MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER **MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS** LAKE PLEASANT



YEAR 21 - NO. 3

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

#### THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

\$1.50 **DECEMBER 1, 2022** 

# **MILESTONES Opening of 'Highland Woods' Reflects Shifting Burial Norms**

#### **By LEE WICKS**

MILLERS FALLS - Right now, none of Montague's eight town cemeteries offer green burial. That will change in the spring of 2023 when Highland Cemetery's green burial sites become available. They have been developed in response to a growing interest in this alternative.

"Other towns' cemeteries are beginning to incorporate green burial into their burial options because their residents are asking for it, as they are in Montague," said Judith Lorei, a member of the town's three-person cemetery commission. "A few years ago Gill established a small green cemetery next to one of their existing town

cemeteries, and there are a number of other cemeteries doing the same throughout the Valley."

Green burial sounds like something new, but it isn't new at all. In the Jewish tradition bodies are buried without any embalming, and before the Civil War, literally all burials were "green," meaning that bodies went into the ground in a natural state without embalming or lined coffins, where they gradually decomposed and returned to the earth.

That changed when soldiers were dying far from home, and people sought ways to preserve the bodies during long train trips back to their families. This practice marked the beginning of modern see **BURIAL** page A7

# **ERVING SELECTBOARD** Study to Explore Feasibility of **Public Water for Erving Center**

#### **By KATIE NOLAN**

On Monday night, the Erving selectboard approved spending \$7,700 to assess the potential for installing drinking water wells on town-owned property on Mountain Road and Swamp Road to supply Erving Center. Currently, Erving Center water is supplied by private wells.

"[T]he future of Erving Center as a commercial and residential hub of the Town," town planner Mariah Kurtz wrote in a memo about the project, "will be tied to the Town's interest and ability to secure a public water supply."

All of the commercial food establishments in Erving Center, Kurtz warned, "operate grandfathered public water supplies that require regular testing and reporting. The existing wells do not meet current regulations and would not be permitted without the grandfathering. These existing wells and their setbacks impact construction options of existing parcels, and the inability to obtain new public water supply status further limits the development of new businesses."

Kurtz also noted that some residential wells in Erving Center have had problems with contamination or inadequate supply.

In 2014 Tighe & Bond, the town's engineering consultant, estimated the cost of establishing a public water supply for Erving Center at \$4 million. In a 2022 study for Franklin Regional Council of Governments, Tighe & Bond estimated the cost of an Erving Center public water supply at \$16.8 million.

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith

# MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD **Board Picks a Town Planner, Talks Housing on First Street**

#### **By SARAH ROBERTSON**

MONTAGUE - At Monday night's selectboard meeting Jen Audley, chair of the search committee tasked with finding a new town planner and conservation agent, presented the selectboard with two finalists for the joint position: Maureen Pollock and Angela Wheeler.

The eight-member committee, which met seven times since forming in September and interviewed three candidates in executive session, also made the recommendation that the town hire Pollock.

"Both finalists, Angela Wheeler and Maureen Pollock, are qualified professionals with credentials,

see MONTAGUE page A6

# ter Ramsey

Montague town planner Walter Ramsey was hired earlier this year as the assistant town administrator, a new position. The selectboard voted Monday to offer his old job to Maureen Pollock, the top recommendation of a search committee.

## GILL SELECTBOARD Gill Closes Road for Winter, **Citing Ice and Safety Concerns**

#### **By KATE SAVAGE**

The Gill selectboard voted at its November 21 meeting to close a section of Pisgah Mountain Road and River Road immediately, following recommendations from the highway, fire, and police depart-



ments. The roads will remain closed until April 1, 2023, though the board may extend the date if conditions remain dangerous.

Fire chief Gene Beaubien told the selectboard that it is difficult to provide emergency services in the area. The road sections aren't maintained in the winter, and have been the site of several accidents and disabled vehicles. "One time, Officer Kimball had to slide on his butt to get to the car to see how the people were," Beaubien said. Another time the back end of a fire truck was bent, and the highway department "almost lost a sander" during a rescue attempt.

Highlights from the Gill police log published in this newspaper noted "glare ice" on the road associated



Highland Cemetery, one of eight town cemeteries in Montague, will soon be expanding to accommodate a number of "green" burial plots.

# High School Sports Week: Franklin Tech 'Records' **A Turkey Day Victory**

#### **By MATT ROBINSON**

TURNERS FALLS - On Thanksgiving morning, the Franklin Tech Football Eagles and their entourage traveled down to Northampton to take on the 1-8 Smith Vocational Black Vikings. The 30-12 win gives Tech a three-to-one advantage over Smith in their Thanksgiving rivalry. The game also gives Tech several new school records.

It's so nice going to a football game on Thanksgiving. After Turners Falls disbanded its football pro-

gram. I felt a huge void, and if Facebook is an accurate indication, I'm not alone. Over the past few weeks, alumni have been posting all sorts of sorrowful messages about the loss of Turners Falls football. One person actually suggested an alumni football game for next Thanksgiving.

Neither Smith's nor Franklin's records are an accurate portrayal of their talents or potential. Voc, having only one win, could have easily thrown in the towel and called it a season, but they didn't. Both teams see SPORTS page A7



Franklin Tech running back Josiah Little (center) rushed past the 1,000-yard mark for his second season in a row – and then 131 yards more. Little was the game's MVP.

said part of the reason for the increase in projected cost was the location of the proposed wells, and the need for pump stations to deliver the water to Erving Center.

Kurtz told the board the information from the preliminary assessment would be necessary to apply see ERVING page A6

# **Keeping An Eye** Out for COVID? **Check the Sewer!**

#### **By REPORTER STAFF**

FRANKLIN COUNTY - Fans of knowing whether there is a nearby upsurge of a virulent respiratory disease have a new tool to enjoy this fall, as the state Department of Public Health has streamlined the delivery of wastewater COVID-19 data.

A quick trip to www.mass.gov/ info-details/covid-19-wastewaterreport/ gets sewage nerds instant access to the latest numbers. Click "Trends" to see line charts, and load in your local data. Montague, Greenfield, Sunderland, and South Deerfield are now in the system, as are Amherst and Northampton, Hadley and South Hadley, and Athol!



The points at which the roads will be partially (yellow) and fully (red) blocked.

with an accident last winter. "That thing can be a skating rink going down there," said board member see GILL page A8

# CSO to Build Studio Apartments, More Beds at Wells Street Shelter

#### **By SARAH ROBERTSON**

**GREENFIELD** – Social service agency Clinical and Support Options (CSO) has plans to renovate and expand the Wells Street shelter in Greenfield and construct 36 new studio apartments to provide permanent supportive housing to people experiencing chronic homelessness.

"Our goal is not to just have people continue to reside in the shelter, but to be able to be back on their feet and move into housing," CSO vice president of housing and homeless services Bill Miller told the Reporter.

The state Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has chosen CSO to succeed ServiceNet as the recipient of a state contract to manage the shelter. Beginning next April, the nonprofit will assume management of the Wells

Street facility, bringing integrated services including on-site nursing, behavioral health clinicians, and individualized support. The renovations will expand the number of beds from 30 to 40 and give the shelter a greater ability to accommodate men and women separately.

"We're expanding the number of shelter beds, as well as the flexibility," Miller said of the planned renovations. "We also want to be able to handle extra capacity in the wintertime."

Funds and assistance for the renovation and construction will come from a number of different sources, most of them public. The Boston-based public-private partnership Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation will receive two loans of \$1,590,000 and \$400,000 to buy the properties at 60 Wells Street, 65 Conway Street, and

see APARTMENTS page A5

..B9 ...B10

#### Locally Made, Ethically Harvested, Completely Sane Publishing Venture

Five Whole Letters, Good Job	A2
Lots of Local Briefs	
Opinions: Raking and Renting	A4
Wendell Selectboard Notes	A5
Montague Reporter On The Road	A8
Cookbooks Fresh Off The Press	B1
The Best Star War Thus Far?	B1
December Libraries Listing	B2
-	

Aontague Police Log
mprinting On Coins
THS/GFMS Honor Rolls
our Sick, Pissed Off Friend
Our Monthly Science Page
Noise-Rock Titans To Visit
Ausic, Funnies, Stumper
Getting Out Of Town Fast



## The Montague Reporter "The Voice of the Villages"

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Founded by Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold August 2002





Assistant town administrator Walter Ramsey holds up an antique measuring tankard in the Montague town hall attic. These containers are part of a set of official weights and measures once used by the town. (The official weights and measures cabinet is in the Carnegie Library loft. You can read more about the history of this cabinet in our own archives – just enter "fortnightly" at montaguereporter.org/search/ to find our June 25, 2015 edition.)

# Parting Ways

Regarding Jeff Singleton's plea for more consideration of keeping our industrial past:

I love old mill buildings. I don't love the Strathmore. While Jeff mentions "There was strong support for at least integrating more of the industrial past into the new design," he doesn't mention that the mill is literally and obviously disintegrating.

The load-bearing walls are on the move, parting ways with each other, and the bricks themselves are soft as soap. A brief walk around the site – an effort only for the brave – makes the dire condition evident. We don't need a deep dive engineering study to tell us

what our senses can divine. There's no future for it.

(I'm writing in an individual capacity, by the way, not as a member of MEDIC.)

We can recall our past in many ways. But trying to resuscitate the dead isn't a good plan. It's time to call the effort, pull the plug, and spend money on a better future.

As Norman Mailer wrote in *Barbary Shore:* 

"There was that law of life so cruel and so just which demanded that one must grow or else pay more for remaining the same."

> Robert J. Steinberg Montague Center

# An Opportunity to Transform the Island

Like many others, I'm sorry that the town didn't make other decisions about the Strathmore when the complex was in better shape, but we are where we are now, and it's that the town has already been working with to create something that combines native plants with indigenous history.

The creative arts community

# **Rail Fight Catches Dems Lacking**

The railway workers' union dispute is a deeply troubling story which has been given only cursory coverage by the large media outlets. TV news has tended to describe the story as a few holdout unions threatening the national supply chain because they want more paid sick days. But the truth is that they are sick of being wage slaves to a rapacious business model which has posted record profits since being implemented in 2018.

The new system, "Precision Schedule Railroading" (PSR), increases efficiency by demanding extreme workloads on reduced numbers of personnel which leaves little time for people to have actual lives outside of their job. Disruptions due to, say, family emergen-

# cies or car trouble are met with discipline, or even firings.

The four unions which have been holding out for paid sick days aren't exactly asking for the world here. The real problem lies with the business model – which the nation's supply chain was doing fine without, as recently as 2018.

If the unions were really going for broke, they'd be demanding the PSR model be abandoned. They aren't. They are simply saying that they would like to have a little bit of flexibility for when life outside of their employers' demands needs to be addressed.

While President Biden has done a lot of good for the country in his term, this situation was a huge missed opportunity for him to



It's challenging to know "who's

demonstrate his ostensible pro-labor bona fides. The union contract negotiations have been going on for two and a half years; President Biden should have made this a national story, rallying support for labor.

Americans who work for a living – most of them not protected by unions, and many inadequately protected by unions which don't have much power – are sick of feeling as though they have no agency over their own lives. The railroad workers' struggle would have been something many, many Americans could relate to and sympathize with.

The President could have given a national address early on in his term, when there was time for it to have an effect on the public mindset, to bring attention to this struggle. In so doing he could have helped to undo the resentment of unions that has become baked into the psychology of too many Americans since the Reagan era.

Instead, we have a president

imperative that we have a vision for the site that reflects not only who we were for a moment in time, but who we want to be going forward.

As I use the word "vision," I think of Frank Abbondanzio, and how his knowledge and vision helped lay the foundation for Turners as it is now. We are an amazingly historically preserved industrial community that attracts the creative arts economy, and we sit on land that was a treasured place for indigenous peoples for many thousands of years.

My suggestion for the island is that whatever we do there reflects not only our past, indigenous and industrial, but our present and future: the creative economy, and hopefully green.

The consulting firm suggested creating a place for nature with the land that's left from the buildings that will be removed. This could be an opportunity to bring in the tribes should have input into what they envision on the island. Perhaps a mosaic, or community mural project, could be applied to the concrete tower. Involving local youth in the way the Brick House has with the planting projects in town would enhance the feeling of pride and ownership in the project.

Lastly, the town must be proactive about the climate crisis. Having wind or solar on the island makes a statement for all to see that we are a community that is committed to future generations and the earth.

The town has an opportunity now to transform the island in a way that reflects who we've been, who we are, and who we want to be: indigenous and industrial, creative arts, nature, native plantings, and a green future.

> Anne Jemas Turners Falls

in the November 3 issue. K. Camara introduced us to John Nordell and some of his artistic journey. I was inspired to find out more about the Zentangle drawing method, and looked up Nordell's website.

**Favorites** 

Thank you for the Artist Profile

Some of my favorite parts of the *Montague Reporter* are reading the stories about the people in our community.

También me gusta el artículo sobre Janel Nockleby en la página en español (edición de agosto). Janel es una mujer muy interesante e inteligente. Pero el artículo no hablaba de su talento para la jardinería. ¡Janel ha tenido una parcela en Great Falls Community Garden durante muchos años y es uno de los jardines mejor cuidados!

¡Muchas gracias por las ediciones de *Montague Reporter* cada semana!

Suzette Snow-Cobb Turners Falls on first, what's on second, etc." following the disorientation that has accompanied the pandemic. Hence, I can't recall when I last dined at the Black Cow.

Returning there last Friday proved thoroughly delightful. Our server, Kai, was one of the most genuine, invitingly pleasant servers I've ever experienced, not to mention competent and thoughtful. Meatballs, onion rings, and prosciutto and garlic aioli (only restaurant in the area that offers it on their menu!) atop a delicious burger, done to order, on a tasty bun was much enjoyed.

A shout out to the keeper of the bar, also, for an especially well-prepared cocktail. You might find their selection of spirited beverages to be quite generous as well.

> Mary Kay Mattiace Montague City

making halfhearted apologies as he turns to Congress to force the unions to accept the terms as they stand, under a continuation of the draconian PSR model.

For her part, Speaker Pelosi has written in a provision for paid sick days which she knows will be stripped away by a filibuster, in an attempt to lay workers' woes at the feet of the Republican Party. But it is clearly far too little, far too late, and will surely feel like little more than a cheap stunt to the union workers whose lives are owned by their employers.

This is the sort of failure to stand with labor and stand up to corporate power that has made the Democrats ineffective, and has made them the party that people vote for only because the alternative is so much worse.

> Benjamin Miner Greenfield

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This newspaper shall not be liable for errors in advertisements, but will print without charge that part of the advertisement in which an error occurred. The publishers reserve the right to refuse advertising for any reason and to alter copy or graphics to conform to standards of the newspaper, such as they are.

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# The Montague Reporter

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#### Compiled by NINA ROSSI

Our 2022 Special Wrapping Paper Edition came back from the printer over the holiday week and they did a super job! The full-color, full-sheet designs by local artists look amazing. The sheets are decorated with birds, dogs, squirrels, nature scenes, *MoRe* mastheads, abstract squiggles, and other unique scenes. And of course they are recyclable, and all proceeds support this independent, non-profit paper.



They sell for \$5 an edition, or five for \$20. We hope you'll pick up copies at local vendors in Montague such as Food City, Great Falls Market, Buckingham Rabbits Vintage, the Montague Village Store, and Eldritch Goods in Millers Falls; in Gill at the Upinngil Farm Store; across the river at Green Fields Market, Looky Here, and Federal Street Books; and at the Leverett Village Co-op and Wendell Country Store!

We will be selling them online (minimum order of five) and sending them out by mail, and we'll set up some pickup times at our 177 Avenue A office, but we hope local readers stop by some of these stores and shops that are graciously supporting this fundraiser.

We'll also be selling them at the Holiday Popup at the Brick House during It's A Wonderful Night in Turners Falls on December 9 and 10, at the Wendell Holiday Market on December 9 and 10, and at the Shutesbury Athletic Club Holiday Craft Fair this weekend, December 2, 3, and 4. link. The event is part of an ongoing project, "A Sense of Where You Are: Finding and Interpreting Mill Foundations in the Landscape."

Greenfield Savings Bank has a **donation drop-off for Toys for Tots** in the lobby of their Turners Falls branch. They ask folks to consider dropping off a new, unwrapped toy for a child this holiday season. Toys for any age or gender are appropriate and welcomed. The collection runs through Monday, December 19.

The Leverett Village Co-op's Second Annual Holiday Baskets silent auction is open for bidding now through December 18. There are 10 baskets to bid on, with themes that include *Bird Watching*, *Gardening*, *Happy Dog*, *Holiday Morning*, *Wellness*, and one with original local art. A beautiful hand-turned wooden bowl is also on the auction block. All items were donated by generous supporters, and sales from the auction benefit the Co-op.

The Leverett Co-op also opened its **Rattlesnake Gutter Gallery** inside the store with hand-crafted items by more than two dozen local artisans. Items for sale include paintings, jewelry, textiles, pottery, wooden bowls and spoons, ornaments, carved wooden blocks, microgreens kits, cards, salves, books by local authors – and copies of our Special Wrapping Paper Edition! The Gallery is open every day during regular store hours.

A bit farther down the road from the Leverett Co-op you will find the **Shutesbury Athletic Club Holiday Craft Fair** this Friday evening, December 2, through Sunday, December 4. The shop has built quite a reputation for attracting a wide variety of high-quality goods, all from makers who are in Shutesbury or adjacent towns. Find our Wrapping Paper Edition there for sale as well.

The LAVA Center is hosting

young adult, and children's books as well as DVDs, audio books, and jigsaw puzzles will be for sale, with proceeds to benefit the library programs.

**Curious about Eleanor Roosevelt?** You're in luck. The Erving Library presents "An Evening with Eleanor Roosevelt" this Saturday, December 3 at 12 p.m.

Historian Carol Cohen looks into the life of Roosevelt and her role as a human rights activist, focusing on the period after the death of husband Franklin. There is some portrayal, as well as a slide show presentation. Cohen is on the faculty of Lesley University, and is a published historian and playwright.

Eggtooth Productions and the Shea Theater present the Valley Vaudeville Variety Show this Saturday, December 3, at 7:30 p.m. at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls.

This family-friendly show features short performances with comedy, dance, vaudeville, and music created by artists K Adler, Ashley Kramer, and Rebecca Schrader.

Rounding out the weekend at the Shea will be a **Cheer Benefit Concert for Música Franklin** on Sunday, December 4 at 3 p.m. The concert features Metropolitan Opera tenor Irwin Reese, concert pianist Julia Bady, violinist and composer Michi Wiancko, jazz musicians and composers Matan Rubinstein and Wes Brown, and Música Franklin director Orice Jenkins.

All proceeds benefit the students of Música Franklin, an after-school music program in Greenfield and Turners Falls. Get tickets to these productions at *sheatheater.org*.

Light Up The Fairgrounds, a "drive-through holiday light spectacular," is "bigger and brighter than ever," according to organizers. Visit the Wisdom Way fairgrounds after dark the next two weekends to see 40 light displays, and vote for your favorite.

Admission, between 5 and 8 p.m, is only \$5 per car. Payment is in cash only. The event is a fundraiser benefiting Big Brothers Big Sisters of Franklin County, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office Regional Dog Shelter, and the Franklin County Fairgrounds.

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this area, the nature notes are what set this calendar apart from other pretty nature calendars," reads the press release. "Many people frequently use the calendar as a learning tool with their children by going outside and trying to find what the calendar says to look for."

Order yours online at *atholbird-club.org*, or pick one up at the Wendell Country Store or Connecticut River Liquors in Turners Falls.

A Sing and Swing benefit concert will be held Wednesday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m. at Hawks and Reed in Greenfield featuring Healing Harmonies, a choir group for individuals with communication challenges due to diagnosed neurological conditions. Sing and Swing will be singing performances and swing music with Butterfly Swing, soprano Shelley Roberts, and members of the choir. Proceeds benefit the work of Healing Harmonies.

**COVID and flu vaccines and boosters** are available to members of the public at Hillcrest Elementary School in Turners Falls on Tuesday, December 13 from 3 to 6 p.m. Find out the details and sign up to get yours online at *home.color.com/ vaccine/register/cataldo/*.

The LAVA Center announces their next **Writers Read** evening with Jovonna Van Pelt, Brian Mooney, and Wilson Roberts on Wednesday, December 14 at 7 p.m. The three local writers will read from their work and engage with audience questions and remarks at the end of the session. See *info@localaccess.org* for more information.

The Brick House Community Resource Center is hosting a **Budget Workshop** in collaboration with Community Action's Money Matters Program. The event includes a presentation on how to create a budget and stick to it, and a discussion of building good credit.

All are welcome! The workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to noon on Thursday, December 15 at The Brick House at 24 Third Street in Turners Falls. Please register by contacting *jcamerota@brickhousecrc. org* or (586) 335-9693.

I recently read a *New York Times* opinion piece by Delia Ephron that









Spread the word, and grab yours soon!

Are you shopping for **presents for someone who loves to cook**? Check out Claire Hopley's cookbook reviews on Page B1 of this issue, and don't forget about our *Montague Reporter* apron premium! These handmade, roomy cotton cover-ups have two patch pockets and adjustable ties, and they are printed with front pages of the *MoRe*.

Make a donation of \$100 or more and receive one as our gift to you – while supplies last.

Tonight, join the Leverett Historical Commission for a **virtual exploration of one of the very few charcoal kilns** still standing in New England – it's in Leverett! – and learn about the history of charcoal-making.

The tour begins at 7 p.m. and you must register at *charcoalkiln*. *eventbrite.com* to get the video several **Holiday Saturday Salons** throughout December with 100% local books, arts, and crafts for sale at their 324 Main Street, Greenfield location between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. There will be rotating vendors at each event, live music, storytime with Mrs. Claus, and other surprises.

RiverCulture has created a **2022 Holiday Event Calendar** of events happening in Montague now through New Years, including theater performances, live music, pop-up shops, solstice concerts, activities for kids, craft bazaars, and even a visit from Santa!

Pick up a calendar at your favorite Montague/Turners Falls business, or download a copy at *www. riverculture.com.* 

The Friends of **Montague Public Libraries' monthly book sale** is this Saturday, December 3 in the basement of the Carnegie Library from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hundreds of recent adult fiction, non-fiction, A **Death Café**, a casual group discussion of death with no agenda or themes, will be held at the Gill-Montague Senior Center on Fifth Street in Turners Falls on Monday, December 5, from 5 to 7 p.m. Organizers write that the objective is to "increase awareness of death with a view to helping ourselves to make the most of our (finite) lives. Get together, have tea and cake, and talk."

The Café is cosponsored by the senior center and the Council on Aging. Registration is required; contact Suzette Snow-Cobb at *suzettesnowcobb@gmail.com* or (413) 824-0232.

The new Athol Bird and Nature Club Calendar is now available. The "Birds and Nature of the North Quabbin" 2023 calendar focuses on local beauty and showcases photos taken in the North Quabbin region, mostly by club members. Each month features extensive notes about local flora and fauna.

"Fine-tuned for the climate in

explained a way to make a very special **life-changing holiday gift**. As parents and grandparents, many of us don't need or want any material gifts from our younger family members. Instead, we might ask them to potentially save a life instead.

There are 12,000 people each year looking for blood stem cell transfusions from unrelated donors. People under 40 can save someone's life by registering to be a stem cell donor at Be The Match (*bethematch.org*). Pregnant women can register to donate their umbilical cord after they give birth, something that is usually thrown away.

When you register you are sent a swab kit. After you send it back, you may or may not hear back that you can save the life of an extremely sick person! Be The Match will then arrange and pay for transportation, lodging, and the (painless) stem cell collection process – at no cost to the donor.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.



DECEMBER 1, 2022





#### • System 2000 (Energy Kinetics)

- Thermo Pride
- Weil-McLain
- Other Major Brands
- Expert Burner Service





# AT LARGE Rakish Behavior

#### **By CHIP AINSWORTH**

**NORTHFIELD** – Go online and ask how many leaves are on an oak tree, and you'll get answers that range from 63,000 to 1.25 million. It seems like a million when you're up to your ankles in them and more are scrambling crab-like across the road.

According to my neighbor up the road Popi Yazwinski, some years are leafier than others. "It's different every year," she said. "I've never seen so many as this year."

The first reminder of what's to come happens every August when the chestnuts start falling on the roof, the deck, the car, and my head, and wait for me to step on them in my bare feet.

Maple trees are the first to give it up, a few at first and then all at once, as Hemingway wrote of going broke.

I dumped the first drop into a backyard pile between some birch and maple trees that are out of sight from the road. The lawn will look good for a day or two, but then a rainy nor'easter will come up the coast and the mighty oak will unleash its full bevy of storm troopers.

Leaf blowers are noisy and cumbersome, and they shoot leaves into the bushes and under the porch and into places that require handto-leaf combat.

I prefer going the Paul Bunyan route and using a rake, cheap, popular and patented by Edmund Brown in 1874. The collection method varied from wheelbarrow to trash can to finally a large blue tarp that I'd forgotten about in the shed.

A neighbor's hen would come over and waddle into the leaf piles. When I pulled the tarp it would emerge clucking and flapping, but occasionally it left an egg. The yolk was a deep orange color, a marked contrast to the pale yellow yolks from the supermarket.

The oak leaves hung on until late November, when yard work can't be accompanied by the luxury of listening to afternoon baseball.

When all the trees were finally bare and the leaves were all in one place, a change-of-seasons windstorm deposited thousands more from my neighbors' yards. Finally on Thanksgiving eve I started the lawnmower and gave the lawn one last trim before the first snowfall freezes everything in place.

#### **Deerfield Spruces Up**

Both Northfield and Deerfield are gearing up for their respective 350th anniversaries. In Deerfield, the upper crust will kick off the celebration on New Year's Eve with a \$100 a plate dinner at Deerfield Academy that will include smoked salmon canapés, pumpkin risotto, and filet mignon.

The festivities for Deerfield's 300th included fireworks and a beer bash on a field where the elementary school is now located. That summer, Eaglebrook teacher Jim Percival directed a play staged at Deerfield Academy that recollected the Old Deerfield massacre of 1704 when French soldiers and Native American warriors killed 56 villagers and captured 112 others.

The autumn prior to Deerfield's 300th anniversary, the superintendent of streets asked resident Mike Rura to "spruce the place up," meaning his cluttered yard. Rura owned a small red house on Route 5, across from Mill Village Road. He was a big, happy bear of a man who had worked for the railroad. Every morning he'd have coffee at the Frontier Pharmacy and greet people on their way to see Billy



A neighbor's hen helps our correspondent with the leaves.

Rotkiewicz in the pharmacy.

Rura told everyone he had a problem. He needed to spruce the place up, and could they help? They did indeed, and by the time summer rolled around Rura's yard was filled with old dead Christmas trees.

#### Knocked Around

Residents everywhere use Nextdoor, a social networking service that according to Wikipedia was founded in 2008 and is headquartered in San Francisco. It was established to provide "civil discourse" on subjects ranging from what to do about cats killing birds to wondering why the cops are in their neighbor's yard.

When the weather was warmer, the Northfield Golf Course hosted weddings, graduations, and other outdoor events. One day the music rattled a resident who'd moved from the city for some peace and quiet. She posted: "The Northfield golf course is so loud AGAIN – blasting music across the entire quiet neighborhood for hours. So entitled. So thoughtless and rude to the people who live here."

Someone not on the wel-

come-wagon committee replied: "Since when are you entitled to silence? Nothing wrong with music in the day time, loud or otherwise. You are ENTITLED to get yourself some ear plugs if it bothers you that much."

Where's Mr. Rogers when you need him?

#### **Energy Imports**

Northfield residents who complain the town doesn't have a gas station will be able to fill up at Cha's next year. The popular beer, wine, and cigarette outlet is a mile over the New Hampshire border on the road to Winchester, and voters approved a zoning variance for a gas station.

According to a Cha's employee, the permit process has been daunting and a storage tank has been on back order for almost 18 months. Despite these obstacles they expect to be pumping gas by next autumn, when perhaps Granite State fuel prices will be commensurate with the low cost of butts, beer, and booze.

Chip Ainsworth writes sports for the Recorder, and news and opinion for the Reporter. He lives in Northfield.

# OP ED There Is an Alternative: Social Housing in Vienna

#### **By FERD WULKAN**

**MONTAGUE** – We all know we have a housing crisis all across our country. Rents have skyrocketed; there are insufficient numbers of apartments and houses available, and

dining services the original complex offered, including dumb waiters to every apartment allowing the food from the communal kitchen to be delivered to each flat, and the communal laundry and child care center."

Between 50% and 60% of all Viennese

years – except for the Nazi period, 1938 to '45 – Vienna has mostly been governed by the Social Democrats; indeed, starting in the 1920s it was known as "Red Vienna."



charge. In other words, the rental market is not dominated by the forces of the free market or the ideology of neoliberalism.

Ann and I were also impressed by how apartments are allocated. Starting in 1925, persons with disabilities and other societal-

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many people in our cities are unhoused. Rent control is considered too radical. There are few protections against evictions. live in permanently affordable, rent-stabilized, subsidized dwellings. These include 220,000 city-owned units and 200,000

The American dream has long included homeownership and stable, safe neighborhoods. But the dream has become a nightmare as racism and capitalism leave some without homes altogether, and have displaced so many more. Most discouraging, few people see any alternatives to the current system of how housing is allocated and paid for.

But there *is* an alternative.

I was in Vienna, Austria in September, and saw how things could be different. I spent time with several Viennese residents, all of whom proudly talked to me about housing in their city. I visited the Karl-Marx-Hof, the largest of the socialized housing developments – it stretches over one kilometer, and houses 5,000 people. The picture shows a small part of that development.

After I returned, I talked to Leverett's Ann Ferguson, who had visited Vienna in 2016 and had also been impressed with their social housing. "I learned how the people in the Karl-Marx-Hof complex led the resistance to the Nazis in the early 1930s," Ann told me. "I was particularly impressed by the combination of individual kitchens and communal lized, subsidized dwellings. These include 220,000 city-owned units and 200,000 non-profit co-operative flats built with municipal subsidies. Vienna's 1,800 municipal housing estates alone are home to close to half a million citizens, out of a population of slightly under two million.

All of it together is referred to as "social housing," which they think sounds better than "public housing." There has been a conscious effort to integrate the projects so that members of different social classes live next to each other, each paying a similar percentage of their income for rent.

This all started after the devastation of World War I. In under a decade, from 1925 to 1934, more than 60,000 new apartments were built in large developments situated around green courtyards. The Karl-Marx-Hof is a good example of this. Forty percent of the building costs came from the Vienna Housing Tax, the rest from the proceeds of a luxury tax and from federal funds. From 1919 to 1933, the city was the only entity building new housing.

While Austria's national government has been ruled by a variety of parties ranging from right to left over the years, for over 100 About a quarter of Vienna's population lives in municipal estates, a legacy of the city's "red" era.

The socialists implemented policies to improve public education, healthcare, sanitation and, especially, housing. Stable, affordable housing, how the dwellings were managed, and what services were provided were key to the party's creation of, and celebration of, a workers' culture. It was also a way to increase workers' power by eliminating a major source of economic stress.

With so much of the rental market subsidized and affordable in Vienna, there is downward pressure on rents overall, and this remains true to this day. This means that owners of private apartments have to compete with the socialized sector for tenants, and are thus limited in the rents they can ly vulnerable groups received preference in receiving subsidized apartments. Even today there continues to be a complicated allocation system so that many of the more desirably located apartments are made available to low-income people.

If you want to learn more, check out any of these resources: *socialhousing.wien*, the website of the City of Vienna; the Wikipedia entry on "Red Vienna"; the March 13, 2020 *Boston Globe* article "Maybe more of us should live in public housing"; and Helmut Gruber's book *Red Vienna: Experiment in Working-Class Culture* (1991, Oxford University Press).

So what does this mean for us in the United States today?

We need to acknowledge that housing is a basic human right! The Vienna example shows that where there's a will there's a way, but we in the US need a socialist vision that can compete with the dominant capitalist worldview. Learning from other places, like Ann and I did in Vienna, can be part of what could get us there.

Ferd Wulkan is a member of Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution (FCCPR). He lives in Montague Center.



# Log Spot Found; Gray Areas Bemoaned

#### **By JOSH HEINEMANN**

At their November 16 meeting and with tree warden Cliff Dornbusch, the Wendell selectboard found a temporary location for the town wood bank. It will be on town-owned land on the south side of Montague Road, an area which already has a landing that can be used for storage and processing because it was logged recently. There is a gate and reasonable access for trucks bringing logs and for public use.

The conservation commission flagged the area to mark off wetlands, and approved the location for three years.

Project manager Phil Delorey gave town coordinator Glenn Johnson-Mussad the price for painting lines on Wendell's roads, \$28,340.87. The town still has American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money that it can use for that. Johnson-Mussad said ARPA money classed as "replacement of lost revenue" must still be documented, and has to be used for a project.

Johnson-Mussad said the slope of the new Mormon Hollow culvert embankment was flawed, and washed out when heavy rain came before erosion control plantings could establish themselves. He said he would call Davenport Construction. He also reported that the Kentfield Road bridge should be delivered and in place on November 17.

Good Neighbors is looking for a shelter to protect their new refrigerated van from snow, sleet, and ice. Speaking for the highway commission, Delorey offered the front lawn of the fire station highway garage as a possibility.

Good Neighbors director Nancy Graton, not in attendance at the meeting, said the van might be okay for the approaching winter. The highway commission supports a real wood-frame structure rather than a temporary shed. The highway department currently has equipment that it does not have the space to store.

Delorey wondered at the effort to keep diseased and dying trees standing while National Grid is paying to have them cut back, or taken down, in an effort to protect their threephase wires that go from Wendell Depot to Locke Hill. These trees are habitat for wildlife, but are also a threat to roads and electric service.

Dornbusch said he would tell the tree crews where they can take logs from town land. Logs felled on private land have mostly gone to property owners.

#### **Gray Areas**

Johnson-Mussad reported that consolidation of telephone bills has allowed treasurer Carolyn Manley to discover tax inconsistencies, duplication, and long-distance phone lines that are no longer needed in the age of internet phone service. The process of sorting out all the bills and lines is ongoing.

Library trustee Phyllis Lawrence and librarian Miriam Warner came to the Zoom meeting seeking clarification as to which bills the library needs to cover from its budget, and which are paid from the town's general funds.

Before he left the job as finance committee chair, Doug Tanner was trying to have the town pay electric and heating bills at all town buildings, along with mowing town properties, but there are expenses that fall into a gray area: the playground, the play structures, and the plantings, some of which are maintained by the pollinator group. The town has liability for the play structures, and therefore takes responsibility for their maintenance.

Warner said the state requires 20% of the library's budget to be spent on circulating materials, and that threshold amount will change depending on what else the library must spend money on.

Speaking for the Council on Aging, Katie Nolan said the senior center does not pay for propane or electricity, but the Council gives the town \$150 a year for building maintenance from its budget. Painting inside or outside the building, when it is called for, is a separate line item on the annual budget.

Johnson-Mussad said the streamlining of fuel and electricity payments has had mixed reviews. Selectboard chair Laurie DiDonato said that if departments' electric bills are consolidated, the bill at the internet hut will still need to be kept separate.

No fin com member was at the meeting, and their expertise was missed. It was decided to hold a money managers' meeting with the fin com to discuss these "gray areas." The budgets of all town buildings will be affected.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said he could "represent the past" at that meeting.

Warner said the library has some old computer things, including obsolete hot spots, that they are ready to give away. The selectboard voted unanimously to allow giving them to people who can use them.

#### **Other Business**

Fire chief Joe Cuneo came to report he was promoting firefighter Matt O'Donnell to lieutenant. The pay increase was not expected to affect the fire department budget, but Keller said the fin com should be made aware of the promotion.

Selectboard member Gillian Budine said that if her schedule permits, she would represent the Wendell selectboard on a police officer screening committee associated with the police advisory committee. Keller will stay on the advisory committee until his term on the selectboard ends. The committee also needs a citizen representative.

Budine said the town hall chairs and storage racks are in bad shape, due or past due for replacement. She thought replacement can be done piece by piece, with money coming from the selectboard expense account, and she offered to check the options.

The board needs to find a substitute person to snow-blow town walks and shovel where the snow blower will not fit, such as the stairs and ramp at the senior center. The schedule is when needed, and pay is per storm.

The established selectboard meeting schedule would have the board meet November 30, and then again just one week later on December 7. The board voted to skip the November 30 meeting and meet next on December 7.

#### TOWN OF LEVERETT HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

#### LABORER/TRUCK DRIVER/EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

The Town of Leverett wishes to hire a permanent full time, benefitted laborer, truck driver and equipment operator. Must have valid Class B CDL license with air brake endorsement and a 2B hoisting license (or ability to get hoisting license within 6 months), and a clean driving record. Performs manual labor, plows snow, maintains all town vehicles, operates and maintains equipment for the maintenance and construction of town roads and properties. Pay range is \$20.00 to \$25.00 per hour depending on qualifications and experience. Applicant also must pass a townprovided physical and drug test priorto hiring and agree to random drug tests during employment. Close proximity to town needed.

Job description and Employment Application available by calling Highway Superintendent Matt Boucher at (413) 548-9400 or at *www.leverett.ma.us.* Applications are due to the Highway Superintendent, 95 Montague Rd., Leverett, MA 01054, by December 9, 2022 at 9:00 am. *Leverett is an AA/EEO.* 

# LEVERETT VILLAGE CO-OP CO-OP GENERAL MANAGER

#### Help Us Find a General Manager for Our Small, Rural Co-op!

Great management opportunity! The GM will guide our little gem in the woods through the challenges of the times while finding creative ways to connect with member-owners and our community. The

Leverett Village Co-op plays an important role in our community as a food resource and as a gathering spot with an expanding line of groceries, a new patio, an artisans gallery and lots of fun events.

**The Opportunity:** If you have retail/grocery/management experience and believe in the purpose and role of co-ops in meeting community needs, we'd like to talk with you!

**Please see our full job description at** *LeverettCoop.com* and email a cover letter, your CV/ resume, your desired salary range and three references with full contact information to: *LeverettVillageCoopBoard@gmail.com*.

The Leverett Village Co-op values excellence and diversity in hiring and is an equal opportunity employer (EOE).

## TOWN OF LEVERETT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

#### **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PHASE 2**

The Town of Leverett, Massachusetts seeks professional consulting services to prepare the second phase of a Comprehensive Master Plan in accordance with MGL Chapter 41, §81D. Sealed proposals are to be submitted no later than January 16th, 2023 at 2:00 pm. The contract will be awarded to proposer offering the most advantageous proposal, taking into consideration minimum required criteria and comparative evaluation criteria as set forth in the RFP, as well as price. Contract to be awarded by the Selectboard based on Planning Board recommendation.

Copies of the RFP can be acquired by contacting Marjorie McGinnis at *townadministrator@leverett.ma.us*.

The Town of Leverett reserves the right to reject any and all proposals in whole or in part, and to waive irregularities and informalities, when at its sole discretion it is deemed to be in the best interest of the Town and to the extent permitted by law. Proposals that are incomplete, not properly endorsed or signed, or otherwise contrary to instructions will be rejected by the town as non-responsive.

#### APARTMENTS from page A1

46 Wells Street to facilitate the expansion and new building.

CSO has also applied to the state to use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to build the new studio apartment building on one of the parcels. If ARPA funding is approved, construction could begin as early as next summer.

"This is a golden moment in homeless services, where there's funding available and we're able to expand and modernize services in Greenfield," Miller said. "The expansion of the shelter is one thing, but the focus needs to be on housing and helping people not be homeless anymore."

Miller told the *Greenfield Recorder* the total investment in the project could total around \$23 million.

#### 'Much-Needed Housing'

The new building would be constructed in close proximity to the shelter, in order to give residents the ability to check in with shelter staff when they need help, or access CSO's other mental health or addiction recovery services.

With a staff of hundreds and locations here

throughout central and western Massachusetts, CSO offers a range of behavioral health and family support services, as well as supportive housing options, including a low-income housing complex in Springfield it operates as part of its Friends of the Homeless program.

In Greenfield, the organization already runs the Living Room, a drop-in community center on High Street, and an eight-bed emergency stabilization site at the former Lunt Silversmith factory on Federal Street.

To construct the new studio apartments, CSO plans to partner with Jones Whitsett Architects, Berkshire Design Group, Valley Housing Consultants LLC, and Rural Development, Inc., the affordable housing development arm of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (FCRHRA).

"We are so pleased to work with CSO to bring this much-needed housing to fruition," FCRHRA executive director Gina Govoni said in a press release. "CSO's approach to service and the level of support that they provide to those facing chronic homelessness is exceptional, and it is truly needed here in Greenfield." CSO was recently chosen by the state to serve as the Community Behavioral Health Center for Franklin County, a new designation that comes with financial and administrative support to provide centralized treatment for people living with mental health conditions and substance use disorders.

#### A New Landscape

The DHCD contract to run the Wells Street shelter comes up for renewal every five years, and the current contract extends through March 2023. In August, ServiceNet announced that they would not seek to renew contracts to run shelters in Greenfield and Northampton it had been operating for nearly three decades.

"The city of Northampton had come to us and asked, 'could you please do this,' because no one was stepping forward," ServiceNet vice president of community relations Amy Timmins said of the initial contract. "Twenty-eight years later and we are still doing it."

ServiceNet began in 1965 as the Hampshire Association for Mental Health, and primarily focuses on helping people living with mental illness, developmental disabilities and brain injuries. Running the Wells

Street shelter had left ServiceNet "consistently operating at a deficit," Timmins said, and required a disproportionate share of the organization's time and resources.

As it hands over the shelters in Greenfield and Northampton, the organization plans to add more employees at its Prospect Meadow Farm vocational program in Hatfield for people living with disabilities and expand its offerings.

"We're not stepping away from shelter services entirely," Timmins added. Service-Net will continue to operate its permanent supportive housing programs in Greenfield and Northampton, and a family shelter in Pittsfield.

In the meantime, ServiceNet is seeking donations of clothing, toiletries and blankets at the Wells Street shelter, Timmins said. Large and extra-large men's coats are especially needed.

"Up to this point, there have been no other organizations in the area willing to take on the services," Timmins said of the temporary shelters. "Fortunately, the social services landscape has changed, and there

are others in the area providing shelter services."



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#### **ERVING** from page A1

for federal infrastructure grants, which could potentially fund the majority of the project's cost.

#### **Regional Health District**

The board asked town administrator Bryan Smith to draft a formal agreement with Northfield and Shutesbury for the Eastern Franklin County Health District. The three towns have shared the costs of a health agent, clerk, and treasurer as part of the district for many years.

"In the past year," Bryan Smith wrote, "it has come to our attention that the District has been unable to provide health insurance to the Health Officer and is unable to join a trust like the member towns belong to."

Erving employees who work 20 hours per week or more are eligible for health benefits, and the district health agent works more than 20 hours per week. Bryan Smith proposed establishing an agreement between the towns that would make Erving the financial lead for the district and make the health agent an Erving town employee, "with the existing assessments that are paid by each town used to pay the compensation, fringe benefits, and costs of running the service."

The part-time clerk and treasurer positions would be eliminated.

The board asked Bryan Smith to draft an interim agreement for the three towns, to be in effect to the end of the fiscal year in June 2023, and to start developing a multi-year agreement for the health district.

#### Activity Coordination

At the request of senior and community center director Paula Betters, the board agreed to make the senior and community center's new activities coordinator position a 20-hour per week, and therefore eligible for benefits, rather than a 19 hours per week. The board established a screening committee to help in hiring the coordinator, composed of five people: Betters, selectboard member William Bembury, Becky Paciorek, and two citizens, with a preference for one of the citizens to be a regular patron of the center.

#### **Planning and Art**

Kurtz asked the board to change the name of her department from the "planning department" to the "department of community planning." Kurtz explained that people sometimes confused the planning department with the planning board. The board agreed with the change.

Kurtz also recommended, and the board established, a public art gift account, where donations for public art could be deposited.

The board then specified that \$361.21 left over from FirstLight Power's grant for the Hybrid Heron sculpture installed at Riverfront Park should be deposited in the account.

#### Policies and Procedures

The board finalized six draft policies, which had each been reviewed at two previous meetings: policies regarding fraud prevention, whistleblower protection, workplace violence prevention, domestic violence, the federal Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, and the police department's mounted electric bike patrol.

Draft policies regarding employee clothing allowances, the town's personnel policy manual, and family and medical leave were reviewed for the first or second time, with discussion to be continued at the next meeting.

The board reviewed a draft personnel bylaw and discussed how to determine overtime, especially when an employee has used sick time during a pay period.

Police chief Robert Holst told the board that Erving's officers work four 10-hour shifts per week, and that although some of those 10-hour shifts fall on holidays, they only receive 8 hours of holiday pay.

The board will continue discussing the personnel policy bylaw at its next meeting.

#### **Other Business**

Town treasurer Jennifer Eichorn recommended that the town develop multi-year contracts with electricians, HVAC technicians, plumbers, and generator maintenance companies for on-call service.

Eichorn also asked to hire the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) procurement office for support. The selectboard voted to approve hiring FRCOG for on-call electrician procurement, at a cost not to exceed \$2,000.

The board authorized Bryan Smith to obtain quotes from several dental and vision insurance providers, because some town employees have complained

of problems with the current insurance provider.



#### MONTAGUE from page A1

experience, and talents that would be welcome in the next leader of Montague's planning department," Audley said. "However, when asked to identify a first choice, the committee unanimously chose Maureen Pollock as our first choice. The reasons for that have to do with her direct experience in this role."

Pollock currently works as a planner for the town of Amherst, assisting various boards with grantwriting, amending zoning bylaws, and managing projects. She previously worked as an assistant planner for the city of Greenfield, and holds a master's degree in regional planning from UMass Amherst.

Audley said that Pollock was "wellknown" in town and the region, and could be expected to assume the role of town planner and conservation agent in Montague "without much transitional training or support." The committee also sent a list of questions to each candidate and scored their responses, Audley said, and Pollock received 590 total points to Wheeler's 567.

Selectboard members declined to ask any questions of Wheeler or Pollock, both of whom were in attendance at Monday night's virtual meeting.

"Do you have questions you want to ask either of the candidates?" selectboard chair Richard Kuklewicz asked members Matt Lord and Chris Boutwell. "I didn't want this to really turn into an interview *per se*, and I'd also like to, as we proceed, thank them both for applying and working with us on this process."

They did not, and after Kuklewicz made a motion to direct town administrator Steve Ellis to work with Pollock on an employfordable or moderate-income housing.

The lot could accommodate between five and 12 housing units, assistant town administrator Walter Ramsey said, depending on whether or not they are standalone units. "This lot was determined to be highly suitable for housing by the planning board," he said. "This would be the first new deedrestricted affordable housing built in Montague in over a decade."

Montague needs to develop approximately 30 deed-restricted affordable housing units, he said, to meet the state-mandated level of 10% affordable housing. Ramsey also suggested that turning the vacant lot into a taxable asset, valued around \$1 million, could also benefit the town financially.

A recent study found that downtown Turners Falls has enough surplus parking to accommodate this kind of infill development. The federal Environmental Protection Agency is currently developing the first phase of an environmental study of the parcel to determine if it is suitable for housing, Ramsey said.

The Neighborhood Stabilization Program, a grant program run by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, can provide up to \$250,000 per unit developed, making the small site an attractive option to developers, Ramsey continued, and at least two agencies have expressed interest in the site.

"This funding would help make the development work here," he said. "Habitat for Humanity remains very interested in a proposal for detached, single-family homeownership units in a similar model to houses they've built in town before."

Ramsey recommended that the town issue

establish rules against using non-recurring funds to balance the books.

"As many policies are, this one was a considerable improvement over what we had before," said fin com member John Hanold. "As it's carried out and used it may change yet again in the future, but the idea is to have these policies be clear and consistent."

"Some of the policies in here remain aspirational for us," Ellis said. "These are policies that give us direction, and they give us a lot of form and format that guide our work if we have turnover in key positions – and there does remain that aspirational aspect."

The boards discussed various town accounts and their uses.

Ellis said Montague's capital stabilization fund is now "adequately funded, or moving in that direction," and credited two factors: revenue from leasing public property to the solar company Kearsarge, and cannabis sales tax revenue.

"We'll need to rethink this if we see a major interruption in those revenue streams," Ellis said. "Because that's the way it used to be, and it wasn't nearly sufficient."

The selectboard passed several policy updates by unanimous vote.

Town accountant Carolyn Olsen reported that the town's annual financial audit found no notable flaws. "We've had a clean audit every year I've been here," she said. "If you need something to help you go to sleep at night, I highly recommend them, because they are thrilling."

The fin com moved on to discuss a onetime COLA increase of 5% for retired town employees, rather than the standard increase DOT for a highway sign, but was rejected as it is located more than three miles off the highway. "We're running into the problem of having 23,000 visitors this year coming up," she said, "and Google Maps bringing people to weird places in the industrial park."

"I think Ja'Duke is a unique enough tourist destination in the park that it could warrant its own sign," Ramsey argued. Boutwell and Lord said they agreed, but encouraged drafting a policy governing such decisions so businesses are treated fairly.

"It's very easy to have too much navigational signage," Ellis warned. "We should anticipate that demand will be there in this policy."

Ramsey agreed to draft a policy that would "define what a tourist attraction is."

#### **Other Business**

Construction crews are demolishing and repairing concrete panels on Avenue A outside of Subway that contractors mistakenly installed too wide. Crews were pouring new concrete on Monday, and started demolition in front of the bar Between the Uprights, which they expect to be completed by December 15, weather permitting.

Ramsey reported that paving on Sandy Lane should also be completed this week, and that a collapsed sewer in Montague City has been repaired and is back in operation.

The town received a \$6,500 grant from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association to fund the installation of guardrails at the transfer station, after a risk assessment found there was concern someone could accidentally drive off the road.

A new state law requires municipalities to

ment contract, Ellis thanked both candidates for their interest in the position.

"You really do have two excellent candidates in front of you. We had a really great pool for this position," Ellis said. "I want to give the people of Montague great confidence in the candidates who are presented, and also in the work of the committee, which sought to be very diligent."

"We're looking forward to working with you, Maureen, and I'm sure we'll hear more from you, Angela," Kuklewicz said. "It sounds like you'll be landing somewhere soon – you have a great resume."

The board voted unanimously in favor of directing Ellis to proceed with discussing contract terms with Pollock for the role of town planner and conservation agent.

Contacted after the meeting, Pollock declined to comment on the offer.

#### **Housing on First**

The board discussed the potential development of the First Street municipal parking lot into affordable housing. At the May 5 annual town meeting, voters agreed to zone the parcel for housing as part of the town's SmartGrowth zoning overlay, and gave the selectboard the authority to sell it to a developer to build afa Request for Proposals (RFP) in December or early January to line up with the Neighborhood Stabilization Program timeline. He said the planning board is willing to vet proposals for the selectboard.

"The only thing that kept us back in the past was trying to hold out for a developer that might build the greatest density," said Lord. "But we're at the point now, looking at market conditions and where the interest is, we should put it out there and see what we can get."

Kuklewicz moved to direct the planning board to begin drafting an RFP and planning the process and timeline. The selectboard unanimously approved.

#### **New Financial Policies**

Finance committee chair Francia Wisnewski opened a joint meeting with the fin com to discuss the town's annual budget, findings of its most recent audit, and a proposed cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for municipal retirees. She reviewed new financial policies related to the budget planning process, capital planning, and financial reserves.

Among other changes, the new policies set clear deadlines for when different boards and departments should submit their budgets and meet to finalize them each year, and of 3%. The town retirement board approved the 5% figure at its last meeting.

Olsen explained that the COLA only applies to the first \$18,000 of a retiree's pension. "We were the first in the state to go as high as \$18,000," she said. "As time goes on and those pensions get larger, that's an even more miniscule amount... due to the raging inflation we've had recently."

Municipalities lobbied the state legislature to allow local retirement boards to allow a one-time 5% COLA. "Retirees need every penny they can get," Olsen said. The selectboard approved the increase unanimously.

#### All Signs Point to Ja'Duke

Ramsey presented the board with a request from the Ja'Duke Center for the Performing Arts for public signage to help visitors find the venue. Ja'Duke president Kimberly Williams and vice president Nick Waynelovich joined the meeting.

Ramsey described the theater, located in the airport industrial park, as a major tourist destination with a visibility challenge. Montague's zoning bylaws, he explained, forbid off-site signage. "If zoning allowed that, every business would do that," he said.

Williams said the theater applied to Mass-

notify the public whenever a combined sewer overflow (CSO) system discharges into a waterway. Clean Water Facility superintendent Chelsey Little submitted a plan to the state Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) last April outlining how Montague will comply with this requirement, but MassDEP said the plan needs to be reworked in greater detail, according to Ellis, and submitted again in January.

Ellis requested permission to apply for an \$18,000 grant, due this week, to help the town purchase and install CSO monitoring equipment. The equipment would detect when sewage is released and notify town officials, local media, and anyone else who signs up for alerts. The grant would also cover signage around CSO release points at the Patch and in the vicinity of Poplar Street. The selectboard voted unanimously to approve applying for the grant.

The board approved a \$2,000 transfer from town's community development discretionary fund to the beautification fund, mostly for weeding the planters, which is work subcontracted by DPW. This year's regular beautification funds have already been expended.

Mike Jackson provided additional reporting and writing.







#### **BURIAL** from page A1

funerals, where professionals tended to the body and the deceased person could be on view for a number of days before interment. Mortuary schools taught the elements of embalming and the funeral industry grew, and some feel the experience of death and loss became less personal.

Now some families are returning to more traditional ways of dealing with death. The body can be washed by loved ones, laid out at home for the viewing, and then returned to the earth in a simple pine coffin, a shroud, a wicker basket, or even a bag seeded with mushroom spores.

For a time it seemed that cremation was considered a mindful alternative to a lined casket and a preserved body. It didn't pollute the soil and groundwater with embalming chemicals, and families could bury the ashes or scatter them in a beloved location. When people learned of the quantity of natural gas needed for each cremation, some had second thoughts, and this led to a renewed interest in green burial and other alternatives.

Now there are five states with legal human composting, pioneered by a company called Recompose, Inc., and new technologies for liquid cremation. Or one might donate their body to science. A neighbor of mine has done that, content in knowing his body will be used as a tool for learning.

These alternatives reflect concern for the environment, and a willingness to talk about the ways we deal with death. A certain fact of life is that we will all die, and something must be done with our bodies when we no longer need them.

The cemetery commission in



Montague cemetery commissioners (left to right) Mary Kay Mattiace, Judith Lorei, and Annie Levine in 'Highland Woods," the newly designated green burial area at Highland Cemetery.

Montague, consisting of Judith, Annie Levine, and Mary Kay Mattiace, and some dedicated volunteers manage all eight of the town's public cemeteries so that residents of Montague will have options when the time comes.

The commission has an annual budget of \$12,000, which "basically covers mowing and spring/fall clean-up, and nothing else," Judith said. "Mark Fairbrother mows the Dry Hill Cemetery at least once per year as a volunteer. This is a difficult cemetery to access."

In many Massachusetts cities and

towns, the DPW or parks department is responsible for maintaining cemeteries. This includes mowing and fall and spring cleanup, tree work, and more. In Montague, cemeteries used to be the responsibility of the DPW, but this changed 20 years ago when the town transferred this responsibility and hired an independent contractor to maintain the cemeteries.

"At spring town meeting the commission will have to seek an increase in next year's budget, given the discounted rate Mike Fleming, who is retiring from the position to spend more time on

his stone-working business, gave us for 20 years," Judith explained, "and the fact that costs have just skyrocketed with everything. The town is responsible for these cemeteries, just as they are for parks and public buildings, so they should be covered under the town budget."

The commission is also hoping to expand its numbers and recruit more volunteers. Jeri Moran, a former commission member, and Jamie Fuller have been helping to enhance and maintain the cemeteries.

Speaking for the commission, Judith said, "We are looking for

volunteers interested in all aspects of cemetery work - genealogy, headstone restoration, beautification/maintenance, green burial, etc. - both as commission members and as volunteers. It is satisfying work and a way of ensuring that we are honoring our deceased residents. We are a vibrant, creative, and interesting commission!"

At present a number of Montague's cemeteries are inactive, and this is not unusual.

"Cemeteries are running out of space," Judith said, "especially in urban areas. Even Arlington National Cemetery publicly acknowledges that they will run out of room in 20 years. So, even though cremation is up in the US – I believe it is now at 56% or 57% - there are people who still want their cremated remains buried.

"Of the 14 burials we had at Highland Cemetery this year, five were cremations. So that doesn't quite reflect the national percentages, but we are getting there. And we also need to get more creative in the US by exploring options like green burial, Recompose, and other non-conventional practices."

Aging baby boomers, who have dominated the culture for so long, will put pressure on resources once again as they pass. The commission and volunteers are making sure Montague residents will have options.

A list of all the town's cemeteries – eight public and seven private - is on the town website with locations and contact information for each cemetery, as well as names and contact information for the cemetery commission for anyone who would like to learn

more about opportunities to volunteer with them.



#### SPORTS from page A1

fought long and hard from whistle to whistle, and never let their spirits dampen.

I have a soft spot for one-win teams. And the Vikes never gave up – even when the game was all but decided, the bench players would chant "Third and long! Third and long!" every time Franklin faced a third down.

On the visitors' side, the Tech/Turners Falls cheer team did their own chanting, revving up the crowd and players alike. I met with cheer coach Sarah Underwood before and during the game. She explained that the squad is planning to work every Turners Falls boys' basketball home game this winter. She wasn't sure what competitions they will com-

I know most of the families from Franklin Tech, and I make it a practice to converse with just about everybody. After the TD completion, Tomasi's folks told me that he was on track to break a Franklin Tech passing record.

This caught me a little off guard. I was aware that Josiah Little only needed 75 rushing yards to surpass the 1,000 mark, but I didn't know about the passing record. Then Landen Hardy's family mentioned that Hardy may break the school record for tackles.

For the rest of the game, the three groups diligently recorded every pass, run, and tackle, hoping their kids would enter the record books.

In the second quarter, Little culminated a

trick kick. Their usual kicker faked the kick, and another player came from behind him and squibbed the ball in the opposite direction. But everybody stayed home, and Tech retained possession with very good field position. Five plays later Jet Bastarache, who was back after an injury, hit paydirt to increase the lead to 24-6.

The Smithies marched down the field on their next possession, scoring on a broken play to reduce the deficit to 24-12, but Tech scored again midway through the fourth to make it 30-12.

Even though the Vikings were down by three scores, their spirits never dampened. As Franklin was setting up for the extra

on Smith's next drive, and Franklin Tech held on to win 30-12, giving them a 3–1 Turkey Day series lead.

Under center, Tomasi completed nine passes for 159 yards, and yes, he set some Franklin Tech passing records. According to coach Joe Gamache, he now broke the single-season passing records for completion percentage (47%), completions (61), and passing yardage (887).

Tomasi also rushed for 4 yards on one attempt, but he only needed to run once - with Bastarache back in the fold, Tomasi could lay low, allowing his four running backs to carry the ball while he ran the offense.

He also spread his pass attack around, hit-

pete in, did say they plan to go to South Hadley in February for the state-wide cheer-off.

#### FCTS 30 - Smith Voc 12

It was 32 degrees at game time, but it was nice and sunny. It was so comfortable that people on both sides stacked their blankets and winter coats on their chairs.

The field at Smith Voc is very accommodating. Unlike most venues, fans are not kept away from the action. Instead, the Tech folks were allowed to toe the sideline, with their shoes on the chalk line. This paid off very early. On the opening kick, someone said softly, "Follow the ball 15," and Maxon Brunette did just that. The ball bounced between two Vikings and Brunette jumped on it, giving the Franks possession on the 40 and setting the tone of the game.

Tech orchestrated a ten-play, 60-yard drive to take a 6-0 lead at 8:57 of the quarter. Then the Vikings drove down the field, setting up a first and goal from the 9. The Eagles' goal line defense stepped up, and Smith had to give up the rock.

Tech then went on a tear. After three consecutive first downs, QB Gabriel Tomasi launched a bomb to Ethan Smarr to increase Franklin's lead to 12-0 with 2:37 left in the first.

long drive by pounding into the end zone to increase the margin to 18-0. The Vikings answered just before halftime to make it 18-6 going into the break.

Smith kicked off the third quarter with a

point attempt, the bench started another baritone chant: "Block that two-point! Block that two-point!"

Shaun Turner dashed any hopes of a lategame comeback when he picked off a pass



Franklin Tech linebacker Landen Hardy broke a school record with 117 tackles in a season, one of a number of records set at the Thanksgiving game by players expected to return next year.

ting three different targets. Smarr made three catches for 105 yards and a touchdown, Turner caught four passes for 35 yards, and William Ainsworth made two receptions for 19.

Josiah Little also had a good day. Not only did he get the 75 yards needed to surpass the millennium mark, he ran an additional 131, giving him 206 yards on the day and 1,131 yards for the season, the second straight year he has rushed for more than 1,000 yards. Little also took home the coveted MVP trophy.

Others rushers included Bastarache, who played limited downs but still managed to gain 50 yards on four carries; Brunette, who carried the ball three times for 27 yards; and Nathan Sabolevski, who gained 9 yards on two carries.

Defensively, Hardy also broke a school record. On Thursday he made 13 solo tackles and assisted on one, giving him 117 tackles on the season. Turner also made an interception, and Brunette and Vincent Renaud each recovered fumbles.

So another fall sports season comes to an end. For Tech, it ended on a positive note. Because many of their players are underclassmen, expect them to be back on the gridiron next September, ready to play their hearts out in a sport that they love.



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#### **ROOT YOGA STUDIO** 51 11 TH ST., TURNERS FALLS

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#### GILL from page A1

Randy Crochier. "I made that mistake once, about 30 years ago."

Jersey barriers and signs will block Pisgah Mountain Road just beyond 38 Pisgah Mountain Road, and then again near River Road where the farm fields meet the tree line. Jersey barriers will also be placed just south of 143 River Road, but with space for a vehicle to pass, so hunters and loggers who are accustomed to using the road in the winter can still have access.

Highway superintendent John Miner said proper signage for the road closure will cost around \$1,000 and might take time to buy and install. But reflective Jersey barriers could go up immediately.

Miner also recommended that anyone who drove on the closed road despite the closure be made liable for emergency rescue costs.

"I agree with you wholeheartedly," said Crochier, "but what I fear is people delaying the call to 911 to avoid the \$40,000 invoice. But yes, vehicles that go down there, I would think you should be able to charge their insurance company for damage."

Winter traffic on the road could be a consequence of warmer weather. "You go back 20 or 30 years and we actually got enough snow reliably every year that the snow would block the road," said town administrator Ray Purington. "But now – forget it."

#### **Fire Chief Pay Question**

The personnel committee recommended that the fire chief begin receiving hourly pay when responding to service calls. The selectboard postponed making a decision until their next meeting on December 5, in hopes that the entire board would be present.

"I think it's a major change, and I think it deserves to have the whole board," said Crochier, who also sits on the personnel committee.

Crochier explained that the fire chief in Gill is currently paid a stipend for nine weekly hours of administrative time, and is exempt from overtime pay. "Where they came up with that number 30-plus years ago I don't know," he said. "Quite honestly, at the end of the year [the fire chief] could end up making less than half their fire department."

"It's not about the person, it's about the position," Crochier noted. "But that said, we are fortunate in Gill to have a fire chief that attends probably 98% of our calls."

When asked if there were any hard numbers being floated for the pay, Crochier answered, "Sort of, but I think I'd like to wait for the open meeting in two weeks."

"This is how we get you to come back in two weeks," added selectboard chair Charles Garbiel.

#### **Other Business**

The board appointed Vicky Jenkins as Gill's representative to the Franklin County solid waste management district through June 30, 2023. "I think she will be a great addition," said Crochier.

Over 2,000 feet of old fire hose was marked as surplus. Its recommended expiration date was July 1987. It will be put up for auction and then put on Freecycle to see if anybody might have a use for it.

The board approved two sewer abatements: \$148.82 to Cathleen Demars for filling a swimming pool, and \$11.15 to Riverside water commission chair Jeff Suprenant for filling a spa.

The board announced the upcoming event "Poets at the Slate," featuring Gill's Amy Gordon, taking place on Thursday, December 15 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Slate Library. Masks are required, and seating is

limited.



moment to read the Montague Reporter while on a business trip to Dublin, Ireland. Hines was on location doing commercial film work for Oatly Inc.

Peeking over his shoulder at our November 3 edition is Luke Kelly, founder of the Irish folk revival group The Dubliners, who died in 1984.

# **PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT Sand For Seniors**

MONTAGUE - Are you a Montague resident who might be confined indoors and in need of sand for icy steps or sidewalks? We have just the solution for you! An exciting new partnership has been formed in the town of Montague to provide residents in need of sand. The Montague highway department and Greenfield Savings Bank have joined together to deliver sand to home-bound seniors in need.

Montague DPW: Brandy Patch,

Holy cow – that's all-star Reporter reporter Sarah Robertson taking us somewhere we've definitely never The Montague 3 been read before. "This was on a reef called Mary's Place off the coast of Roatán, an island off of Honduras," she writes. The bar has been raised. D SUBMITTED PHOTOS Going away? Take us with you! Send photos to editor@montaguereporter.org.

Please note: this program does not involve sanding your property.

Feel free to contact either of the folks listed below for arrangements: Office Manager, (413) 863-2054, extension 321

Greenfield Savings Bank: Linda Ackerman, (413) 775-8261

During the phone call, name and address verification will be documented for program records, etc.

This is the second year that we are offering this program. We hope to expand the numbers this year and provide a degree of safety to prevent falls in the inclement weather that will be coming our way!

We are all looking forward to begin delivery of "Sand for Seniors!"





FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

#### **OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER**

**DECEMBER 1, 2022** 



Above: Our special wrapping paper edition, right out front at Green Fields Market in Greenfield. (Sorry to spam you; we're very excited.)

Every man looks at his woodpile with a kind of affection...

#### **By DAVID BRULE**

#### MILLERS FALLS – And now, with the coming of December, I

again find I've completed my stations of the year once more. Those summer mornings of

July seemingly so long ago now, were steaming in humidity, or were bone dry as dew-damp footprints on the deck vanished in the early heat of the sun. 7 a.m. in summertime always found me savoring black coffee and a book in the shade of my Montmorency cherry tree at the east edge of the open porch.

By mid-fall I had migrated a few feet from the cherry tree shade to settle midway across the deck, now a bit closer to the kitchen door. I had moved my chair ever so slightly to enjoy the waning strength of the autumn sun, and the wild colors of fiery October.

I have today once again reached the last destination of the year's fourth. I'm back where my porch peregrinations began twelve months ago, pilgrim and wandering minstrel of the turning cycles of a year out of doors. I find myself where I started out, snug again in the open woodshed at the western end of the porch, facing the east where the sun should soon be showing itself. I shelter with the woodstack of ash, maple, birch and oak. The shed is open to the east, catching a slanting sun even in mid-day. The woodpile itself, carefully stacked and split, with dry and cracked ends arranged ever so evenly, warms my back one last time before that final combustion and release of years of green growth and drying in the sun.

Yet sometimes there are the telltale signs of the beaver's tooth, of the busy creature who started my wood scavenging process by gnawing through the first layers of tasty bark, and prepping the tree for the stove.

Henry David Thoreau

Indeed the local beaver family has often helped me in my firewood harvest. They come over to our shore along the west-flowing river from their lodge on the oxbow marsh across from us. Often they girdle oaks or chew through maples trying to get them to drop where they can reach the tender bark of the upper branches. More often than not the maples get hung up in other maples or birch.

That's where I come in. I pull them down and leave them lying flat on the shore. Sure enough the next night the beavers come back and harvest the branches, leaving me a clean, limbless trunk. We have a good working relationship.

But years go by before any individual tree makes it to the woodshed. The trunk has to be sectioned into three-foot lengths by bowsaw or chainsaw, hauled on a sled over snow to the house, split lengthwise, cut into cookstove lengths, stacked for two or three years, then moved up to the back porch and into the woodshed near the kitchen door. There it waits patiently.

# **GIFT IDEAS** A Book for Every Cook

#### **By CLAIRE HOPLEY**

LEVERETT - It's a good bet that anyone who likes cooking also likes cookbooks, so it would seem to be a no-brainer that a cookbook is the ideal gift for the cooking mavens on your list. But as soon as you begin to follow through on this good thought, a question arises: Which cookbook, exactly?

What if the cook already has the book you have chosen from some eye-catching display? Unless you can review their cookbook collection, you won't be able to answer this question. But you can sidestep it by buying a just-published book. According to NPD Bookscan, over 17,000 cookbook titles were published in 2021, and you have plenty to choose from in 2022 as well.

Here's another problem. Which of these will the cook in your life really enjoy? Clearly an experienced cook doesn't want a beginner's manual, and a beginner doesn't want a volume of complex recipes that call for bewildering techniques or unknown ingredients.



The cook in your life probably doesn't have a cookbook if it came out this year! We run through some of this year's best.

Similarly, many cooks are in love with the food of a country or region, and long to master its classic dishes and arcane specialties. folks at a potluck. Seeking out and buying fancy in- Among this year's harvest of gredients is part of the fun for both of these kinds of cooks. But cooks who shoulder the major responsibility for cooking for a household are more interested in recipes that mostly call for pantry staples. What they seek from a new

cookbook is clever riffs on old favorites, and smart ideas that can enliven weekend meals or charm

Our task is often described by old farmer poets as embodying the "ambiguity of all seasonal work that will never be done".

Those of us who build woodpiles look upon such neat, crafted handiwork with pride and affection. We know that we've only built them up to tear them down, but they are beautiful while they last. Then we start all over again.

From time to time I fancifully catch myself trying to remember, or recognize, parts of individual trees that years ago I harvested. I sometimes recall the now-diminished grandeur of a 30-foot tree, reduced down to 15-inch pieces just right for the Glenwood C cookstove. Alas, most of the time I'm unsuccessful at conjuring up that vanished vision of a tall tree on the edge of the woods.

That annual version of the woodpile continues to dry by itself and, by the way, creates a bit of warming backdrop for me sitting here in my Adirondack chair writing you this letter.

All manner of wood winds up here: not only beaver-dropped maples, but also the windfall blowdowns of old oaks giving up their arms and branches, or small two-inch-bole saplings that needed to be thinned out to let trout lilies and lady slippers bloom beneath the canopy. Sometimes John from up in Northfield brings down a cord or two. You can never have enough firewood.

This whole process connects me down the years to other woodpiles that we've built up and torn down, just to start all over again. It's a reassuring cycle. It keeps us responsible to our household, and helps us to keep going year after year. Got to get in the wood, the family's counting on it.

Getting in the wood connects me with the ancestors and past generations, too. This old house was built of wood one hundred and fifty years ago, back in the 1870s. see WEST ALONG page B5

Beyond this, most cooks have their special interests. Some enjoy books by famous chefs and want to reproduce their dishes at home.

cookbooks, Via Carota (Knopf, \$40) speaks to cooks thrilled by the work of famous chefs – in this case authors Jody Williams and Rita Sodi, the chef-owners of restaurants in New York and London. Keying

see COOKBOOKS page B4

# **TV REVIEW** Defying a Franchise's Roots, **Andor Achieves the Unthinkable**

#### **By NATAN COHEN**

TURNERS FALLS - Like many casual Star Wars fans, I had little interest in Disney's Andor television series when it was first announced in late 2018. Andor serves as a prequel of sorts to the 2016 film Rogue One: A Star Wars Story - itself a war story immediately preceding the original 1977 space fantasy epic

Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope - in which (spoilers) Cassian Andor dies at the end. What was the point in diving into the backstory of a character we barely knew from an above-average franchise film?

I had no idea what I was in for, and if you haven't watched it yet, neither do you.

A common refrain from viewers is that Andor could have been set in



Vel Sartha (Fay Marsay) and Cinta Kaz (Varada Sethu) spot incoming danger.

any universe and be just as amazing an experience. This is ostensibly a Star Wars show: there are TIE fighters, stormtroopers, and an evil empire sporting computer displays with low-bit 1970s approximations of what the future might look like. One of the main characters, a progressive senator secretly funding a rebellion in its infancy, originates from a single scene in Return of the Jedi (1983). Blessedly, there are no laser swords or space wizards.

The key difference between this show and everything else in Star Wars cinema is that here, these familiar elements feel real. And they feel terrifying.

Despite the title, Andor is only moderately interested in Cassian Andor, man on the run. This is a show about regular people fighting against fascism, whatever the cost and not your typical cartoon fantasy version of fascism, either. Unlike in other Star Wars media, blasters hit their targets. People die suddenly,

see ANDOR page B8

# of Wee

**B2** 



# "SPROCKET"

Sprocket has the cutest little pouty lip! This adorable gentleman is looking for a loving new home after his previous family had to move out of state unexpectedly. Sprocket has lived well with other dogs in the past, and has loved playing with them at Dakin.

He's lovely to walk with his front-clip harness, and is snuggly and loves to be petted. He is also very playful with people and loves

to bounce around after balls and squeakies. The staff and volunteers instantly fell in love with Sprocket, and the love has only grown.

Interested in adopting? Animals at Dakin are currently available only in Springfield. Contact adoption staff at springfield@ dakinhumane.org and include your name and phone number. For more information, call (413) 781-4000 or visit www.dakinhumane.org.

# **Senior Center Activities DECEMBER 5 THROUGH 9**

#### WENDELL

A foot care clinic is held the 4 p.m. Mat Yoga first Wednesday of each month. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments. Senior Health Rides are now available. Contact Jonathan von Ranson at (978) 544-3758 to set up a ride.

12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo Thursday 12/8 1 p.m. Cards & Games Friday 12/9 10:15 a.m. Aerobics 11 a.m. Chair Aerobics

#### **ERVING**

Erving Senior Center is open

# **DECEMBER LIBRARY LISTING**

#### **Montague Public Libraries**

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

#### MONTAGUE

Multiple days: Art Exhibit. Still life oil paintings by Anne-Marie Taylor, through December 12. Montague Center.

Multiple days: Letters to Santa Kits. Available at all branch locations. Drop your finished letter in the mailbox at Spinner Park.

Every Thursday: Playgroup. Guided and free play. Designed for preschoolers; older children welcome. Carnegie, 10 a.m.

1st Saturday: Used book sale. Fiction, paperbacks, kids' books, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks. Hundreds of recent donations. Carnegie, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Every Wednesday: Story Time. Join us for stories and songs. Carnegie, 10 a.m.

Thursday, December 8: Book Club. Join us to discuss Mrs. Dalloway by Virginia Woolf. Montague Center, 7 to 8 p.m.

Saturday, December 17: Make an Easy Gingerbread House. For children of all ages and their caregivers. Candy, graham crackers, and icing will be provided. Discovery Center, 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Week of December 19: Grab & Go Science: candy DNA model. Free kits at all branch locations while supplies last.

Week of December 19: Grab & Go Craft: paper chain snowperson. Free kits at all branch locations while supplies last.

#### ERVING

1st and 3rd Sundays: Story & Play Group. For toddlers and their caregivers. 10 a.m.

Monday, December 5: Paws to Read. Read to a therapy Erving Public Library (413) 423-3348 Gill: Slate Library (413) 863-2591 Leverett Public Library (413) 548-9220 Northfield: Dickinson Library (413) 498-2455 Wendell Free Library (978) 544-3559

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

classes, all welcome. Space limited, masks required. Call Dennis for info: (413) 367-9760. Intermediate to advanced 10 a.m., beginners 11 a.m.

**Every Monday and Wednes**day: Online Qigong. Free, all welcome. More info on leverettlibrary.org, or email CommunityQigong@gmail.com. 10:30 a.m.

Every Wednesday: Playtime. Free play, socializing, stories. For children ages 0 to 5 and their caregivers. 10:30 a.m.

Every Wednesday: Board & Table Games. Drop-in gaming for all ages. 1 to 3 p.m.

Tuesday, December 6: Waldo Mellon: Book Pep Rally. 4:30 p.m

Thursday, December 22: Gaia Roots World Music Ensemble. Interactive performance. 3:30 p.m.

#### NORTHFIELD

1st Thursday: Spice Club pickup starts. Stop in for a sample and suggested recipes while supplies last. Look for a new spice every month.

1st Saturday: Puzzle Swap. Dozens of new-to-you puzzles for kids and adults. For more friendsofdml01360@ info. gmail.com. 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Every Tuesday: Drop-in Knitting. Join fellow knitters and crocheters to chat and share projects. 6 to 8 p.m.

**Every Wednesday:** Stories and Playtime with Deb Wood, for ages 0 to 5. 10 a.m.

the library. 10 a.m.

2nd Wednesday: Readings Group. December 14: The Meaning of Existence, by Edward O. Wilson. Pick up a copy at the library. 3 p.m.

2nd Thursday: Environmental Awareness Group. December 8: The Soul of an Octopus by Sy Montgomery. Pick up a copy at the library. 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 15: Author Reading. Northfielder Annie Chappell reads from her brand-new memoir, Away Up the North Fork: A Girl's Search for Home in the Wilderness. 6 p.m.

3rd Tuesday: Friends of the Library. For more info, friendsofdml01360@gmail.com. 5:30 p.m.

#### WENDELL

Every Friday: LEGO club. Drop-in program for ages 5 and up with adult. 4 p.m.

Every Saturday: StoryCraft. Picture book read-aloud and connected craft. 10:30 a.m.

Every Saturday: AA Group. 7 p.m.

Sunday, December 4: Author Event. Paul Richmond reads from his latest book of poems and stories, Swimming Lessons on the Titanic. 2 p.m.

Every Tuesday: Watercolor Art Group. 5 to 6 p.m.

Every Wednesday: Playgroup. Email budine@erving. com for more info. 10 a.m.

2nd and 4th Thursdays: Fiber Arts / Mending Circle. Needles and thread available. 6:30 p.m.

Friday, December 9 and Saturday, December 10: Holiday Craft Fair. Locally made crafts, live music, Diemand Farm food. Wendell Town Hall, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

#### **LEVERETT**

Chair Yoga classes are held on Zoom on Wednesdays. Foot care clinic is held monthly. For more information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022 x 2, or coa@leverett.ma.us.

#### **GILL and MONTAGUE**

The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. COVID test kits are available. For more information please call 863-9357.

#### Monday 12/5

10:15 a.m. Aerobics 11 a.m. Chair Exercise 5 p.m. Death Cafe (pre-register) Tuesday 12/6 9:30 a.m. Tuesday Knitters 1 p.m. Chair Yoga 3 p.m. Tai Chi Wednesday 12/7 9 a.m. Veterans' Agent Hours 10:15 a.m. Aerobics 11 a.m. Chair Aerobics

8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Open for cards, coffee, and snacks daily.

Brown Bag lunch is the first Thursday of each month. Veterans Services the first Wednesday of each month. Erving van services available: Must call 24 hours in advance for a ride to any scheduled appointment. For more information, please call (413) 423-3649.

#### Monday 12/5

9 a.m. Interval 10:15 a.m. Seated Workout Tuesday 12/6 9 a.m. Good For U 10 a.m. Line Dancing Wednesday 12/7 9 a.m. Cardio Low Impact 10:15 a.m. Chair Aerobics 11:30 a.m. Bingo Thursday 12/8 9 a.m. Core & Balance 10 a.m. Barre Fusion Friday 12/9 9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew dog. Call (413) 423-3348 to reserve a spot. 4 to 5 p.m.

Sunday, December 11: Puzzle Swap. Bring a jigsaw puzzle to exchange, or we'll give you one to get you started. 1 to 3 pm.

Sunday, December 18: Craft Day. Make a winter wreath using a pizza pan for the frame with an owl or gnome centerpiece. For teens and adults. Materials provided. RSVP encouraged. 12 p.m.

Sunday, December 18: Connecticut River Flute Choir. Free concert, 2 p.m.

#### LEVERETT

All December: Story Walks. New story on the trail behind the library every Thursday.

Every Thursday: Play Mahjongg. All abilities welcome. 2 to 4 p.m.

Every Saturday: Tai Chi. Free

**Every Wednesday:** Open Tech Hours. Pop in for help on anything library-related. Misha will help you figure out Libby or sign up for Hoopla. If you have something not library related, she will try her best! Bring your device. 1 to 3 p.m.

1st Wednesday: Readers' Choice. December 7: Matrix by Lauren Groff. Pick up a copy at

Saturday, December 10: StoryCraft and Board Games. For children while their caregivers shop at the craft fair. Two time slots available, registration required. 10 a.m. to noon.

4th Monday: Adult Book Group. Registration required. Zoom, 10 a.m.





# FROM A TEEN'S POINT OF VIEW Coins, Coins, Coins!

#### By FINTAN ANDREW JONES

MONTAGUE – Penny, nickel, dime, quarter. Used everyday all across the USA. How many times have you used a coin in the last month? I have definitely used them a lot, whether that be for buying something or tossing one in a wishing well. I have even found one on the street and added it to a piggy bank.

Did you know there is about \$2.1 billion (with a B) dollars worth of cash and coins in the US alone? That is enough money to buy 5,000 jumbo jets!

I could write about coin history for probably days, but I will just give you a brief summary. As soon as coins started being minted around 2,000 to 1,500 years ago they became a hit, and they were used in many great civilizations such as Ancient Rome. Ancient coins are very complicated and I do not know much about them, but I do know a lot about recent coinage, post-1800.

Throughout the 1800s pennies and half-pennies (yes, they existed) were made out of pure copper. Nickels, dimes, quarters, and half-dollars were all made out of silver. Remember, this was almost 200 years ago, and silver was much less expensive. Any coins worth more that 50 cents were made out of gold! In fact, a \$20 coin called the St. Gaudens was made out of 1.1 ounces of gold, worth around \$1,750 today. It is crazy that different metals were so inexpensive under 200 years ago.

My family went shopping at a shop in Turners Falls called Loot. They had a big tray full of coins from all around the world. My favorite one was a tiny gray coin from Denmark called an Øre. I got many other coins from Brazil, Luxembourg, France, Japan, and more! A couple years ago I took a vacation to Ireland, so I have some Euros from there, too.

Did you know that there are over 164 different national currencies around the world? World coin collecting can be really hard, because I can not afford to travel to every single country in the world to get their currency.

I like to collect other things. I prefer the state quarters, and the National Park quarters. The other

over 50 coins and medals over the last 20 years.

The US Mint started making the state quarters in 1999, starting with the first state to be part of the US and ending with the last. Since Massachusetts was the sixth state to join the US, our quarter was minted in 2000. The Massachusetts state quarter has the outline of the state behind "The Minuteman." These quarters were made only in 2000.

Next, I want to talk about how the US Mint makes coins.

The first step is called "blanking." After the mint has purchased big metal coils, they feed them through a machine which basically cuts the coils into the circular coin shapes we see in circulation. The second step is to "anneal" the coins, which means to give them luster and make them clean.

Third, they press engraved designs into the coins using big, powerful presses that sometimes use up to 540 tons of pressure to "strike" the coins. I find it amazing that coins need to be struck with that much pressure - that is almost 30 elephants pressing on a coin.

Special inspectors make sure that the coins look usable for circulation, and once they approve them, the coins get sent to the final part of their journey, packaging. In San Francisco, the packaging building uses smart robots to check the coins for debris, put them in rolls, and load them all onto trolleys. The coins are all sent to the Federal Reserve Bank, which distributes certain amounts to different banks all across the country.

The other day I was at the bank with my mom, and I decided to buy some coins from them. Any person can buy coins from the bank, as long as they have them in stock. Anyways, I purchased 2,500 pennies, and took them home to look at.

I carefully examined every coin under a magnifying glass and put them all into little folders. The oldest penny I found was from 1920! These were probably four of the best hours of my life. What is the oldest penny you have found?

Next month I will be writing about rovers. I am inspired to write about them because in my science class we have to design a rover to go to another planet and retrieve information and samples from that planet. I hope you enjoyed this column, and learned a lot!

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG Odd; Unwanted; Suffering; Protesting; Dumped; Aggressive; Urinating; Screaming; Thanksgiving

#### Monday, 11/14

back advising he was ap- vised him of options. proached by the male, who 10:28 p.m. Multiple 911 the Shady Glen parking lot Avenue. Bonfire confirmed. and to look and see if his Friday, 11/18 truck's wheel was loose. 12 p.m. Caller from L Street further issues.

8:57 a.m. Walk-in report- when she opened the door. detour sign have gone today looking in the winmissing from Ferry Road. dows. Services rendered. DPW notified.

inside and outside of the for owner to contact him declined. Vehicle towed. store. Party moved along. er made a rude gesture at back door. Her husband him. DPW supervisor no- answered the door and said an officer. tified of complaint.

ing with badly broken legs. her house so they are able Animal dead upon arrival. to make contact. Message left for DPW.

information from caller, Scene cleared. yelling could be heard in 6:48 p.m. Caller called in dead. Investigated.

#### Tuesday, 11/15

Thursday, 11/17

for icy road conditions.

warded to DPW.

10:29 a.m. Employee from On front lawn. DPW con-Silvio O. Conte Anadro- tacted. mous Fish Research Center 6:51 p.m. Car vs. deer at requesting a police pres- Gunn and Sunderland woods before the Papermill ence due to several people Roads. Deer gone. Minor Road bridge. TFFD idenprotesting in front of the damage to car. main entrance to the build- Saturday, 11/19 ing. Protestors are on pub- 4:04 p.m. Caller states fe- Wednesday, 11/23 lic property; no issues. Wednesday, 11/16

ATM and saw a male party on for the last nine months the back seat.

Officer spoke to both par- reports that a male she has ties. Male in truck was seen around the neighborconcerned about a possible hood several times came loose wheel bearing. No to her house on Halloween and tried to enter her home

regarding the complaint. "Don't come back here." 4:47 p.m. Caller states that The male left on foot. Of-5:05 p.m. Two 911 calls for

8:27 p.m. 911 caller from two-car accident on Park Crescent Street states a fe- Street. Medical declined. male just hit his car in the Tow requested. Rau's was driveway. While getting able to pull bumper out.

the background; male and stating there is a road haz-Item moved out of road.

6:04 a.m. Caller reports he gressive threats toward her vehicle last night and lives in Millers Falls. Stowas getting money from an him. States it's been going stole a robot vacuum from len phone is pinging in Er-

possibly go into the bank. recent threat was that Bangs Street states his for him. Instructed to call Caller states it seems odd, doors would be removed landlord has shut off the Erving for assistance in and believes police should from residence. Officer heat in his bedroom, but obtaining the phone. Ofcheck it out. Caller called spoke with caller and ad- the rest of the house is still ficer went to address and Said bedroom was slight- phone. Message left that asked him to follow him to calls for fire on Madison ly cooler than the other phone is at station. rooms. Caller called in stat- Friday, 11/25 ficer have been completed. officers as her neighbors not as reported. Resident quiet upon arrival. was arguing with his 5:22 a.m. State police reing that a stop sign and He was on her porch again mother on the phone re- questing officers check a garding an overdue payment of some sort.

2 p.m. Caller from West 7:08 p.m. Single-car acci-12:25 p.m. Cumberland Mineral Road reports an dent at North Leverett and Farms employee report- ongoing issue with a male Gunn Roads; car swerved ing an unwanted male is hunting on their property. after being cut off and hit swer at address. bothering customers both Officer left note on truck a tree. Medical attention 11:26 a.m. Employee 8:26 p.m. 911 caller states 12:27 p.m. 911 caller states 2:44 p.m. Caller from L she heard screaming near done to a sign and graffithat a Montague DPW Street reports the male Seventh and Park Streets ti on a brick wall at Great truck pulled out in front who has been showing up a couple of minutes ago; Falls Discovery Center. of him and then the driv- at her house came to her unsure if it is an animal or a person. Referred to

9:52 p.m. 911 caller requesting officer as her and Second Street. Male a rabbit was hit by a car ficer advised caller to call neighbor is banging on and is still alive but suffer- police when the male is at the walls and screaming. in people's personal space Officer attempted to make and intimidating people. contact with party, who Unable to locate. refused to open the door. Involved party threw milk it looks like two animals all over the porch of the

apartment complex. 11:08 p.m. FL Roberts employee states he heard a female arguing. Line went ard by Rubin's on Millers Park. Officer checked area; located animals and dis-Falls Road; possibly a rug. negative findings. Will con- covered they were beavers. tinue to look around. Tuesday, 11/22

> 4:11 p.m. Caller reporting smoke coming from the tified a small cooking fire; and responding. they will extinguish it.

male was urinating out- 2:07 a.m. Vehicle reposses-

landlord is making ag- believes someone entered lice to call MPD since he ving. He would like an offiin a black truck appear to and is getting worse. Most 3:36 p.m. 911 caller from cer to go pick up the phone warm. Officer on scene. was able to locate the

> ing forms requested by of- 12:40 a.m. Caller from Farren Avenue states the 3:54 p.m. Caller from male upstairs is yelling Bridge Street requesting something about someone in his closet or on the roof, are fighting. Scene clear, causing a disturbance. All

> > Park Street address for a male party; vehicle was found in a ditch with airbag deployment; want to check his welfare. No an-

would like it on record that there was some vandalism

1:24 p.m. Caller concerned about a male party who has been aggressively panhandling near Avenue A party is reportedly getting

5:34 p.m. Caller states that with dog-like paws were found skinned in the Plains near the airport. Caller spoke with Environmental female yell loudly for help Police, who advised him to from the direction of Unity call the local PD. Officer Message left for EPO.

#### Saturday, 11/26

7:19 a.m. Caller states that there is a dead deer partially in the road on MIllers Falls Road. DPW notified

9:52 a.m. Caller from Randall Wood Drive states that his dirt bike was stolen

day I found a Massachusetts "Lowell" quarter. It is from 2019 and depicts a mill girl working at a loom in Lowell, Mass. Joel Iskowitz, the designer of this coin, has designed

#### **Montague Community Television News**

# In Case You Missed It

#### **By HANNAH BROOKMAN**

TURNERS FALLS - Find recordings of all town meetings on the MCTV Vimeo page. We have the most recent meetings of the Montague board of assessors meeting, the Gill-Montague school committee, and both the Gill and Montague selectboards.

MCTV also records community events such as the Great Falls Festival. If you were silly enough to miss this last and final Halloween festival, rest assured that MCTV has it archived.

All community members are

welcome to submit their videos to be aired on Channel 17 and featured on the MCTV Vimeo page. MCTV is always available to assist in local video production as well. Cameras, tripods, and lighting equipment are available for checkout, and filming and editing assistance can be provided. And remember, MCTV is still looking for board members!

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. Contact us at (413) 863-9200 or infomontaguetv @gmail.com.

5:18 p.m. Greenfield PD Officer advised.

Greenfield to Orange. care of it, but she appears Greenfield PD en route.

sent. Shelburne Control Dog placed in kennel. notified. DPW contacted Sunday, 11/20

9:09 a.m. Caller from Av- courtesy transport. 7:18 a.m. Caller reports enue A concerned about a 11:48 p.m. Caller from L a deer carcass dumped strong odor in the building Street states the neighbor Food City requesting to by the guardrail on East that smells like a deceased came to his door with a file charges against a co-Mineral Road. Info for- person or animal. Odor de- sledgehammer and hit his worker. States they had a termined to be trash that door. Report taken. 11:28 a.m. A 43-year-old leaked onto stairwell floor. Thursday, 11/24 Turners Falls man was ar- Monday, 11/21

side again on Avenue A. sion on K Street.

6:24 p.m. Caller reporting requesting backup for 6:29 p.m. Caller from an injured skunk under in stabbing that hap- she found a dog that ap- Spinner Park. She needs Main Street reports that cers stop transit bus from Caller was trying to take was able to assist caller on her way.

to contact animal control male "stumbled" out of the name. States he reported

11:03 a.m. Caller states his rested on a default warrant. 8:19 a.m. Caller from East truck was broken into and 10:24 p.m. 911 caller re- Taylor Hill Road would his work phone was stolen. questing officer as his like it on record that she He was told by Erving po-

from the locked shed on his property. Report taken.

#### Sunday, 11/27

locating wanted person Green Pond Road states one of her truck tires near 4:58 p.m. Caller from East pened around 4:30 p.m. pears to have been living to leave and is afraid to his Amazon package was today. Requesting offi- on its own for a while. hurt it any more. Officer taken from outside his apartment. Reports he knows who took it; the Bus stopped. No one on to be in heat, and her dog is 11:12 p.m. Caller from East man lives in his apartment bus matches description. not fixed. Caller attempted Main Street states that a building, but unsure of his then shelter with no luck pub, walked into a sign, to Amazon and they re-6:48 a.m. Vehicle roll- as they are closed. Caller then got into the driver's quested he also report to over at Turners Falls and bringing dog to shelter; seat of a silver GMC and the police. A \$20 house-Hatchery Roads. Officers will meet officer there. has been fumbling around, hold item was taken before unable to get the vehicle the caller received it. Callstarted. Officer providing er requesting incident be put on record.

> 7:02 p.m. Caller from disagreement two weeks ago, and since then, the coworker has made several comments about physically fighting. Caller

see MPD next page

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#### **B4**

#### MPD from page B3

states the coworker showed up to work today around 2:30 or 3 p.m. with a gun and threatened him. Referred to an officer. Monday, 11/28 1:58 a.m. FL Roberts employee states a customer brought to his

attention a bottle with states he believes it is fentanyl in the bottle some type of substance in it, believed to be fenas he has been around tanyl. Caller states this it in the past. Officer was discovered in the advises employee was advised to contact cooler at his job and the customer only touched staff/management and the cap of the bottle, inform them of the sitnot the substance ituation and to self, and was advised to take care of

wash his hands. Caller

any cleaning.

#### COOKBOOKS from page B1

their recipes to the seasons, they bring the ingenuity needed for restaurant success to their vividly illustrated book.

The dishes for winter, which the authors describe as "the feasting season," are often rich. There's a luxurious "Tagliatelle with White Truffles," and more accessibly, a scrumptious-looking "Lasagna Cacio e Pepe" that eschews the layers of meat sauce and ricotta of regular lasagna in favor of ten or more layers of fresh pasta alternating with pecorino bechamel, strongly seasoned with black pepper.

Chinese-ish (Interlink Books, \$35) is also written by restaurant professionals: Rosheen Kaul, born in Singapore of mixed Asian heritage, and Chinese-Australian Joanna Hu. Their recipes draw from their multicultural background; they are often sort of Chinese, but as the authors note, "not quite authentic."

Examples include "Ants Climbing a Tree" - no ants, but so-named for the ground pork bits seemingly clambering up its noodles - and "Crispy Shrimp Balls with Fermented Chile Dip," a sure winner at any party. Imaginative illustrations brighten this book, and instructional sections help newcomers master such arts as making dumplings or perfect fried rice. This book is a must-have for lovers of Asian food.

Cook As You Are (Knopf, \$35) by Ruby Tandoh, a finalist in the 2013 Great British Baking Show, is an inspiration for the home cook. Tandoh is an iconoclast, writing that "we are so stuck in striving" after self-imposed aspirations that we ignore "the good stuff" in front of us. This assertion explains chapter headings such as Feed Me Now and Hidden in Plain Sight.

Ъ

Her recipes are often super-easy, their success coming from an unusual use of staples and the fusion of European with Asian and African foods. "Charred Brussels Sprouts with Satay and Peanut Sauce" is an example, as is "Smokey Chicken Okra and Chorizo Casserole."

Deb Perelman's Smitten Kitchen Keepers (Knopf, \$35) also focuses on home cooking, though her book is more traditional in structure and approach than Tandoh's. She deals with problems of picky eaters and davs when cooking is boring, but is firmly on the side of tweaking home-made food to perfection. Her apple crisp is glorified with butterscotch; her beef is zinged with harissa, her chocolate-chip cookies crisped with salted walnut brittle.

Olia Hercules writes for home cooks too in Home Food (Interlink Books, \$35), with details about her life and family in England and her other homes, including her native Ukraine; Cyprus, where she lived for many years; and Russia, birthplace of her grandmother. Recipes from these places and from Baltic friends appear in the book. Examples include "Cypriot Keftedes," "Central Asian Ploy," and "Russian Dumplings over Potato and Mushroom Stew."

Like several other recipes, the last mentioned comes with a QR code. Click on each code and you get a video of the author preparing and explaining the dish - a wonderful innovation that not only makes it easier to tackle a new recipe, but brings you closer to the author. Hercules's book is a treasure for both household cooks and cooks who love venturing into the food of other lands.

Here's a savory muffin recipe from the Ukrainian city Lviv.

# ARTIST PROFILE **David DiPasquale: The Lion Artist**

#### **By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI**

**GREENFIELD** – I have a habit of finding artists I want to profile at festivals and fair-type events. The latest one was at the Halloweed Bash event at the Franklin County Fairgrounds in October. His name is David DiPasquale.

"I've been making art my whole life," DiPasquale said. "A lot of the things I'm doing now are from the past 10 to 12 years." A lot of his art has spray paint in it. One large spray paint work of his takes a few hours. For finer details on canvas, he uses acrylic paints.

I have a strong liking for wolves. They are kind of my personal totem. DiPasquale is the same way with lions, and several pieces of his art feature that. To him, "the lion represents my artistic journey." He explains, "it's my favorite animal and my animal spirit."

DiPasquale has a website, *dipsoulion.com*, where he sells his art and also t-shirts, which he likes to do with his art, a couple with lions and one with a sketch of an owl. He has also made murals with lions on them.

"Art is what changes the world," he explains on his website. "The song that ignites the spirit, the painting that opens the mind, the photo that makes you wonder. So keep creating and put your visions to reality."

DiPasquale's art is usually found at pop-ups, indoor events, concerts, art walks, galleries, and private shows, according to him. One of several murals he has made over the years, The Zen Lion, is at the Troy Waterfront Farmers Market in Troy, New York.

DiPasquale's description of the mural, from the market's website says that "The Zen Lion is in meditation on balance, nutrition, love, and life. Things I feel we all need to focus more on and work towards a properly balanced lifestyle so that we can move forward within our full powers to create every day!" (*www.troymarket.org*)



DiPasquale's mural The Zen Lion can be seen at the Troy Waterfront Farmers Market in Troy, New York.

I would describe it as a lion in a meditation position with vegetables around it.

While his art sells a decent amount on the website, DiPasquale said he sells a lot in person at different shows, events, and festivals. As for the people that buy his art, he says, they enjoy the bold choice of colors and subject. He also pointed out that he had been in numerous galleries in the States. I did some research and I found that happened in the New England states.

I found I particularly liked most of the pieces that have lions on them.

# **Great Falls Middle School/Turners Falls High School 1st Quarter Honor Roll**

#### - Grade 6 -

#### **FIRST HONORS**

Kaylee Adamski, Lila Argy, Ryder Berg, Noah Blanchard, Max Briere,

Chloey Bucinskas, Bryan Cordero Lopez, Matthew Guilbault, Ellis Holmes, Lilyana Jette, Ella Larouche, Adrianna Lemerise-Reinking, Tyler Newton, Asiah Parker, Viviana Rosa, Taylor-Marie Scanlon, Nikolay Shlegel, Mckenzie

Stafford, Autumn Thornton, Bethany Whitney, Owen Zilinski

**SECOND HONORS** Carmelo Bashaw, Owen Brown, Savannah Brown, Camden Cogswell, Kori Eklund, Donay Nahkala, Melody O'Donnell, Melyn J Ramirez Martin, Axel Richardson, Emely Sanchez Abarua, Austin Smarr, Hunter Stacy, Kevin Tomas Mejia, Maximus Tucker, Beckett Young

THIRD HONORS Liam Kerivan, Ameliya Laramie-LaClaire, Benjamin Merriett, Sylar Torunski, Jorden Welcome

– Grade 7 –

#### SECOND HONORS

Brayden Archambault, Sawyer Cadran, Tori Chagnon, Kairi Chubb, Jackson Day, Autumn DiMare, Joseph Disciullo, Jared Dufresne, Samuel Eichorn, Cadance Fisher, Jameson Gaffey, Ameliya Galbraith, Jonathan Holmes, Weston Jones, Trevor Lyons, Braeden Moore, Gabriella Tringue, Edward Walsh

#### **THIRD HONORS**

James Edson, Jazzlyn Gonzalez, Connor Pacheco, Vinicio Palazzo, Emma Ramos, Dakotah Simon, Ava Taylor

- Grade 9 -

### **CHEESE AND GRAPE MUFFINS**

oil or butter for the pan 2 eggs 7 Tbsp. unsalted butter, melted and cooled 1 cup whole milk 3 Tbsp. honey or sugar 2 cups self-rising flour (or 2 cups all-purpose flour, plus 1 tsp. baking powder)  $5^{1/2}$  oz. crumbled feta

18 large seedless grapes

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Halve your grapes. Prepare the muffin pan by lightly oiling or buttering it. Mix the eggs with the cooled melted butter, then whisk in the milk. Whisk in the honey or sugar. Sift the flour into the mixture and incorporate it with a spatula. Make sure there are no pockets of flour, but try not to overmix. Fold in the cheese.

Gently spoon the mixture into the muffin pan until two-thirds full. Then push three grape



This Ukrainian muffin recipe combining feta cheese and grapes is found in Olia Hercules's 2022 cookbook Home Food.

halves into each muffin, and bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until golden brown and firm to the touch. Let the muffins cool a little in the pan, then gently run a knife round the edge of each to release them.

#### HONORS

Jacob Broga, Ethan

Patrick Andrews, Owen Blanchard,

– Grade 8 –

HONORS Caeden Cottrell-Bouchard, Kaya Shipley-Aja, Marketa Vachula-Curtis

Damkoehler, Rachel Juarbe. Gianna Marigliano, Kimberly **THIRD HONORS** Ramirez Martin, Brayden Slauenwhite, Addison Talbot. Braeden Talbot

Hannah Gordon, Layla Mathieu, Piper McMahon, Evelina Parpalov. Stella Shipley-Aja

#### – Grade 10 –

#### **FIRST HONORS**

Marilyn Abarua Corona, Kamryn Berry, Tatiana Carr-Williams, Elliot Cook, Ella Guidaboni, Madison Liimatainen, Mia Marigliano, Sofia Moreno, Brian Penagos, Gary Smith, Ledwin Villafana Abarua

#### SECOND HONORS

Kessik Beck, Starrli Bell, Samantha Carr, Lainey Chagnon, Aaliyah Gover, Raymond Hillock, Khiarieliex Huertas Hernandez, Gabriel Page, Kailey James-Putnam, Zachary Keeney, David Klempner-Siano, Teagan Lavallee-Finch, Linnea Macek, Shiann Merrill-English, Avery Miner, Zane Niedzielski, Briceidy Ovalle Perez, Sheni Ovalle Roblero, Anthony Prizio, Alexander Quezada Abarua

#### **THIRD HONORS**

Audrianna Bassett, Darian Burnett, Pamela Gomez, Elizabeth Reipold, Kei Richardson-Meattey, Caden Williams-Senethavisok

#### **FIRST HONORS**

**FIRST HONORS** 

Kenzie Alicea, Valerie

Bazemore, Shelby Beck,

Jameson Betters, Cameryn

Carner, David Chagnon, Isab

Cottrell-Bouchard, Grady

Deery, Everett Eichorn,

Reese Ewell, Madison

Haight, Alaina Halla, William

Hutchison, Bennett Lanoue,

Carter Leete, Addison Lively,

Ashton Marshall, Evalynn

Parra, Lynx Petraccia, Nicole

Porter, Scarlett Pouliot,

Emmett Spriggs, Kendra

Steiner, Olivia Wolbach, Chloe

Wonsey, Kamden Zagame

Jackson Cogswell, Ethan Eichorn, Elsee Galvez Martin, Clara Guidaboni, Cameron Johnson, Michaela Klempner-Siano, Nathaniel Kolakoski, Noah Kolodziej, Curtis Kretchmar, Vaughn LaValley, Estes Lemerise-Reinking, Caleb Lincoln, Cole Marshall, Shayly Martin Ovalle, Yolvin Ovalle Mejia, Mario Pareja, Khalifa Seck. Kainen Stevens. Michael Waite, Naomi Wilson-Hill

#### SECOND HONORS

Josafeena Bell, Michael Berdugo, Madisvn Dietz, Kai Giard, Brody Girard, Christopher Halla, Janelle Masse, John O'Malley, David Ortiz, Kevin Perez Cueto, Nehemiah Rice, Miles Riley, Nathaniel Trinque

#### **THIRD HONORS**

Moises Borrayes Velasquez, Dylan Brunault, John Ramirez Martin, Alexis Truesdell

#### - Grade 11 -

#### **FIRST HONORS**

Ian Bastarache, Grayson Bowse, Michael Boyle, Fiona Hutchison, Syna Katsoulis, Aiden Kelly, Anne Kolodziej, Ella Kolodziej, Audrey Lapinski, Joseph Mosca, Ricky Pareja, Raygan Pendriss, Jillian Reynolds, Avery Tela, Jack Trombi

#### SECOND HONORS

Cameron Burnett, Kiri Corbin, Noah DeLorenzo, Trent Dobias, Kyleigh Dobosz, Jaade Duncan, Reyli Galvez-Martin, Taylor Greene, Katelyn Grise, Logan Johnson, Owen LaValley, Megan Leveille, Cody McDonough, Jasmine McNamara, Ayleen Ovalle Perez, Jacob Reich, Sydney Rivera, Geovannie Shand, Dylen Shinall, Kaleb Torres

#### **THIRD HONORS**

Anthony Arabia, Ella O'Keefe, Deven Sloan, Branden Truesdell, Isabella Vachula-Curtis

#### – Grade 12 –

#### **FIRST HONORS**

Xavier Chagnon, Nikolas Martin, Abigail Moore, Jacob Norwood, Dalver Perez, Madison Sanders, Tyler Tetreault, Kamara Woodard

**SECOND HONORS** 

Logan Addison, Jelani Jean Charles, Christopher Morton, Antonia Prizio

#### THIRD HONORS

Kordell Cannon, Madison Gadreault, Zachary Malcolm, Matyah Sutton

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#### WEST ALONG from page B1

There is still bark on the rafters up in the attic where the old spirits of the house dwell.

I remember fondly discovering a woodlot relic years ago when we first took over the homestead after the passing of grandfather Abe. Down in the lower pasture, gone to woodland since the floods of 1936 and 1938, I came upon one of grandfather's abandoned woodpiles forgotten and left to molder away. I, too, left it where it was. Now that it's gone, there's only a slight trace of woody earth between two oaks where it was carefully stacked one hundred years ago.

Meanwhile, on a morning like this, I'm settled in to the east-facing woodshed, warm and out of the snowsquall wind. On the way to the Winter Solstice, the sun this morning doesn't clear the rim of my valley's bowl until just about 8 o'clock. The river flows quietly like eternity. Up there on the ridge are lined up the odd-

spaced sentinel white pines that help me keep track of the sun in its winter travels.

The air is frosted, and all is trimmed in silver the way it should be. Siberian pup's breath comes forth in small steady puffs, his interior locomotive engine chuffing in the exhilarating cold after his race around the back yard, driving pesky squirrels away for the fun of it.

The two of us are coming into our own, into the weather we were born to. December's cold brings us back to our origins. Snowdog and December boy came into this world during the year's shortest days of the year, and in this season we find ourselves back where the old year started.

We breathe deep in the cold air, waiting for the sun to reach into the corners of the woodshed where the winter wren will inspect the spaces between logs, and where soon the traces of the early frost will fade away under the pale winter sun.



#### **By CASEY WAIT**

TURNERS FALLS - Dear readers, each month I sign my columns "with love and rage" as a way to honor and highlight the way these emotions are so often entangled. Today the rage is especially close to the surface.

I had planned to focus this month's writing on strategies for solidarity and community as we head into our third COVID winter - how we can bring nuance to the false binary of either total isolation on the one hand, or pretending the pandemic is over on the other.

But then the shooting at Club Q in Colorado Springs happened. It has felt impossible to think about anything else.

I was born in Colorado Springs. The majority of my family still lives there. When I heard the news of the massacre on Sunday morning my heart sank and broke. I was horrified, and yet, I can't say I was especially surprised - just as I wasn't surprised when, nearly seven years ago to the day, a man walked into a Planned Parenthood in Colorado Springs and killed three people, and injured nine.

The Colorado Springs I know the best is the white, reactionary, evangelical Christian Colorado Springs. My family on both sides has worked for some of the many evangelical organizations headquartered there. I grew up going to Focus on the Family with my cousins, and bought in every town and city where they

my first Bible in the giftshop. My grandparents were fans of James Dobson's book on the benefits of corporal punishment in child rearing, Dare to Discipline. Spanking was common practice.

It was in Colorado Springs where I first was taught that to be gay was to be against God. It was in Colorado Springs where I was told abortion was murder. It was in Colorado Springs where I first suspected I might be bad, wrong, against nature simply because I couldn't conform to the very narrow parameters of what it meant to be a Good Christian Girl.

I've spent many nights lying awake and wondering what my life would have been like if we hadn't moved away from the Springs when I was a baby. I often think I might not have made it. The summers and holidays I spent in the soul-crushing culture of my evangelical family did enough damage as it is. I'm now estranged from my paternal side because I knew that I would never be accepted as my queer trans self and I wasn't willing to take on their judgment.

In all repressive places there are countercultures. The outcasts find each other and carve out spaces to live and thrive. As I got older, I glimpsed traces of the Colorado Springs underground scene. but I never found the queers. How I wish I had.

exist, but especially in the Colorado Springs of the world. In a town where even tepid tolerance often comes with a backhanded slap love the sinner, hate the sin – a gay bar can be a literal lifeline. Club Q was likely one of the few places its patrons had to be completely and utterly themselves. For a man to walk into Club Q the night before Trans Day of Remembrance and kill five people and maim 25 more is nothing short of sacrilege.

I've been focusing so much on Colorado Springs because it is so tied up in my own religious trauma, but I need to note that even my friends in ostensibly queer-friendly cities were unsurprised to hear of the shooting, not because they too had connections to the site of the attack but because there has been a terrifying upsurge of anti-queer – especially anti-trans - sentiment in recent years. We have been bracing for this kind of attack, and fear that more are on their way.

Supposed bastions of liberal ideals, like Western Mass, are not safe from this violence, either.

Huw Lemmey, who writes the Substack site Utopian Drivel, perfectly articulated the rage that so many of my friends and I are feeling in the wake of last weekend:



# LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on November 21 & 29, 2012: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

#### **Millers Falls Buildings** Available for Development

The Montague selectboard voted Monday to declare several properties in Millers Falls available for disposition under the town's commercial homesteading program. The move makes the buildings, at 26-28, 30, and 34 East Main Street, a large section of downtown, available in pieces or whole, for free or for a small fee. While the new owners will get them at low cost, they must come forward with plans for developing new businesses there.

The program, conceived by town administrator Frank Abbondanzio, seeks to take unused properties and, by incubating businesses, put them back on the tax rolls. The town has successfully employed a similar strategy in downtown Turners Falls, leading to the creation of Ristorante DiPaolo and the Northeast Foundation for Children's workshop facility.

These properties, like the three

to oversee an American Battlefield Protection grant application to the National Park Service. The \$30,000 to \$40,000 grant application, which is being prepared by former Rhode Island state archeologist Paul Robinson, is intended to map and preserve records of the battlefield where the May 19, 1676 "Falls Fight" took place.

Earlier in the fall, the selectboard voted to approve the application in a 2-1 vote, with Mark Fairbrother adamantly opposed. Fairbrother called the idea "bass-ackwards," saying Robinson and Narragansett tribal preservationist Doug Harris should have first approached Gill or Greenfield, where the battle and retreats mainly took place, before coming to Montague for support.

On October 31, with board member Pat Allen away for an extended vacation, Fairbrother asked town administrator Frank Abbondanzio if the board would have a second chance to vote on the application once it was completed.

Abbondanzio affirmed the board would have a chance for a second vote, and promptly dropped the item from the agenda. It has remained off the agenda all month, though the deadline for the application to the National Parks Service is approaching. According to selectboard section and the number of jobs that retary Wendy Bogusz, the battlefield grant is not on the agenda for the meeting on November 26. either. Pat Allen is due to return home in time to attend the selectboard meeting on December 3. On October 31, Abbondanzio defended the Montague board's majority position to authorize the grant application, saying, "The grant would have to be issued in the name of the town of Montague," but, "the only work the town would have to do is to issue a request for proposals, hire a consultant, and submit quarterly reports."

Gay bars are places of refuge



Focus on the Family's sign was vandalized with this message on November 24. The anti-LGBTQ group is headquartered in Colorado Springs.

I'm tired of the little gestures. I'm especially tired of the gestures when they're everywhere for the celebration, but nowhere for the fight. I'm tired of the gestures when newspapers will run their top ten LGBTQ influencers one week, and another anti-trans screed the next. I'm tired of the gestures when queer people in general, and trans people especially, are constantly portrayed as potential predators, as child groomers.

I'm tired of the gestures when there's nothing material to back it up. I'm tired of gestures with no healthcare, of gestures with no justice, of gestures with no fight. I'm tired of the gestures when they keep coming back to our actual queer bars, the ones that keep the flag up all year and stay open on Christmas Day, and shoot them up, on the back of what other straight people have been saying about us. I'm tired of your allyship with our community when it's your community on the attack.

With queer love and queer rage, Your Sick Friend

in Millers Falls, were offered for nominal sums to prospective owners who presented concrete business plans showing the dollar investment required for renovacould be created.

One of the Millers Falls buildings is a substantial, three-story commercial block called the Powers building. The other two are adjacent wood-framed structures. All have commercial potential, but have been in disuse for years, and are considered a blight on the potential for business development of downtown Millers Falls.

#### Action on Native **Battlefield Grant Delayed**

On October 31, the Montague selectboard put off a scheduled discussion to authorize the town

The town manager went on to speak personally about his own support for the proposal.







# ANALYSIS Guns in the USA and Canada

**By SPENCER SHORKEY** 

**B6** 

MILLERS FALLS - Like a lot of people with a rural upbringing, I am no stranger to knowing how to safely use guns. My grandpa taught me to shoot and hunt, which I used to do when I was younger.

Guns were important to the founders of our country, rebels who fought for independence from Great Britain. At the onset of the Revolution, the Americans were disadvantaged by their lack of weaponry compared to the British. Rebel leaders understood that, and less than a month after the war's opening shots in Lexington and Concord, they seized crucial weaponry from the British in a surprise attack at the stronghold of Fort Ticonderoga.

Victory at Ticonderoga and nearby forts was possible thanks to the swift mobilization of the Green Mountain Boys, a well-armed and organized southern Vermont militia. Sixty tons of cannon were moved from those northern New York forts to Boston, where they were essential for driving the British out of the city.

Recognizing the importance of civilian armament and militias, our country's Bill of Rights includes the right to arms, which reads "A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the People to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

The British banned firearms imports in the colonies in 1774, a year before the revolution started, but it was too late to keep arms out of colonists' hands. Probate records, records of property transfers upon a person's death, show that in 1774, 52% of Massachusetts estates owned guns.



Left: Civilian gun ownership, 2017. Center: crime rates in the US (2020) and Canada (2017). Middle: Gun fatalities in the US (2017) and Canada (2018).

at sea by the British, along with a shipment of 20,000 guns and 24 cannons. Ira was a former Green Mountain Boy, brother of their leader Ethan Allen, and the seized weapons were from France, presumed to be bound for Canadian revolutionaries.

In the War of 1812, the British armies successfully defended Canada from US armies. Interestingly, only a fraction of Canadian militia members owned firearms at the time of that war. Canada would not have a large-scale rebellion against Britain until 1837, and does not currently have a constitutionally protected right to bear arms.

Though the US and Canada share a lot of culture and history, our gun cultures differ significantly.

In modern times, 32% of US adults report personally owning a gun. According to a 2005 Gallup poll, reasons given for owning a gun were hunting (58%), target shooting (66%), and protection against crime (67%). In 2021, the same poll found comparable numbers for hunting (56%) and target shooting (70%), but fewer gun fatalities may be evident responses citing protection against crime rose significantly to 88%. Property and violent crimes have been mostly on the decline in the US since the 1990s, with a recent uptick in rates since 2020. Though our overall crime rates are half of Canadians', our gun-related homicide rates are nearly 10-fold higher. This is an interesting discrepancy, which makes a little more sense given that Americans own three times as many guns as Canadians do.

We see a correlation between gun ownership and gun violence when comparing the US to Canada, as shown in the accompanying bar plots, and also when comparing among US states, shown in the accompanying scatter plot. Fortunately, we live in Massachusetts, the state with the lowest gun-related fatality rate of all fifty.

Of Americans who died in 2020, according to CDC data, 0.5% were gun homicides, and 0.9% were gun suicides. By comparison, the leading causes of death that year were heart disease (20.1%), cancer (17.2%), and coronavirus (10.2%).

The US has a problem when it comes to gun-related fatalities compared to our Canadian neighbors. Guns were involved in 79% of homicides and 40% of suicides in the US, more than double Canadian rates of 37% and 16% respectively. Since 1960, Canada has had around a dozen mass shooting events, while the US has had several hundred.

The reason why Canadians have in their ability to react politically to threats to public safety. Canada requires federal licenses for handgun ownership, and restricts the magazine capacity of semiautomatic rifles to five rounds. In 1995, in response to the École Polytechnique massacre, Canada passed the Long Gun Registry Act. A 2019 Angus Reid poll found that 75% of Canadians supported an assault rifle ban and 61% supported a handgun ban. The country instituted a ban on assault-style weapons in 2020, and this October, Canadian president Justin Trudeau instituted a nationwide freeze on handgun sales and transfers. "When people are being killed," he said, "when people are being hurt, responsible leadership requires us to act." The US has had far fewer restrictions. The US Congress passed a 10-year ban on assault rifles in 1994, which expired in 2004. The first new federal gun legislation since then was passed this summer, when it mandated enhanced background checks for gun purchasers under 21 years of age, as well as re-

# **MEDICINE** Eat, Drink, and Be Merry

#### By CATHERINE DODDS, M.D.

TURNERS FALLS - The holiday season is upon us!

Whether you celebrate Christmas, Festivus, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, New Year's, Saturnalia, or Yule - listed alphabetically and certainly not all-inclusive) - many winter holiday traditions include alcohol. Perhaps it's eggnog spiked with Southern Comfort, Glühwein (German mulled wine), Manischewitz kosher wine, rum punch, champagne, or something entirely different, but whatever the quaff of choice, the majority of us will consume some alcohol during this time of year.

There is a long history of humans drinking alcohol as a part of social activities. Beer and wine have been consumed for thousands of years. Alcohol is such a prominent part of modern human society that, as a doctor, I am supposed to ask every patient about alcohol consumption at least once per year.

But why is that? What is the deal with alcohol and overall health?

The short version is that no amount or type of alcohol is beneficial or specifically recommended to improve overall health. The long version, of course, is much longer and more nuanced. Because this wouldn't be much of a newspaper article if I stopped here, would it?

Moderate alcohol intake, classified as seven or fewer drinks per week, is generally considered safe for most people, particularly when it helps promote social interaction, which itself has many significant health benefits.

health. It has been associated with damage to the liver, pancreas, stomach, and brain, as well increased risk of gout flares, osteoporosis (decreased bone density), cancer, accidents, injuries, and death.

I will not focus further on excessive alcohol use in this article, but if you or a loved one are struggling with alcohol dependence, please contact your healthcare provider to discuss treatment options.

In terms of evidence for health effects of alcohol consumption, several studies done in Europe found that self-reported overall health was best among people who consumed one or two alcoholic drinks per day, compared with those who reported drinking no alcohol, less than one drink per day, or more than two.

Furthermore, a meta-analysis including over 80 studies showed that the lowest risk of overall death is among those whose level of alcohol intake is around six drinks per week. Multiple studies have shown that people who consume small amounts of alcohol have lower risk of death from heart disease than nondrinkers, which seems to be related to the small amount of alcohol consumed rather than the specific type of alcoholic beverage.

However, current medical evidence suggests that whatever cardiovascular benefits may be associated with alcohol intake are outweighed by an increased risk of cancer - particularly breast, colorectal, head and neck, and esophageal cancer - as well as the risk of developing alcohol dependence. This balance of risks and benefits varies among individuals

Odds of gun ownership were 4.3 times higher among large slave-owners, and 6.7 times higher among livestock owners. Among the colonies, North Carolina had the highest rate, at 77% of estates. The caveat is that many of the documented guns were likely to have been in poor condition.

Our northern neighbor, Canada, had relatively fewer guns than the US. In 1795, Vermont's then-Secretary of State Ira Allen was captured Pregnancy is an exception.

There is no safe amount of alcohol consumption during pregnancy.

Excessive or binge-pattern alcohol consumption - definitions vary, but roughly more than 15 drinks per week or four drinks per occasion - is clearly harmful to our

strictions on gun rights for people who have made violent threats or committed domestic violence.

President Joe Biden has said he believes more should be done to combat the gun violence crisis, namely reinstating the assault weapons ban. In his Memorial Day address this year, he remarked that "[after] those weapons were allowed to be sold again, mass shootings tripled. Those are the facts." Biden went on to pose the question: "Why in God's name should an ordinary citizen be able to purchase an assault weapon that holds 30-round magazines that let mass shooters fire hundreds of bullets in a matter of minutes?"

A handgun ban is not likely in the US. However, other gun regulabased on genetic, environmental, and lifestyle factors. So, red wine isn't necessari-

ly better than any other alcohol, but when it comes to alcohol and health, as in so many other aspects of our lives, moderation is key. Even during the holidays.

tions have popular support. A 2021 Pew research poll found that 64% of Americans support banning high-capacity magazines, and 63% support banning assault-style weapons. Opinions on those measures were split by party affiliation, however, with Republican supporters 41% and 37% in favor of these two measures respectively, and 83% of Democratic supporters in favor of each.

Given the political division on the issue, a ban in the US seems unlikely at this point in time. However, with recent increases in spending on gun violence research at the National Institutes of Health, we can hope that scientifically-informed decision making will play a bigger role in future policy.



Firearm mortality rates compared to household gun ownership, by US state.







# **EXHIBITS**

**Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls:** *Junior Duck Stamps.* See the top Massachusetts youth entries for the 2022 Junior Duck Stamp competition. Through December.

**Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett:** *Holiday Store and Art Show.* First two weekends in December, with open studios by resident artists.

**GCC South Gallery, Greenfield:** *Andrea Moreau.* Drawings and paintings exploring political or personal propaganda. Artist talk on Wednesday, December 7 at noon. Through December 14.

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *Figure Drawing Group Show* work from the figure drawing group at Artspace. December 4 to 29. Reception Friday, December 9, 5 to 7 p.m.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: Healing the Heart. Community art ex-

 hibit curated by K. Kemah Wilson.
 Through December. Also, a Holiday Art Salon on Saturdays in December, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

> Looky Here, Greenfield: Another Person, Another Place, gouache works by Danielle Chenette. Through December.

**Goose Divine Energy, Greenfield:** *Donna Estabrooks,* paintings. Through January 15.

**Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield:** Season of Light. Member artists' holiday shop. Through January 15.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: Josh Simpson: 50 Years of Glass, retrospective exhibit by the local glass artist. Through December.

Shelburne Arts Coop Gallery, Shelburne Falls: Season of Wonder. Members' show. Through January.

Gallery A3, Amherst: Small Wonders. Group show. Through December. Opening reception Thursday, December 1 at 5 p.m.

Anchor House, Northampton: It's a Kitschy World. Valerie Flex Gilbert creates three rooms full of brilliantly colorful assemblage making humorous visual stories. December 6 through 30. Reception Friday, December 9, at 5 p.m.

**A.P.E. Gallery, Northampton:** *Missing Department,* collaborative exhibit by artist Ligia Bouton and writer Matt Donovan. Through December 10.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center: The New Herbarium, fungus and plant images by Madge Evers; We Feel Our Way Through When We Don't Know, group show; The Space Between Memory and Expectation, large-format photographic installations by Renate Aller; Moons and Internment Stones, rock and moon paintings by Alison Moritsugu; and (de) composed, sculpture by Judith Klausner. All through February 12. www.brattleboromuseum.org.



# MOVIE REVIEW She Said Not to Be Missed (2022)

#### **By REBECCA TIPPENS**

**COLRAIN** – The *She Said* movie, now playing in theaters, is not to be missed! This is a feature film, based on a true story and the book of the same title, about two intrepid young reporters from the *New York Times*, Megan Twohey (played by Carey Mulligan) and Jodi Kantor (Zoe Kazan). Working as a team, they exposed the sexual harassment and rapes committed by Hollywood super mogul, director and producer Harvey Weinstein. Their reportage served to initiate the broader and ultimately global *#MeToo* movement.

The film has been created by a team of women. The reporters' experiences have been translated into a screenplay by Rebecca Lenkiewicz, and the film is directed by Maria Schrader. Natasha Braier is the cinematographer. Interestingly, all three hail from Europe. There are but two men among the eight producers. We have begun to "come a long way."

Carrying a woman's perspective, this film honors women in their strengths in a realistic way. They dress authentically in what I would call a "Franklin County style," going about as casually in their rumpled shirts as we do about town. They also share a comfortable, compatible working dynamic. They said, "Women can have far more impact together than separately." The movie covers issues like how they had to negotiate their life/ work balance with their husbands when their work escalated and they had to travel for interviews. I do not recall films about men called to do extra work who struggle first with its effect on their home lives. Plus, it is enlightening to learn of the supportive work environment at the *Times*. The team won a Pulitzer in the Public Service category in 2018 for their "explosive, impactful journalism that exposed powerful and wealthy sexual predators." The team included the tireless chief investigative editor Rebecca Corbett (played with intelligence and grace by Patricia Clarkson) and the powerful journalist Dean Baquet.

gatekeeping, not letting Weinstein or his minions – who learned about the investigation while in process – stand in the reporters' way. The *Times* also gave the two young women freedom and plentiful resources, including flying them to



The scene where they are reading the final draft of the story together in the newsroom, and we then see the computer screen and a finger pressing down on "Publish," the stories – but securing those revelations is an exciting process, filled with multiple dramatic turns.

The investigators first had to find the women who worked for the Weinstein company or were potential or ultimately hired actors. With these names in hand, their work was then tracking them down and convincing them to share their stories. Many were under non-disclosure agreements that complicated the situation, and many had held their story for decades and felt alone and shame-ridden.

The two reporters were extraordinarily gracious and non-pushy. They accepted the no's, only very gently offering a contact card in case the women decided to change their minds. The revelations come slowly.

We meet some lovely women. Especially compelling is Jennifer Ehle who plays Laura Madden, an Irish woman who worked in Weinstein's European office as a very young woman and was assaulted by him. Filled with shame, in a culture that had yet to reveal its effective imprisonment of unwed mothers, she decided to share her story for the sake of her teen daughters who encouraged her to speak her truth.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG (BELATED) Total Entropy Increases

Sunday, 10/2 5:09 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with preliminary breath test on Turnpike Road. Wednesday, 10/5 5:45 p.m. Assisted Greenfield PD with recovering a stolen vehicle, serving a warrant.

Thursday, 10/6

4:59 p.m. Checked person walking in the travel lane on the French King Bridge.

Sunday, 10/9

8:54 a.m. Assisted citizen on Mountain Road. Individual states he is from New Jersey and has no way to get anywhere; he is on foot.

Tuesday, 10/11 1:46 p.m. Threatening comments made on the French King Highway. 8:32 p.m. Caller advises a gray Honda sedan drove up on the grass King Highway. No erratic or egregious driving observed. 4:08 p.m. Manager from Main Road reports that what appears to be a packet of an illegal substance fell out of a customer's wallet. Saturday, 10/15

7:46 a.m. Caller from the French King Highway reports someone crashed into items on the property overnight. 12:08 p.m. Motorcycle accident, Factory Hollow Street. No injury.

Sunday, 10/16 12:12 p.m. Caller from the French King Bridge states there are 100 people at the bridge, taking pictures and walking in

pictures and walking in the travel lanes. 1:36 p.m. Caller reports numerous people in the travel lane of the

French King Bridge.

4:58 p.m. Caller from the French King Highway advises she was involved in a two-car crash in front of the Gill Mill. No injuries. 8:31 p.m. Caller from the French King Highway reporting three suspicious trash bags. They smell like something decomposing that is not food. Saturday, 10/22

1:31 p.m. Fire alarm on Elm Street. Sunday, 10/23

3:17 p.m. 911 hangup, Myrtle Street. Caller says she was changing the screensaver and mistakenly hit "SOS." 9:15 p.m. Assisted Greenfield PD by serving seven warrants on Main Road.

#### Monday, 10/24

7:02 a.m. Caller from the French King Highway advises they hit a deer, and it is on the side of the road injured. 5:01 p.m. Report of a suicide threat on the French King Bridge. **Tuesday, 10/25** 8:31 a.m. Car vs. deer accident on Main Road. Individual not injured. 5 p.m. Welfare check on the French King Bridge. **Friday, 10/28** 

Baquet had dealt with Weinstein in previous situations and knew of his tactics, and was staunch in his is a moment for applause.

The comfortable working dynamic between Twohey and Kantor is buttressed by fine acting. I especially appreciated the broad performance of Carey Mulligan playing Twohey, who is just pregnant at the beginning of their investigation, then has a baby, experiences postpartum depression, and returns to work intrepid and happy to begin again. She is also happy to be a momma when returning home, although the number of calls they receive in the middle of the night is another testament to their commitment.

Kazan was a bit less inspiring to me as an actor, largely because she held the same expression while sitting at lunch table after lunch table, listening to women sharing their stories. Perhaps this listening pose was an affectation the reporter cultivated to encourage story sharing, but I found it a bit stilted, and wondered if it were just unimaginative acting. That is my only quibble with the film, which overall plays as an exciting drama, a whodunnit even though you know the ending – they will get She was one of the first women to open up, along with Ashley Judd, who plays herself in the film.

An interesting technique of the film is that while presenting the tracking and finding of those abused by Weinstein, footage of the women 20 to 30 years ago is recreated (not the assaults), followed by their memories about the effects of the assaults. This fosters compassion, not sensationalism.

Weinstein himself is shown only once in the film, sitting at a conference table, and we only see the back of his head. I loved that diminishment.

I encourage all of you to see this film. Not only is it excellently crafted, but it is necessary background to the work in front of us – judicially and socially – to end the indecency of sexual abuse and male entitlement. I think it is a great work of cinema!

Playing at Amherst Cinema and Greenfield Garden Cinema.

area of the Gill Mill, left the scene, then struck the bridge.

#### Wednesday, 10/12

2:05 p.m. 911 misdial on Elm Street. Accidentally dialed; no emergency. Thursday, 10/13 6:08 a.m. Dog struck by a vehicle on the French King Highway. 5:49 p.m. Individual reports a minor accident in the Spirit Shoppe parking lot. 7:41 p.m. Caller from Erving reports a tan SUV with Vermont plates driving erratically, going 20 mph in a 60 mph zone, and putting on blinkers but

not turning. Friday, 10/14

11:42 a.m. Accident on Route 10 in Northfield on the Gill town line. No injury.

12:21 p.m. Caller reported two Porsches racing on the French

4:13 p.m. Branch on the wires at Hoe Shop and West Gill roads. **Tuesday, 10/18** 8:29 p.m. Loose black and white cow, Main and Lyons Hill roads. **Wednesday, 10/19** 1:37 p.m. Bag of jewelry found on Main Road. 6:08 p.m. Caller reported an unregistered mini-bike on South Cross Road.

Thursday, 10/20

11:38 a.m. Welfare check on the French King Bridge. Subject taken to the hospital for suicidal threats. 11:51 a.m. Caller from

Ben Hale Road reported a fraud/scam. 5:49 p.m. Car vs. deer accident on Main Road. Deer took off. Friday, 10/21

1:26 p.m. Checked the welfare of a subject on the Gill side of the French King Bridge. 5:46 p.m. Report of a loose Border Collie on Atherton Road.

#### Saturday, 10/29

8 a.m. Political signs reported stolen on Main Road.

4:33 p.m. Officer requested on West Gill Road for a possible dis-

pute over a dog. Monday, 10/31

1:02 p.m. Caller advises that a lawn mower bag is in the middle of the eastbound travel lane on the French King Highway.



#### ANDOR from page B1

sometimes pointlessly. The enemy is ruthlessly efficient, cunning, and wants control at any cost. This is a raw, and shockingly revolutionary, story that happens to be set in the backdrop of the Star Wars universe.

Few characters in Andor have any special status in the canon. The lead is an indigenous child, torn away arbitrarily from his uncolonized planet by forces far beyond his control. His companions are laborers, shopkeepers, parents, traders, and the one mandatory quirky droid - though even the droid subverts Star Wars conceits by being neither plucky nor useful. Their relatable unspecial-ness becomes the very force driving them to undertake epic, even suicidal, action to fight for the rights and lives of unspecial people everywhere.

The show's pacing steeps us slowly in this world's environments, characters, and relationships, which in turn infuse the infrequent action set-pieces with worlds of heart-clutching meaning. Within the menacing tension of nearly every scene, *Andor* is driven by the palpable human spark of its character ensemble. Each face that gets screen



Karis Nemik (Alex Lawther) teaches Cassian Andor (Diego Luna) the importance of revolutionary theory.

time, even the random guards to whom most media wouldn't give a single thought, displays a range of real, believable emotion and motivation, often communicated more through their eyes than their words.

Characters in this show are messy, conflicted, and passionate. They are torn between their comrades and their ideals. They are stubborn in their commitments and craven in their betrayals even when it visibly hurts them. Nothing from Marvel's CGI-fests or the shitshow that is the Star Wars sequel trilogy comes close to this level of cinematic immersion.

The villains receive a particularly nuanced portrayal. They are deliberately humanized without any hint at being excused or redeemed. The characters we love to hate have overbearing mothers, dismissive bosses, unrequited crushes, precocious daughters, and hapless coworkers, all of which only serves to elevate the banality of their space-nazi lives.

Among a standout cast, it's worth particularly celebrating Andy Serkis' Kino, a stern prison labor foreman just trying to finish out his sentence, introduced in the season's back half, and Stellan Skarsgård's Luthen, a man of wealth and connections who risks everything (*everything*) in the hope of overthrowing an oppressive regime. Both may seem purely functional characters at first, but by episode 10, each made me cry, something I never would have expected from a Star Wars outing.

My biggest criticism is exactly that there is no reason for this to be a Star Wars show. While in some ways the internet and streaming services have expanded and democratized the creation of popular media, there has also been a collapse of big-budget funding into a tiny slew of franchise projects. Just as 2019's Joker was a riff on the Scorcese films Taxi Driver and The King of Comedy dressed up in a Batman costume, in the current media and economic environment, a thoughtful, visceral war thriller like Andor had to be either a Star Wars show or some other big-studio property to ever get made. There's something sad, and a little bit scary, about that.

I'm glossing over a few other rough patches in the show's impressive tapestry, but on the whole *Andor* is so damn good – and so unapologetically pro-worker, pro-prisoner, pro-rebel, pro-regular-person – that it's impossible not to be moved and amazed.

*Currently available streaming on Disney+.* 



# The Band Oneida Is Coming To Greenfield

#### By MIKE JACKSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – "I mean, we don't get to play a ton," Kid Millions tells me. "So, you know, we dig in a little...."

Millions, on a press call with a reporter, is playing his cards close to the vest. He should be playing drums or something, or assembling an orchestra of dirty noisefreaks to play minimalist compositions really loudly in a museum courtyard, or maybe having quiet family time. Not this. But we both think people should go to shows, if they want to, so we're having a promotional interview. It's not his fault I'm asking stupid questions – most recently, how long is the band's set going to be. I'm definitely not sure why I asked him that.

I ask him what's going on in New York these days, musically.

"I have a baby," he tells me. "She's 10 months old. So I haven't been like... super plugged in, to be they aren't doing any big huge tours Oneida *is* striking out to New York City's outer periphery and hitting venues like... 10 Forward in Greenfield, Massachusetts!

"Why should people go out to shows right now?"

I am perplexed to hear myself ask this. It felt like a knowing, sympathetic prompt when it started coming up but once it actually came out of my mouth and went into the little holes on the phone it was a crying wheeze of existential dread, we both know the people holding all the power have made the decision that there will be a mass die-off of humans before many of us get to really be old, why did I ask that question.

"I mean, that's,"

*Kid Millions / John Colpitts pauses,* "that's really not up to me." "Yeah."

"I mean, you know, do what you need to do. I don't have an opinion about that. I mean, it's great if some-



Ourida from life to visite Chalin Matic Dallow Matadam II and I and Wid Millions and Danne I and a

honest."

Kid Millions – or, well, John Colpitts, the names are just for fun – is the founder of and eternally sharp chugging pulse within Oneida, a band that shaped and was shaped by the culture of the turn-of-the-millennium Brooklyn warehouse world. To anyone trapped in a specific aesthetic hot tub back then they were almost a reference point: repetition; intensity; volume. If there was a compilation they should definitely be on it.

"The thing was, there wasn't really a scene until it was identified by the media," Colpitts clarifies for me. "Which is interesting. I mean, there wasn't a scene – nobody knew each other, you know? – but we would learn about each other by reading *Time Out.*"

It makes more sense to me now that he might be paranoid about our profession. I do wonder how this would all be going if the tables were turned. But he is the one who is in Oneida, is still in Oneida after a full 25 years, which is like being in the Grateful Dead in 1990, and while one wants to come see us. I'd love – I mean, an audience is great, but I don't – I mean, I've been through the wringer, like I've gotten COV-ID twice. You know, people just gotta do what they gotta do... But, we're an amazing band live."

Aha! Success!

**Oneida**, reportedly an amazing band live (and pretty good on record depending on what you're into), plays next Friday, December 9 at the club 10 Forward in Greenfield. Sharing the bill are **Luxor Rentals**, who I have gathered are a local guitar class, and **Sky Furrows**, an Albany-region low-key supergroup in which members of Burnt Hills, if you've seen that band, support poet Karen Schoemer.

Members of Oneida reached by this publication were unwilling to go on record about how long their set might be or what is going on in New York these days musically, and it's impossible and futile to really write meaningfully about music in the first place beyond the experiences people have when it is playing near them Oneida, from left to right: Shahin Motia, Bobby Matador, Hanoi Jane, Kid Millions, and Barry London. This image is an "asset" produced and circulated to help promote the group's 2022 record Success; the band's record label, Joyful Noise, sent it to this newspaper upon request via Dropbox.

or when they are playing it, but this might be a good show to go to, or at least to put in your calendar. You can find out immediately what any of these bands sound like if you have a phone because it is 2022.

# Kid Millions, on what playing in The Boredoms is like:

"It's like a dream. I don't want to say a cliché, because it doesn't really make sense, it doesn't work on that level. I played the 77 Boa Drum, which was the concert we did in DUMBO in Brooklyn on July 7, 2007, and that was one of the peak musical experiences in my life. And in a way all the Boredoms shows I've done are like that: you have to work really hard; they love to really push rehearsals, and they're always doing new stuff. You can't just be like, 'Yeah, we're doing the same set,' they're like 'No, it's all new!' Which is kind of frustrating as a musician who's trying to do a good job, but as a creative entity it's unparalleled. You work really hard -12-hour rehearsal days, as many as they can get - and it's just amazing. There's so much rote memorization, it's just such a great group of deep players, and people. And it's one of the highlights of my musical life, for sure."

Kid Millions, on what Oneida is trying accomplish at this point, 25 years in – like, is it socially motivated, or are they still trying to accomplish things aesthetically together?:

"That's a funny question. I like it. No, it's a good question.

"I mean, both, for sure. Of course we're trying to accomplish things aesthetically – that's the core – but we have a tight bond and we're friends, and that's certainly useful, right? And it's kind of an ongoing creative project. If there's no money, then those things are important. But I wouldn't say there's something that weighs either way."

# On taking direction from what happens live on stage:

"These five people get together, and a certain different universe opens up to us creatively, and we try to tap into it. As an individual, I don't really have access to that normally. So I would say it's a special group of people, creatively, and we are open to what comes out in terms of – like, yeah, there's *jams*, but we are open to any kind of direction that we take."

## On what people can expect: for example, will it be loud?:

"Sure. It's loud. It's a unique, intense, very wild sound-palette experience. I think people don't really maybe know, or expect, that that's what's going to happen, but it's a really overwhelming kind of sound."





The Reporter is looking for volunteers to help us curate this listing. Interested? Contact us at editor@montaguereporter.org!

#### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1**

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Motorhawk. Luxor Rentals. Ian St. George Band. Free. 9 p.m.

#### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2**

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Drew Paton. Free. 6 p.m.

Mt. Toby Friends Meetinghouse, Leverett: Magpie. \$. 7 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: Municipal Waste, High On Fire, Gel, The Early Moods. \$. 7 p.m.

Belltower Records, North Adams: Zoarbrook, Belltone Suicide, Grabass Cowboys, PV. \$. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Tony Trischka, Michael Nix. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Dear Mister Ward, book reading event. \$. 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: Bitchin

Bajas, Wet Tuna. \$. 8 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club: Josh Levangie & the Pistoleros. Free. 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: Mamma's Marmalade, Green Heron. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: A.P.I.E., Rump State with S. Glass, Decimus, Matt Krefting / Olana Flynn duo. Free. 9:30 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

Element Brewing Company, Millers Falls: 13th Anniversary Party. Live music all day. Free. 1 p.m. 33 Hawley, Northampton: HUT 38 feat. Greg Kelley, Lauren Horn, Ide Thompson. \$. 8 p.m. The Drake, Amherst: The Bax-

bys, Toxic Friends, Daniel Blair & The Forgottens. \$. 8 p.m. Shea Theater, Turners Falls: The Valley Vaudeville Variety Show.

\$. 8:45 p.m. Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Owen Manure, Slob Drop, Fatty *Thicc*. Free. 9:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4** 

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Música Franklin presents a Holiday Cheer Benefit Concert. By donation. 3 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Jake McKelvie, Big Big Buildings, Hoonah, Troye Lonely. \$. 7:30 p.m.

#### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 5**

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Open Mic. Free. 7:30 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

10 Forward, Greenfield: Special Interest, Lucie R., DJ Gus. \$. 8 p.m.

#### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8**

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Vinyl Night, hosted by Breakdown Records. Free. 9 p.m.

#### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9**

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Pamela Means. \$. 7 p.m.

Bombyx Center, Florence: Dar Wiliams, Hayley Reardon. \$. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: 10 Forward, Greenfield: The

Welcome Yule Presents: A Midwinter Celebration. \$. 7:30 p.m. 10 Forward, Greenfield: Oneida, Sky Furrows, Luxor Rentals. \$. 8 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: Matt Samolis, cymbal sound bath. By donation. 4 p.m.

Bombyx Center, Florence: Davi Bromberg Quintet. \$. 6 p.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: Open Mic Night. 6:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Welcome Yule Presents: A Midwinter Celebration. \$. 7:30 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: Thus Love, Gift, Robber Robber. \$. 8 p.m. Stone Church, Brattleboro: The Bubs, Slut Magic, Tender Spot.

\$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: The Dave Bulley Band. Free. 9:30 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

B-52.0s. Big Destiny, Holy Basil, *DJ Dutch.* Early show. \$. 6 p.m. Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Welcome Yule Presents: A Midwinter Celebration. \$. 7:30 p.m.

#### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 12**

Bombyx Center, Florence: Jorma Kaukonen. \$. 7 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

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

#### **FRIDAY. DECEMBER 16**

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: The Scrooges, Motorhawk, Power Trousers. \$. 9 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: John Hodgman and Monte Belmonte's Holiday Spectacular feat. Jean Grae, Jonathan Coulton, Heather Maloney, *High Tea*. \$. 8 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: Suzanne Vega. \$. 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: Vapors of Morphine, Muddy Ruck*us.* \$. 8 p.m.

JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION Carolyn Clark OVER THE HILL why so sad whole they their Sport? onths. loomed out earts 45! he dragon wing begonias are gone. The They were frost finally pretty a mazing. Now they're they will not "go gentle lying on top Three Degrees of Warming into that good of the compost By Janice Rowan Thelma. pile and still night", trying to bloom. It's toug the phase Breaks my heart.







#### **GET YOUR AUDIT ON**

#### **By DAISY REED**



Submit your comics (and puzzles) to editor@montaguereporter.org. Original & local creations only, please!





# **Travel News: To Europe from Hartford**

**SOUTH DEERFIELD** – Here is some good news for travelers like me who love the ease and convenience of flying in and out of Hartford. Did you know that you can now catch a flight to London, Berlin, or Dublin from Bradley Airport? *Yes!* 

When I think back on the hundreds of times I've flown out of Connecticut, it's universally been easier and less of a hassle than my usual trip to Framingham to park at Logan Express to fly out of Boston.

With these new European flight options coming back to good old Bradley, travelers can take a 10- or 12-hour trip across the pond without the big long bus ride – and longer drive home on the Mass Pike – that flying out of Boston Logan requires.

The flights I checked on Google Flights in early November were around \$940 roundtrip to London, and two of them didn't leave at the crack of dawn! The airport announced in October 2022 the return of Aer Lingus, which was dropped for a few years during the pandemic.

The service will operate daily through October and offer connectivity to 28 key UK and European airports, including London, Paris, Amsterdam, Berlin, Vienna, Madrid, Barcelona, Rome, and Prague. The service is expected to operate annually on a seasonal basis until year-round demand is realized from the return of business travel. Aer Lingus ran the route starting in 2016, but then stopped it in 2020.

The other good news at Bradley is about Breeze Airlines. The upstart economy airline, which began in 2018, will add to its schedule of low-cost flights starting in February 2023. Soon they will have nonstop service to Vero Beach, Florida and Phoenix, Arizona, starting from \$79 and \$99 one way respectively, and one-stop "BreezeThru" flights (with no plane change) to A good friend from Greenfield has been traveling to visit his friend in Virginia Beach and said that Breeze has been an excellent choice. The cost of the roundtrip flight from Hartford to Norfolk, Virginia is just between \$80 and \$120, and he's learned to consolidate his luggage into a tiny backpack to suit the strict Breeze rules.

You can also jump on a Breeze Airways Airbus A220 – a bigger plane than the smaller Embraer E190s they use for East Coast trips – and take a non-stop flight to Las Vegas that departs at 7 a.m. weekdays two times a week, year-round. Frontier Airlines also offers cheap non-stops to Sin City, leaving every day from Hartford at 10 a.m.

Another holiday bonus just announced that should make travelers happy is that the price of TSA Pre-Check has gone down. Anyone who flies a lot knows that this is a great way to improve your airport experience, and combined with Global Entry for international arrivals, can really save time. Just the feeling of walking to the left by yourself as a giant crowd all has to go right and get in line makes Global Entry so worth it, and when you buy Global, you also get PreCheck. Because who wants to take off your shoes and worry about water in your bottle during screening?

Previously, enrollment in TSA PreCheck cost \$85 for five years, but the fee to join has been lowered to \$78. You can also get a free membership with a number of credit cards, which are listed online at *www.tsa. gov/precheck/credit-cards-offer*. Members are allowed a speedy process through airport security – they can keep on their shoes and light jackets, and aren't required to remove liquids or large electronics like laptops from their carry-on bags.

Aside from paying the fee, enrolling in TSA PreCheck entails submitting an online application and visiting one of the 500 enrollment centers throughout the country for an interview and to be fingerprinted. After being closed during the height of the pandemic, the TSA's network of enrollment centers is fully reopened again.

The new lower \$78 fee also applies to in-person PreCheck renewals, where travelers visit an enrollment center to renew with an agent face-to-face. Online renewal fees haven't changed, still the cheapest and most convenient option at \$70.

If you are going to travel more than four times a year, I think getting PreCheck and Global Entry (*global-traveler-apply.com/globalentry-apply*) are two things definitely worth doing..

If you have already applied for Global Entry and are waiting for your Border Patrol interview, just stop by the area after you clear customs at Logan, where you can get it done so your next trip will be easier.

You might have noticed already that the TSA screeners at many airport checkpoints no longer need to see your boarding pass. Earlier this year, the agency stopped scanning boarding passes at numerous facilities to speed up the process, and announced an initiative with Apple Wallet for PreCheck fliers to use just their iPhone to get through security at certain airports.

And finally, the Connecticut Department of Transportation recently began coordinating buses wih the commuter trains that run to the new station that just opened in Windsor Locks. People can now take the train from Greenfield or Northampton, get off at the Windsor Locks station, and take the bus four miles to Bradley Airport.

Local travel editor Max Hartshorne writes about traveling around our region, and a little beyond. Max is the editor of GoNOMAD Travel, a website published since 2000 in



Aer Lingus has returned to Bradley International Airport in Hartford, Connecticut with flights to Europe.



Global Entry keeps you away from big lines like these, and gives you TSA PreCheck as well.



Provo, Utah and San Bernardino, s California, starting from \$99.

submitting an online application *South Deerfield. Find him online at* and visiting one of the 500 enroll- www.gonomad.com.

New buses now run between the commuter rail station at Windsor Locks, Connecticut and Bradley Airport.

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