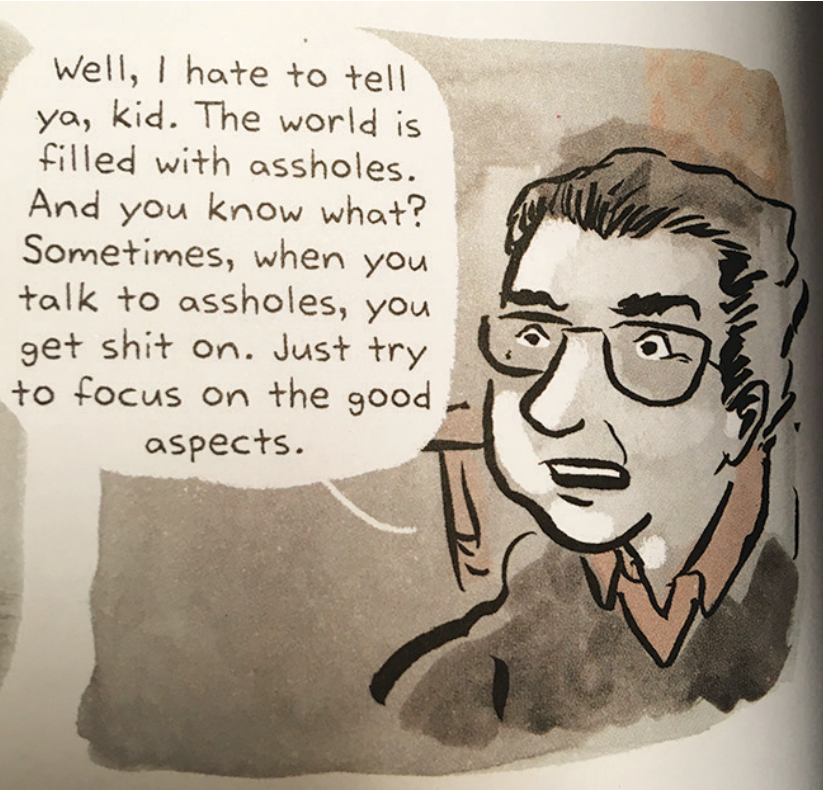


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Grandfather Joe offers some advice to young Jarrett in the author's high school years in this scene from *Hey, Kiddo*.

ic praise in two words: "nice cat." Krosoczka, the creator of over thirty books and a *New York Times* best-selling author to boot, is determined to offer kids as many "nice cats" as he can as he goes into schools on his own book tours. He also funds a scholarship at Worcester Museum School, in his grandparents' name, to fund classes for kids with unique family situations.

Krosoczka lives in Northampton with his wife and three kids, and you can watch an Amherst TED talk of

him discussing his childhood at his website *studioijk.com*. His inspiring story is sure to empower many readers as they try to work through their own tough times.

The book is widely available at stores, online, and in libraries. Come to the Shea Theater and discover more about *Hey, Kiddo* and author/illustrator Jarrett J. Krosoczka this Saturday, February 2 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance, and \$15 at the door.



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