The Montague Reporter

YEAR 21 – NO. 7

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JANUARY 5, 2023

Montague Presented With Windfall Earmark For Avenue A Makeover

By JEFF SINGLETON

Two days before Christmas, the town of Montague learned that it has secured a \$975,000 Congressional appropriation to speed up the improvements along Avenue A in Turners Falls. The source of the funds, announced by representative Jim McGovern's office, is an \$18 million federal "earmark" passed by the House and Senate over the holidays.

Montague town administrator Steve Ellis told the *Reporter* that the \$975,000 will greatly accelerate the town's ongoing "Avenue A Streetscape" program, which has mostly been funded by smaller portions of annual federal community development block grants (CDBG).

A letter from the Montague selectboard supporting the project, now posted on the town website, indicated that the town had spent

see **EARMARK** page A6

National Study Pours Resources Into Local Towns' Drug Response



In one of many local projects the study will fund this year, the Community Health Center of Franklin County will be able to make a bulk order of buprenorphine, a medication that helps users withdrawal from opioids and blocks them from working.

No Better Time Than Now

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By SARAH ROBERTSON

GREENFIELD – The Opioid Task Force of Franklin County and the North Quabbin has been awarded around \$491,000 to spend this year on addiction-related services and education as part of a national study focused on preventing overdose deaths. Montague, Greenfield, Orange, and Athol have been selected to be included in the HEAL Initiative, a project funded by the federal National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The goal of the HEAL Initiative, which stands for Helping End Addiction Long Term, is to reduce the number of opioid overdose-related deaths by 40% in selected communities over the next three years. The

chosen communities will decide on and implement their own strategies for harm reduction.

Dozens of towns and cities in Massachusetts, New York, Kentucky, and Ohio were identified to be a part of the study. Four of the 16 selected in Massachusetts, Montague, Greenfield, Orange and Athol, will be assessed as one cluster overseen by the Opioid Task Force, a coalition founded by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office.

The study – and the funds that come with it – will help the Task Force coordinate with area agencies to increase the public's access to the anti-overdose drug Narcan and conduct education and outreach

see **RESPONSE** page A5

WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Freshly Elected Representative Hears an Earful From Wendell

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Newly elected state representative Aaron Saunders came in person to the Wendell selectboard's second hybrid meeting on December 21, the longest night of the year. His newly-configured 7th Hampden District includes Wendell, New Salem, Petersham, and Shutesbury along with Belchertown and Ludlow, a 35-minute drive from one end to the other and the second-largest legislative district in Massachusetts.

Saunders said he came more to listen than to speak.

Right away acting selectboard chair Dan Keller brought up the payment *in lieu* of taxes (PILOT) for the large area in Wendell owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The state pays no taxes as such, but makes a payment directly to the town instead.

In his 40 years watching Wendell's finances, Keller said, first on the finance committee and then on the selectboard, he has seen PILOT payments "progress backwards."

Saunders said 1st Franklin representative Natalie Blais is leading an

see **WENDELL** page A6

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Public Forums Promised Over Fate of Field Library Building

By GEORGE BRACE

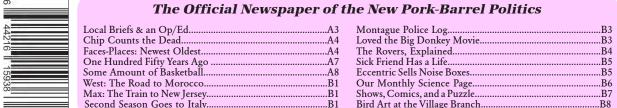
At their meeting Tuesday, Leverett's selectboard met with members of the committee for the future of the Field Library building to discuss the committee's work, its proposals for the fate of the historic building, and its plans to reach out to the community with information. Among other business, the board also held a second property tax classification hearing due to an error in the calculations the board of assessors had submitted to the state Department of Revenue.

In questioning representatives of the "Ad Hoc Committee for the Future of the Field Library Building" on the status of its work, chair Tom Hankinson referenced the issue of voters at last year's annual town meeting "feeling they were not aware" of the details behind a warrant article proposing the sale of the historic, town-owned, Field building to a private non-profit group.

That town meeting article failed to move forward, and the complaint led to the formation of the committee, charged with exploring the town's options and providing the community with information and an opportunity for engagement.

Hankinson said there were strong feelings" on the subject, and see **LEVERETT** page A7

to Official Nowspaper of the New Pork Parrel Politi



LOOKING BACK

A Friend On the Hill



The late Rep. Steve Kulik, seen here at a 2014 event announcing the state grant that covered two-thirds of the cost of building Unity Skatepark in Turners Falls.

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – The death on December 18 of Steve Kulik, the former state representative from Worthington who represented seventeen small towns in the 1st Franklin District, has elicited an outpouring of remembrances and accolade for a beloved – and effective – public servant.

Kulik, who served for 25 years in the legislature, was a great advocate for the unique needs of small rural towns – for adequate funding of small school districts, for public health, and for infrastructure such as broadband internet.

As a founder and legislative chair of the Small Town and Rural Caucus, he worked his way into the House leadership, becoming vice chair of the powerful Joint Committee on Ways and Means, which plays a central role in fashioning the annual state budget.

Many commentators in the regional press have reflected on Kulik's low-key and collegial personality, which often seemed the antithesis of the popular definition of "politician."

"He was just so humble and guided by a deep set of morals," Natalie Blais, who replaced Kulik as 1st Franklin representative, told the news website *MassLive.com*.

"The actions he took every day in the Statehouse were led by the constituents he represented."

"Steve was such a good and kind man who leaves a legacy of public service and benefit to so many," Franklin Regional Council of Governments executive director Linda Dunlavy told the *Hampshire Gazette*.

Public officials and others we spoke with for this article invariably stressed these personal characteristics.

"It was never about him," Geoff Beckwith, the director of the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA), which advocates at the statewide level for city and town governments, told the *Montague Reporter*. "I have never met a finer public servant."

Ellen Story, the former Amherst representative whose own legislative career from 1992 to 2017 coincided almost perfectly with Kulik's, also emphasized his personal integrity and his loyalty to his rural constituents.

"Many people in his district have said that he is the only Democrat they ever voted for," she told us.

A Game of Thrones

But does being a kind and friendly person who advocates for see **KULIK** page A7

NONE SHALL PASS



Turners Falls's Raygan Pendriss looks for a teammate behind a wall of Panthers – Fota Ndiaye, Whitney Dunklee, and Kyler McClelland. Lily Spera, behind her, scored 10 points in the Thunder's 45-28 loss at Pioneer Valley on December 29. See Page A8 for a recap of the basketball we missed over the break!

The Montague Reporter

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Every Grain of Sand

And just like that, dear readers, it's another new year. Some of you noticed your paper didn't arrive and dropped us a concerned line. We love that! In keeping with our established schedule, the team at the Montague Reporter will now dutifully churn another one out each week until it's July.

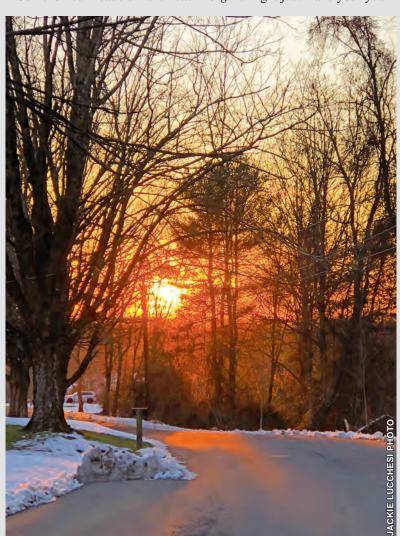
Vacation is not the *best* practice for a news organization, but we're a pretty small shop and, like so much of the world, dependent on volunteers for a number of key parts in our weekly operation. The volunteers deserve a break, and the rest of us join in solidarity with them.

Some of our readers have read

similar appeals in this space every six months for 20 years, so with apologies to them:

Do you want to get involved in your local newspaper? Would carrying papers around to neighbors every Thursday be a good way to get yourself out and moving? Do you see something going on that you want to call the community's attention to? Don't you wish you could call powerful people up and demand answers?

The sky's the limit – we're all learning on the job. If you're curious, reach out: call, stop by, drop an email to editor@montaguereporter. org. It might just make your year.



Jackie Lucchesi shared this photo of the sunset over Hillside Avenue on the solstice.

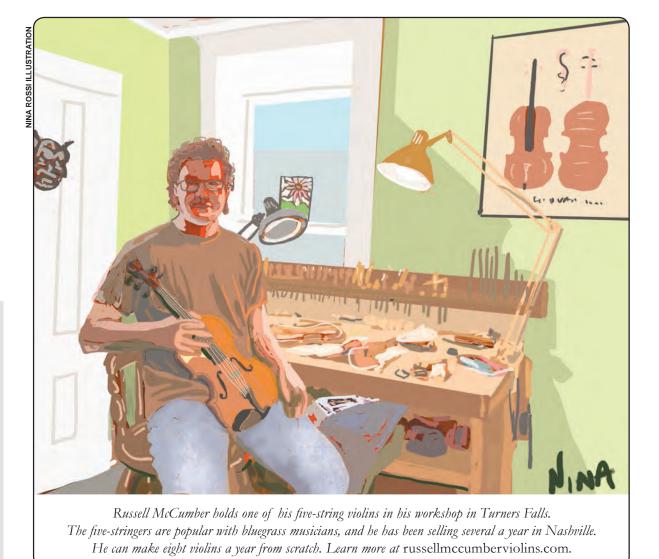
CORRECTIONS

in our December 22 coverage of Healing Harmonies, a choir for neurologically impaired individuals. With apologies all around, here are the corrections:

• Choir co-founder Amanda Bernhard was quoted as saying that singing can "slow down the progress of a disease such as Parkinson's." Instead, she clarifies, singing "may be able to slow progression of some of the symptoms that affect voice speech and swal-

Several errors were included lowing, but the disease will continue regardless of whether somebody sings or not."

- A 2019 concert mentioned briefly in the article took place at the Center for the Arts in Northampton, not the Academy of Music.
- While the article noted that the choir will rehearse on Wednesday evenings at the Sunderland Library, it left out that the group will not rehearse until mid-February. The contact number for more information is Lisa Sommers, (413) 545-4010.





A Plea for a Safe Pedestrian Route From Turners to Greenfield

I almost killed someone with my truck last night.

I was coming up the hill between Turners and Greenfield and near the top, where the road curves to the right and the shoulder is less than a foot wide, there was a car coming the opposite way. I was downhill from it, so its lights hit my eyes and momentarily diminished my vision. The car passed, my vision returned, and right there in front of me was a young man in a black hoodie walking up the hill on the inside of the curve. I swerved and missed him at the last second.

Less than twelve inches divided the future where I go home and have a nice dinner with my family from the future where my bumper impacts human flesh and whump! whump! - 3,500 pounds of truck end his life and ruin mine.

I've been driving for 28 years, and never had an accident. My night vision is good, and my reflexes are fast. I don't drive under the influence of any substances, I don't mess with the radio or my phone. I constantly scan for hazards, and I keep my windshield clean. Had any of those factors been different,

or had it been raining or foggy, or had he been a little farther from the curb, or had either one of us been a little less lucky, he would be dead and I'd be guilty of vehicular manslaughter.

At some point, that narrow, curvy, dark, busy road - the only practical walking route from Turners to Greenfield - will be fixed so that it can safely accommodate pedestrians. The question is, will we do it before someone dies, or after?

> **Bryan Dolan** Greenfield

Annual Run Thanks

On Saturday, December 31, Montague Parks & Recreation held our Annual Sawmill River 10K Run in Montague Center. Approximately 93 runners from throughout the entire region participated in this major fundraising event that supports our Sponsor-A-Child Scholarship Program.

The race would not have been possible without the investment of time, energy, resources, and funding from many within our fine community. We would like to thank A.H. Rist Insurance Co., Marathon Sports, Greenfield Savings Bank, and Turn It Up Music for their generous financial support, as well as the Montague Common Hall, the Sugarloaf Mountain Athletic Club, and the First Congregational Church of Montague Center for their services.

As many of you know, volunteer assistance is essential to the success of an event of this magnitude. Therefore, considerable appreciation goes out to the Montague Parks & Recreation Commissioners, the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club, the Montague Highway Department, and other volunteers who spent a good portion of their New Year's Eve Day helping us out during registration and at the finish line.

Finally, we would like to thank the runners who participated in the Sawmill Run. We appreciate your support of MPRD programs, and look forward to seeing you again on January 1st of 2024!

Sincerely,

Jon Dobosz, CPRP Director of Parks & Recreation Town of Montague

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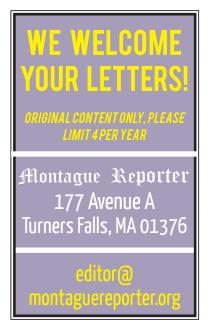
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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

Village Neighbors has put out an "urgent request" for volunteers interested in learning about becoming Call Managers. The organization connects residents over 60 in Leverett, New Salem, Shutesbury, and Wendell with a range of volunteer services — everything from snow shoveling and wood stacking to errands and rides to appointments. If you would "like to see what being a Call Manager entails," contact servicerequests@villageneighbors.org.

The Carnegie Library in Turners Falls is hosting **a used book sale** this Saturday, January 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. They have "fiction, paperbacks and kids' books, DVDs, CDs, and audio books – hundreds of recent donations." Proceeds benefit the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries. Call (413) 863-3214 for more information.

Preschoolers are invited to the Montague Center library playgroup on Thursdays from 10 to 11 a.m. Meet other parents, encourage social skills and school readiness, and just plain get out of the house with your child. This group meets outside of normal library hours, and no registration is necessary. Dropins are welcome, as are older sib-

lings. Access the library calendar at *montaguepubliclibraries.org*.

The Buckland Library is hosting a **free writing program** led by Janice Dompke on Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. "Word Play: Building a Writing Community" starts on January 10 and runs to February 7 at the library. Call (413) 625-9412 to register.

Can you tell the difference between yellowjackets, paper wasps, and hornets? **Learn about wasps with Eric Eaton** during a Zoom presentation, hosted by the Athol Bird & Nature Club next Wednesday, January 11 at 7 p.m.

You can register for the program at www.tinyurl.com/wasp-talk, and learn about Eaton's insect research at www.bugeric.blogspot.com.

The Greenfield Public Schools are looking for instructional assistants. A **job fair will be held at the Greenfield Career Center** on Thursday, January 12 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. where you may meet in person with recruiters from the schools. These positions are advertised to include "family-friendly hours, competitive wages, great benefits, and careers with meaning." For more information, see www.masshirefhcareers.org.

The **Young Shakespeare Players** will perform *Twelfth Night* four times at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls next Friday, January 13 at 7 p.m.; January 14 at 1 and 7 p.m.; January 15 at 1 p.m. All performances are open to the public, and admission is free.

Twelfth Night is said to be one of the funniest plays written by Shakespeare, with universal themes such as love and loss, and bullying and empathy. The YSP method involves the ensemble – ages 8 to 18 – in every aspect of production and acting including casting, technical support, direction, and memorization.

Refreshments will be sold in support of the nonprofit theater program during two intermissions. The play's run time is almost three hours.

Former *Montague Reporter* editor **David Detmold** will be reading aloud at the Montague Center Library on Wednesday, January 18 from 6 to 7 p.m.

"In honor of the recent return from the Barre Library Museum of sacred artifacts from the massacre at Wounded Knee to the Lakota, I will be reading 'Scenic, South Dakota,' from my writings about my 2017 journey by bicycle from Plymouth Rock to Standing Rock," David writes.

"In support of the theory that truth is stranger than journalism, I will also be reading an excerpt from my recent short story, 'Watching Edite's House."

Refreshments will be served.

The Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation offers **Local Farmer Awards** of up to \$2,500 for improvements to small farming operations.

Infrastructure improvements to farms that harvest at least 50% of their revenue from agricultural activities in Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire counties are eligible. Applications are due by January 31 for awards in March. Find out more at www.tinyurl.com/farm-award.

MassDOT has announced a new cannabis curriculum for driver education called "Shifting Gears: the Blunt Truth about Marijuana and Driving." This curriculum will be taught to about 50,000 young drivers each year in over 460 Massachusetts driving schools through an informative, easy to follow 22-minute video by AAA that can be found at youtu.be/KHj6ODMbgLM.

Drivers' ed in our state is managed by the RMV and requires all first-time drivers younger than 18 to complete 30 hours of classroom instruction, 12 hours of behind-thewheel instruction, and six hours of observation while another student is driving. See *tinyurl.com/mass-drivers-ed* for more information.

The **safety guidelines for minimum winter ice** on ponds, lakes, rivers and streams are as follows:

Under two inches? Stay off! Four inches are OK for fishing and walking. Five inches can hold small groups ice skating. Six inches can support a snowmobile or ATV. Nine inches will support a car, and 12 inches, medium-sized trucks.

These guidelines – which apply to new, fresh, clear ice – were posted online by the Turners Falls Fire Department.

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OP ED

School Committee Hits Back at Teachers' Union Statements

By JENNIFER EICHORN

ERVING – The purpose of this article is to provide some transparency among the Erving Elementary Teachers Negotiations. Being a former middle school math teacher at Pioneer Valley Regional School District, I am familiar with the process of negotiations along with recognizing the favorable working conditions.

The Erving Teachers Association's (ETA) current position:

Base Rate Increases: Year One: 2% Year Two: 3% Year Three: 3.5%

This includes a "Master's+60" column in the salary schedule, at an additional 3% above the current highest column rate. A Master's+60 requires an educator to have their master's degree in education, or another appropriate field, along with 60 additional graduate-level credits. These credits can be taken in any subject, and do not require a certification program.

In addition to the increases listed above, the ETA is also seeking a substantial one-time bonus of \$5,000. "In light of the hardships enduring by its members due to the recent increases in the cost of living," the ETA's legal counsel has written, "as well as the difficulties of working through the pandemic and its aftermath, along with the significant compromises the Asso-

ciation has made in its base rate proposals; the ETA is proposing a lump sum \$5,000 bonus for all members of the bargaining unit."

Since we failed to come to terms during direct negotiations, we jointly engaged a mediator, which allows us to participate in public discussion.

The Erving School Committee's current position:

Base Rate Increases: Year One: 2% Year Two: 2.25%

Year Three: 2.5%

This includes a "PhD/CAGS" (Doctor of Philosophy / Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study) column in the salary schedule. Both degrees satisfy a certification program. It would be beneficial to add this column, as it would attract qualified

educators including a psychologist.

There are several tentatively agreed-upon items, which include increases in prep time, personal day buyback, the tutoring rate, tuition reimbursement, and teacher-incharge stipends.

This position is supported by the Erving Select Board, and half of the Finance Committee, as being fiscally responsible.

The Association makes the claim that in its application for ESSER III grant funds, the District fraudulently claimed that it had meaningfully consulted with the "Unions representing educators and school staff," when in fact no such consultations ever took place. The Association in-

dicates the lump-sum bonus proposal of \$5,000 is an opportunity for the District to finally comply with the federal requirement of "meaningful consultation" with the Union regarding the ESSER III funding – which is specifically allowed to be used for the purposes of retaining qualified educators.

Meaningful consultation was afforded to the Association. The Superintendent sent out a letter on August 13, 2021 regarding the ESSER III funds to the Union #28 community and staff, stating the following:

"These funds are part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 which provides additional federal funding for school districts to respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Education portion of ARP (known as the Elementary and

Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds or ESSER III) must be expended by September 30, 2024, and has to be used for purposes that can be linked to the COVID-19 pandemic and fit within the certain priorities set by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The Superintendent and our School Committees will be expending the funds over the three fiscal years."

A Stakeholder Idea Sharing Committee was formed, and information was shared with all staff. Those two meetings were on August 19 and August 26, 2021. Furthermore, a Stakeholder Listening Session was scheduled on September 8 for all members of the Union #28 Community, and information was shared on August 13 and again on September 3. The

local Association president was the teacher representation at the ESSER III August 26 meeting. The \$207,643 has already been allocated.

In terms of wages, Erving Elementary teachers are among the

In terms of wages, Erving Elementary teachers are among the highest-paid in the region, and with the current proposal of the School Committee they would remain so. For full disclosure I've included the current salary schedule (at left), along with benefit information including additional annual longevity payments ranging from \$750 to up to \$2,600 for Unit A members:

Sick Leave: 108.75 hours per year, unlimited accumulation.

Personal Leave: 22.5 hours per year, cumulative to 36.25 hours.

Bereavement Leave: Up to 5 days.

Longevity Pay: \$750 after 10 years of service with Union #28;
\$1,350 after 15 years; \$1,850 after 20 years; \$2,100 after 25 years; and \$2,600 after 30 years.

Hopefully this article provides the facts that may have been missing in previous submissions. We hope to agree on a fair and financially responsible contract soon, as we understand the impact this has on their daily lives. As always, we are extremely appreciative of all the hard work that goes into educating the Erving Elementary School Students.

> Jennifer Eichorn is the chair of the Erving Elementary School Committee.

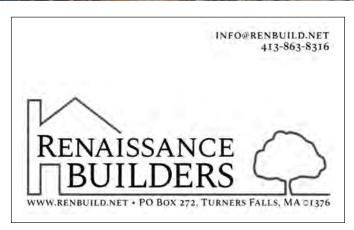
FY'22 SALARIES

STEP	Bachelors	Masters	MA+15	MA+30	MA+45
1	\$45,154	\$49,789	\$52,274	\$54,885	\$57,630
2	\$46,512	\$51,284	\$53,840	\$56,534	\$59,362
3	\$47,905	\$52,822	\$55,455	\$58,229	\$61,141
4	\$49,343	\$54,406	\$57,117	\$59,977	\$62,976
5	\$50,822	\$56,039	\$58,831	\$61,775	\$64,864
6	\$52,348	\$57,721	\$60,595	\$63,629	\$66,810
7	\$53,917	\$59,451	\$62,413	\$65,538	\$68,815
8	\$55,537	\$61,235	\$64,286	\$67,504	\$70,880
9	\$57,202	\$63,073	\$66,213	\$69,530	\$73,007
10	\$58,869	\$64,962	\$68,200	\$71,616	\$75,196
11	\$60,637	\$66,912	\$70,246	\$73,763	\$77,452
12	\$62,509	\$68,920	\$72,354	\$75,977	\$79,777
13	\$64,384	\$70,988	\$74,525	\$78,257	\$82,170
14	\$66,316	\$73,117	\$76,761	\$80,603	\$84,633

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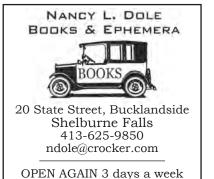






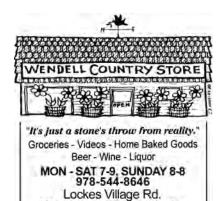
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AT LARGE

The Year Past: So Long, 2022!

By CHIPAINSWORTH

NORTHFIELD – The end of the calendar year lets us hit the pause button and reflect on the past twelve months. The media always provide a retrospective on major events – the war in Ukraine, the midterms, the Supreme Court's *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision – but lots else happened last year.

Try finding a pay phone in New York City, for instance. In May the last one was ripped out of the pavement at the corner of Seventh Avenue and West 50th Street. No longer will a hunch player be able to call his bookie at the last minute. Clark Kent will need to find a new place to don his Superman cape, likely in one of those ubiquitous Porta Potties.

Many aging actors, rock stars, and doo-wop artists sang their swan songs in 2022. A year ago January 20, Marvin Lee Aday died at age 74 in Nashville. He was nicknamed "Meat" in high school, after he stepped on his coach's foot during football practice. "Aw, you're just a hunk of meat loaf!" coach yelled.

A New York Yankees fan, in 1977 Meat Loaf asked broadcaster Phil Rizutto to do the voice-over for a rollicking duet he was recording with Ellen Foley about a lover's struggle to consummate a backseat romance. Recorded in Woodstock, New York, Rizutto used his play-by-play skills to describe a runner rounding the bases, touching third, heading for home, and..."Here's the throw, here's the play at the plate. Holy cow, I think he's gonna make it!"

Stop right there! the song continued.

Rizutto received no royalties and was paid \$1,000 – about \$4,500 in today's dollars – for "Paradise by the Dashboard Light" on the *Bat Out of Hell* album, which sold over 40 million copies according to *songfacts.com*. Rizutto reportedly didn't know the song was about sex, but as Meat Loaf once told ESPN: "Phil was no dummy – he knew exactly what was going on, and he told me such. He was getting heat from a priest and felt he had to do something."

Among the doo-woppers who passed in 2022 was Connecticut's Fred Parris. In 1956, his group The Five Satins recorded "In the Still of the Night" in the basement of St. Bernadette Church in New Haven. At a re-enactment 50 years later, Father Francis Carter told a New Haven TV station, "The song is good and wholesome and pure, like many of the romantic songs of the '50s and '60s. That's why they're so lasting."

Parris, who was 85, died in Hamden, Connecticut.

One of the early rock artists, drummer Dino

Danelli, was born across the Hudson in Jersey City. A high school dropout, Danelli helped the Young Rascals pump out three No. 1 hits—"People Got to Be Free," "Groovin'," and "Good Lovin'." Danelli's sister was a high school cheerleader, and she helped teach him how to stay in rhythm while twirling his drum sticks and tossing them in the air. He was 78 when he died in Manhattan.

Robert Louis Ridarelli, a.k.a. Bobby Rydell, died at age 79 in Abington Township, Pennsylvania, near his Philadelphia birthplace. Thirty-six of Rydell's songs made the Billboard Top 100, including "Volare" and "Wild One." When *Grease* opened on Broadway in 1972, the primary setting was Rydell High School. "Total honor," said Rydell. "It could've been Presley High, Fabian High, Everly High."

The *Hollywood Reporter* noted that in 1961, while he was still a teenager, Rydell became the youngest entertainer to headline at New York's famed Copacabana Nightclub.

Louisianan Jerry Lee Lewis outlived the notoriety of marrying his 13-year-old cousin once removed, Myra Gale Brown. He died at age 87 in Nesbit, Mississippi, and his *New York Times* obituary included Myra Gale's answer in 1958 to whether 13 was too young to marry: "Oh no, not at all. Age doesn't matter back home. You can marry at 10 if you find a husband."

When the counting was done, Lewis had seven wives and twelve No. 1 hits. Oh yeah, that was the Killer talking.

Two notable actors from the Baby Boomer era who died in 2022 were Ray Liotta and James Caan. Liotta was born in 1954 and adopted from a Newark, New Jersey orphanage when he was six months old. His best role was as mobster Henry Hill in the 1990 film *Goodfellas*. "Suddenly playing the charming bad guy was my thing," he told *Page Six*.

Caan was born in the Bronx to Jewish immigrants from Germany and was best known for his role as Sonny Corleone in *The Godfather*. Movie producer Gianni Russo played Corleone's nogood brother-in-law Carlo Rizzi. "He was never nice to me from day one," Russo told the *New York Post*'s Angela Barbuti, "but I'm thinking he was in character because he's a thespian. Till the day he died he thought he was Sonny Corleone."

Two days before the new year, broadcast icon Barbara Walters died in New York at age 93. Born in Boston, Walters graduated from Sarah Lawrence College in Yonkers and got her break while working as a TV news writer. A fashion model had failed to appear for a live appearance and Walters subbed for her. Her interviews

of the rich and famous included Fidel Castro, Richard Nixon, and of course Monica Lewinsky. "She went out on top, a bigger celebrity than almost everyone she ever interviewed," said news host Howard Kurtz.

Back to the Little Stuff

Last year in Hong Kong, researchers determined that for every human being on earth there are 1.5 million ants... In South America, a 9-year-old boy snuck onto a plane that took off in northwestern Brazil and landed 1,677 miles away in southwestern Brazil. Asked how he managed the caper, the boy said he Googled "How to get onto a plane unnoticed".... Stage Struck During the Oscars, Will Smith slapped host Chris Rock for cracking wise about his wife's hair loss from alopecia. "Just put on a f- wig if it bothers you so much," said HBO's Bill Maher.... Parking Perks Bernard Adams left his \$80K per year post as an assistant parking director in Virginia for a \$210K job as NYPD Deputy Commissioner. Bernard's brother Eric is the NYC mayor.... Perils of Driving On January 3, hundreds of motorists were stranded on a 50-mile stretch of I-95 between Washington and Richmond when snowplows couldn't keep up with a sneak snowstorm. "I'm telling you, my bladder is about to burst," 42-year-old Jen Travis told the New York Times.... Cryptic Comment As Samuel Bankman-Fried's Ponzi scheme started to unravel late last fall, a law school friend of his father's texted: "Sam needs lawyers, and desperately." Writing Advice During a rare sitdown with the Wall Street Journal, Bob Dylan told his interviewer: "To be creative you've got to be unsociable and tight-assed. Not necessarily violent and ugly, just unfriendly and distracted.".... Funny Ha Ha Elon Musk bought Twitter for \$44 billion and tweeted: "Comedy is now legal on Twitter.".... Untimely Passings Acerbic New York radio host Bernard McGuirk of prostate cancer at age 64; comedian/actor Bob Saget from a fall at age 65. A teacher once told Saget, "You need to make movies and perform and write. You make people laugh." Words That Chafed "Double down" and "gaslight" The Red Trickle Wall Street Journal columnist Daniel Henninger obliged his critics after a much-anticipated red wave in November's midterms failed to materialize: "I said I'd eat crow if there was no red wave. The bird is basting."

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

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RESPONSE from page A1

campaigns aimed at reducing harm associated with opioid use. A central strategy of the Task Force has been reducing cultural stigmas associated with opioids that may keep many users from seeking help.

"The disease of addiction and substance use disorder can really be thought of as a biochemical disease in the brain," said Rachel Katz, director of addiction services at the Community Health Center of Franklin County. "Very similar to something like diabetes or heart disease, our brains can get sick, and the neurotransmitters in our brain can react negatively to the substance that we take, whether that is sugar or whether that is cocaine."

In addition to her role as a nurse practitioner, Katz serves as a community faculty member with the HEAL Initiative, working with other Task Force members to brainstorm and implement local interventions.

Taking into account compounding issues of generational trauma, poverty, and racism when treating substance use disorder, Katz said, is imperative to treating the whole patient. "In the last several years, there has really been a shift to expand upon that biochemical model and to really also think of the socioeconomic and structural piece," she said. "Addiction doesn't happen in isolation, and folks who are predisposed to develop substance use disorders are also often those people who have been failed by our greater systems."

Massachusetts's statewide opioid overdose death rate is ranked among the 10 highest in the US. In 2021 the number of overdose-related deaths across the state rose to 2,281, an increase of more than 9% over the previous year. Thirty-six of those deaths were in Franklin County – higher than the statewide average, and a sixfold increase since 2010, according to state data.

The Opioid Task Force, founded in 2013 by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office to address this trend, is currently chaired by sheriff Chris Donelan, register of probate John F. Merrigan, and Northwestern District Attorney David Sullivan. Members of the Task Force and its five working committees hold public meetings several times per month to discuss local issues related to addiction, incarceration, housing, job training, and public health.

Task Force committees have been meeting since last July to discuss the HEAL Initiative, and ways they can gather community input to guide their decisions, as the NIH requires. Tiarra Fisher works as the coalition's coordinator for the HEAL Initiative.

"They are actually not evaluating the success of individual strategies, but the success of this model of community decision-making to implement strategies in communities," Fisher explained. "Right now we're working on putting together

contracts and implementation plans, and doing the groundwork necessary to launch these strategies."

Narcan For All

A central pillar of the Opioid Task Force's approach to reducing the harmful impacts of opioids has been increasing the general public's access to and knowledge about Naloxone, or Narcan, the overdose-reversing drug.

Narcan can be administered to someone experiencing an overdose of opiates such as heroin, morphine, or oxycodone, either with a syringe or as an easy-to-use nasal spray. If administered in time, it can resuscitate a user who has stopped breathing.

"It's just first aid," Fisher said.
"Everyone should know how to use

As part of the HEAL Initiative, the Task Force plans to install free Narcan distribution boxes called "NaloxBoxes" throughout the four participating municipalities. Qualified organizations can also receive free or discounted bulk orders of the drug through the statewide Community Naloxone Purchasing Program. The Opioid Task Force is helping to reach out to eligible organizations and coordinate their applications.

Another part of the Task Force's outreach strategy is to provide "peer stipends" to a number of local people with firsthand experience with drug use to help distribute Narcan and serve as liaisons for other drug users to access help. The coalition called on a local network of recovery coaches, drug users, and addiction experts associated with Tapestry Health and the North Quabbin Community Coalition to fill these positions.

"From my end, having a peer-led intervention was one of the most

important things I wanted on the table. It was something I brought forward at every single meeting from the beginning," Katz said. "And we can't ask someone to share their lived experience, or their knowledge – or their time – for free."

Between \$20,000 and \$25,000 of the HEAL Initiative funds will be spent on the peer stipends, according to Fisher.

"There are groups all over the country doing this work, and it's becoming more mainstream," Katz said. "People who use drugs take care of each other. Most overdoses are being dealt with by friends, by family, or other people who use drugs day in and day out."

Blocking Receptors

In another planned use of the NIH funds, the Community Health Center intends to stock up on another medication used to treat opioid use disorder in the long term. It is called Sublocade, an injectable "macro-dose" of the drug buprenorphine, one of the two active ingredients in Suboxone.

Buprenorphine is used to treat withdrawal, and blocks the effects of other opioids if a user relapses. The injection is meant to serve as an alternative to taking Suboxone orally every day for people at high risk of overdosing.

"Suboxone, or buprenorphine, is the first medication outside of methadone that we were really finally able to treat addiction with, and that it wasn't treated purely with behavioral health interventions, or shuttling people away to rehabs or detoxes," Katz said. "Sublocade is for folks who live a chaotic life – who have medications stolen, or trade them, or have others using them. If they continue to use drugs, they are at a high risk of

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE MONTAGUE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

In accordance with the Mass. Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, the Montague Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting to review the following Request for Determination of Applicability at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2023: RDA #2023-01 filed by the Town of Montague Department of Public Works for vegetation removal along municipal sewer easements running parallel to Montague City Road (from 303 Avenue A to Turnpike Road) and Greenfield Road (from 34 to 90 Greenfield Road). Portions of the work will occur within riverfront and wetlands resource areas.

The hearing will be held in the upstairs meeting room at Montague Town Hall, One Avenue A. Optional remote meeting login information and the filing are available for review at www.montague-ma.gov/calendar.

a potentially fatal overdose."

Currently, Katz and other health-care professionals have to prescribe a patient Sublocade, place an order, and hope the patient returns for their next appointment to receive it. After the intervention is formally approved and a bulk order is placed, both Community Health Center locations in Greenfield and Orange will have doses of Sublocade on hand for high-risk patients.

"One of the silver linings of COVID was that MassHealth waived all prior authorization requirements for Sublocade," Katz said. "They say isolation was increasing – people were using drugs more and we couldn't bring them into the offices to get medications."

Once MassHealth decided to cover it, many private health insurance companies followed suit. A single dose of Sublocade, Katz said, had previously cost around \$8,000.

No Questions Asked

A third component of the Task Force's plan to implement HEAL involves educating pharmacists and healthcare providers. Narcan is available over the counter in Massachusetts, without a prescription or any personal identification. It's also covered by insurance for anyone on Medicare or Medicaid (MassHealth).

"There's been a number of anecdotal stories about people having negative interactions at the pharmacy level," Fisher said. "As a pharmacist you shouldn't be asking questions. It's a preventative tool, and it doesn't necessarily mean someone is 'on drugs,' or has a problem."

The NIH funds will pay for four pharmacists from the region to make rounds to all the other area pharmacies to educate them about Narcan access and use.

An outreach campaign focused on educating healthcare providers on how to treat patients experiencing chronic pain and substance abuse disorder is also in the works. A free hotline, known as the Massachusetts Consultation Service for the Treatment of Addiction and Pain, is available for physicians and pharmacists to consult with addiction experts on complicated cases – for example, when there are signs a patient's prescribed pain medications might be triggering an underlying addiction.

Fisher said the budgets for these projects are still being finalized, and the majority of the roughly \$491,000 is yet to be allocated. The Opioid Task Force has until the end of 2023 to implement the plans, and will host regular meetings throughout the year to assess their progress.

While they told the *Reporter* they can't share details about other plans and partnerships yet, Fisher and Katz said the Task Force also hopes to address problems of continuity between inpatient care in hospitals and outpatient services, as well as the region's limited public transportation.

All of these priorities, Fisher said, come in response to hours of public meetings where users and their advocates discuss the challenges they face in Franklin County.

"Community members have been really paving the way for what has been happening," Fisher said. "Their collective input, brainstorming, and mental la-

bor have really made all this happen."



Members of the Opioid Task Force, the North Quabbin Community Coalition PART Task Force, and Boston Medical Center held a "data walk" event in September at the North Quabbin Recovery Center in Athol. The groups reviewed the available data on the effects of opioid use in the region in order to make decisions about how the HEAL Initiative funding will be spent.

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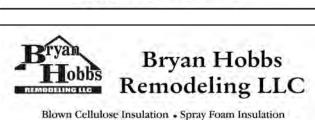
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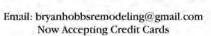
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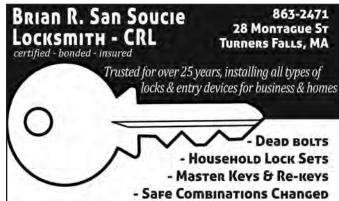
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WENDELL from page A1

effort to increase PILOT payments outside the state's eastern part.

Keller followed this closely with the proposal by Eversource to widen its 29-mile high-voltage corridor between Ludlow and Northfield by cutting 100 feet of trees overall, 50 feet on each side. The company's right-of-way cuts through most of the towns in Saunders's district.

Keller said he understood enough trigonometry to know that a 50-foot-tall pine will fall no more than 50 feet from its base. Months earlier, he had publicly asked the company how many outages have been caused by trees falling on its wires; he said he had not yet heard an answer as of December 21.

The selectboard chair added that he has a personal interest in the proposal, because some of the clear-cut would pass through his property and would include native cherries, which he said are much less likely to be broken or uprooted than the faster-growing pines.

Saunders said state representative Susannah Whipps and senator Jo Comerford are addressing Eversource's proposal.

Selectboard member Gillian Budine brought up the remediation of PFAS at Swift River School, a liability expected to cost Wendell and New Salem at least \$100,000. While there are possibilities of grants to cover it, Budine said, \$100,000 might be a drop in the bucket for big cities in the east, but is a big unanticipated expense for the small towns.

Saunders mentioned a revolving fund that provides low- or no-interest loans to cover drinking water projects.

Saunders said he plans to visit all the towns in his district regularly.

"How much time do you expect to spend in Boston?" Keller asked.

"As much as necessary," Saunders answered, "and as much time in the district as possible." He said he has not yet established an office or hired a legislative aide, but hopes to hold regular meetings in his constituent towns.

"A silver lining to the pandemic," he added, "is everyone is familiar with Zoom." Saunders said the state government may allow remote hearings, which would save Wendell citizens an hour's drive each way and \$40 in parking for Erving's application for a grant for an opportunity to testify at a hearing for three minutes.

Keller said there are citizens of Wendell who do not use a computer, or have an internet connection.

More Sawing

Another power-line project -National Grid's effort to cut trees and limbs to protect its three-phase line running from Wendell Depot to Locke Hill - will be finished soon, and the company plans to move its tree crew on to Orange. Though a tree hearing has been held on multiple dates, there are still 19 or 20 trees for which it is undecided whether they should be cut, trimmed, or left as they are.

The property owner at the corner of Locke Hill and Lockes Village roads is willing to have a tree removed that limits the automobile line-of-sight at the corner. Another owner further up Lockes Village Road does not want a tree by her walk removed, but it is unhealthy and considered a threat to the wires.

National Grid is willing to return to Wendell immediately after they finish in Orange, but not after that. Tree warden Cliff Dornbusch and Johnson-Mussad said they would schedule a continuation of the public tree hearing, and attempt to decide what will be done with the final trees before the company leaves the area.

Wage Growth

Highway commissioner Phil Delorey asked the board to approve a pay rate for the town's road workers comparable to what other area towns are paying. This fiscal year, he said, the raises can be paid from money saved elsewhere in the highway budget.

Before a motion was made to approve the raises, town coordinator Glenn Johnson-Mussad said he felt raises for the highway crew should come as part of the town's revised hourly rate schedule, which also includes raises for firefighters and fire officers. The selectboard voted to approve the revised schedule.

Project Updates

Open space committee chair Dan Leahy praised the road commission and Davenport Construction for the new Kentfield Road bridge. Leahy said the original design appalled both him and the bridge's neighbor, who felt it was too intrusive for a bridge serving a relatively isolated one-lane dirt road. The neighbor worked with the engineer and changed the design so it still meets state standards but is a closer fit in its location.

As project manager, Delorey said the RFP for consultants on capping the old town landfill was almost ready to be sent out. He is looking for tree cutters to clear a road around the site to allow access for monitoring wells.

Board members authorized Delorey to sign a contract to have the highway garage roof strengthened and repaired so it can support solar panels. Delorey said mini-split heaters for the police station are still back-ordered, and the Leverett police had not moved any furniture into the building.

Other Business

The selectboard voted unanimously to sign a letter of support to study the feasibility of a shareduse path that would connect Farley, Wendell Depot, and Erving Center along the south side of the Millers River.

The board voted unanimously to renew the Class III auto salvage license for Scott's Garage, and approved an application to use the town hall for dance classes Saturday afternoons in January.

Treasurer Carolyn Manley warned that if insurance on the structure at 40 Gate Lane is allowed to expire, there is no guarantee it will be reinstated. The selectboard had that insurance maintained, but the building is a town liability.

Fire chief Joe Cuneo does not want to use it for a practice burn, because Gate Lane is narrow and has no adequate turnaround. Leahy suggested that a conservation organization might be willing to exchange the property for the cost of removing





(Thanks to reader Suzette Snow-Cobb for the dam pic!)

EARMARK from page A1

approximately \$1 million dollars in funds from the block grants - which also support affordable housing loans, social service programs, and other infrastructure projects such as parks – over the previous nine years.

According to the documents supporting the town's proposal to McGovern, the town will use the funds to improve sidewalks and intersections from First to Third Street on the even-numbered side of the Avenue – from the Great Falls Discovery Center to the Montague Catholic Social Ministries office - and from First to Second Street on the odd-numbered side, from town hall to the Between the Uprights sports bar.

Ellis touted the planned intersection renovations as greatly enhancing access to downtown businesses under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The design of these "shovel-ready" projects was completed by the firm Berkshire Design, which has played a key role in implementing the smaller sections of the project funded by CDBG.

The larger federal earmark of which Montague's streetscape project is a part also funded 14 other projects in McGovern's district, including a redesign of a community farm in Northampton, renovation and expansion of the Jones Library in Amherst, new communications technology for first responders in Franklin County, and new affordable housing developments in Athol and Leominster.

Earmarks, now euphemistically called "Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) requests," are appropriations sponsored by members of Congress to fund specific public and private projects in their districts.

They fell out of favor on Capitol Hill during the arly years of the Obama administration – the president called for "earmark reform," whereby such expenditures would be subjected to more stringent criteria – and were temporarily banned when Republicans gained control of the House in 2011.

"The term earmark originated in ancient England," CNN Money senior writer Jeanne Sahadi explained during the 2009 debate over reforming the process, "when farmers tagged - or marked the ears - of their livestock mixed among the village herd."

Asked about the timeline for completing the latest phase of the Avenue A streetscape, Ellis told the Reporter that it would depend on when the final CDS request is awarded to the town. He said he hoped project funding – and implementation – would last through the 2024 calendar year.

Ellis also expressed uncertainty about who would oversee the project's implementation. Montague's CDBG are administered by the Franklin County

Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (FCRHRA), but whether the housing authority has the capacity or legal authority to administer an earmark remains uncertain, he said.

The application for the CDS was submitted last spring, before the planning capacity at town hall was enhanced by adding the new position of assistant town administrator.

Administering the earmark could add a significant amount of work to the already-crowded agendas of the selectboard, finance committee, capital improvements committee, and paid administrative staff.

Montague is currently evaluating a range of expensive upgrades and enhancements at the Clean Water Facility, including a proposal to build a new composting facility for biosolids generated at the plant or from around the region. An ongoing grant-funded project to eliminate flooding on Montague City Road has moved forward despite delays in permitting by state and federal agencies.

The town's library trustees, meanwhile, have proposed a feasibility study of either building a new library in downtown Turners Falls or making significant upgrades and enhancements to the historic Carnegie Library. The trustees have also proposed a public hearing on the status of the Montague Center branch library, a building still known locally as the "Old Town Hall."

And the Gill-Montague regional school district recently floated the idea of consolidating its two elementary schools in Montague, both of which are owned by the town, into either a new building or a dramatically expanded Sheffield Elementary.

At the selectboard's final meeting of the year, on December 19, Ellis quickly reviewed a formidable list of all the capital projects various town departments have proposed be considered at a special town meeting in March and the annual town meeting in May.

Federal relicensing of the local hydroelectric projects under the control and ownership of the FirstLight Power Company, which is expected to accommodate proposals by Montague for expanded public recreational access to the Connecticut River, may be entering its final stages after a decade of halting progress.

One important infrastructure project which may not be on local officials' "plate" for much longer is the state's renovation of the General Pierce Bridge, which connects Montague and Greenfield but has been closed to traffic for nearly two years.

Ellis announced at a recent meeting that the reopening of the bridge is still scheduled for March, and said that a rumor that its opening was now only delayed by the town's request for enhanced

pedestrian lighting was apocryphal.



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the building.





KULIK from page A1

small rural towns, by itself, translate into power on Beacon Hill – or into more money for education and broadband in towns like Worthington and Montague? What made Kulik so effective at his job?

The broader political context at the State House in Boston during the years Kulik and Story served should be considered. Both entered a legislature which had experienced radical shifts in leadership style and governing process in the 1980s. In 1985 the longest-serving speaker in the House's history, Tommy Mc-Gee, was ousted by his lieutenant George Keverian, who promised rules reform and more democracy for the membership.

But more democracy, and less rigid leadership control, seemed to lead to chaos after a major fiscal crisis hit the state in 1988, eventually producing major budget cuts and two income tax increases. The public perception of dysfunction as the legislature fought over these cuts and hikes culminated in the election in 1990 of Republican governor Bill Weld, and the replacement of Keverian as speaker by Charlie Flaherty in 1991.

And while power in the House did not entirely revert to its Mc-Gee-era levels of authoritarianism, stability was primarily achieved by following a party line defined by the speaker and enforced by committee assignments. Story recalls that she and Kulik both lost key committee assignments after they did not support the conservative Democrat Tom Finneran in his successful bid to succeed Flaherty in 1996.

These backroom battles over political power coincided with an era of intense ethics scrutiny by advocacy groups, political opponents, and the Boston Globe's "Spotlight

Team" of investigative journalists.

Flaherty's resignation came as he pleaded guilty to submitting false receipts on earlier tax returns and not reporting free vacation housing on Cape Cod provided by lobbyists. Finneran himself was speaker until 2004, when he pleaded guilty to making false statements to a grand jury about his role in a recent redistricting process.

Next in line was Salvatore DiMasi, who resigned in 2009 while under investigation for fraud in the case of a company doing business with the state. (He was eventually convicted.)

And in 2014 speaker Robert De-Leo (2009-2020) and a lieutenant were named as "unindicted co-conspirators" in a fraud case involving hiring at state probation offices. But the convictions of the principals were overturned in 2016 by a federal appeals court, and DeLeo claimed "vindication." He remained in the speakership for four more years, by which time both Kulik and Story had retired from the House.

Story denies that having influence and political clout on Beacon Hill during this era was necessarily a sign of compromise with power.

"Just because the leadership did stupid things does not mean the whole legislature is corrupt," she told us.

Story also argued that gaining power and influence to help constituents is, within limits, the purpose of politics. "Steve was a little ahead of me on that," she said. "Having served in the MMA, he knew the ropes at the State House. For me, it was a whole new world."

The Bottom Line

Turners Falls resident Jay Di-Pucchio, former chair of the Montague Democratic Town Committee, agreed that there is a middle ground

between corruption and sainthood when exercising power at the state house. He and Kulik played key roles in obtaining legislative and executive support in the 1990s for the replacement of the Franklin County government with a nonprofit Regional Council of Governments.

"We had to convince legislators and members of the executive branch that our model would not undermine county government in the east," he said. Part of the solution was an appeal to the bottom line: emphasizing that the regional council could provide a variety of services that small Franklin County towns could not afford.

Dunlavy, in an email to the Reporter, made a similar analysis of Kulik's role in getting legislative approval for funding rural broadband, going beyond a moral argument to the state's pocketbook.

"[H]e absolutely helped us understand the politics of policy and how to get from A to B in the legislature," Dunlavy wrote. "For broadband we had to explain and show that lack of broadband in Western Massachusetts is a unique issue of inequity but also that solving the problem would be important to the economy of Massachusetts overall."

But Dunlavy also stood by her belief that "Steve was effective on Beacon Hill because he was a nice guy. He was always respectful, friendly and interested in hearing the needs of others."

And while Beckwith, the MMA director, said he admired Kulik's political savvy, he returned in the end to his open-mindedness and personal integrity in explaining his broad influence.

"People in the legislature just knew they could trust Steve," Beckwith told the Reporter.



NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Waste Rep Made Special; Strong Precedent Set for Short Meetings in 2023

By KATE SAVAGE

On Tuesday, the Gill selectboard met for six minutes to sign warrants, vote on one motion, and express appreciation for their town administrator.

The board voted to reclassify the role of Gill's representative to the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District (FCSWMD) as a "special municipal employee." Selectboard member Randy Crochier explained that the designation allows someone to have multiple roles in town without violating the state's conflict of interest laws.

"We've done this before for many other positions," he said.

FCSWMD executive director Jan Ameen stated in an email to the district's member towns that "this is a very convoluted issue with a simple solution." Ameen wrote that she would follow up with each board member individually "to ascertain if there are any conflicts of interest that need to be reported to the state."

Vicky Jenkins, Gill's current

Here's the way it was on

So deep has been the anxiety of

the mass of our local readers upon

the issue of the negotiation going

on for the purchase of the land and

water power for these Mills that it

is a source of real pleasure to us to

be able to chronicle the favorable

conclusion of the same, and an-

nounce that the Griswold & Sons

Cotton mills are to become a reali-

terday closed the bargain with the

Turners Falls Company for a tract

of about ten acres of one of the fin-

tion and proposed buildings will

be readily appreciated by our read-

ers. As a matter of course, partic-

ulars must be scarce so soon after

the completion of the purchase of

the ground only; but enough has

been done upon the plans by the Engineer of the Company, Wm. P.

Crocker, Esq., to give quite an idea

Street, about three or four hundred

feet below Suspension Bridge, and

is bounded on the N.E. by Sixth

Street, on the S.E. by J Street, on

the S.W. by Tenth Street, and on the

N.W. by I Street. It will embrace

within itself, beside the land re-

served for the canal and the freight

branch railroad, and the already

The lot commences on Sixth

of what "Griswoldville" will be.

A brief description of the loca-

est mill sites in the country.

Mr. Griswold, Sr., having yes-

ty in our midst.

January 1, 1873: News from the

Turners Falls Reporter's archive.

LOOKING BACK:

150 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

representative to the FCSWMD, was appointed in November after the retirement of Arthur Cohen, who had previously served in the role for 35 years.

Other Business

The selectboard announced that COVID test kits, and a variety of face masks, are available for free at town hall.

The board expressed relief that the meeting was short and uncomplicated, as town administrator Ray Purington was unable to attend. Crochier said that in his 13 years as a selectboard member, this was his first meeting without Purington.

"I've only been able to do this for 13 years because of Ray," Crochier said. "He makes the three people in these chairs look a lot smarter than most of us are."

Town clerk Doreen Stevens agreed. "I'm not so sure how eager I would have been to become town clerk if it hadn't been for Ray," she said. "For me to start at 63," she added with a laugh, "to go from a kitchen to here – thank God I had Ray!"

LEVERETT from page A1

noted that there were only four months left until the next town meeting. The board wanted to know, he said, whether the committee was prepared to "give the town the information it needs to be informed and make decisions."

Ad-hoc-committee member Richard Nathhorst responded that group had reached a consensus on three options for the building to present to residents, and planned to conduct two moderated public forums in the near future, along with its regular committee meetings, the next of which takes place virtually at 7:30 p.m. this Thursday, January 5.

Nathhorst said the first public forum would be informational, focused on the history of the building and the issues involved with it, and the second would explore potential options and questions from residents. While the forums would lay out what is legally possible and the committee's recommendations, he said, the committee did not want to "steer in one direction," only to "present facts."

Nathhorst also notified the board that a contract had been signed to survey the property the building is located on, which should take place in the next few weeks. He described the site survey as a "next step forward."

Hankinson invited the entire committee to meet jointly at the next selectboard meeting to provide more information to the public, noting that there were a variety of opinions on the subject and that the board would like to hear them.

Board member Melissa Colbert also said she wanted to hear a "range of perspectives," and for the board to be kept up to date as the process coalesces.

DOR Do-Over

The selectboard held a second property tax classification hearing due to an error in calculations sent to the Department of Revenue (MassDOR) for approval. The board again voted for a single tax classification for residential and commercial properties.

The only change resulting from the error is a lowering of the estimated rate for FY'23 property taxes from \$16.13 to \$16.02 per \$1,000 in property value. Though the rate is lower than the current year's, due to a rise in property values residents' total tax bills are still expected to rise 2%.

Interim principal assessor David Burgess said he would re-submit the calculations to MassDOR, and estimated that property tax bills would be sent out one to two weeks from Tuesday's meeting.

No Pointing

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis informed the board that a discrepancy between the town's accounting and Leverett Elementary School's accounting has led to a delay in closing the books for FY'22.

McGinnis said the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), which provides accounting services to the town, was sending someone to provide additional help with the matter. She also said that Leverett is scheduled for a regular biennial audit for FY'22, and that she has asked the auditors to begin "sooner rather than later" to speed things up.

McGinnis said the discrepancy could likely be attributed to confusion caused by employee turnover at both the school and town, and added that while problem needs to be resolved, "no one is pointing fingers."

Other Business

The selectboard voted to designate a potential alternate representative to the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District (FCSWMD) as a special municipal employee. Leverett recently designated its current FCSWMD representative, transfer station superintendent Annette Herda, as a special municipal employee, and though it does not have an alternate, both decisions were made at FCSWMD's request.

The board was informed that the library had been approved for a \$97,000 Green Communities grant to replace its older geothermal heating system with an airsource heat pump system.

The board granted a beer and wine license to the Leverett Village Co-op, setting a fee of \$250, and approved a Class II auto license for Dewey Auto Sales. Judy Ricker resigned from the board of registrars.

The board extended Leverett Cultural

Council membership terms for Susan Kassier and Julie Rivera until 2025.





Canal, Seventh, and Eighth Streets, three new ones - one of which will be known as "Griswold" Street. The buildings contemplated are

laid out streets of the city, which are

three factories of five hundred feet each, with their outbuildings, as well as one hundred and ten tenement houses.... The mills, when completed, are estimated to contain five hundred looms each; and the whole enterprise will cost little less than \$1,500,000....

A temporary railroad will probably be built from Avenue A to the territory named, across both the present railroads, said road to be worked by "gravity" alone in the descent... that is to say, the cars are loaded and started, their weight propelling them to their destination, and, when emptied, returned by horse-power.

It is now intended to commence a brick-yard on the Main canal, between Eighth and Tenth Streets, at which to manufacture the brick to build the contemplated structures, there being an abundance of clay and sand for that purpose on or near Avenue A.

Of the benefit all these places will be to our town we need not discourse now. Rather let us tell our readers that these are only some of the moves being made, and that the prospect of an improvement in business, an increase of building, and a large addition to the number of inhabitants are only questions of a little time.









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THE MONTAGUE REPORTER **JANUARY 5, 2023**

High School Sports: Basketball Recap

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – This week we want to give a brief recap of the basketball games played since our last issue. During the break, the Franklin boys lost a nail-biter against Athol, spoiling Tech's chances to register their first win. The Turners Falls boys had a more difficult time, losing three games by lopsided scores. And while the Turners girls lost a pair of blow-outs, the Franklin Tech girls just kept winning.

Girls' Basketball

FCTS 60 - Smith Voc 36 *FCTS 46 – Athol 24* Pioneer 45 – TFHS 28 *FCTS 43 – Lenox 34 Mahar 50 - TFHS 23*

On Tuesday, December 27, the Franklin Tech Eagles traveled to Northampton and upended the Smith Vocational Vikings, 60-36. Tech was relentless in this one, scoring an even 16, 15, 15, 14 points in the four periods while holding the Vikings to just 36. Hannah Gilbert (13), Lea Chapman (11), and Kyra Goodell (10) all hit double figures in the win.

Then on Thursday, December 29, Tech hosted the Athol Red Bears. In this game, Tech jumped out to a 13-2 first period lead and never looked back, beating Da Bears by 22 points. Goodell was Franklin's top scorer with 12.

That same night, the Turners girls fell victim to a second-half Panther surge up in Northfield as their halftime lead dissolved into a 17-point loss. The Thunder Ladies held a 12-10 lead after the first quar-

ter, played even in the second, and retained that 2-point lead going into halftime at 20-18.

But that's when the Black Cats sprang. The Panthers roared ahead to 32-23 in the third and outscored Blue 13-5 in the final quarter to take the contest 45-28.

Lily Spera led Blue with 10 points, followed by Keira Richardson-Meatty with 8.

The season continued on Tuesday, January 3. At Franklin Tech, the Lady Birds traveled over the mountain and extended their unbeaten streak by defeating the Lenox Millionaires 43-34. Franklin had another stellar first quarter in this one, outscoring Lenox 17-4 in the opening period. This time Kaitlin Trudeau (13), Chapman (10), and Kendra Campbell (10) were Tech's top scorers.

The Blue Ladies also hit the road Tuesday, traveling to Orange and losing to the Mahar Senators. Mahar led 27-12 at the half, put Turners away 18 to 4 in the third, and coasted to a 50-23 victory.

Seven different players scored for Blue, with Taylor Greene leading Turners with 6.

This Friday, the Eagles head down to Springfield to take on Putnam Vo-Tech, while the Blue Ladies travel up the trail to take on the Mohawk Warriors.

Boys' Basketball

Greenfield 66 – TFHS 40 Duggan 74 - TFHS 47 *Athol* 55 – *FCTS* 52 Pioneer Valley 68 – TFHS 31

Before the break, we reported that Turners Falls had lost to Greenfield by a "sizable margin" as we went to press, but we didn't know the details. In the December 21 loss, Green doubled up Turners 20-10 after one quarter.

The second period was more competitive as Powertown scored 13 to the Fielders' 15, but any hope for a late-game comeback dissolved as Greenfield outpaced the Thunder Boys 31-17 in the second half.

Nine Turners players scored points in this loss, with Alex Quezada leading the pack with 11.

It didn't get any easier for the Boys in Blue on Thursday, December 29, when they lost to Duggan Academy down in Springfield by 27 points. Levin Prondecki was Thunder's top scorer with 11 points.

The Tech Boys lost a heartbreaker on Friday, December 30 to the visiting Bears of Athol. In this game, the difference was in the third quarter. With the score 28-all at halftime, the Bears outscored Tech 12-9 to take a precarious 40-37 lead with a quarter to play. The teams then played to an even 15-15 fourth quarter, giving Athol the three-point win.

Ty Sadoski led Tech in scoring with 26 points, Noah Ausikaitis netted 14, Robert Belval scored 5, Robert Murphy sank a three-pointer, and Cayden Lehtomaki hit a field goal for two points.

Then on Tuesday, the Black Panthers of Pioneer Valley came to town. Although Powertown would go on to lose by 37, the Cats couldn't really shake Blue until the third quarter: Turners trailed by only two points after one period, 67-31. Quezada again led Blue



Turners Falls' Keira Richardson-Meatty goes up for a shot against Pioneer Panthers defenders Hailey Ring and Addie Harrington as her teammate Tatiana Carr-Williams looks up. Richardson-Meatty racked up 8 points during the Thunder's December 29 loss at Pioneer Valley.

12-10, and they still had a chance with 9 points. at the half, with the score a manageable 23-17.

But in that second half, the Black Cats trounced Powertown 45 to 14 to win the game going away,

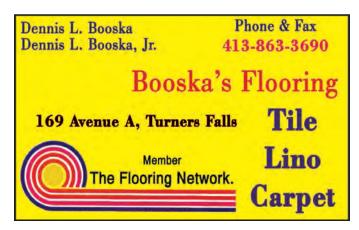
Both teams play this Thursday, January 5, as Turners Falls welcomes the Lee Wildcats and the Tech Boys travel to down to Hatfield to take on the Smith Academy Purple Falcons.

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WEST ALONG THE RIVER

THE ROAD TO MOROCCO

By DAVID BRULE

ERVINGSIDE – What's a nature writer to do when, in a dull and eventless January, Mother Nature hands us a non-event of a winter? Few birds, no snow, bears asleep, rivers flowing freely as if it were November or late March, but definitely not yet a New England January.

Then, just about the end of the old year, all it took to lift me from my morose mood was an article in the *Montague Reporter* by Richard Andersen, praising and gushing over a new book by our own Chris Sawyer-Lauçanno entitled *Remembrances of Luminaries Past*.

Chris and I had just collaborated in a lost-cause effort to win a reprieve from the wrecking ball for the old Farren Memorial Hospital. I had known Chris for years when in the earlier days of the *Reporter* he and wife Patricia Pruitt had briefly taken over editorship of the newspaper after David Detmold had retired. The Farren episode encouraged a closer friendship.

I got right on the phone to Chris to find out where I could get a copy of his new book. He told me that it hasn't actually yet been released in the US. Nevertheless, early the very next morning, Chris had spirited his way to Millers Falls and left a copy in my mailbox without even raising the suspicions of the house Siberian husky snoozing on the couch.

I began reading the book over the ritual morning coffee, and when I got to the chapter on Paul Bowles, ex-pat American writer living in Tangier, Morocco, down the rabbit hole of memories I plunged.

Tangier!

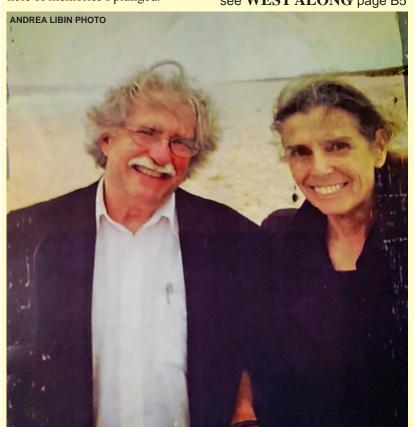
I myself have a long history with that fabled citadel city, den of thieves and intrigue, impossibly winding streets in the labyrinth of the Kasbah, *kif* and hashish smoke wafting through every café and on every street corner.

This ancient city is perched on a hill at the gates of the Mediterranean, with the Atlantic on one side and that great middle sea on the other. On a clear day you can see Gibraltar, the staunchly English compound at the southern tip of Spain. In Arabic *djebel Tarik*, "the hill of Tarik," was named for Tarik Ibn Ziyad, the great Moorish Moroccan general and a leader of the Arab conquest of the 800s.

My earliest connection with Tangier, barring the Hope-Crosby-Lamour piece-of-fluff road picture, was when I arrived there in early January of 1967. I had left Paris during the university's Christmas break and expected to hitchhike as far south as I could, seeking warm, sunny climes in Spain. In fact the weather remained cool, cloudy, and damp, even when I crossed over to North Africa on the ferry from Gibraltar to Morocco. It was much like the weather I had left in Paris and on the high plains of Madrid.

But I was in Africa! A brief stay lasting a day or two in a seedy youth hostel, long enough to say I had made it to that exotic spot, and then I crossed back over to Gib again and hitched all the way to Paris – in about four rides! You could do that in those days.

A year later in 1968, the Peace Corps sent me back to Morocco see **WEST ALONG** page B5



Chris Sanyer-Lauçanno and Patricia Pruitt, in a 2012 photo.



Above: Even old trucks can get in the spirit of the season. Reader Don Plante spotted these guys in Northfield.

Taking commuter trains to New Jersey.

SOUTH DEERFIELD – In November I decided to do something different. I didn't drive down to my parents' home near Princeton, New Jersey. For the first time in a few decades, I decided to take a series of commuter trains for the 224-mile journey instead.

The price was less than the price of gas and tolls, and the stress level was way lower for me.

The surprising thing I've found when I have shared my commuter train journey story is how few people in Franklin County are aware of these trains, which run with regular frequency from stops in Greenfield, Northampton, Holyoke, and Springfield. I can't find anyone among my friends and family who have taken the train. Can you?

Just this morning, at 5:45 and 7:45 a.m., a train left Greenfield for the 2-hour-and-48-minute run to New Haven, Connecticut. On the weekends, this same train departs Greenfield at 9:15 a.m., 1:36 p.m., and 8:10 p.m. The one-way fare is \$14 to Springfield, \$19 to Hartford, and \$28 to New Haven.

The good news is that despite remaining a mystery to many upper Valley residents, the ridership has proven to be strong enough that this pilot program, which started in 2019, was officially greenlighted in October 2022 as a permanent service. The Valley Flyer is here to stay!

The trains run between New Haven and Springfield on the Hartford Line, then continue north to stops far-



By Max Hartshorne

The Hartford Line's red carriages run between Springfield and New Haven.

ther up the Connecticut River that still have stations next to the tracks: Windsor Locks, Springfield, Holyoke, Northampton, and Greenfield. Amtrak runs some of the routes, and the Hartford Line uses their trains for others. The fares from Springfield to New Haven are \$12.75 one way, but half that for seniors!

The way to buy tickets for the Flyer, and all of the trains, is by using their apps. Metro-North and NJ Transit both have easy-to-use apps that are kind of mandatory

see TRAVELS page B4

TV REVIEW

That's Amore! ... In Season Two of The White Lotus

By W. KAIZEN

AMHERST – Sheeee's back, and so are the lotus eaters. After finding love at the end of the first season of HBO's *The White Lotus*, heiress Tanya McQuoid has booked yet another week-long luxury jaunt at a different one of the show's titular global resorts. This time McQuoid, played by Jennifer Coolidge, is staying in Taormina, Sicily with a new crew of rich gits. Skewering the bourgeoisie has rarely been as much fun.

Tanya and her husband Greg (Jon Gries) are a troubled twosome, especially with the imposition of Tanya's Gen Z personal assistant Portia (Haley Lu Richardson). Then there's the tri-generational threesome of grandfather Bert (F. Murray Abraham), father Dominic (Michael Imperioli), and son Albie Di-Grasso (Adam DiMarco), who have arrived in the old world to search for long-lost relatives.

Lastly and most uneasily of all are the fraught foursome: the hot young couples Cameron and Daphne Sullivan (Theo James and Meghann Fahy) and Ethan and Harper Spiller (Will Sharpe and Aubrey Plaza), who have decided to vacation together for the first time.

This season begins with the same MacGuffin as the first: a dead body washes ashore, which the viewer quickly learns is one of the guests. Apparently other guests have died as well? Although it matters who died, there's no way to figure out over the course of the season who it will be.

Unlike in the previous season, director Mike White uses this impending death in conjunction with light-handed horror tropes – moodily ringing church bells, ominous shots of churning waves at night – to keep the tension high. The unruly twists and turns of the couples' relationships also keep things jumpy.

The White Lotus's theme this season is the battle of the sexes, which he neatly establishes. As the guests tour their rooms, a concierge explains that the "testa di moro" found throughout the hotel – lifesized, hand-painted ceramic flower vases of the head of a beautiful

see WHITE LOTUS page B3



Jennifer Coolidge as Tanya McQuoid in the second season of The White Lotus.

Pet of Week



"Buttons"

Meet Buttons! This handsome right up and turns into a young, guy was a stray in West Springfield, and when no one claimed him, he came to Dakin for some love! We don't know anything about his history, but after settling in at Dakin, he's been a real sweetie.

Buttons, much like his name implies, is a real goofy dude. He has a big ol' smile and a waggy tail to match. When he first meets people he is a little shy, but after a good sniff and a treat or two, he warms playful pup.

Buttons has loved meeting other dogs here at the shelter who are his

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 JANUARY 9 THROUGH 13

WENDELL

A foot care clinic is held the first Wednesday of each month. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments. Senior Health Rides are available. Contact Jonathan von Ranson (978) 544-3758.

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. Lunch available Tuesday through Thursday. For more information please call 863-9357.

Monday 1/9

10:15 a.m. Aerobics 11 a.m. Chair Exercise 12 p.m. Pot Luck Tuesday 1/10 9:30 a.m. Tuesday Knitters 1 p.m. Chair Yoga 2 p.m. COA Meeting

3 p.m. Tai Chi Wednesday 1/11

9 a.m. Foot Clinic by Appointment

4 p.m. Mat Yoga Thursday 1/12 1 p.m. Cards & Games Friday 1/13 10:15 a.m. Aerobics 11 a.m. Chair Aerobics

ERVING

Erving Senior Center is open 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 are 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 1/9

9 a.m. Interval 10:15 a.m. Seated Workout Tuesday 1/10 9 a.m. Good For U 10 a.m. Line Dancing Wednesday 1/11 9 a.m. Cardio Low Impact 10:15 a.m. Chair Aerobics 11:30 a.m. Bingo Thursday 1/12 9 a.m. Core & Balance

Friday 1/13 9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

10 a.m. Barre Fusion

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JANUARY LIBRARY LISTING

Montague Public Libraries

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

MONTAGUE

All month: Art Exhibit, bird paintings by Tracy Vernon. Through February 6. Montague Center.

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

Every Thursday: Playgroup. Guided and free play for preschoolers; older siblings welcome. Montague Center, 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.

2nd Monday: Friends of MPL Meeting. All welcome. Email vgatvalley@gmail.com more info. Carnegie, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 18: Author Series. David Detmold, "Scenic South Dakota," from his 2017 bicycle journey to Standing Rock. Refreshments provided. Montague Center, 6 p.m.

Saturday, January 21: Game Day. Board and card games for all ages. Montague Center, 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Week of January 23: Grab & Go Bags. SCIENCE: Pine cone science. CRAFT: Snowy day tissue paper art. Free kits at all branch locations while supplies last.

Thursday, January 26: Book Club. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, The Thing Around Your Neck. Montague Center. 7 to 8 p.m.

ERVING

Sunday, January 8: Puzzle Swap. Bring a jigsaw puzzle to exchange, or we'll give you one to get you started. 1 to 3 p.m.

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

Sunday, January 15: Craft Day. Make a paper flower bouquet with Paulina Borrego. For teens and adults. Materials provided, RSVP encouraged. 1 p.m.

Sunday, January 22: Family Game Day. Try one of the library's Nintendo Switch games with your family. 12 spots, RSVP required. 1 p.m.

Thursday, January 26: Book Challenge Coffee Hour. Join the library directory in the 2023 challenge. See massbook. org/readingchallenge for more info. 5:30 p.m.

Monday, January 30: Teen Movie Monday. Join the youth

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

services librarian for crafts, snacks, and a movie. 3:30 p.m.

LEVERETT

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

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.

Every Monday and Wednesday: Online Qigong. Free, all welcome. See leverettlibrary. org or email CommunityQigong @gmail.com for more info. 10:30 a.m.

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

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

Thursday, January 19: Introduction to Mah-jongg. Curious about this classic board game? Join us to learn about the game and try your hand at it. RSVP required; email kolendajudi@ gmail.com. 1:45 p.m.

Tuesday, January 25: Baby and Me Playgroup. For kids ages 0 to 3 and their caregivers. More info: budine@erving. com. 10:30 a.m.

NORTHFIELD

Every Tuesday: *Drop-in Knit*ting. 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.

Erving Public Library (413) 423-3348

Leverett Public Library (413) 548-9220

Wendell Free Library (978) 544-3559

Northfield: Dickinson Library (413) 498-2455

Gill: Slate Library (413) 863-2591

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 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 info email friendsofdml01360@ gmail.com. 10 to 11:30 a.m.

2nd Wednesday: Readings Group. January 11: Bring in one or two poems you'd like to share. 3 p.m.

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

Friday, January 20: Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia: impacts, symptoms, progression, treatment, and the latest research. 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 26: Library Trivia Night. Four Star Farms Brewery, 6 p.m.

WENDELL

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

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

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

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



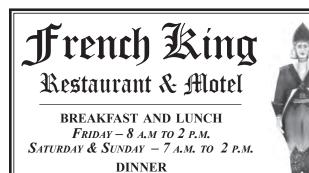
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Friday & Saturday - 4:30 to 9:30 p.m.

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WHITE LOTUS from page B1

young woman and a swarthy older man - harks back to the days of Moorish rule. A Moor fell for a local woman, who reciprocated his love only to discover that he had a wife and child back home. When he told her that he was returning to his family, she severed his head and planted it with basil, putting it on her balcony for all to see.

The results of such amorous deception are only slightly less gruesome at the White Lotus. Tanya and Greg's relationship is in danger, and so, as their messy name implies, is that of the Spillers. Dominic is on the verge of divorce. The only seemingly happy pair are the kissy-faced, lovey-dovey Sullivans, but all's not well for them either.

Coolidge is just as fabulously ungainly as in Season One. Her upscale, resort-chic outfits quickly attract the attention a local crew of "the gays," as she calls them, who adopt her when her husband returns to the US on "business" that viewers are led to suspect is an affair.

Other acting standouts are Plaza, playing against type as a pinchfaced, high-strung lawyer, and Richardson, whose character's bad decision-making and thrift store outfits would embarrass even a Smith student.

The real standouts this season are played by the Italian actresses Beatrice Grannò and Simona Tabasco. Grannò and Tabasco play locals Mia and Lucia, a couple of femme fatales who ping-pong between the guests and the hotel's staff.

Lucia is an escort who has come to the White Lotus to spend evenings with Dominic, although she ends up in the arms of others whose names I won't reveal. Mia, who begins as Lucia's less experienced understudy, quickly finds a way to

achieve her own goal of becoming a professional singer. In their indefatigable friendship, they have the most loving and most functional relationship of all the couples. Like the Moor's paramour, Mia and Lucia epitomize the kind of Sicilian women who shouldn't be trifled with.

The DiGrasso men's search for their relatives ends with a hilarious confrontation with a posse of equally unruly Sicilian women. It's one of the few times that the season's focus on love doesn't blunt the rougher social commentary found in Season One.

There's a little too much cherchez la femme at work throughout the season. "In Italian opera," the increasingly sinister leader of "the gays" says after watching a performance of Madama Butterfly, "the women are supposed to cry and die." Nevertheless, White draws largely complex portraits of the women in Season Two.

He's less sympathetic to the men. The older DiGrassos, with their troubled marriages, are negative role models for the younger men headed in the same direction, and the youngest DiGrasso is just clueless. And although funny, White's cliched portrait of gay men is even less generous, which is odd since he is himself gay.

The comedy in Season Two is as dark as Season One, and as funny. The look of the new season has gone up a notch relative to both the way it was shot and the costuming. The White Lotus has been renewed for a third season. While the first season's theme was class disparity and this season's is amore, the next season will apparently be about spirituality. It's easy to imagine the delectably dark

roads that White might take in this direction.



FILM REVIEW

EO (Jerzy Skolimowski, 2022)

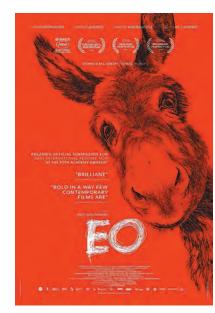
By REBECCA TIPPENS

COLRAIN – *EO* is one of the more beautiful and touching films of the year. Written and directed by the 84-year-old Polish director Jerzy Skolimowski, a New York Times reviewer rated it their top film of 2022. Before creating EO Skolimowski won multiple Lifetime Achievement awards, and the film has brought him further nominations and accolades. I am another giving it deep praise. It is a true work of art.

This is the story of a donkey named EO and his search to reunite with the one caretaker who deeply loved him and from whom, in an act of self-righteous governmental hubris, he was separated. The film ultimately paints a portrait of the world from an animal's point of view; our consciousness is expanded to embrace that of the donkey's.

People who are animal communicators share images to "speak" with non-humans. This film brings us into that power of understanding by imagistically sharing EO's perceptions of the world. Traveling through forests, along streams, across meadows, witnessing other four-leggeds alive and dead, we see the world as he sees it. The cinematography is gorgeous and complemented by a lovely score.

EO encounters two-leggeds along his journey with their own



varied agendas for him, but the flashed image that he carries of his beloved handler propels him to escape and continue on. Remarkably, the story feels real; not like a children's story or one orchestrated to tug on your heart, though its moving effect on us lingers.

There are beautiful close-ups of EO's eyes, creating a longing to hold and stroke him yourself. Without being propagandistic, this film will bring you closer to the burgeoning movement for legal rights for animals, and cause you to ask whether you may want to eschew the eating of meat. It is very tender, beautiful, and sad, and locally playing at the Amherst Cinema at least through the 12th of January.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Washing Machine Cleaners; Roof Bangers; Hit & Runner; Cough Drop Heist; Sky Trampoline; Classic Blackmail; Christmas Eve Stabbing; Stolen Gift; Husband In Garage

Monday, 12/19

near the yellow line as you ty Technical School lot. will get a flat tire. Item removed from roadway.

break into washing ma-Laundry. Officers advise nobody is in the laundromat and it is open at this time. No sign of any damage to machines. Officer spoke with owner, who will check security footage and let MPD know if anything is missing or damaged.

7:52 p.m. Officers checking on suspicious auto at Railroad Salvage. Owner had stopped to make a call.

Tuesday, 12/20

12:26 a.m. Caller from Cen- truck parked near the old tral Street states he hears people walking/banging 30 minutes. Male party on his roof and around the building, possibly breaking into surrounding houses. Denies anyone living above him. Officer advises no one

of his car while driving moved to hospital. down Avenue A, then drove Saturday, 12/24 senger side headlight.

changes made to fencing.

11:11 p.m. Caller states speak with a detective if there was a dog in the mid- anything else happens. dle of Millers Falls Road 9:09 a.m. Control took a when she came home; she report of icy conditions was able to get it onto a on North Leverett Road leash but didn't notice any near the railroad overpass. caller states he has lost a treated. Not a hazard if dog matching this dog's the motoring public maindescription. Caller grateful dog was taken care of; will go to shelter in morning to

pick up his dog. Wednesday, 12/21

Street states that the person who was going to buy a dirt bike from him took it for a test ride and never came back. Report taken. 5:03 p.m. Caller states she hit a deer on Turners Falls Road. Minor damage to car. Deer ran off. Not requesting help; just wants on file.

Thursday, 12/22 locked keys in her car with her dog inside and the car running. Service rendered. 12:23 p.m. 911 caller states that he was sitting in his swiped his car. The other Referred to an officer.

up the hill. Report taken. 3:29 p.m. Caller states that 1:52 p.m. School resource there is a hubcap in the officer advising of minor middle of the median strip accident in Franklin Counpull out of Food City to- 5:26 p.m. Caller from East wards Seventh Street. Call- Main Street states someer states it is upside down one broke into her house; and if someone hits it, they requesting officers immediately; there is a ladder outside the house leading 7:49 p.m. Caller states that up to the window that was two males are trying to broken into. Investigated. 11:02 p.m. Caller from chines at the Third Street East Main Street states his Amazon package containing cough drops was stolen off his back porch. Will contact Amazon.

Friday, 12/23

6:25 a.m. First of several reports of trees and wires down around town.

8:06 a.m. Officer reports a trampoline in a tree hanging over the road on Unity Street. DPW contacted. Hazard removed.

8:11 a.m. Report of a Railroad Salvage for over moved along.

10:44 a.m. Owner reports that the Third Street Laundry was broken into again. Investigated.

8:55 p.m. 911 call report-1:53 p.m. 911 caller states ing neighbor disturbance that someone hit the rear on Third Street. Party re-

off. Caller states he is un- 3:22 a.m. Caller asking injured. Officer requesting some questions about be-on-lookout be issued for someone who has pictures a brown sedan with front- of him and is threatening end damage, broken pas- to send them to his school and other people if he 2:15 p.m. Animal control doesn't pay them money. officer made a follow-up Officer spoke with caller; visit to an N Street address. advised to block people No answer at door; no and deactivate his accounts, and to come in and

tains speeds not greater than posted limits.

10 a.m. Caller reporting new Apple Watch. a large pothole on Unity Street about halfway up the 1:23 p.m. Caller from G hill before you reach Scotty's. Officer advises pothole is there but nothing to be concerned with; requests message be left for DPW. 12:39 p.m. Caller reporting a sewer manhole overflowing on Lake Pleasant Road at the bottom of the hill near the Scalpers Lodge. DPW will check on it. 6:53 p.m. 911 caller report-

10:04 a.m. Elderly motorist ing car accident on White Bridge; was rear-ended. Denies need for ambulance. Requesting Greenfield PD as well. Citation issued. 7:52 p.m. Caller from K vehicle on Third Street Street states it sounds like when a black GMC side- fireworks are being set off.

vehicle kept on going west 9:25 p.m. Report of parties Wednesday, 12/28 on Third Street and went fighting in hallway on Av-

9:28 p.m. 911 caller states three males are fighting in the parking lot behind a Fourth Street building. Two more callers state juveniles are banging on doors and fighting in the area. Another party called in requesting an ambulance; someone has been stabbed. Officer requesting additional officers; Control contacted. State police sending two additional units, requesting another due to unknown extent of injury and number of people in fight. Officer requesting on-call detective. Be-on-lookout issued for out, but wants to confirm. possible getaway vehicle. Springfield PD called stating they have party in Springfield to pick up prisoner. A 28-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested and charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon; disorderly conduct; and aggravated assault and battery, serious bodily injury.

Sunday, 12/25

9:56 a.m. Caller would like to speak to an officer about a laptop computer that was purchased for her daughter, but the daughter's father took it for himself. Two callbacks with no answer; message left.

4:23 p.m. Caller states there is a big pothole near Park and Unity Streets that could cause a flat tire if someone isn't careful. Message left for DPW.

ing someone hit a deer on No damage done to car.

8:07 a.m. Caller states that 4:29 p.m. Caller states she there is a bunch of trash near the corner of Green Pond and Lake Pleasant Roads, including some mail with a name on it. Contact made with resident, who was advised to clean up the trash in a timely manner. 1:16 p.m. Caller reporting another break-in at Third Street Laundry and a confrontation with a female who may be involved. Caller at station for interview.

12:26 p.m. Business owner reporting another breakin at Third Street Laundry around 4:30 this morning. Detective meeting caller at the laundromat.

State police en route.

Monday, 12/26

Tuesday, 12/27

8:42 a.m. Caller requesting

enue A. Officer requesting an officer to the Montague assistance from state police. Machine parking lot, where someone has set up camp with a generator running; requesting they be moved along. Party had appointment with UHaul company. 6:55 p.m. Control called in requesting an officer to assist the fire department for a smoke call they received from Eighth Street. Officer advises smoke coming from stove in garage. Fire also on scene. Miranda rights given. Officer bringing party in for interview. Officer advises stolen dirt bikes are secured in the sally port.

> 7:14 p.m. Caller requesting FD for chimney fire on Federal Street; thinks it is

> Thursday, 12/29 5:46 a.m. Driver reports

smelling propane in the custody. Officers en route to area of Randall and Turners Falls Roads. Shelburne Control advised.

8:33 a.m. Party from Fifth Street reports ongoing harassment from his neighbor, who reportedly entered the caller's house and refused to leave. The other involved male called reporting his neighbor was yelling at him as he took out his trash. Both parties advised of options. 11:14 a.m. Caller from Montague City Road reports ongoing issue with neighbor's dog defecating on her lawn. ACO advised. 3:32 p.m. Caller called in stating someone is riding a minibike around her house near Montague and High streets and it's too loud; would like officer to make 5:32 p.m. Caller called stat- them stop. No one in area

matching description. Turners Falls Road. Deer 4:10 p.m. Caller states still in road. Car at scene her husband left her son's does not seem to have dam- house in eastern Masage. Second caller called in sachusetts this morning reporting he stopped and around 9:30 and has not aris going to shoot the deer rived home. Has dementia tags. Caller meeting officer Ice runoff below the dry with his bow. Advised him and memory issues and his at shelter. Dog placed in railroad bridge. Road and to hold off as officer is phone is not working. Callshelter for night. Second, area of runoff have been *en route*. Deer moved off, er called back stating husroadway. Bystander stay- band came home. He states ing with deer to monitor. he was tired and fell asleep in the garage. Declining 6:51 p.m. 911 misdial from medical services. Caller does not feel he needs to be evaluated.

> was driving through tree construction today on Turners Falls Road; an MPD officer waved her through, and a cone hit her car and put a hole in her front driver's side fender. Wants on record. Detail officer on duty states no cone hit a car today.

> 4:48 p.m. A 27-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a straight warrant.

> 6:07 p.m. Caller reporting fight outside on Morris Avenue; multiple people involved. Officer advises verbal argument about respect for your elders. Both parties admitted to fighting, and declined medical

see MPD next page

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MPD from prev page

attention. Neither opted to pursue charges. Separated for evening. 9:44 p.m. Caller from Park Street states she went outside her house and it smells like lighter fluid. Control contacted. TFFD advises they were unable to find cause of smell; however, it is potent, and they are requesting officers periodically check the area to see if there are any homeless or suspicious people.

Friday, 12/30

3:29 p.m. 911 caller states a female is threatening to harm/ kill him. Could hear female yelling in background when line went dead. Situation mediated; parties separated. Advised of options.

5:08 p.m. Caller states a large white dog gets

tied outside everyday

near Fourth and L

By FINTAN ANDREW JONES

MONTAGUE – Did you watch

the Perseverance rover launch

two years ago? In 2020 an Atlas

V rocket launched along with the

Perseverance Rover. This marked

NASA's fifth and largest rover to

are still up there, were called So-

journer, Spirit, Opportunity, and

Curiosity. You may be wondering

who named these rovers. Well ac-

tually, over 28,000 K-12 students

all across the US chose the names.

I will talk about the history of NA-

SA's Mars rover projects and future

Sojourner after the civil rights ac-

tivist Sojourner Truth. Sojourner's

launch time was 1:59 a.m. on De-

cember 4, 1996. Sojourner landed

10.5 months later on the Martian

planet. The initial mission length

was seven days, but overall the

rover had a life of 83 sols (or 85

Earth days). Sojourner spent its

83 sols taking pictures, measure-

not as good as it is today, a land-

er was sent along with Sojourner

to communicate to Earth, analyze

samples, and other things. If you

don't know what a lander is, it is

basically a module that is like a rov-

er but is stationary. Did you know

the Sojourner rover only weighed

23 pounds? That is the weight of

3,000 tea bags. (Sorry for the very

weird analogy.) NASA officially

declared the rover to have stopped

Spirit and Opportunity. Spirit was

launched June 10, 2003, and just

27 days later NASA launched Op-

portunity on July 7, 2003. Both of

these rovers are similar, and some

of what I talk about here will apply

just to get to Mars and take basic

observations, Spirit and Opportuni-

ty were to try and find signs of past

water. This could indicate life forms

While Sojourner's mission was

to both of them.

The next couple rovers are

moving on October 7, 1997.

Since NASA's technology was

ments, and samples.

The first Mars rover was named

missions they are planning.

The previous rovers, which

land on Mars.

Streets and barks all day. Copy left for ACO. 6:42 p.m. Took report of hit-and-run accident at Food City. Saturday, 12/31

4:28 a.m. Party into

station to state that

he got a phone notification that he was being tracked with an AirTag. Caller states he tried to check his car and didn't notice anything, but will look more closely in the morning. Wanted on record in case anything happens to his vehicle. 8:49 a.m. 911 caller reporting two loud gunshots from the woods along the bike path in the Depot Street area. Checked perimeter, did not hear gunshots. A large group of hunters in orange gathered at a residence. Black powder hunting is permitted at this time.

9:56 p.m. Caller from an

FROM A TEEN'S POINT OF VIEW

Our Mars Rovers

Federal Street states her neighbor just came running, saying there was gunfire in the field across the road. Referred to an officer.

Sunday, 1/1/23 12:04 p.m. Caller concerned about a suspicious male and female walking around the Third Street alleyway looking into cars. Unable to locate.

2:44 p.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road concerned the neighbors are shooting some type of guns towards their property. Advised to speak with neighbor. 6:23 p.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road states that a car just went by and paintballed his house. Caller called back stating vehicle went by again and paintballs hit his roommate's truck. Referred to

officer.

could have lived on Mars.

I think it is worth mentioning that

rovers can really only go 0.1 mph

at their fastest. When you see vid-

eos or even movies of them cruis-

ing along the dunes of Mars, that is

way too fast. Both of these rovers

weighed 347 pounds, or around 280

basketballs (another weird analo-

gy). Spirit stopped working in 2010,

after a 2,208-sol mission, or 2,269

Earth days. And Opportunity lasted

14 years and 46 days – the longest

cool rover yet in my opinion, Curios-

ity! The most unique part about Cu-

riosity is that it is the size of a Mini

Cooper and every inch of the rover is

sound awesome - and it still is -

there are some more risks NASA

must be willing to take. One is

that the landing will require a lot

of precision and power. Precision,

because when a \$2.5 billion (with a

B) rover is zooming at 13,000 mph

to the Martian surface, one slip-up

Power must come into play some-

where, too, because after the heat

shield has broken away, a huge,

powerful, drone-like machine would

lower this 2,000-pound beast to

the ground at 17 times the speed of

sound. This mission would be unsuc-

cessful without those two elements.

Now for some of the next-level

could cost NASA.

While such a huge design may

jam-packed with scientific tools.

Finally, the most advanced and

running rover!

TRAVELS from page B1

aboard these trains.

Holiday Train Travel

My trip in November was the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, which gave me an even better reason to avoid the packed interstate and bridges between New York and New Jersey. My destination, Princeton Junction, is well served by New Jersey Transit double decker commuter trains, which run every 13 minutes from the Junction to Penn Station and back.

One of the things I learned on my inaugural commuter train trip was that it's important to take the commuter line, Metro-North, when you arrive on the red Hartford Line trains at New Haven Union Station. You might have been advised on Google maps to take the 1:38 p.m. Amtrak train, called the Northeast Regional, but do not take it! The cost is \$149 one way, versus less than \$20 for the commuter train.

The only rub is that you might need to walk about 10 blocks between Grand Central, where Metro-North trains go, and Penn Station, where New Jersey Transit trains depart from if you want to go farther than New York City.

In early 2023, the city's 11-yearsin-the-works East Side Access project will finally be completed. This is a second giant train station called Grand Central Madison that is being built below Grand Central Station, which will offer trains that travel to Penn Station to connect with the LIRR and NJ Transit.

But it's a pleasant enough walk on the streets of the Big Apple, if you decide to go that route. I think when I go back down to NJ in 2023 I'll try and take that East Side Access train so that I can take a peek at the huge new station, which will just have been opened.

From Home

Here are a few of the things I learned. If you stand on the right side of Sugarloaf Street, with traffic, you can catch a PVTA bus for \$1.50 from Deerfield or Greenfield that goes to the Academy of Music in Northampton, and then on to

tached to Union Station (navigate your home in Franklin County to to 1755 Main Street in Springfield). If you drive another 19 minutes, though, you can park for free at the Windsor Locks railroad station on

Parking at the Olive Street parking lot near the Amtrak station in Greenfield is \$10 per day, with a weekly maximum of \$60.

the Hartford Line.

Train fares are cheaper off peak, especially if you're a senior, so be sure to buy the right tickets. The easiest way is to download the appropriate app for each train and buy the tickets on your phone, then show the conductor the QR code. I always take a photo of the code in case I can't open the program. You may also buy them online and print them out, or buy them in person at ticket kiosks in larger train stations.

Trains, Planes, and Track Repair

If you have ever wondered if there is a better way to get from

catch a flight at Bradley Airport, there is now a bus that can take you

from the new Hartford Line train

station in Windsor Locks to BDL.

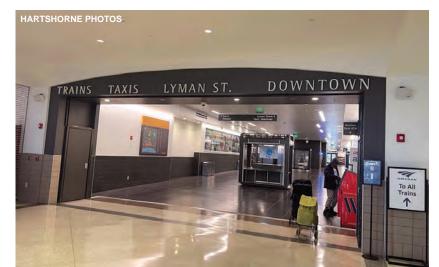
To get to the airport, just use Google Maps to show you the Valley Flyer/Hartford Line train route that goes to Windsor Locks. Then take the CTtransit Route 24 bus that will be waiting at the train – a 13-minute bus ride to the airport for \$1.75. This bus service has actually been made free through March 2023!

There is more rail travel across the state in the Valley's future. The new governor, Maura Healy, has signaled her interest in continuing the track repair and other steps to develop more reliable and timely west-east rail service. The cost of the track improvements, \$109 million, has been approved by the feds.

The route would go from Albany, New York to Pittsfield to Springfield, and connect to the existing station in Worcester for a truly convenient and reliable way to get to Boston from Springfield without a car. Stay tuned here for more information!

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

field. Find him online at www.gonomad.com.



Springfield Union Station has food and coffee, and serves both bus and train passengers.



The spacious and comfortable New Haven station.

Springfield Union Station.

Doing this eliminates having to park, which is costly and can cause problems. Parking is \$50 for five to seven days at the official lot at-

HELPFUL WEBSITES

Airport bus service:

trainsinthevalley.org/how-to-get-to-bradley-airport-on-public-transit

Download the Amtrak Mobile app:

www.amtrak.com/planning-booking/tickets-reservations/mobile.html Other Amtrak ticket options:

www.amtrak.com/purchase-train-tickets

Trains in the Valley – and East-West service plans: trainsinthevalley.org/east-west-rail-in-massachusetts

لو

instruments packed into this rover. To start off, Curiosity has 17 cameras, which all serve different purposes. Another tool is the sample analyzer, which analyzes the composition of a substance, puts it in a tube, and waits for when humans visit Mars to pick the substances up.

And the final instrument I will be talking about: This one is called the Radiation Assessment Detector (RAD), which assesses the amount and types of radiation on Mars, to give humans a better understanding of what life will be like on Mars.

To wrap up this column with something a little unrelated to Mars, I will be talking about some of NA-SA's future missions. There are two

main ones that I have found in my research. These would be bringing Mars and Moon samples back to Earth, and the Artemis missions.

Samples have been left in test tubes all over the Mars and Moon surface. Stage one of this operation consists of helicopter-like robots picking the samples up and bringing themselves and the samples into orbit around the planet. Then we will have another spaceship of some sort pick the helicopter-robots and the samples up, to bring them back to Earth. This should all

be done by the 2030s, but there are no guarantees.

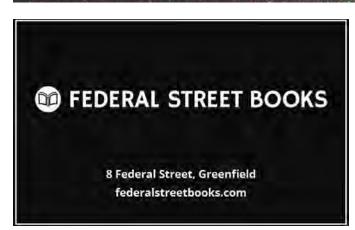
The other ongoing mission is the Artemis missions. The goal is to set up a Moon base, where people can sleep, study, and basically live on the Moon! This is crazy – I am not sure about you, but I have been dreaming of this my entire life. There will also be a space taxi from the outskirts of the Moon to the ground. The Artemis missions aim for completion by the end of the decade, according to an article in the New York Times (December 11, 2022, "Artemis II, III, and Beyond").

It was so awesome writing this column because I got to learn so much stuff that I never knew before.

I would like to wish everybody a Happy New Year. My next column of 2023 will be about Writing. Yes, I will be writing a column about Writing. My friends at school and I had an idea about trying to write a book. I will be talking about the process, and possible ideas I have for my book.

All right, I hope you enjoyed learning about rovers!

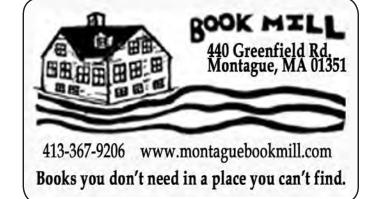
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WEST ALONG from page B1

to teach English at a Franco-Berber high school in the Middle Atlas Mountains. The official name of the school is the *Lycée Tarik Ibn Ziyad*, named for the same Berber general who gave his name to Gibraltar.

According to Chris's timeline of meeting the literary luminaries outlined in his new book, he was still in university in the 1970s, reading, writing, and hobnobbing with the Beat poets and his teacher at UC Santa Barbara, Kenneth Rexroth. He was destined to travel himself to Tangier within a decade or so to begin his meetings with Paul Bowles.

Just as we had continually missed each other over the years in Paris, each frequenting the same streets and cafés in the City Of Light, we never noted or caught a glimpse of one another, as fate would have it. Paris is a big city.

We came close.

In the meantime, I was just a simple classroom teacher, spending a two-year immersion in the Middle Atlas Mountains town of Azrou, a predominantly Berber village. I was the only American within a hundred miles, something of an oddity, but with fluent French and a solid conversational proficiency in Moroccan

Arabic, I survived and thrived.

I learned to cook *kifta* and *tagines* for myself, haggle as culturally expected in the market place, and argue with French leftist intellectuals, most of whom were serving two years in this former French protectorate as teachers *in lieu* of serving their mandatory military service.

In my village, I was teaching school and living on barely the equivalent of \$5 a day, learning how to keep my dirt roof from leaking by getting up there with a flail and thwacking hard on the mud and grass surface, fasting from sunrise to sunset during Ramadan, and reading every volume and novel from the book locker the US government provided. That was the extent of my literary pursuits. Chris, of course, was getting into the more rarefied air and social circles of multiple literary giants, in person.

When I finished my teaching contract, I landed a job in Tangier and began getting a real government salary. By 1971 I was assigned by the Peace Corps to Tangier, to help rehabilitate and adapt the former *Légation américaine* and transform it into a training center for volunteers. Located deep in the Kasbah, this multi-story building was set so high up on the upper reaches of the fortified city that we could see Spain across the Straits of Gibraltar.

Way back in the 1790s, the sultan of Tangier had given this building to the fledgling young American republic. In fact, Morocco and the US have been staunch allies ever since. An early version of an embassy, the *Légation* has remained US property, but it fell into disuse after a more modern consulate building was built just outside the Kasbah in the more modern version of the city.

Someone in DC had the idea to convert the property into a PC training center, and there I was, in charge of helping get the old building ready for the first in-country trainees. A fascinating labyrinth of rooms, secret chambers, double mirrors, escape hatches and safe rooms, large ballrooms and offices – a month's supply of water beneath the building, in case of siege – we were thrilled with the set-up. Dealing with my leaky dirt roof dwelling

in the mountains was far behind me.

In those halcyon days I had the run of the country, from cityscape *medina* to back-land *bled*. My novice trainees, my future wife Monique, and I drove the northern regions of Morocco in a US government jeep. We crossed from the Atlantic shore just west of Tangier to the east and the Mediterranean shore, botanizing, bird-watching, and visiting abandoned Roman citadels and temples along the coast, estuaries and foothills of the Rif Mountains.

Life has a way of handing you the dream and then snatching it away. You must recall that during the early 1970s there was a raging war in Viet Nam. Protests were happening all over the US, Chris was in the middle of the movements in California, and I was about to be caught up in the whirlpool vortex of that war. Many of my friends and classmates were already drawn into it, and some of them had already died there. Uncle Sam wanted me to join them, to head home for basic training at Fort Dix.

We said good-bye to the life in the Kasbah and headed back.

What happened to me next is a story for another time.

A year later, in 1972, I briefly returned to Morocco and its capital city of Rabat to direct another Peace Corps training program. That summer I managed to find myself in the middle of a *coup d'état* in that city, just as our son was to be born back in Paris. The coup failed, heads literally rolled, and I caught the first plane out of the country to Paris.

After wrapping up my summer contract I left Tangier and never made it back to the Kasbah.

Over ten years later, in 1985, as Chris made his way to Tangier to look up Bowles, I had already been settled into my rural life here along the west-flowing river. Both of us had continuously missed each other during our lengthy sojourns in Paris. Indeed, we had both lived extensively in Paris and Tangier, in some cases at the same time as one another.

As Chris has said, given the overlapping circles of our lives, we more than likely frequented the same cafés and possibly sat at the same tables, but we didn't encounter one another until fate had our paths cross, off the beaten path, in this small town by the river where we both now live within a mile or two of one another.

Indeed, that article about *Remembrances of Luminaries Past* in the *Reporter* sent me spiraling down the past years of memories, and afforded me a chance to indulge in some time-travel. Ensconced near the fire in my overstuffed arm chair, I was delivered by Chris's newest book from this dreary non-winter January.

In his chapter on Irish poet Seamus Heaney, Chris mentioned sharing a bottle of Jameson's Irish whiskey with the poet at one point in Portugal. According to Chris, that bottle was likely the only one around for miles, produced from under the counter of the only bar in town, dust-coated, and likely waiting for Chris, Patricia, and Seamus to appear on that given day.

The Irish whiskey reference got my wheels turning again, and to be sure, Chris and I will soon get together over a glass or two of the hard stuff, and we'll sort out the last 40 years or so, untangling how our life trajectories looped about,

nearly crossing so long ago, and in such far-off places.



By CASEY WAIT

TURNERS FALLS – Dear readers, Happy New Year!

Like so many of us, I've spent the last few weeks thinking back on 2022 and what it has meant in the greater context of my life. This year was one of the best and also hardest I've yet experienced. Turning 30, receiving several new diagnoses, trying out so many medications, having my first major surgery, beginning this column (!), and shifting into nonmonogamy – all within the context of yet another year of the COVID-19 pandemic, including my second infection with the virus – was, to put it lightly, a lot.

One of the concepts I have been working with, as a way to think through all these changes and what got me through it, is that of "proprioception." As an autistic person with Hypermobile Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, I lack perception of where my body is in space.

I often hyperextend my joints because I can't tell I've gone past my safe range of motion. When asked to stand up straight, I lean slightly to one side without realizing it. I've always had difficulty regulating my breath when I sing because my body struggles to coordinate the movement of my diaphragm, lungs, intercostal muscles, and ribs.

One way I've been taught to compensate for this lack of proprioception is to add extra sensory input to my body by wearing compression garments. If I notice myself gripping my pencil too tightly when I'm writing, I'll put on a compression glove; it gives me greater awareness of how my hand grips the writing utensil,

and how much force I actually need to use to write.

In order to sense my body in the world, I need to feel the world pressing up against my skin. In a very real way, I need to feel the outside world in order to feel my inside world. This is true for all of us – I just need a little extra input!

I'm not sure if this is because I'm autistic or if this is something other people feel too, but I've noticed I have a similar need socially. I've always come to know myself best through being with others. I feel the contours of who I am, both my limitations and my expansiveness, through feeling the contours of another. In the presence of my queer, crip, and neurodivergent friends, this year I have become more grounded in myself than I've been since I was very little.

Time and again, when things felt completely overwhelming, turning to my friends helped return me to myself. It's not that I can't be alone or that solitude isn't rewarding. It's just that after years of homebound isolation, both because of my illnesses and because of the pandemic, I've learned plenty about being alone. 2022 was a year of transitioning into a much more communal phase than any I've had in recent memory.

This is not to say "The pandemic is over! Let's party!" Things are still pretty dire when it comes to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. But through the ingenuity of queer and disabled communities with many years experience of disease mitigation, contact tracing, and harm reduction, my friends and I have found ways to keep each other as safe as we can, given the state abandonment we've

all been forced to deal with.

We test as regularly as we can, keep abreast of local outbreaks, mask when outside of our bubbles, get all our booster shots, and contact each other when any of us has had a COVID-19 exposure. Many of us have become mask and air quality nerds, consulting each other on the best masks — I'm partial to 3M's Vflex model — and building DIY air filters for our mutual aid spaces and apartments. (Google "Corsi-Rosenthal Box" for instructions.)

This commitment to keeping each other safe and refusing to leave the most vulnerable among us behind has meant I was able to make new friends, reconnect with old ones, and even date! With each connection, I discovered a new part of myself that had been lying in wait for the right person to call it forth.

This is the magic of that nebulous thing called "community," especially for those of us with marginalized identities, and this is why queer community, crip community, and neurodivergent communities have been so critical for me. Sometimes it takes knowing a beautiful weirdo to recognize you, yourself, are a beautiful weirdo too!

I hope that 2022 treated you kindly, dear readers, and that 2023 will bring even greater kindness with it. If you are interested in collaborating on how we can get through yet another "COVID Winter" together, keep an eye out for my next column, and for a workshop I'll be facilitating on the subject in February.

We keep each other safe! Be good to each other.

With love and rage,

Your Sick Friend

ARTIST PROFILE

Nik Perry of Sadie's Bikes

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I have been to a pop-up market event at the Pushkin Gallery in Greenfield a couple of times as part of Jingle Fest, a festival for the holidays in Greenfield that is similar to Turners Falls's *It's A Wonderful Night*. I always see some kind of art at it, and I look for some nice ones to do a profile on. Some of the art I've found there has been very cool. One artist did these metal sculptures, and another made very realistic pictures of Muppet characters.

This year I found Nik Perry there selling amplifiers and nightlights that I thought were very cool. This man owns Sadie's Bikes in Turners Falls and has been working there for three years. His art consists of these handmade nightlights and what he calls "cigar box amplifiers."

"I have only done the Pushkin Gallery's pop-up market for the holidays once," Nik said.

The handmade night lights take him "about an hour to make," he told me, and when it comes to the cigar box amplifiers, which you can plug in and use like speakers, "they take me about three hours to make." He started making both about seven years ago.

As for what each of these items is made of, the cigar box amplifiers are made out of cigar boxes and electric components, and the nightlights are made out of old electrical insulators. Most of the time he buys the electric components brand new, or they are found out of the garbage or on eBay.

The pieces of art he makes with them are rather quite ingenious-looking. The boxes look like they are almost



Mr. Perry pops up to hawk his upcycled wares.

truly professionally-made amplifiers. I would say the same thing about the nightlights too. His art is very nice to look like at, like art is supposed to be.

Nik told me he is open to doing other events like the Pop-Up Market. "I used to sell them out of a store called Loot in Turners Falls," he said. Now he sells them at the bike shop he owns. He told me he sold five of the cigar boxes at the market.

"They do okay," were his words when I asked him how well they sell.

Nik said that people's reaction to his art has been that "they are really cool and interesting." I agree with that – it's what drew me to them. The nightlights are probably seen as cool because he uses six different colors of lights in them.

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FRONTIERS

In With the New Battery Chemistries!

By SPENCER SHORKEY

MILLERS FALLS - A single lightning strike can discharge around a million watt-hours (MWh) of electrical energy in a fraction of a second, enough to fully charge an electric vehicle a dozen times or power an average US household for a month.

In the late 1740s, American scientist Ben Franklin was interested in figuring out what this lightning stuff was all about. Franklin famously flew kites into stormy weather, collecting small amounts of charge using glass jars as capacitors, and investigated the behavior of "electrical matter" captured by the jars. He was the first to use terminology such as minus, plus, charge, battery, and conductor in describing the phenomena he observed. In the decades that followed, mathematical equations for electromagnetism were formulated.

In 1800, Italian scientist Alessandro Volta developed the "voltaic pile," a stack of copper and zinc plates with separators and saltwater electrolyte. Though supplying a stable flow of electrical charge (current) and energy potential (voltage, named after Volta), the chemical reaction of this battery irreversibly corroded its components.

The first reversible battery chemistry was discovered in 1859 by French scientist Gaston Planté. This was the lead-acid chemistry, one which should sound familiar as it is still in use today. During battery discharge, electrons exit the battery from the anode and into the circuit as the lead (Pb) anode reacts with the sulfuric acid (H2SO₄) electrolyte, forming lead sulfate (PbSO₄). At the same time, electrons complete the circuit by entering the lead oxide (PbO₂) cathode, where a slightly more complicated reaction occurs which also ends up forming PbSO₄ at the cathode. The battery is recharged by simply pushing the electrons in the reverse direction, reversing all chemical reactions.

By the late 1800s electricity was being deployed in electrical grids and used to run devices and machinery. Though lead acid batteries have been tremendously useful since their invention, fossil fuels were chosen to power heavy machinery and electrical grids. While a 20% efficient engine can recover over 2,000 Wh of energy per kilogram (kg) of gasoline, heavy lead acid batteries can store and release only 30 Wh/kg.

While lead is one of the heavier elements known, lithium is one of the lightest. Viable lithium batteries were first developed in the 1980s and commercialized in the 1990s, and have been continually improved upon since. John B. Goodenough,

M. Stanley Whittingham, and Akira Yoshino were awarded the chemistry Nobel in 2019 for their pioneering work on these batteries. Electric vehicle manufacturer Tesla's new 4680 cells have an energy density of nearly 300 Wh/kg.

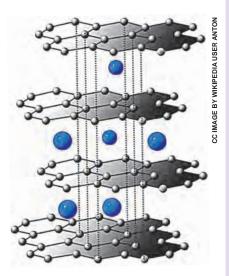
In order to power a renewable energy transition, the world will need to procure several hundreds of thousands of GWh in total battery capacity. While lithium batteries work great in many ways, the ability of lithium supplies to meet necessary battery production levels in the tens of thousands of GWh annually is questionable.

In 2010, 20 GWh of these batteries were produced. This increased to 630 GWh by 2020, and is projected to reach 6,000 GWh by 2030. Lithium is not a tremendously abundant element; though there are a few large deposits of it worldwide, these limited supplies are controlled by only a handful of countries. A huge amount of water is needed to extract lithium, so much so that increasing water scarcity threatens the practicality of mining operations. These issues are reflected in lithium prices, which have risen 500% over the past year.

Fortunately, research and development of alternative sodium-ion battery chemistry has finally reached the point of large-scale manufacturing. The world's largest lithium battery maker, China's Contemporary Amperex Technology (CATL), will begin mass production of 160 Wh/ kg sodium cells this year, and has has plans for second-generation 200 Wh/kg cells. India-based Reliance Industries will also begin production of sodium ion cells in 2023, aiming to reach 5 and 50 GWh of production by 2023 and 2027 respectively. American manufacturer Natron Energy has also completed sodium-ion battery development, and is currently scaling up to produce at least 0.6 GWh annually at a plant in Michigan.

Sodium-ion battery development has lagged behind lithium-ion in large part due to difficulties in developing the effective anode materials. The graphite anode used in lithium batteries is a naturally great "fit" for lithium ions. Graphite is composed of stacks of two-dimensional sheets of graphene carbon, which conducts electrons well, and the spacing between each graphene sheet is about 0.34 nanometer (nm), just right for lithium ions to easily "intercalate" in between. When a lithium battery charges, electrons are pushed into the graphite anode, which shares the added electrons with the lithium ions. While discharging the stored electrons, lithium ions exit the graphite and join with counter-ions at the cathode.

Sodium-ion batteries work in



A depiction of lithium ions "intercalating" between layers of a graphite electrode.



A depiction of sodium ions intercalating into a "hard-carbon" anode.

a similar way to lithium, but their development requires extra engineering of the anode. Sodium ions have a larger radius than lithium, requiring at least 0.37 nm of space to effectively intercalate between sheets, more than the spacing naturally occurring in graphene. To get around this, production of graphene materials with holes and deformities in the structure was needed. Sodium ion manufacturers have settled on referring to this new material as a "hard carbon" anode, but reliable, large-scale production of hard carbon has many more technical challenges than graphite.

Though the energy density of sodium ion is a little less than lithium ion, there are a lot of other advantages over lithium. For one, sodium is much more abundant than lithium, and mining it is much cheaper and less environmentally damaging. Sodium batteries also do not use cobalt, alleviating mining concerns with that mineral as well. While lithium batteries perform poorly at extreme temperatures, sodium has demonstrated much better thermal stability, good for those of us living in colder climates.

Most mass-produced lithium batteries can be charged and discharged fewer than 2,000 times before significant degradation, which means an electric vehicle driven for 20 years would need at least one costly battery replacement. Sodium-battery manufacturers, meanwhile, claim to have achieved over 5,000 cycles, **MEDICINE**

Watch Out for Winter

By CATHERINE DODDS, MD

TURNERS FALLS - Brrr! Winter weather is in full swing. Some of us thrive on outdoor winter sports, others hunker down to hibernate, and unfortunately each year there are people who suffer severe injuries due to the cold

In this month's medical feature, we're going to explore how to recognize, treat, and prevent two common winter-related injuries.

Carbon monoxide poisoning: Carbon monoxide (CO) is a gas produced by the burning of wood or fossil fuels without adequate ventilation. This can be due to fires, poorly functioning or improperly vented heaters, grills, stoves, or generators, and motor vehicles left running without adequate ventilation, including inside garages or with a tailpipe blocked by snow or other material.

CO has no taste, color, or odor, and does not cause any irritation when breathed in, so it is essential to have functional CO detectors to warn us when this toxic gas is around. Around 1,200 people die each year from CO poisoning in the US, mostly in the setting of fires and smoke inhalation.

CO bumps the oxygen off the hemoglobin molecules in our red blood cells that bring oxygen to our organs and tissues. By displacing the oxygen, CO can cause critical lack of oxygenation in our tissues, leading to multiple organ failure and even death.

Symptoms of CO poisoning are non-specific, but commonly include headache, dizziness, weakness, malaise, nausea, confusion, shortness of breath, rapid breathing, rapid heart rate, blurred vision, and bright red coloration of the lips.

Up to 4 in 10 people who have severe CO exposure will develop delayed neurologic symptoms, including difficulty with thinking and cognitive processing, personality changes, or movement disorders. These symptoms can occur weeks or even months after the CO exposure, and can last more than a year.

Testing to confirm CO poisoning in a situation where it's suspected is done by direct measurement of carboxyhemoglobin, the abnormal hemoglobin molecules that have carbon monoxide bound to them.

some as many as 50,000.

So, the next time somebody tells you that batteries will never scale up to meet the needs of the clean energy transition, you can tell them that they don't need to be so salty about the current state of lithium supplies. Sodium is coming to fix those issues and more!

Treatment includes getting away from the source of the CO and breathing in supplemental oxygen, at an oxygen concentration much higher than the 21% present in the air. Hyperbaric oxygen therapy, when available, can be used for severe cases of CO poisoning, to use increased atmospheric pressure as well as increased oxygen concentration to force the CO out of the body faster.

Frostbite: Frostbite is damage to any body part caused by freezing of body tissues due to exposure to severe cold temperature. This can occur at any temperature below freezing, though in general the colder the temperature, the higher the risk of frostbite. Precipitation and wind chill can make even relatively mild temperatures high risk for frostbite injuries.

Frostbite most commonly affects areas that are away from the center of the body, such as the ears, nose, cheeks, chin, fingers, and toes. Frostbitten skin may feel numb, hard, or waxy, and often turns white or gray but can also look purple, red, or brown. Blisters may develop as the person warms up again, but getting warm and staying warm is the most important step in treatment for frostbite. Thawing and then re-freezing tissues damaged by frostbite leads to worsened inflammation, and can cause cell and tissue death, known as necrosis.

To manage frostbite, hold your cold fingers under your armpits, move to a warm area as soon as possible, remove any wet clothing, and take a warm bath. (Hot water may cause pain to areas with frostbite.) Avoid walking on frostbitten feet, do not rub affected skin, and avoid getting close to a fire, as frostbitten fingers may be numb enough to be burned without feeling it.

Severe frostbite may need treatment in the hospital, including updated tetanus vaccination, pain medicines to be able to re-warm the area more quickly as the warming process can be quite painful, medicines to increase blood flow or treat blood clots that can form with frostbite, and wound care including antibiotics and surgery if needed for infected or gangrenous skin.

To prevent frostbite, avoid staying out in the cold for too long, and dress warmly enough for the forecast temperature, accounting for wind chill factor and wet weather as well. Wear a warm hat that covers the ears, mittens, multiple layers of clothing, and water-resistant shoes or boots. Get out of wet clothing as soon as possible. Avoid contact with ice or metal outside. And avoid alcohol and smoking if you are planning to be outside in cold weather.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: Singer/songwriter night. Open mic. Free. 6 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: Kalliope Jones, Lemon Street. \$. 8 p.m

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Aden Gray*. Free. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

Four Star Farms, Northampton: Rosie Porter Trio. Free. 5 p.m.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Stimulus Band.* \$. 7 p.m.

MASS MoCA, North Adams: Kaleta & Super Yamba Band. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Two Car Garage*. Free. 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: lan St. George Band, Rocking Puppies, Film & Gender, The Prozacs. \$. 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Fall-

town String Band. Free. 8 p.m. The Drake, Amherst: Son Rompe Pera, DJ Bongohead. \$. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Dari Bay, Ruby Lou,* more. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Young Shakespeare Players present *Twelfth Night*. Free. 7

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Space Camp*, *Bricklayer*, *Rong*. \$. 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: Cass Mc-Combs, Kolumbo. \$. 8 p.m

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Young Shakespeare Players present *Twelfth Night*. Free. 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Mystery Train Records, Amherst: Rootless, The Eye, Sagan and Sigourney, Cycles Inside, Free, 5 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: Rosie Porter & the Neon Moons. \$. 8 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *The Wondertwins, Vandal Flag, Misery Quilts.* \$. 8:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Back O'Town Cajun Band, Planet Zydeco. \$. 1 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Skytiger, Plunge Pool, Perennial Quest, Mark of Wrath. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Cold Spring Hollow, Belchertown: Webb Crawford, Technical Reserve, Liz Tonne, Kramer-White/O'Hara. \$. 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

The Perch at Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Burning Sun, Ex-Temper,* more. \$. 7:30 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: Sunburned Hand of the Man, Franklin Mint, Mountain Movers, Bulle. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Gaslight Tinkers.* \$. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

Mount Toby Friends Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Jim Sharkey*. \$. 7 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: Surrealist Games and Prepared Piano with Roger Clark Miller. \$. 7 p.m.

Parlor Room, Northampton:

Cloudbelly. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Old 78 Fall Festival Reunion, with Woody & the Rebel Alliance, rice: an American Band, Whalom Park, MC Force. \$. 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Thus Love, Lahnah, Prune.* \$. 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

Next Stage Arts, Putney: Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem. \$. 4 p.m. Stone Church, Brattleboro: Thus Love, Carinae, Tilden. \$. 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Masala Jazz*. Free. 8:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: Cheap City, The Leafies You Gave Me, Bochek, PWRUP. \$. 8:30 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *The Dust-bowl Revival, The Mary Jane Jones.* \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

Stone Church, Brattleboro: Goblet, Jeopardy, Slob Drop, Oziem, Jonee Earthquake Band. \$. 7:30 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: Lou Barlow. \$. 8 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Big Head Todd and the Monsters.* \$. 8 p.m.

sters. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:

Bluegrass & Beyond. Free.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

8:30 p.m.

Clark Art Institute, Williamstown: Sam Prekop, Greg Davis, Kryssi Battalene/Wednesday Knudsen duo. \$. 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

Temple Israel, Greenfield: Stephen Katz, Klez Cabal. \$. 4 p.m. DCU Center, Worcester: The Judds: The Final Tour, with Ashley McBryde, Martina McBride. \$. 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

The Drake, Amherst: *Underground System.* \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Bill Nace* record release, *Stella Kola* record release, *Matt Krefting, Hollow Deck.* \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *GZA*. \$. 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: Adam Reid & the In-Betweens, Sailor Down, Julie Cira. \$. 8:30 p.m.

JAN ATAMIAN ILLUSTRATION







MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

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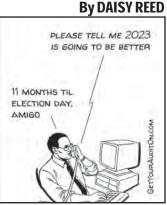
I LOVE IT... WHY DID THE MAYOR
FIRE THE HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION CHAIR? SHE'S ALL
LIKE, "BECAUSE I CAN! AND HIS
PETTY OBJECTIONS, ALWAYS HIS
PETTY OBJECTIONS."



I KNOW, RIGHT? THEN SHE
CLAIMS SOME PEOPLE RESIGNED
CUZ THEY DIDN'T LIKE HIM.
"OH WAIT, MAYBE THEY
RESIGNED CUZ THEY WERE
PROTESTING ME AND THE POLICE
CHIEF? EITHER WAY, IT REFLECTS
BAD ON THE GUY."





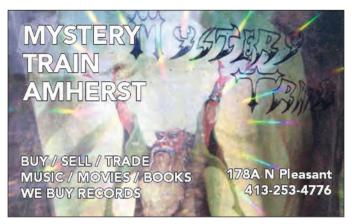


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EXHIBIT

A Flock of Various Feathers: Collected Works of Tracy Vernon

By RICHARD ANDERSEN

MONTAGUE CENTER – It all started with Claude Monet. More specifically, with his huge canvases and monumental representations of water lilies. Such splashes of light and color that you have to step back from the paintings to see what you're looking at.

What most impressed the young artist Tracy Vernon, however, was the contrast between the vibrant lilies and the calm waters they floated on.

This contrast between composition and color is evident in the collection of Vernon's bird paintings currently on display through February 15 at the Montague Center Library. The backyard varieties are in full attendance: Bobolink, Tree Swallow, Nuthatch, Wood Finch, Gold Finch, Robin, Owl, Chickadee, Wren, and more - so many beautiful birds you'd think the heavens had fallen.

In a written statement prepared for the exhibit, Vernon tells us she "adores" birds: "My eyes are constantly surveying the landscape. I often joke with locals that Montague is like an unofficial Audubon site."

To be sure it is, but Vernon doesn't limit herself to the kind of realistic observations found in the works of Mr. John James Audubon. Her birds have individual personalities that are revealed through Vernon's application of intensely hued and multi-layered pigments. It leaves you with the impression that the birds are standing around waiting for their paint to dry. Or maybe showing it off!

Vernon's birds transcend their re-



Tree Swallow, painting by Tracy Vernon.

In drawing us into themselves, the birds take us out of our everyday concerns to places of peace and joy and beauty.

And whimsy. My favorite painting in Vernon's collection is of a dazzling blue birdbath populated by a variety of luminous songbirds. Waiting along the sides of the bath are colorful bird towels. It's enough to make you want to wade in and enjoy the quietly understated fun.

Referring to her bevy of birds, Vernon writes that painting what she loves "encourages me to be the best painter I can be." Contrary to what the feathery lightness of their being might imply, Vernon's birds do

alistic images in other ways as well. not fly easily onto the canvas. Her creative process "entails countless hours of study, trial and error, successes and failures, and seeing the merit in all of it."

You come and see it, too.

The Montague Center Library is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 2 to 7 p.m. and on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you have works of art that you would like to exhibit at the library, please visit librarian Kate Martineau during open hours or call her during those times at (413) 367-2852. Tracy Vernon would also like to hear what you think about her works at tracyvernon@rocketmail.com.

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

We Captured It All!

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS - Gill's December 21 Special Town Meeting was recorded by MCTV, and is available to watch at your convenience on the MCTV Vimeo page. There you will also find Gill's 12/19 Town Meeting, the GMRSD school committee meeting from December 20 and Montague and Gill's selectboard meetings from December 19. For fun, we have St. Mary's Christmas Concert from West Mass Brass!

Don't forget, all community members are welcome to submit their videos to be aired on Channel

17 and featured on the MCTV Vimeo page, so think of what you would like to make and come see how we can help. MCTV is always available to assist in local video production. 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.

EXHIBITS

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Photo Beat, Past and Present: Moving Forward in Time, Capturing the Moment. Photographs by Joe R. Parzych. Through January 29. Reception Saturday, January 28, 1 to 3 p.m.

Von Auersbeg Gallery, Deerfield Academy: Looking Glass. Rachel Portesi's hair portraits. Collodion tintypes, Polaroids, Viewmaster 3D, and video exploring female identity in portraits that display hair in sculptural forms. Through March 1. Reception Sunday, January 15, from 5 to 7 p.m.

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

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

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

Gallery A3, Amherst: Birds. Paintings by Keith Hollingworth. Through January. Reception this Thursday, January 5 at 5 p.m.

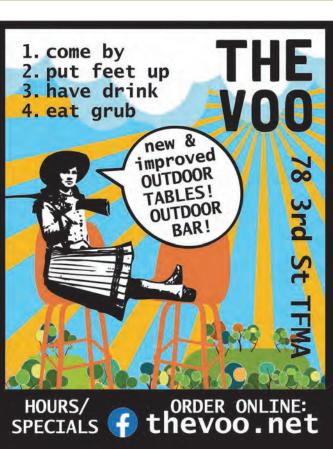
Burnett Gallery, Amherst. Spare. Photographs by Sarah Reid. New Work, metal sculpture by Jon Bander, Through January 29. Reception this Thursday, January 5, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Anchor House, Northampton: Fran's Emails, collaborative works by Fran Henry, Walter Korzek, and Ken Gagne including emails, woodcuts, assemblage, and more. Receptions this Sunday, January 8 from 2 to 5 p.m. and next Friday, January 13 from 5 to 7 p.m. Ben Hotchkiss, Self Taught Abstraction, oil paintings. Through January 28.

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.

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