

The Montague Reporter

Year 23 – No. 6

JANUARY 9, 2025

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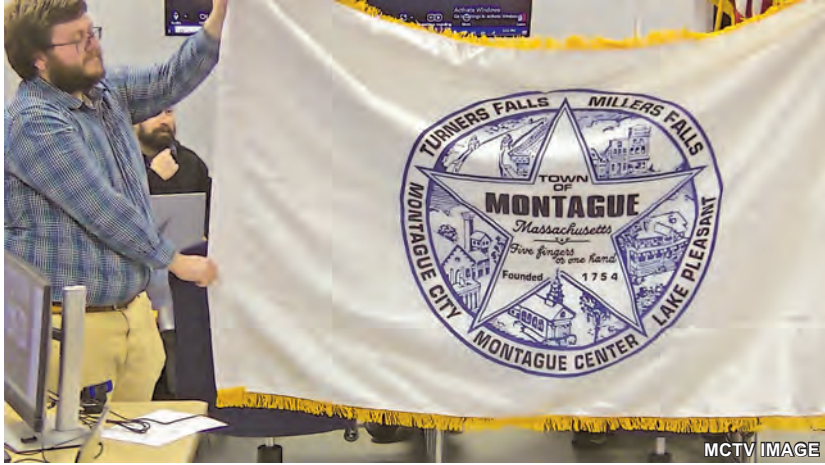
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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

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MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Montague Now Has a Flag



Chris Nolan-Zeller displayed the new town flag Monday night.

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard had a full agenda on its plate Monday night, approving a warrant for the winter special town meeting and continuing discussion of next year's budget, which will be presented at the annual town meeting in May. But the highlight was the unveiling of the new town flag, which will be placed in the Great Hall of the State House in Boston.

"The official unveiling," selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz intoned, as town administrator Walter Ramsey and assistant administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller took the new flag out of its plastic wrapper and held it up for the attendees and cable-access station video camera to see.

The flag is essentially a white field with the town's official seal – the phrase "five fingers or one hand" on a five-pointed star, surrounded by

see **MONTAGUE** page A7

Greenfield Compost Facility Still Running, Despite Rumors



JULIA HANDSCHUH PHOTO

Martin's Farm is still for sale, says owner Adam Martin, and still composting.

By MIKE JACKSON

GREENFIELD – Contrary to persistent rumors, Martin's Farm, which runs the second-largest commercial composting operation in the state, is still accepting compostable waste as of this week, according to owner Adam Martin.

Castella Waste Systems, which picks up organic waste at the Mon-

tague and Leverett transfer stations, has been hauling it to an anaerobic-digesting facility in Agawam, Franklin County Solid Waste Management District (FCSWMD) program director Amy Donovan told the *Montague Reporter*, but as of Wednesday Compost Cooperative staff say they are in touch with Martin and plan to keep dumping

see **COMPOST** page A6

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Culvert Project Complications; Fire Tower for Sludge Dump

By KEITH WATERS

The town of Erving held a selectboard meeting Monday, the sixth of January.

The board asked highway superintendent Glenn McCrory to explain the proposed project to replace culverts at Bridge Street and Maple Avenue, as well as a fire pond. McCrory explained that the scope of the project has been enlarged after one of the streams being culverted was redefined to the status of an "active stream."

Town administrator Bryan Smith suggested that the town can use its recent experience with replacing a culvert on Wheelock Street as useful data. Recent state regulations relating to active streams require the approval of the Army Corps of Engineers, which took over a year to process in the case of the Wheelock Street project. Once acquired, the state permits for the work are good for three years.

The total cost of the project is now estimated at \$109,000.

The board approved hiring Weston & Sampson of Connecticut to begin the engineering part of the project, at a cost of \$65,000. The capital planning committee had already expressed its support for this.

The state is requesting to put a weather station for Franklin County in the town of Erving, in order to get additional weather data to enhance wildfire prediction and monitoring. The location they are requesting is on a closed town landfill on Route 2 between Erving and Farley, referred to in meeting materials as the Farley sludge dump.

After a brief discussion, the selectboard members agreed they had no problem with it. ERSECO, the Erving Paper-affiliated entity contracted to maintain the dump, will

see **ERVING** page A4

MORE DAY TRIPS

Sunday Drives We Love: Points North and West

By MAX HARTSHORNE

SOUTH DEERFIELD – Most of my travel life happens exclusively on Sundays. It's a time-honored tradition that takes me far and wide.

I always keep it to within a one-hour drive, so it will feel like a day trip and not a commuting slog. You need to have a car you like driving, a full tank, and an open mind to take in whatever New England has to offer during the trip. I like to load up podcasts and special playlists to listen to as the country miles slip by.

Here are some of my top Sunday drive destinations from the Pioneer Valley, departing from South

Deerfield. I carefully check the weather map to ensure a clear day for the exploration.

Bellows Falls, Vermont

Many Massachusettsites have just never taken Exit 36 off 91 North and explored the unique double main streets of the little town of Bellows Falls. In the village, incorporated in the Town of Rockingham, there are 2,814 souls – and the heritage of a river and railroad that have run through the town since 1753.

Today the trains play a big visual role in the appeal of this country village. I especially enjoyed going see **DRIVES** page A6



HARTSHORNE PHOTO

The steep drive up the side of Mount Ascutney in Vermont, just an hour and 15 minutes away from the Reporter's offices.

Tech Helpers Hear Praise At Program's One-Year Mark

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – "What is Gemini, and do I really need it?"

Stump the Students started off with a banger, but Franklin County Technical School (FCTS) sophomore Kaylynn Lupien rose to the challenge.

"Gemini is not necessary," Lupien told the audience of senior citizens, government functionaries, and her peers in FCTS's Programming & Web Development shop gathered Tuesday morning at the Gill-Montague senior center. "It is an AI assistant, sort of like if you have Siri on an iPhone – it used to just be Google Voice, where you could just ask Google, 'Hey Google, here's my question.' It's not necessary."

Lupien's instructors both gave thumbs-ups to this answer, and her table had 200 points out of the gate.

The quiz game was intended to showcase the sort of questions the FCTS students have faced over the last year from the "customers" attending Tech Tuesday, a biweekly support session at the center intended to help older residents keep pace in a wired world. Tuesday's lunchtime event, which came with sandwiches, commemorated the end of the partnership's first year – and an announcement of continued funding for another.

In between Stump questions Colleen Doherty, coordinator of the Mass In Motion grant committee for the town of Montague as well as

see **TECH** page A5

High School Sports: Another Banner!



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Franklin Tech senior captain Hannab Gilbert (#21) is congratulated by her teammates after achieving 1,000 career points during Tuesday night's game.

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – As we start the new year, the local high school teams are beginning to show their potential. Although the Frontier girls and the Pioneer boys seem to be soaring in basketball, Franklin Tech and Turners Falls are still competing, with Franklin registering another 1,000-point scorer.

In swimming the Turners Falls hybrid teams are making some waves, with two more school records getting slashed.

The Franklin Tech Wrestlers, meanwhile, have taken two first places in New Hampshire, and several of their grapplers have joined the 100-win club.

Girls' Basketball

FCTS 55 – Pioneer 29

Although the Franklin Tech girls' basketball team is not the dominant team they were last year, they are still 5–3 and are vying for another Franklin South title.

But fear not, no matter what, they'll still have an addition to their gym banner. On Tuesday the Eagles welcomed another athlete to their 1,000-point club.

Midway through the second quarter of their game against

see **SPORTS** page A8

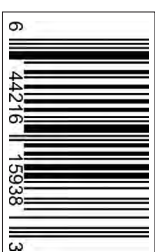


JACKSON PHOTO

Deerfield resident Helen Ostrowski (left) told the student tech support workers that thanks to their help, she no longer had "that fear of touching my iPad."

Younger Than That Now

Three Letters to the Editors.....	A2	Memorizing Politics of Ancient History (A Review).....	B1
Local Briefs.....	A3	(What's Yr Take On) Winter Veggies.....	B1
MR On the Road: Vegas, Baby.....	A3	Montague Police Log Highlights.....	B3
Op/Ed: Invitation to a Rally.....	A3	Drawing Like the Music Sounds.....	B4
Op/Ed: Salmon Research Maligned.....	A4	Four Comics.....	B4
10, 20, and 150 Years Ago This Week.....	A7	The Montague Cryptojam.....	B4
Bikepath Under a Blanket.....	B1	Science Page: Telepathy, Perchance?.....	B5
Valley View: Digging Deeper.....	B1	Great Big Events Listing.....	B6-B7



The Montague Reporter

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August 2002

Court Position

It's a rare treat to be able to watch the mating dance of big business and government in full view in the light of day.

This week Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced that his company was ending its practice of fact-checking posts and will replace the system with a "Community Notes"-style game in the manner of Elon Musk's rival X platform.

"The recent elections," Zuck explained, "...feel like a cultural tipping point towards, once again, prioritizing speech.... we're going to simplify our content policies and get rid of a bunch of restrictions on topics like immigration and gender that are just out of touch with mainstream discourse."

The CEO also admitted that his platforms' algorithms have been muffling political discourse: "it was making people stressed," he said, "so we stopped recommending these posts, but it feels like we're in a new era now, and we're starting to get feedback that people want to see this content again..."

Amid the data smog, everything hinges on the parameters fed into these megaplatforms' "recommendation" algorithms. Actual support for free speech would mean valuing every post neutrally; it was no accident that when Musk acquired Twitter, one of his first moves was to eliminate the option for users to see a chronological feed of every Tweet by the accounts they follow. It is remarkable how quickly users have come to take for granted the

constant thumb on the scale.

And Zuck's suck-up gambit shows how far we've come since 2017, when a focus on the British firm Cambridge Analytica reflected the public's anxious realization that our harvested personal data is being used to manipulate our political perspectives. (If we can be steered by monied interests, the implication went, we could be steered by foreign monied interests; the corrosion of democracy was often rhetorically cast as an external corruption.)

President-elect Trump, turning the tables, accused Zuckerberg of using his platforms in 2020 to undermine his reelection, and threatened him with "life in prison" from the campaign trail last year. Meta reportedly spent \$43 million on its CEO's personal security detail in 2024 - we'll have to see where that figure goes post-Mangione - and donated another million to next week's inauguration.

Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, meanwhile, personally spiked an editorial cartoon by Ann Telnaes showing him, the tech oligarchs, and Mickey Mouse offering cash tributes to a statue of the prez-elect. Telnaes quit, which is cool, but it says something about the current scramble for position that Bezos even cared about such a petty jab.

We're going into uncharted territory, but already we're seeing a lot of gloves, and even some masks, being peeled off. None of this is actually new, but it's significant that it's happening in plain sight.

Obliteration, No End In Sight

The 17,000 Palestinian children who have died in the last 16 months of assault on their country did not ask to be killed. Not the ones who died a slow anguished death under the rubble of their bombed-out homes, nor those obliterated by other weaponry provided by our government.

The civilian mothers, fathers, aunts and uncles, grandparents, neighbors, and friends who have died, many of them clutching family members in vain attempts to save them, also did not ask for or deserve their fate.

The house our grandparents left to us has not been bulldozed to make room for Israeli settlers eager to build their own homes as are many of those in Palestine. We have not been shot at or stoned as we gather maple sap from our trees, as are the Palestinian farmers seeking to support their families by making olive oil as their ancestors have for centuries, or our trees burned and destroyed as are theirs.

The children in our communities go to school. Nine out of 10 schools have been severely damaged or destroyed in Gaza. Here our hospitals are able to welcome those of us in need of their care. The 100,000 wounded in Gaza are left with more than half of their hospitals destroyed and the rest damaged and only partially functioning.

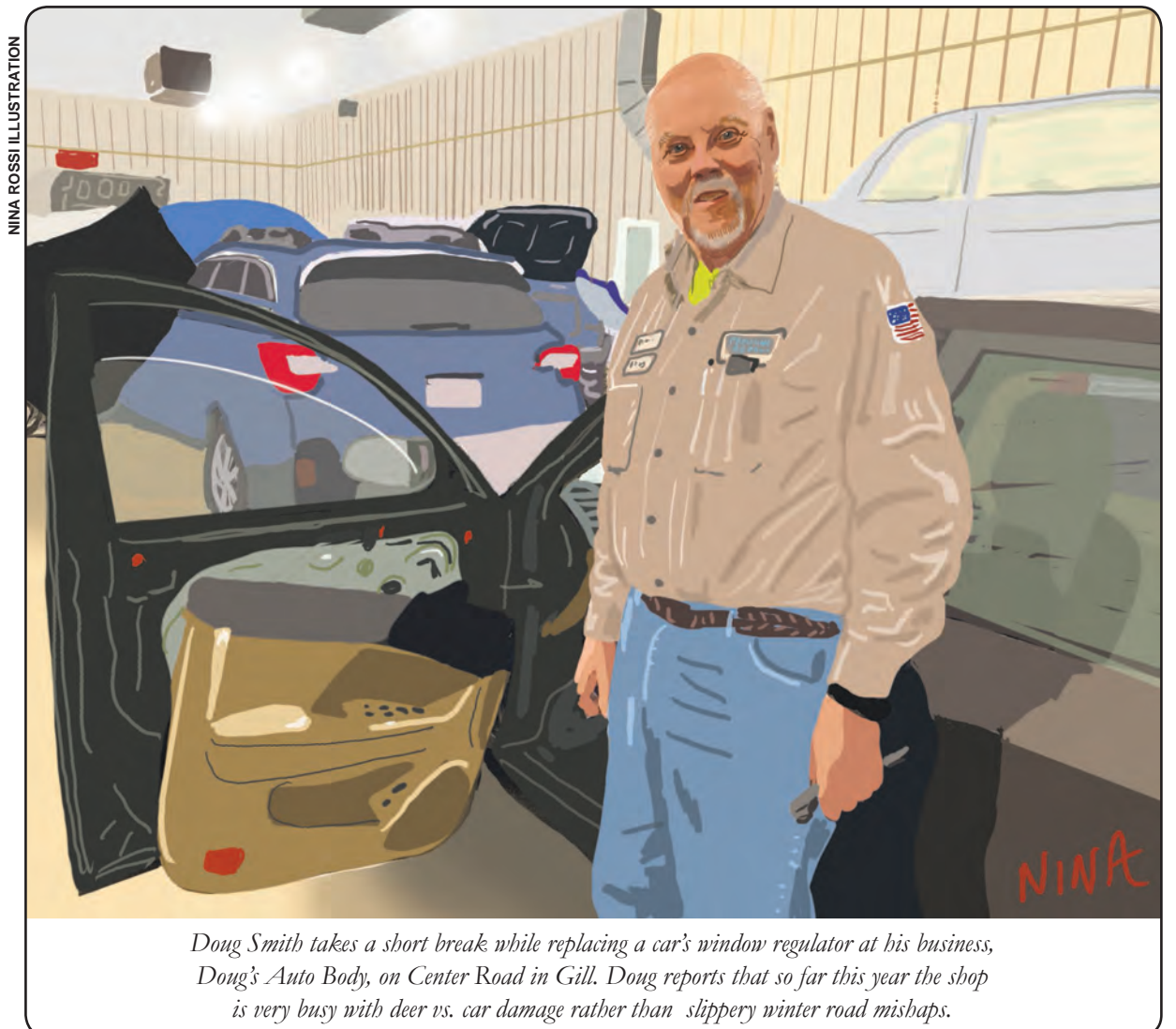
Genocidal obliteration of these proportions screams for a response from the world community, from each one of us. Millions around the globe and thousands here at home have taken part in marches, demonstrations, governmental pressure campaigns, fund-raising for relief and yet more must be done.

As one response I have decided I need to fast one day a week in solidarity with the more than 1.8 million Palestinians who are facing extremely critical levels of hunger according to aid organizations struggling to avert this cataclysm. The funds I would have spent on food will be among those sent to relief organizations in Gaza.

Each of us has the ability to act in our own way to end this horrific devastation. Since the tragic killing of 1,200 Israelis on October 7, 45,000 Palestinian lives have been taken. It has been said that an eye for an eye will make the whole world blind. 45,000 Palestinian lives lost with no end in sight, for 1,200 Israeli lives lost, is ripping at the world's soul.

In the name of love, and with all the power in our hearts, we must end this madness.

Robin Cappuccino
West Wheelock, Vermont



Doug Smith takes a short break while replacing a car's window regulator at his business, Doug's Auto Body, on Center Road in Gill. Doug reports that so far this year the shop is very busy with deer vs. car damage rather than slippery winter road mishaps.

Letters to the Editors



CORRECTION

In last week's Page A1 article *Quarterly Bills for Montague Property Tax On the Horizon*, we misreported that bills from the Turners Falls and Montague Center water departments would also switch to four per year. Tax collector Eileen Seymour had actually told the *Reporter* that fire district taxes are included in the town tax bills, which are switching. Our reporter misinterpreted Seymour, and an editor badly exacerbated the error by adding info about the fire and water districts. Water bills will still come twice a year.

Race Day Thanks

On Wednesday, January 1, Montague Parks & Recreation held our annual Sawmill River 10K Run in Montague Center. Approximately 119 runners from throughout the entire region participated in this major fundraising event, which 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 Greenfield Savings Bank, A.H. Rist Insurance Co., Marathon Sports, and Turn It Up Music for their generous financial support, as well as the Montague Common Hall, Sugarloaf Mountain Athletic Club, and 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 Franklin County Amateur Radio Club, the Montague Highway Department, Montague Police, and many other volunteers who spent a good portion of their New Year's Day helping us out during registration, along the race route, 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!

Jon Dobosz, Director
Montague Parks & Recreation

An Outside Perspective

St. Louis... often called St. Louie, like San Francisco is called Frisco. Or San Fran. Mostly unused by locals, but recognized.

While I subscribe to the *Montague Reporter*, I live in a suburb of St. Louis. Kirkwood. Max Hartsorne's December 12 column (*Passing Through the Gateway to the West*) offered suggestions that don't surprise anyone who lives somewhere that is visited by someone else. Many wonderful opportunities go untaken. Or visited like checking boxes, and then only once....

Our town is the comfort of Bethel, Connecticut, Shelburne Falls, Ashfield, parts of Amherst and Northampton, Greenport, Louisiana, and Kennebunkport. My wife has a good friend, a Guggenheim poet, who lives on a hilltop in Haw-

ley. What's mostly missing here are the eight-foot-tall rebars next to fire hydrants, and the easy lope to the ocean. Which will be remedied if we win the lottery.

The lake to the Biker's Bar in Ashfield is insufficient compared to an ocean with sand to walk along... that is my wife's condition to move. Otherwise, Ashfield draws me.

So. We are passing your passage around to friends and relatives to consider a re-visit to the Gateway Arch - and all our own secret small spaces and places that actually define living somewhere, and knowing what to know.

Thank you for your article.

Jim Hauschultz
Kirkwood, Missouri

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by NINA ROSSI

Our friends at the Diemand Farm in Wendell have announced that they are bringing back their tradition of serving **complimentary hot beverages** all January long. They are serving Dean's Beans coffee, hot tea, or hot chocolate as a "thank you" for their customers. In addition, some items on the shelves have a special sticker that entitles the buyer to a free cookie and limited-edition Dean's Beans pin.

"Swing by our farm store to grab a warm drink, explore our shelves, and kick off the new year with a little extra joy," the notice says, adding that the pins are in limited supply.

The Montague board of health will host a **free COVID and flu vaccine** clinic next Wednesday, January 15 from 4 to 7 p.m. The first 100 patients 12 years and older will receive a \$75 gift card. Walk-ins are welcome, but registration is recommended at home.color.com.

If you haven't yet encountered the Australian blue heeler dog named Bluey, you either don't have a youngster in your orbit or haven't got access to the show on the Disney network. The popular cartoon is known for its wholesome content and life lessons; shows have featured content on serious matters such as aging grandparents, premature birth, death, and other important events.

Bluey fans are invited to meet Bluey at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls next Saturday, January 18 from 1 to 3 p.m. during a **Bluey Party**. It's a drop-in event, and there will be crafts and activities related to the cartoon show. Geared for ages 3 to 10, accompanied by an adult.

Next weekend, **Young Shakespeare Players East**, a volunteer run, non-profit theater program that invites young people ages 8 to 18 to perform full-length, original works of Shakespeare, present their next production at the Shea Theater – *The Winter's Tale*, a play that attempts to answer the question: What happens after a tragedy?

Every member of the cast participates in multiple roles on stage and behind the scenes, and the production includes elaborate costumes, music, and dance to bring the scenes to life. Admission is free, and performances start Friday, January 17 at 6:30 p.m., Saturday the 18th at 11:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., and Sunday the 19th at 1 p.m.

Young people are especially encouraged to attend. There will be two intermissions, and delicious refreshments.

The **Grand Trunk Hotel**, which once stood on the lawn of today's Discovery Center at the corner of Avenue A and First Street in Turners Falls, was built in 1872 and demolished in 1968. A program at the Discovery Center next Sunday, January 19 explores the story of the "grand old days in Turners Falls" by presenting photographs and testimonials from the days this hotel anchored the factory town.

Use your imagination to expand on this history under the guidance of DCR staff from 2 to 3 p.m. in the center's Great Hall.

What's the most comfortable way to wear your little bundle of joy? Try out different baby carriers at a **babywearing workshop** led by Jennifer Hydefrost at the Greenfield Library at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, January 22.

Bring your little one and whatever carrier you might be using, and troubleshoot your current method or try out different wraps and carriers. The workshop happens after Toddler Time in the library's Children's Room, and older children are welcome to join and observe or play nearby. The workshop will repeat on the fourth Wednesday of each month. For more information, call (413) 772-1544.

The Brick House and Montague Council on Aging are offering a six-week program in Turners Falls for **Grandparents Raising Teens**. The program will run Tuesdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m. for the first five sessions, January 28 through February 25, at the Gill-Montague senior center on Fifth Street, with the sixth session a dinner at the Brick House on Third Street from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 26.

For more information or to sign up, please contact Stacey Langknecht at slangknecht@brickhousecommunity.org or (413) 800-2496.

This next opportunity comes from across the river, where the Greenfield Community Cable folks are looking for participants in their fifth annual **Film Sprint Festival**. Teams are invited to sign up now through early February to compete in a two-week competition to finish an original four-minute film.

Here's how it works: on February 10 all teams will be given three prompts that they must include in their films. They have two weeks to produce the films, handing them over before midnight on February 24. On March 6 at 6:30 p.m., the public is invited to watch the completed works in a free film festival at the Greenfield Garden Cinemas.

There will be a variety of workshops aimed at helping teams complete their videos, and GCTV can provide equipment plus production and editing help. Sign-up forms and other information can be found at GCTV.org.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

MONTAGUE REPORTER...



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ryne Hager of Turners Falls, this paper's own *Device/Advice* tech columnist, took last week's edition with him to Las Vegas for the Consumer Electronics Show (CES), the industry's major annual trade show.

"I'll do a piece for my next column about the expo," Ryne tells us, using foreshadowing.

Going somewhere this winter? Take us with you! Send your photos to editor@montaguereporter.org.

ON THE ROAD

Montague Community Television News

TV the Superior Medium

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – The *Montague Reporter* has great coverage of our local meetings, but if you want to soak up every minute, you've got to watch the MCTV recordings. We have not only this week's meetings from the Gill and Montague selectboards, but an entire archive full of each and every juicy meeting. So grab the popcorn and binge away!

All MCTV videos are aired on Channel 9, as well as featured on

the MCTV Vimeo page. If there is a meeting, event, performance, or happening in the Montague area that you think MCTV should capture, let us know! And if you also have an idea for a show, MCTV is always available to assist in local productions as well. Just reach out!

Contact us at (413) 863-9200 or infomontaguetyv@gmail.com, or follow us on Facebook or on Instagram [@montaguecommunitytv](https://www.instagram.com/montaguecommunitytv). Find videos and more on our website, montaguetyv.org.

OP ED

Our Projects for 2025: Envisioning the World We Want

By ANN FERGUSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – What kind of world do you want to see evolving, starting in 2025?

I am part of a growing movement of people who want to make sure that this world does not contain the cruel wars of 2024, including those genocidal ones targeting civilians in Gaza and in Sudan, the former with direct complicity of the US and the latter because of the lack of will of wealthy nations to intervene to end this bloody civil war.

Our hearts are broken that 96% of the Palestinian children in Gaza, victims of a vengeful genocidal war continued by the state of Israel, feel that death is imminent (according to a recent assessment published by the War Child Alliance), and will suffer a lifetime generational trauma.

They could be helped by a ceasefire and massive international support, but only with the US government support that is lacking at present.

We are disgusted that the world's top 100 largest arms-producing and military services companies increased their combined arms revenues by 4.2% in 2023, reaching a staggering \$632 billion, with five US-based companies accounting for a third of these revenues, while at home US poverty and homelessness levels continue to increase in this richest nation in the world!

Meanwhile, the incoming federal administration threatens to cut Medicare and reduce funding for public education, making the gap between rich and poor ever more painful.

We are concerned that climate disasters will continue, while US and multinational corporations continue to increase their profits from fossil fuel production.

We are outraged that women and LGBT people are denied Constitutional protection for reproductive rights and gender-affirming care, that the Republican MAGA plan called Project 2025 (www.project2025.org) plans national surveillance and criminalization of

those aiding or seeking abortions, and that the incoming Trump administration threatens to deport thousands of law-abiding resident immigrants, tearing families apart and unleashing prejudicial scapegoating against our neighbors.

But all is not gloom and doom. There are seeds of hope in alternative practices and visions close to home.

Our event next Saturday, January 18, will gather together a coalition of peace, environmental, cooperative, progressive, and civil rights organizations who support a culture of mutual aid and cooperative alternatives. The event, *Our Projects for 2025: Envisioning the World We Want*, will take place between 12:15 and 3 p.m. at the Second Congregational Church at 16 Court Square in Greenfield, across the street from the Common.

The event is sponsored by Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution (FCCPR), Traprock Center for Peace and Justice, Western MA Code Pink, the Amherst

Young Feminist Party, and the Interfaith Council of Franklin County, as well as more than 25 other cosponsoring groups, such as Stone Soup Café, Greening Greenfield, and the children's after-school program Twice as Smart (www.twice-as-smart.org). The Franklin Community Cooperative, one of the co-sponsors, will join with others to provide snacks and beverages for a simple free lunch.

We will bring together community organizations, speakers, local musicians, and the public, who are invited to share hopes and plans for the coming year. The program includes space for organizations to share information on their visions and projects and to meet with those interested.

Speakers will include former minister Kate Stevens of the Interfaith Council, Kaia Jackson of Jewish Voice for Peace, Juliet Margola of the Amherst Young Feminist Party, and another speaker representing voices for the environment in Franklin County.

This event is a continuation of eight years of progressive protests against Trump and the MAGA Republican values he represents. The weekend of January 17 to 20 will be a national celebration of Martin Luther King and his Help Over Hate values, and will be sponsored by Indivisible as well as the Poor People's Campaign and the January 18 People's March (formerly the Women's March) in Washington, DC.

The tradition of this national event harkens back to the 2017 pre-Presidential inaugural Women's March in DC. That event initiated many coinciding Women's Marches in various cities around the country, including a large one here in Greenfield that January.

For more information, including a list of the cosponsoring organizations, contact traprockinfo@rockefeller.com (put "Jan18" in the subject).

Ann Ferguson is a member of FCCPR and the January 18 planning committee. She lives in Leverett.

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ERVING from page A1

also need to be consulted before final approval.

Breaks For Vets

The selectboard discussed a new state law that provides a possible exemption of property taxes for veterans. Member Scott Bastarache brought up the complexity of the policy, particularly around how multiple exemptions may or may not be compounded.

Bryan Smith suggested having the town assessors look at it and give their feedback, and the board liked that idea. Member Jim Loynd expressed his general support for the idea, but said he wanted to clarify the numbers.

Any changes the town proposes

in this arena would need to be presented at town meeting for the approval of the people.

Remote Access

The selectboard went through requests for articles for the annual town meeting.

One is a proposal from the fire department for a town bylaw requiring key boxes – exterior boxes containing keys to housing units, which the department can access – for all new buildings, except residential buildings of four units or less.

In response to a question from Loynd, fire chief Phillip Wonka clarified that residents would also be able to opt in to the system if they chose to. The advantage would be that in the case of an emergency,

the fire department or other emergency responders would be able to use the key box to gain access instead of breaking down a door.

Another potential article for town meeting is a request from the school department for a revolving fund that would allow the collection of tuition and state reimbursements for out-of-district students.

Other Business

Monday's meeting started with the board's second reading of two proposed town policies to regulate political activity: one for town employees, and one for town elected officials. Only grammatical changes resulted from these reads, and both will be addressed again after a third reading.

At one point in the evening, an official joint meeting was held with the recreation committee. The two committees appointed two new rec committee members, Michael Jean and Kathryn Gaudet, for terms through June 2025.

The board approved hiring Scanlon & Associates of South Deerfield, the regular provider of the service, to perform the town's financial audits. One is required by the town's own guidelines, and the other whenever more than \$750,000 in federal aid money is received by the town, as it was in FY'24. The board mentioned the latter audit is likely to be required again in the coming years.

The selectboard will meet again next Monday, January 13.



OP ED

Salmon Research Unfairly Dismissed

By **KARL MEYER**

GREENFIELD – Dr. Catherine Carlson is a Connecticut River hero of mine. She had guts, intelligence and the circumspect thinking that enabled her to conduct the investigations leading to acceptance and publication of her 1992 doctoral thesis, *The Atlantic salmon in New England prehistory and history: social and environmental implications*, in the UMass Amherst Anthropology department. Its publication put the initial crack in a failing and misdirected Connecticut River Atlantic salmon restoration that had been limping along on just the barest whisper of success for a quarter century.

Carlson was pilloried by the old boys' club – the salmon-cheerleading state and federal fish agents, agencies, sports clubs, and well-heeled industrialists and judges who longed to once again dance a hook in front of the fabled King of Fish, already gone for most of two centuries here.

I was sad to see Gary Sanderson taking aim at Carlson in his December 19 column, summarizing her work in the sentence: "This opinion, which shook the salmon-restoration world, was based solely on the curious rarity of salmon in the archaeological record."

She deserves better. And, by the way, fisheries biologist Dr. Boyd Kynard was on her committee, and examined her scholarship. I'd taken out that thesis a few times from the Morrill Science Center library back in the day. When I recalled Kynard's participation I sent a quick note last week to clarify, to which he succinctly replied: "Carlson's case is historically firm."

Catherine Carlson deserves thanks for doing the science and questioning assumptions about restoring an extirpated strain of cold-river spawning salmon missing from a warming Connecticut River since 1809, at the very tail end of a Northern Hemisphere climate phenomenon known as the Little Ice Age. This was a centuries-long era – roughly 1450 to 1800 – during which cold Atlantic Ocean currents, or *gyres*, swung south, impacting the interior, chilling rivers, and causing freezes and snow that lingered into summer months, killing colonial crops.

The Little Ice Age was just releasing its climate grip and rewarming Northern Europe, New England, and eastern Canada in 1798, when the first dam fully blocking the mainstem Connecticut was built at present-day Turners Falls.

To say there were a few problems that those emotional gents failed to fully consider when they began their fish-farming experiment here in 1967 is an understatement. After 25 years it still showed scant promise of any success, for a number of reasons.

First, the Connecticut was one of the southernmost rivers that cold-stream obligate salmon strains had ever briefly colonized in New England. Second, there were no salmon left here to restore, so they'd have to make their own – hatchery-conjuring a strain from a few specimens imported from already limping runs in eastern Canada and Maine.

And third, their big-run salmon rationale was based on notes and journal entries from a rather paltry colonial record here in the Valley, one that did highlight the presence of salmon running up many cold feeder brooks, streams, and tributaries off the mainstem Connecticut. However, always – always, anywhere below the steep cataraact and Great Eddy at Bellows Falls, a barrier only leaping salmon could surmount – the fuller record noted that schooling, spawning-run shad were legion in the river each spring, compared to modest captures of salmon in the nets.

These guys wanted sport fish, but it was shad that fed the people of this valley down through the mists of time, right up to the time of European usurpation.

Those seine nets must have been standardized, as in the few accounts handed down from old men who had fished Connecticut River runs at South Hadley and further north to Bellows Falls in their teens, before the river was blocked by the dam at Turners Falls/Peskeompskut. The biggest catches they recalled were always somewhere between 1,200 to 1,500 shad in the single pull of the net – and a few dozen salmon.

However, if you were among the few colonists homesteading or trading in the reaches of the Connecticut River above Bellows Falls in the few decades after the "Indian Wars" pushed many indigenous people off their lands, you would have encountered salmon as the *only* highly-edible, spring big-fish running up cold tribs and feeder streams to spawn.

A new-found old book with some old notions and notes about northern places where only salmon could swim changes little about the timeliness and success of Carlson's thesis and main arguments.

And, yes, in this day and age it seems hard to believe they don't have some parlor trick to reveal salmon fragments in archaeological digs. Still, if you are looking at notes from the Merrimack River salmon runs, you are tagging a cold-water basin that's part of the Gulf of Maine, not connections to the fast-warming basin of Long Island Sound.

Though I never had Carlson's experience of being the lone woman facing off against a locker room of intransigent men, I did come in for a serious dose of criticism for excoriating the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the state Fisheries & Wildlife (MassWildlife) salmon program, which built a disastrously failed fish passage here at Turners Falls in 1980 largely based on Pacific coast salmon. It essentially crippled teeming and infinitely-restorable American shad runs and prevented them from reaching south-central Vermont and New Hampshire.

Across a decade I published pieces up and down the Connecticut Valley in the *Burlington Free Press*, *Rutland Herald*, *Reformer*, *Recorder*, *Gazette*, *Springfield Union*, and *Middletown Press*. They carried titles like "How to keep a dead fish alive" and "The \$47 thousand fish." It ranted more than a few.

I was challenged on the op-ed pages by Mass-

Wildlife's salmon cheerleader, Caleb Slater. Ted Williams, the well-known outdoors writer, took me on in the *Worcester Telegram* after my piece "A fishy trial that has tailed" appeared in that paper in 2009.

It was dark going, trying to flush reality out of the shadows and into the public sphere. But when my piece "Turners Falls Turnaround" appeared in a spring issue of MA Audubon's *Sanctuary* magazine, I received a complimentary message from noted author Charles Henry Foster, former Harvard lecturer and dean of Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, who had produced the authoritative history in 1991, *Yankee Salmon: The Atlantic Salmon of the Connecticut River*. In an ensuing phone call, he told me he knew the salmon program here had little chance of success.

I was told by a number of smart people the feds would never end the program. But then, after some rather disturbing fish farming developments on this river were highlighted in my writing, Wendi Weber, Region 5 Director of the USFWS, agreed with my assessment of its 45 years of dismal results and responded to me in an opinion piece that ran in papers across four states.

I was at the 2012 Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission meeting at Conte Lab in Turners Falls when she announced its end, and penned the *Gazette* story – picked up by AP wires across New England – announcing the million-dollar federal salmon hatcheries would stop mass-producing baby fish.

But here, again, it was not an old boy but a woman who stood up to the dull-headed idiocy of doing the same thing, over and over again. And Catherine Carlson was the impetus.

And another woman soon picked up the ball, in a larger arena. I was lucky enough to be at home one August Friday in 2012 when environmental journalist Beth Daley called me on deadline, asking for my perspective on a story for that August 5 edition of the *Boston Sunday Globe*: "Lost battle for a majestic fish: US bid to return salmon to Connecticut River ends." In one of her article's last paragraphs, I was happy to be included with the following perspective:

For a long time, the quest to restore salmon to the Connecticut "was the emperor's new clothes," said Karl Meyer, a Greenfield environmental journalist who has criticized the program because he felt the money could be better used for other seagoing river fish. "Now, they are talking about the other species, and that's good."

Catherine Carlson is a hero who spoke truth to power. She remains one of a scant courageous few that have stepped up with courage and common sense to defend the living Connecticut River ecosystem.

Karl Meyer is a member of the Society of Environmental Journalists. He lives in Greenfield.

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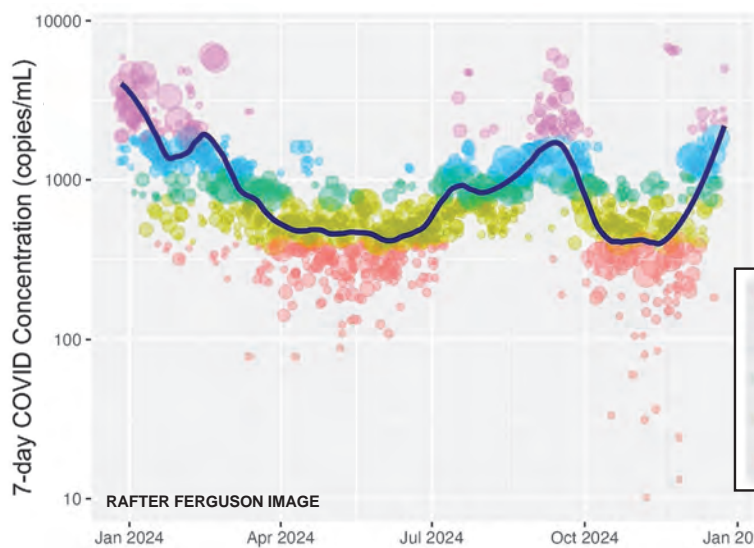
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RESPIRATORY VIRUS NOW SPIKING.



In September and November we published charts by Greenfield reader Rafter Ferguson (western.ma.covid.data@gmail.com) showing mean COVID concentration across sewer systems in Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin counties, weighted for population.

Those showed low to moderate transmission, but the count is now back in the “very high” zone – and of the 10 wastewater plants reporting data, the most recent samples (from South Deerfield and Montague) reflected here were taken on December 24.

You now have this information. – Eds.

TECH from page A1

Digital Equity for Older Adults programming at multiple senior centers in the area, recapped the initiative’s history and prompted attendees to speak on its merits.

“We’re all working together to try to really combat that digital divide,” she said.

Montague appointed its Mass In Motion group two years ago under a state-structured program that encourages municipalities to gauge local seniors’ most pressing needs before taking steps to fulfill them.

“One of the things that was loud and clear was improved digital equity,” Doherty recounted. “[Volunteer] Eileen Mariani was very keen on eliminating social isolation for seniors... We know person-to-person socialization is the best, but we’re now in an age where we rely on technology for socialization.”

Mariani, a retired kindergarten teacher who has also been active in building the Montague Villages organization, was on hand Tuesday.

“I was taking care of little kids for 26 years, and now here we are, old,” she said, “trying to figure out living in your community as you watch your friends and peers not have access to technology, not have a cell phone, or panic at the thought of somebody calling them with a scam.”

Doherty credited town planner Maureen Pollock and Council on Aging director Roberta Potter for securing the original \$22,000 in digital literacy funding last year from the state Executive Office of Elder Affairs. “Within less than two days these two women hammered out a grant, and that’s where we’re here today,” she said.

A major piece of the town’s strategy has been the Tuesday afternoon tech-support partnership with budding experts from FCTS.

“What do I do when my computer screen freezes?” Pollock asked the nearly 20 patient students.

“What you do if your screen freezes, or crashes, is that you hold down the power button until it completely turns off,” junior Adam Felle told her. “And then you turn it back on.”

Felle was awarded the round’s points, though Programming & Web instructor Marcus McLaurin had one key step to add: “Wait 10 seconds before you restart it.”

Later in the event, Eileen Dowd shared a success story. “My husband was having trouble with his phone – we thought it was totally gone,” she recalled. “He was just getting more and more frustrated and we thought we had to go and buy a new phone.... We came to Tech Tuesday. “There was a group of people,

and one young man found that the charge area was nasty – he kept digging and digging, and finally asked John what he did for a living: “There’s a lot of dust in here, what do you do?” And, of course, John does everything dusty.”

After a good charger-port clean-out, Dowd said, the phone “came alive – and probably saved our marriage.”

The whole room cracked up. Local sculptor Jack Nelson, who had serendipitously arrived during his wife’s story, then announced that he’d brought a micro-vacuum cleaner as a thank-you gift, and tossed it across the room to the student who’d discovered the dust.

The catch was good, and spirits were high.

“We’re always here on Tuesday, and then the second Thursday of every month we go to the Erving senior center with the same program,” FCTS instructor Cindy Bussey told the Reporter. “It’s been a lot of fun – it gets the kids out, gets them meeting people.”

“This has been an astounding program,” said Potter. “The students have been amazing – they have solved all sorts of problems on a huge spectrum of devices, and they have also been remarkably personable, and polite and professional, and kind, and non-judgmental. All of the customers have raved about their experiences.”

“I didn’t know anything about my iPad, but all the students – I don’t remember all your names – really helped me out a lot,” Helen Ostrowski of Deerfield testified. “I’m thankful for that. I don’t have

that fear, now, of touching my iPad. I’m still learning, but it’s a good thing!”

In October Montague was awarded \$26,110 by the state agency MassTech to continue its digital literacy programming. Among other programs, the funding will ensure that the drop-in hours – every Tuesday from 12:30 to 2 p.m., no appointment necessary, free of charge, and open to all residents over 60 – can continue.

Potter said Tech Tuesday is the first intergenerational programming the senior center has hosted.

“My favorite part is generally helping people out,” senior Theo Shahan reported. “I like when I can help solve people’s problems, because it gives me a sense that I’m doing what I’m supposed to do.”

The most difficult problem he encountered during the past year at Tech Tuesday, he said, involved a website: “Somebody wanted to add links to their site, and social media, and they were using a program we haven’t used yet. It was quite difficult, but we did actually end up figuring it out.”

Shahan says he is considering going into web development.

Seamus Collins, a sophomore who is thinking about becoming a software engineer, said he enjoyed coming to the senior center drop-in hours. “It gets me out of class,” he said, “and actually helping people and being useful with my time.” Collins also cited a website issue as the biggest challenge he has seen thus far.

“Someone was hosting a website and couldn’t get into it, because they were hosting their email

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Coordinator Colleen Doherty (far right) said a new \$26,110 MassTech grant will allow the program to continue.

through someone else, and that someone else had passed away,” he explained. “And they were using a weird hosting service. So they had to go through this whole thing to get her website back – it took a while.”

The real challenge, according to McLaurin, is often “interpreting what the customer needs.” In the case of the website whose password had been brought to the grave, for example, it turned out that what the owner really wanted was to retrieve all the photos from the site – a problem with an easier solution.

McLaurin said the types of problems many seniors are bringing to the center have been “less new [technology] than people wanting to know how to keep their old stuff going – like, ‘Do I really have to upgrade?’ Often the answer is no, depending on what they want to do, but sometimes the answer is yes.”

Junior Summer Goewey said she was stumped by a customer who wanted to transfer all his data from an old phone to a new one. “But he didn’t use a cloud,” she said. “I was confused as to what his issue was.... If he wanted to transfer everything, he’d have to memorize it and log into all of it.”

Bussey and McLaurin alternate weeks supervising the senior center hours. According to Doherty, participation typically ranges from two to eight participants each session. “We get a fair amount of repeat customers,” she said. “The needs are getting more complex.”

Though bringing a group of students downtown each week for Tech Tuesday means a trade-off with regular instruction time, McLaurin said, working with the public was “a form of instruction” as well.

“That interaction is something that we didn’t have an opportunity to do on a mass scale,” he said. “We’d have people working on a team with clients, but that’s two or three people a semester, as opposed to the entire class.... I think it was something that was needed.”

“There’s students that have been very, very hesitant to come,” McLaurin told the Reporter. “So we made it a rule that you gotta go to one, and see what it’s about.... The students who do go always want to keep going.”

As the special luncheon drew to an end, a few students – and a few of the older attendees – stuck around for the next event. Among them was Nelson, phone in hand.

“John needs to understand how to change his pin so he can get his voicemail,” Dowd whispered to the press. “The voicemail keeps rejecting his pin, but it’s the only pin we ever use. We can’t figure it out.”

Seamus Collins sat down to take a closer look. It was time for Tech Tuesday.

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PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

COMPOST from page A1

scraps at his Greenfield farm.

"Casella does what Casella wants," Martin stated when reached by phone in Tennessee Wednesday evening. "I really have no affiliation with them. Since they bought Triple T [Trucking] in Brattleboro, everything's changed.... We're still accepting food waste, we're still operating. But I am trying to sell the farm and business."

On December 16, in a Montague select-board discussion of leaf and brush piles at the transfer station on Sandy Lane, public works superintendent Sam Urkiel said he believed the farm had been purchased by the Westfield-based company 360 Recycling, and that the latter company did not intend to continue the prior arrangement.

"There was a prior interested party, another composter, and it just didn't work out," Martin said this week.

Martin explained that in September, he and his family "saw the Lord," and "the Lord called us to Tennessee to start a small farm."

In the meantime, he said, an employee is "holding down the fort" at the Greenfield farm, and a new interested party is in discussion about a potential purchase.

The transition is being watched closely. The farm, started by Adam's father Bob Martin in the early 1980s, currently holds a permit from the state Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) to process up to 30 tons of organic waste per day. Its website advertises a range of finished compost, mulch, loam, and biochar products, sold by the yard.

"Our business depends on Martin's Farm, and our business model is based on Martin's Farm being in Greenfield," said Compost

Cooperative worker-owner Revan Schendler. "We have a lot at stake."

Schendler told the *Reporter* that the Cooperative currently diverts about 200 tons of compostable organic material from the waste stream each year, and brings "about 144 tons" of that to Martin's. The business, founded with the goal of providing work to formerly incarcerated people and others facing barriers to employment, holds municipal hauling contracts with Gill, Conway, Shelburne, and Charlemont and picks up waste from 20 commercial and over 300 residential customers.

On Monday morning, Schendler said, representatives of "about 35" organizations met over Zoom to discuss contingency planning for the region's waste systems should Martin's not identify a buyer interested in continuing the composting operation.

"They included people from the USDA Rural Development, funders, cooperative developers, local composters... the Solid Waste Management District, city councilors, and representatives from Representative Whipps and Senator Comerford's office," she reported. "There's a lot of interest in composting as a way to address the climate crisis, and to help the state achieve its climate resilience, goals, and we simply can't afford to lose the second-largest facility in the state."

Schendler said the Zoom call was "more of a theoretical meeting... trying to determine who among the stakeholders would be able to follow up on various ideas, with the goal of protecting this piece of prime agricultural land."

As of Wednesday, however, Schendler said her understanding was that a recent slowdown in the processing of compost at the farm was

due to logistical delays in the grinding process which should be resolved by next week, and that her cooperative has not "experienced a disruption in our operations."

She added that in order to develop contingency protocols, her organization had contacted the Windham Solid Waste Management District across the border in Vermont and Clear View Composting in Orange, and both "have been really supportive."

On Tuesday, Wendell transfer station supervisor Asa de Roode reported over a town-wide email listserv that Clear View did not come to pick up the town compost this week, an "ongoing problem," and announced additionally that he had heard the planned sale of Martin's had "fallen through."

"To any ambitious, entrepreneurial folks out there, this could be an opportunity," de Roode wrote. "Food waste is 25% of the waste stream and makes methane in a landfill. Hate to see a valuable resource going instead to creating greenhouse gas."

An attempt to reach Clear View owner-operator Rick Innes was unsuccessful as of press time.

Asked to comment on de Roode's message, Donovan, the FCSWMD program director, said that while Clear View has recently experienced "setbacks" in trying to establish operations at a new site in Orange, to her knowledge the company is still in normal operation at its original site.

"Any problems with the compost not being picked up in Wendell is probably just that they're getting a lot of volume from the holidays," she said, adding that she believed the hauler picked up Wendell's compost on Wednesday.

"I don't want people to get nervous and stop composting," she told the *Reporter*. "There are no changes at this time to any of the 16 municipal compost programs in the county, and we will let people know if there's a change."

Additionally, Donovan pointed out, residents of Montague, Gill, Erving, Wendell, and Leverett may purchase Earth Machine home composting bins from the FCSWMD, normally \$65, at the town-subsidized price of \$25.

Donovan said FCSWMD staff had attended Monday's meeting as a "resource," but did not advocate for any proposed solution.

Meanwhile, Adam Martin said his family was still building the "new season of our life," and was finding the climate in Tennessee similar to Massachusetts.

"People are the same, but there's more churches, more of a Christian community, and the 4-H programs are a lot more active," he reported. "We want to open up our farm down here to serve the Lord – have people come visit, learn about homesteading, learn about animals, learn about composting, learn about the Lord, and help struggling families and foster children be able to have a safe place to be able to spend a few days."

He was even beginning to compost there, he said, "on a small scale," while waiting to find a buyer for the Greenfield farm.

"My heart is still in the composting and what my father and I created up there, and I want that to continue with great success," Martin said. "I want that farm to continue to be a blessing and asset to the town, to the region, and to the state.... It's a lot of hard work to make sure the right person gets it, and is able to continue doing a good job."

**DRIVES** from page A1

nose-to-nose with a passing Amtrak train as it squeezes through a fabulously narrow round tunnel at slow speed on its daily Vermonter route south.

There is an opera house in Bellows Falls that offers a full slate of music and old movies, as well as some venues for music that I would like to check out. One, called Stage 33, seats just 40 in an old factory in town. They offer two dozen live music shows every year. The town

has a big hotel, The Hotel Windham, right downtown that dates back to the 1930s.

Fried calamari and mushroom soup fill the bill very nicely at Leslie's the Tavern at Rockingham, a good choice in the village for a nosh. Sundays can be more relaxed than other days, allowing me to spend time reading and enjoying the table without rushing.

Walk outside and the river is right there, sometimes coming in hard, as in the recent floods. The Bellows

Falls Canal is usually swollen almost right up to the bridge sides.

I took a walk across the street to the former Frank Adams and Company. This abandoned grist mill sits right on the riverbank, and is spooky. The village, which dates back to 1753, was known as "Great Falls" until a fellow named Bellows got the nod.

Vermont's Route 30

A friend in the radio business told me about one of his favorite Sunday drives at a holiday party. "Vermont Route 30! On the way to Stratton Mountain." I've taken this drive, which winds you through the north part of Brattleboro and then ends up on wonderfully undulating green hills through mountains and to the small towns just north of Brattleboro, Dummerston, Townshend, Jamaica, and others.

It is a good ride, full of potential tag sale and barn sale stops. Many businesses along Rte 30 are banding together to attract these Sunday Shunpikers, and it's working. Their *Vt30.org* website shows maps and some highlights like River and Rye restaurant in Wilmington and the Fat Crow restaurant in scenic Newfane.

There are also some unique shopping places, like the River Bend Market in Townshend.

Great Barrington

Have you ever shopped at Guido's? It's a unique grocery emporium with a dizzying selection of different gourmet foods, from row upon row of carefully crafted sandwiches to knishes, bagels, and exotic tins of tuna. It's the kind of place you'd visit on a lazy Sunday drive out Route 9.

There's something just a little more upscale and fun about Guido's... It must be all of these New Yorkers shopping here.

Anyway, the last trip here furnished a giant sandwich and the fixin's for a Tanglewood afternoon nosh. Guido's certainly stands out among grocery stores. They have



The view from Mount Ascutney.

two stores in the Berkshires, one up in Pittsfield and one down in Great Barrington.

The Mount Ascutney Auto Road

Mount Ascutney is a pleasant drive up 91, about an hour north of South Deerfield.

The destination is a mountain with a 3,100-foot peak. There is a three-and-a-half mile drive on the mountain road to get to the summit. And the best view isn't even at the end of the road – it's about midway!

Ascutney's roads, pavilions, and campgrounds were built by the CCC during the 1930s. Bring a picnic and enjoy one of the tables or benches overlooking the Green Mountains. I drove to the Windsor Overlook, with a fine sweeping view of the valley below.

From Ascutney, there is a clear view down to the Windsor-Cornish Bridge. This is a popular hang-gliding spot, so depending on the day, you may see some daredevils in the winds.

A Windsor Surprise

After making your way down the auto road – use low gear! – you can make a right turn down into the village of Windsor. I love to park

the car in these little towns, and strike out on foot.

Check out the Precision Museum on the way into town.

I found myself down by the old railroad station. A nondescript exterior door one early summer evening: what was behind it? I didn't realize this old Windsor station had been repurposed as a restaurant. I opened the door with a flourish... and it was marvelous!

The place has a great old-fashioned vibe, a big bar with a great selection of Vermont brews, a wall divider made of suitcases, and the original railroad office ticket window. I stopped in for a cider with a side of calamari.

What are your favorite Sunday drives?

Reader: Max Harts-horne, our local travel editor, whipped this list of favorites up in response to our January 2 article on the Freedley Quarry in Dorset, Vermont, Into the Nearest Marble Cavern. Do you have another great day-trip destination, one to two hours' travel from these parts? Write it up – it's a series! Send yours to editor@montaguereporter.org.



Top: Windsor, Vermont's Windsor Station Restaurant & Barroom. Bottom: The Bellows Falls canal.

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THE SPIRIT SHOPPE

MONTAGUE from page A1 images of the town's villages – and yellow fringe.

There was a bit of confusion concerning whether this flag would be hung in the "Hall of Flags" or the "Great Hall" of the state capitol, but Ramsey confirmed to the *Montague Reporter* that it would hang in the latter, as the Hall of Flags is a memorial to veterans of historic military engagements. The Great Hall, originally an outdoor plaza, was enclosed in 1990 as a result of the advocacy of Kitty Dukakis, wife of the governor at the time.

"Just below the glass dome hang the flags of all 351 cities and towns of the Commonwealth," the acting commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Recreation said at a public meeting in 2020, according to comments on the state website. This certainly cannot be true, since the Montague flag was only unveiled on Monday.

Ramsey said a "flagmaker out of Framingham" had made the flag, and later clarified that this was the Framingham Flag & Pennant Co. of Shrewsbury. Reached for comment, Framingham Flag & Pennant owner Peter Whelan expressed enthusiasm over the inquiry, but noted that the company had ultimately subcontracted the Montague flag's fabrication to a New Jersey vendor.

State representative Natalie Blais, who has promoted the Great Hall, sent the *Reporter* an "unofficial list" of Massachusetts town flags. All the towns in our readership area appear to have flags – a number, like Montague's, with imprints of the town seal and others, including Wendell, artistic creations. With the adoption of Montague's flag only eight towns in the state remain flagless, according to the list, including Hawley and Warwick in Franklin County.

As of press time we were unable to determine how many of these were hanging in the Great Hall.

Two Town Meetings

The selectboard made progress in preparing for the February 12 special town meeting and reviewing budget-related requests for the annual town meeting. Both will be held in the Turners Falls High School auditorium. The annual meeting will be held the evening of Wednesday, May 7, with an added date one week later for any articles not voted on that evening.

The warrant the board reviewed for the winter special contained seven articles. They include beefing up the reserve fund, depleted by work at the Clean Water Facility (CWF) and Eleventh Street bridge, by \$36,000; transferring \$12,500 to Montague Community Television (MCTV) for equipment; adding \$20,547 to a previous appropriation to send a local student to Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School in Northampton; restoring \$24,751.20 to a depleted account used for bid and project overrun costs; and \$48,500 to create spaces at the CWF for meetings and a small employee lounge – the only capital request on the warrant.

The airport's operating budget for the current fiscal year would receive a supplemental \$24,000 to cover building and grounds work, increased pay for an intern, and repairs and maintenance.

The final article, and the one the board discussed in the most depth, was to accept the road which connects Turnpike Road to the town transfer station as a "public way." A

detailed layout, as approved by the planning board, was reviewed.

The board was asked who the town was "accepting" Sandy Lane from, as it has been used for years to access the transfer station. Ramsey said the land is owned by the town, but "kind of functions as a driveway, not a public way." He said the article would make the town eligible for state Chapter 90 highway aid for repairs to the road.

"For many years, it really was a sandy lane," said Kuklewicz as the board voted to approve the layout.

Kuklewicz and selectboard member Matt Lord suggested that the tree warden, which the board has been considering making an appointed rather than elected position, be put on the special meeting agenda rather than waiting for May. Member Chris Boutwell nodded in agreement, and Kuklewicz said doing so "makes sense," but Ramsey later told the *Reporter* that the board directed him to put the concept on the May warrant.

If the meeting rejects the change, he added, there would still be plenty of time for candidates to file papers for the annual election, which is held the third Tuesday in May.

The board plans to have further discussions at its next two meetings of the special town meeting warrant, which must be finalized for mailing to town meeting members by January 30.

Seasonal Thickness

"It's January, and we're in the thick of budget season," said Ramsey, introducing documents supporting the FY'26 budget to be presented at the May town meeting. He noted that the finance committee, an arm of town meeting, was beginning its review of departmental budgets.

He highlighted those departments requesting the largest relative increases due to personnel changes, such as the Council on Aging, the public libraries, and the CWF. The cemetery commission and farmers market budgets also contain increases for stipended positions.

The board did not take any formal votes, but agreed to discuss the proposed increases in more depth with department heads next Monday.

Ramsey asked whether selectboard members wished to attend upcoming finance committee meetings, which are held Wednesdays, but there were no immediate takers. He also noted a joint meeting on February 5 with the Gill selectboard and Gill-Montague school committee to review the regional school district's preliminary budget. A meeting with the Franklin County Technical School committee will be held March 19.

The Right Place

A contract for graphics to improve the look and feel of the lower entrance to the town hall and town hall annex was approved. The \$850 contract with Hale Custom Signs of Greenfield will be funded from the community development discretionary fund.

Nolan-Zeller said the signage would "help improve the visibility of the offices, and reassure people that they are in the right place."

Nolan-Zeller announced that the Carnegie Library basement renovation had been completed, showing "before" and "after" photographs of the project. He also reported to the board that there would soon be a proposal for managing repairs of the Third and Fourth Street municipal

parking lots, paid for with community development block grant funding.

Figurative Hats

Wearing their "personnel board" hats, the selectboard members upgraded the status of Cameron Velez to truck driver/laborer at the department of public works (DPW) and appointed Sage Winter as an alternate member of the planning board.

There was a much longer discussion of the status of the tree warden position, which has been vacant since the passing of Mark Stevens last October. The current position is annually elected at the spring town election, but the board has been considering changing it to an appointed position, which would require town meeting approval, and the possibility of hiring candidates who are not employees of the DPW, which has been the norm in recent years.

Ramsey reported that an unnamed DPW employee has indicated willingness to take on the position, but that employee is not a resident of the town – a requirement as long as the position continues to be elected.

The selectboard, Ramsey said, had the right to appoint a temporary warden until town meeting makes a decision as to the position's status. His presentation focused, however, on reasons why a DPW employee would be more appropriate for the job than an outside applicant. These included the higher pay rate, telephone stipends, and travel reimbursements that would be owed to a non-town employee.

He also mentioned potential conflicts caused by the warden's oversight of tree removal and planting, work which would still be done by DPW staff.

The board did not take a vote on the issue, but informally agreed to put an article on a town meeting warrant to make the position elected.

Getting Into MMA

Ramsey told the board he planned to attend the annual conference of the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) in Boston on January 23 to 25. The board authorized him to vote on MMA resolutions.

Other Business

At Nolan-Zeller's request, the board approved several contracts associated with the repair of 53 manholes, mostly in Turners Falls. These included \$194,850 for the National Water Main Cleaning Company to fix the manholes and \$114,900 for the engineering firm Wright-Pierce to oversee them. Funding for the project comes from a state Rural and Small Town Development Fund grant.

The board voted to accept revenue from the state Department of Environmental Protection (Mass-DEP) for the town's recycling program, and to authorize DPW superintendent Sam Urkiel to sign contracts with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments for bidding services on road projects.

At the end of the meeting Ramsey told the board that a draft of Mass-DEP's Water Quality Assessment, part of the federal relicensing process for the FirstLight power company's operation of the Turners Falls dam and power canal, is expected to be issued January 24. There will then be a 30-day public comment period, and a public hearing on February 27.

The next selectboard meeting will be held next Monday, January 13.



**LOOKING BACK:
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK**

Here's the way it was on January 8, 2015: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Homesteading program.

Federal Funds, Cable Contract

At its December 22 meeting, the Montague selectboard voted to declare downtown Millers Falls and the Turners Falls Historic-Industrial District as areas of "disrepair and disinvestment." This is necessary to apply for funds under the federal slum and blight program.

The board also voted to extend the contract for the cable access provider, MCCI, until June 30. Mark Fairbrother, who sits on the cable advisory committee, noted that the CAC had made significant progress in its negotiations with Comcast.

Millers Falls Sale Approved

Montague's selectboard kicked off 2015 by signing what amounts to a purchase and sale agreement with developer Robert Obear involving four buildings at the center of Millers Falls. These buildings, 26-28, 30, 34, and 34R East Main Street, include the Powers Block, and have been in extreme disrepair for over a decade.

The town recently acquired control of the buildings, and now is in the final stages of selling them to Obear under its Urban

20 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on January 6, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

ing children as a priority, staying involved in their lives, and making sure their children are supervised.

Bill Cosby Coming to Town

On January 19, Bill Cosby will bring his message of parental responsibility to Turners Falls. Cosby, a rather famous resident of Shelburne, scheduled the talk following a fight between neighborhood teens in August which left 16-year-old Eric Zieba dead of head injuries.

Speaking in the 420-seat TFHS auditorium, mostly to parents with children in the Gill-Montague schools, Cosby is expected to focus on challenging parents to put rais-

Cosby's talk is jointly sponsored by the Community Partnership, the Montague police, the district attorney's office, and local social service agencies.

A Teen to Be Proud Of

Out of 100,000 applicants, Marissa Sicley, a Turners Falls High School senior, has been chosen as one of 2,000 semifinalists in the Coca-Cola Scholars Program, based on her commitment to academics, the community, and her personal future.

150 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on January 6, 1875: News from the Turners Falls Reporter archive.

it will be an ornament to the town.

Turners Falls and Vicinity

The days are lengthening out. Work on the fishway was commenced on Monday afternoon. It will take three months to complete it.

Ed. Goddard can't see how they can complain of him, as his cow got in the river far enough last summer to take the curse off her.

The County Commissioners having formed a dead-lock on the bridge matter, their meeting last week was adjourned till to-day. They met, and failing to break the dead-lock, adjourned till March without taking any action on the bridge question.

The Major did not let his religious scruples interfere with his dancing, New Year's, and the way he did waltz with that pretty partner of his was enough to arouse the jealousy of Messrs. Gregory, Adams and Stone.

At the last Mass in St. Mary's church, the congregation in attendance averages three hundred and fifty persons. The Catholics stand in need of a larger church very much, and when they do build one

The report of the finding of the body of a young woman below the falls, which was in circulation on Friday, could not be traced to any reliable source. It was started, probably, to give significance to the bloody mystery at the bulkhead.

The Montague Paper Co. are fitting up magnificent parlors for the use of the officers and directors of the company, and have just furnished in elegant style wash rooms and water closets. The parlor is finished in black walnut, richly furnished and exceeds in beauty their new office.

The Montague Paper Company, Pulp Company, Turners Falls Water Power Company, and the stockholders of the Crocker National Bank, will hold a special meeting on the 12th to elect presidents in the place of the late Hon. Alvah Crocker, who was president of each.

With more direct and better roads Turners Falls would enjoy much of the trade of the county which now goes to other places. A more direct road might be cheaply built which would more intimately connect us with the towns of Wendell, Erving, Northfield, Leverett, etc. and no time should be lost in securing every such benefit.



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SPORTS from page A1

Pioneer, Hannah Gilbert hit her 14th point of the game, giving her a career total of 1,001. After a brief ceremony, things settled down, and Tech cruised to a 55-29 victory.

Although Gilbert sat for much of the second half, she led the Birds with the 19 points she amassed. And as with most outings, the Eagles had multiple scorers, with Alison George and Haleigh Benoit earning 8 each, Cordelia Guerin and Brayleigh Burgh 6 each, and Lilyann Baldwin, Laken Woodard, Ariel Peters, and Lilianna Inman 2 each.

Boys' Basketball

Hampshire 57 – FCTS 32

Smith Academy 50 – TFHS 44

After starting the season 2-and-1, the Tech Boys have dropped four consecutive games. On Monday they were outmaned in Westhampton by the Hampshire Raiders, who jumped out to a 37-8 halftime lead and never looked back.

Brayden McDonough led the Eagles with 10 points, followed by Dylan Cullen (8), Joe O'Donnell (4), Gabe Mota and Jack Gancarz (3 each), Caleb Johnston (2), and George Gutierrez and Brody Hicks (1 each).

The Turners boys are also struggling. After losing to Pioneer by 32 points, they lost a home game on Monday to Smith Academy. Blue had a solid first half, but were outscored 27-16 in the second to give the Smithies the six-point win.

Jackson Cogswell led the Thunder with 15 points, followed by Davian Bala (8), Alex Quezada and Caden Williams Senethavisouk (5 each), Kainen Stevens and David Klempner-Siano (4 each), and Cameron Johnson (3).

Wrestling

FCTS 78 – Mohawk 6

This week the very successful Franklin Tech wrestling team announced that ten grapplers had

reached the 100-win threshold: Dan Boyden, Josh Lacosse, Max Williams, David Weed, Kyle Lafey, Brett Bean, Spencer Telega, Brody Wood, Kyle Brunelle, and Josh Brunelle.

Last Thursday, January 2, Tech buried Mohawk 78-6. To be fair, though, all of Franklin's wins – Johnathan McIntyre (106), Paul Giard (113), Carsten Couture (120), Maxon Brunette (126), Landon Purington (132), and Dillon Laffond (285) – were by forfeit.

Over the weekend, the Wrestling Eagles competed in the interstate Minickiello Tournament up in Keene. Collin Eddy won the 190-pound title, Mia Marigliano won in the 132 category, and Laffond finished fourth in the 285 weight class.

Swimming

TFHS 83 – Renaissance 5

TFHS 47 – Renaissance 46

TFHS 90 – West Springfield 84

West Springfield 139 – TFHS 39

After dropping two straight swim meets, the Girls' Thunder beat both Renaissance and West Springfield, while the boys split in the two contests.

The ladies completely swamped the Renaissance Phoenix in last Friday's home meet. Blue swept the 50-yard freestyle (Jessica Schimmel); the 100-yard butterfly (Tristan Bliss), freestyle (Alice Fortin), and breaststroke (Lilian Walker-Hanning); the 200-yard freestyle (Walker-Hanning) and individual medley (Sylvie DiBartolomeo), and the 500-yard freestyle (DiBartolomeo).

In the relays, Ella Sibley, Rosie Fortin, Maddie Phillips, and Nicole Porter won the 200-yard freestyle; DiBartolomeo, Walker-Hanning, Bliss, and Avery Heathwaite the 200-yard medley; and Heathwaite, DiBartolomeo, Tristan Bliss, and Alice Fortin the 400-yard freestyle.

In the boys' lanes, by contrast, Powertown won the meet by a single point. Blue only earned two first-place wins – both by Liam Bliss, in the 200-yard freestyle and 100-yard breaststroke – but made up points with second- and third-place finishes.

Then on Tuesday, the girls eked out a win against the West Springfield Terriers down in West Springfield. Blue won five events in the win: the 100-yard butterfly (Tristan Bliss) and breaststroke (Walker-Hanning); the 200-yard freestyle (DiBartolomeo); the 400-yard freestyle relay (DiBartolomeo, Tristan Bliss,



DAVID HOITT PHOTOS

Top: Sylvie DiBartolomeo swims the butterfly lap of the 200-yard individual medley during last Friday's home meet against Renaissance Phoenix, winning the event in 2:49.22. DiBartolomeo, a Frontier Regional senior, is a captain on the Turners Falls girls' swim team, a co-op with athletes from Turners Falls, Franklin Tech, Frontier Regional, and Greenfield high schools.

Middle: Turners Falls's Liam Bliss takes the 200-yard freestyle in 2:10.1 during last Friday's meet. Bliss is a senior captain on the boys' co-op swim team.

Bottom: Avery Heathwaite, another captain of the girls' co-op team, swims the backstroke lap of the 200-yard individual medley last Friday.

Heathwaite, Alice Fortin, repeating their win in the event on Friday); and diving (Sigrid Calhoun).

The boys had a tougher time against the Terriers, with Liam Bliss taking Thunder's lone first place in

the 100-yard breaststroke. But Bliss also broke two more school records in the meet, swimming that breaststroke in 1:09.88 and his 50-yard freestyle in 24.06 seconds.



Franklin Tech senior captain Hannah Gilbert had a stellar night on her home court during the Eagles' 55-26 win over Pioneer on Tuesday as she surpassed 1,000 career points.

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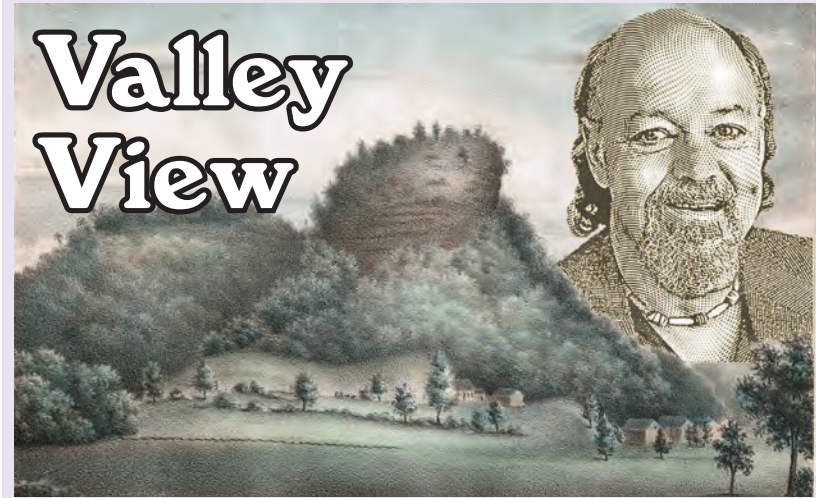


SUZETTE SNOW-COBB PHOTO

features@montaguereporter.org

OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

JANUARY 9, 2025



Valley View

ORRA WHITE HITCHCOCK PRINT

Beating That Drum Again

By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD – I feel like I’ve been swept into the mainstream of a raging archaeological/anthropological torrent that just won’t let go – no sturdy, overhanging tree limbs to snag or flotsam to maneuver to shore.

Hopelessly suspended in this roaring swell, I hear interesting cobbles of information tumbling past me on the invisible streambed. All I can do now is find a way out. There I can wait for the stream to clear. Then, perhaps, gather visible submerged clues.

I was first sucked into this maelstrom months ago by embarking on a fresh look at ancient weirs still discernable on some New England streams. That includes a few in the Connecticut Valley. The immediate question was: were they the work of Indian fishers, or enhanced versions of indigenous weirs taken over and annually maintained by colonial settlers?

The answer, according to the few scholars who’ve written in obscure sources about weirs, seems to be all of the above. I can accept that.

A follow-up question was: Why are they pointing downstream, an obvious difference between New England weirs and those documented along the upper West Coast of North America? We did attempt to sort that out, and moved on. Bigger fish to fry.

As an offshoot, we re-explored a topic I have probed under evolving views for nearly half a century. That is anadromous fish, including Atlantic salmon, that historically and prehistorically populated the Connecticut and many other New England river systems each spring. That was before capitalistic Europeans did their best to wipe them out with gross overharvest of fish and forest, impenetrable dam obstructions blocking spring spawning runs, and wanton pollution.

Conservation and sustainability were not in those folks’ lexicon. Blinded by shortsighted greed, they aimed at maximum profit.

A question yet to be answered is: Why have salmon remains been thus far almost totally absent from New England’s archaeologi-

cal record? Well, I’m afraid that’s above my pay grade. Perhaps it has something to do with Indians’ reverential riverside disposal of salmon remains compared to those of shad, sturgeon, herring, and eels, which do exist in the record.

Maybe we’d find the answer if archaeologists still fearlessly excavated sites like they did before the restrictions and oversight of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAG-PRA) of 1990 cramped their style.

One expert who would agree with that assessment is Harvard Ph.D. archaeologist Richard Michael Gramly, known to friends as Mike. I have known him for 10 years – ever since we met at the famed Sugarloaf (or DEDIC) Site – a sandy, outwash plain on the southwestern skirt of Mount Sugarloaf that was seasonally visited by bands of Paleoindian caribou hunters dating back some 12,400 years before the present.

By the time we met, Gramly had for some 40 years been actively exploring ancient caribou-hunting sites ranging from northwestern Maine to our slice of the Connecticut Valley. I was witnessing his second Sugarloaf Site dig during the fall of 2013.

Shortly thereafter, he pulled together a group of investors who purchased at auction the excavation rights to skeletal remains of an ancient mastodon discovered by a Middletown, New York farmer digging out a spring hole. Working there in 2014 and 2015, he uncovered many ground-breaking discoveries, and has ever since been on a mastodon crusade. Now 78, he fears there’s not enough time to get him where he wants to go.

I feel privileged to have been on the receiving end of a steady flow of fresh Gramly insights about the interactions of Paleoindian hunters and ancient proboscideans – mostly mastodons, but woolly mammoths, too. He’s fully involved in the elusive, esoteric study of ritualistic mastodon hunting as a rite of manhood. Radiocarbon dates tell him this activity dates back some 15,000 years, which ruffles the preened feathers of some respected scholars

see **VALLEY VIEW** page B4

Above: We held onto this shot of the Canalside Rail Trail shared with us last month by Suzette Snow-Cobb too long, and the snow melted, so it’s no longer as fresh and newsworthy... but waiting around for it to snow again was starting to feel like cheating!

MOVIE REVIEW

Reactions to Dylan Biopic Go Electric

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – In his recent review of the Bob Dylan biopic *A Complete Unknown*, now playing at the Garden Cinemas in Greenfield, Seth Rogovoy of the online magazine *Forward* asks: why make a “conventional biopic” about the singer’s early career in New York leading up to his controversial electric set at the 1965 Newport Folk Festival? Rogovoy suggests that the film is a “dramatic movie intended not for hardcore Dylan fans and acolytes but for the masses, presumably drawn to theaters out of mere curiosity about a musician who in one way or another has dominated the cultural landscape for over 60 years...”

I first saw *A Complete Unknown* at the Garden on my seventy-seventh birthday two days after Christmas, and the sparse audience appeared to be almost entirely my age, or close to it. My second viewing of the film seemed to have more millennials and beyond, but the audience was still mostly at or approaching my age.

Maybe the younger generation



SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES IMAGE

A key scene from *A Complete Unknown*, which did not happen.

is not interested in the crazy moment when Dylan, known for his acoustic protest music, came out on stage at Newport and blasted the audience with “I ain’t going to work on Maggie’s farm no more” and then “Like a Rolling Stone.” Or maybe the controversy over the accuracy of the biopic will, hopefully, draw them in.

A Complete Unknown opens with Dylan arriving in New York City in January of 1961 seeking to meet the folk singer Woody Guthrie, famous for his songs about the Dust Bowl era. He very quickly

finds Guthrie dying of a degenerative disease at a hospital in New Jersey, and there is another iconic political musician from the 1940s named Pete Seeger there.

A very scruffy-looking Dylan plays them a heartfelt and lyrical “Song to Woody,” and they seem to be immediately convinced he will be the new Woody Guthrie.

Over the next three years – and more than half of the biopic – Dylan impresses folk musicians and tourists at a variety of music venues in Greenwich Village as the see **DYLAN** page B2

RECIPES

EATING OUR WINTER VEGETABLES

By CLAIRE HOPLEY

LEVERETT – There’s no such thing as “winter vegetables.” The so-called winter vegetables, such as carrots, parsnips, rutabaga, potatoes, beets, squash, cabbage, and onions, are really fall vegetables. They’ve become winter vegetables because it’s easy to keep them for winter meals.

Pickling and drying are two traditional ways to preserve vegetables for winter. Mushrooms are particularly good dried, and common in Europe. Our colonial ancestors dried apples, but usually stashed their vegetables in cold cellars and barns.

Summer veggies such as tomatoes and peppers would quickly wilt in these places, and the lettuces and asparagus of spring wouldn’t stand a chance. But many late-season veggies are fine for weeks or months. How come they don’t rot at low temperatures?

The answer is that they produce sugar, which lowers the freezing point of water and thus protects them from freezing. Some even survive outdoors. Parsnips, for example, can be harvested in fall or left to over-winter in the ground, making more sugar during their stay. Garlic, too, survives underground.

Brussels sprouts and leeks won’t make it outdoors through a Massachusetts winter, but frost doesn’t hurt them, and they taste extra-sweet after it. Some plants store sugar and other nutrients in their roots, which swell to become the vegetables we eat. Among these are carrots, beets, and rutabaga.

Potatoes seem like a root vegetable because they have a similar heftiness and they grow underground, but they are actually tubers developed for reproduc-



HOPLEY PHOTO

tion. Those “eyes” we dig out during peeling are shoots that, left to themselves, would become new plants. Onions and family members such as shallots, leeks, and garlic form from underground stems that see **RECIPES** page B8

Pet of the Week



'PATCHES'

Patches is a stunning calico with a personality just as colorful as her coat! This sweet girl has been described by her previous family as the ultimate companion, whether curling up on your lap, cuddling in bed, or greeting your visitors with an unmistakable charm.

She adores head pets, and will soak up all the love and attention you have to offer. Patches also enjoys playing with other cats, making her a great addition to a multi-cat household. Patches came in with Chloe and Smokey, if you are looking to adopt a friend of hers.

Patches adoption fee is \$299 and includes: spaying; a rabies vaccine;

current distemper vaccines; FeLV/FIV blood tests; a microchip implanted and registered to you; treatment of fleas, ticks, and ear mites; a veterinary exam and health certificate at Dakin; and a free vet exam within 30 days after adoption with participating veterinarians.

If you're ready to adopt now and want to learn more about, meet, or adopt this pet, you can start the process by coming to the Dakin Humane Society in Springfield during our open adoption hours, Tuesdays through Saturdays from 12:30 to 3 p.m., or calling us at (413) 781-4000, or visiting www.dakinhumane.org.

DYLAN from page B1

new Guthrie, though he soon starts to record more of his own creative lyrics. He comes to be managed by a manipulative entrepreneur named Albert Grossman, who helps him receive a very favorable review in the *New York Times* and land a contract with Columbia Records.

Dylan also has multiple lovers, including Suze Rotolo – who appears on the cover of his second album, one of most memorable covers of the era – and fellow folk singer Joan Baez, who is already famous and on the cover of *Time* magazine. Both Rotolo and Baez get fed up with Dylan's polyamorous behavior, but can't seem to get away from the boy who is for a time the darling of the political folk community.

Then rather abruptly he starts looking like he belongs with the Rolling Stones, wearing sunglasses, and complaining that everyone is trying to put him in their own little box. He makes a mostly non-political record called *Another Side of Bob Dylan*, and then in early 1965 starts recording electric music at Columbia.

This brings us to the 1965 Newport Folk Festival, where he comes on stage with an electric guitar and backed by the Paul Butterfield Blues Band, blasting the audience first with "Maggie's Farm" and then "Like a Rolling Stone." The reaction is portrayed as mixed but mostly negative, with the boos louder than the cheers. Pete Seeger threatens to chop off the power cord and fighting erupts both on and off stage.

When this drama is all over, the key participants party late into the night, but the next morning Dylan, Seeger, and others look like they are recovering from a bad LSD trip.

A Complete Unknown has generally received very favorable reviews from viewers and critics, especially for the acting and singing of Timothée Chalamet as Dylan. However there have also been negative reactions, particularly for the distortions in the screenplay. *New Yorker* columnist Richard Brody blasted it for "evasions and elisions... inherent in the [biopic] format."

I first saw the movie, with two friends and my son, in part because the whole issue of Dylan going electric at Newport has been the source of so much discussion and debate over the past 60 years. I also happened to be at the event. And, purely coincidentally, I also happened to be reading a long, granular biography of Dylan, Howard Sounes's 2001 *Down the Highway*.

My companions all mostly liked the film, but my initial reaction was pretty negative. The script seemed to leave out crucial events and people that played a key role in Dylan's story, particularly his infatuation with rock 'n' roll in high school in Hibbing, Minnesota and his turn toward folk music in Minneapolis, which did not seem to be mentioned.

I also knew from being a folk buff in the mid-Sixties that the reaction to the change in Dylan's persona by the hardcore folkie crowd was not caused by his "going electric" at Newport in 1965, but by the non-political songs on *Another Side* the previous year. This led to an "Open Letter" to Dylan in *Sing Out!* magazine, the quarterly bible of the folk movement, which sharply criticized Dylan for his new "self-conscious" and "maudlin" songs, his

general demeanor ("the paraphernalia of fame"), and his friends, which they called an "entourage." The *Sing Out!* letter was not mentioned in the film, but it shaped the response at Newport.

My own negative reaction to *A Complete Unknown* was partly caused by checking some of its details in the Sounes biography, a pretty natural thing to do. This suggested that the screenplay contained a huge number of distortions and fabrications.

For example, Dylan did not meet Guthrie and Seeger in a hospital and impress them with "Song to Woody." He first visited his icon at a friend of Guthrie's house near the hospital, Seeger was not there, and the song was composed after the event.

Dylan also did not ride a motorcycle to the Newport festival with his former lover Suze Rotolo, renamed Sylvie Russo in the movie at Dylan's request. She did not attend the festival. Neither did Johnny Cash, as claimed in the movie.

And that was just the tip of the iceberg. I am well aware that a granular 500-page history and a two-and-a-half-hour movie are radically different venues for telling a story. Historical films that I have enjoyed cut a lot of corners. But it seemed that almost every scene in this one contained serious distortions. You began to wonder "Did that really happen?" after every scene.

One of the biggest omissions was the fact that in the months before Newport Dylan had, unbeknownst to his other lovers, started dating and living with Sara Lownds. They were soon married and had children, sharing a relatively loyal relationship until the mid-1970s, when Dylan started drinking and cavorting again. Perhaps he did not want this in the pic, but the omission creates a portrayal of his relationships with women that, while containing a good deal of truth, is unbalanced.

The reaction to the change in Dylan's persona by the hardcore folkie crowd was not caused by his "going electric" at Newport in 1965, but by the non-political songs on *Another Side* the previous year.

I also read a lengthy analysis by Chris Willman in the December 26 issue of *Variety* entitled "A Complete Unknown Fact vs. Fiction: Bob Dylan Experts Go Deep on What's True or Fanciful in the Celebrated Biopic." The article is generally positive about the movie, with Elijah Wald, whose impressive 2015 book provided the basis for the screenplay, stoutly defending its narrative as essentially accurate, even when the details were simplified.

But Willman's article added many more fabrications to my own long list. And this was not helped by a tendency of some of the film's defenders to portray its critics as picky nerds. James Mangold, the producer and one of the script's writers, told *Variety* that the movie "is not a Wikipedia entry," while another commentator stated that "[c]ritics

who pick apart the imaginative world of composite characters and compacted historical footnotes are like the dogs who caught the car."

On a second viewing, I had calmed down a bit and felt more positive. There were quite a few young people in the theater who seemed to get into the story, and I noticed many important contextual details I had thought were missing were, in fact, wedged into the script, though one probably needed to see the film more than once to catch them.

At this viewing I also met Jonathan Kohrman, a local decorative painter who works for a company hired to create the film's sets. This made me reflect that the set work, which was mostly produced in New Jersey, was one of the important strengths of *A Complete Unknown*, reminding me of the Greenwich Village and Newport festivals of the '60s.

By that point I was also reading Wald's book, which I strongly recommend to anyone who wants to dive into the era. My problem now was that the book spends a huge amount of time explaining the context of Newport – including both Dylan and Seeger's lives before the event and the history of the festival. Very little of this was in the film.

Maybe I just do not like biopics. My favorite, after all, is *Walk Hard*, a spoof of the genre.

Wald makes the astute point that the reaction to Dylan's performance on that July 1965 night depended very much on where you were sitting and what biases, political and artistic, you brought to the concert. He documents in some detail the conflicting and changing memories that those in attendance have created over the years.

I have been frequently asked if I booed Dylan at Newport. Here is how I recall it:

I came to the festival with two or three high school buddies. We had formed a jug band that played at a local coffeehouse, and were becoming absolutely obsessed with bluegrass music. We knew some of Dylan's songs, mostly as done by other performers, but had not really followed his career or listened to his records. We were not part of the Dylan craze.

My friends and I found Pete Seeger a bit irritating, and thought the "Open Letter" in *Sing Out* was stupid. I was a young leftish political guy at that time, but had seen Seeger play at a communist ski area in Connecticut called Power Hill and was very turned off by his pontifications. On the other hand, when a young woman and I appeared as "Most Politically Minded" in our high school yearbook, we held up a "Pete Seeger For President" sign to taunt right-wing town residents.

My recollection is that when Dylan came out that night, the sound was terrible, some people were cheering, some were booing, and some were not sure what to do. After all, there had already been electrified music at Newport, including the Paul Butterfield band earlier that day, with no apparent problem.

As Dylan and company played, three or four young women sitting next to us stood up on their chairs, raised their arms, and started swaying back and forth, singing: "How does it feel..."

We felt rather distracted, to be honest.



Senior Center Activities JANUARY 13 TO JANUARY 17

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. For more information, please call 863-9357.

Monday 1/13

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Potluck
1:30 p.m. COA Meeting

Tuesday 1/14

9 a.m. Chair Yoga
12:30 p.m. Tech Tuesday:
Drop-in Tech Help
3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 1/15

9 a.m. Veterans' Agent
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo
1 p.m. Mobile Food Bank
4 p.m. Mat Yoga

Thursday 1/16

1 p.m. Pitch
3:30 p.m. Montague Villages
Volunteer Training

Friday 1/17

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
2 p.m. Chair Dance

LEVERETT

Chair Yoga classes are held Wednesdays at 10 a.m., hybrid, at

the town hall and on Zoom. Foot care clinic is held monthly. Contact (413) 548-1022 x2 or coa@leverett.ma.us.

ERVING

Open Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Daily snacks and coffee. Fitness room and pool table open.

Monday 1/13

Closed

Tuesday 1/14

9 a.m. Stretch & Balance
10 a.m. Line Dancing
11 a.m. Social Stringer

Wednesday 1/15

9 a.m. Interval Training
10 a.m. Chair Aerobics
11:30 a.m. Bingo

Thursday 1/16

9 a.m. Barre Fusion
10 a.m. Pilates Flow

Friday 1/17

10 a.m. Quilting Workshop

WENDELL

Foot care clinic is the first Wednesday of each month. Next clinic is February 5, 2025. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments.

For Senior Health Rides, contact Nancy Spittle at (978) 544-6760.

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Retrospective: Where I Went in 2024.

SOUTH DEERFIELD – It's been an active travel year, with some unexpected places and repeat visits to destinations I've seen before. In 2024 I didn't travel monthly as I once typically did, when I was boarding way more airplanes than embarking on humble car journeys.

I began the year in February in the remarkable Greater Caucasus mountain range of the **Republic of Georgia**, flying into Tbilisi for a few days before the scary car trip on snowy roads up to the top of a hill just 30 miles south of the Russian border.

The skiing in Georgia was fabulous because it didn't include two things that annoy me on any slope – moguls and trees. No, it was a joyous series of long downhills and fantastic speed zones, all top-notch. The price of skiing in Georgia was about \$12 for a daily lift ticket and \$15 for rentals. Very reasonable, like Vermont in the 1960s. It was all ski-in, ski-out, so every day you could start as soon as the lifts moved.

In April I got a chance to go to the undeveloped and marvelous **central California coast**, where more than 80 miles of seashore remain open and wild to this day. It was a treat to visit the impressive Hearst Castle and funky little touristy towns like Cambria along the famous Pacific Coast highway.

Interestingly this road, Route 1, is still closed to through traffic just above where we took photos at Ragged Point. The next town, Gorda, is the end of the line – you can no longer drive north from that point to Big Sur or San Francisco. Landslide after landslide has caused years-long headaches for California's highway builders. Nobody is sure when it will reopen.

I spent some time on the familiar island of **Martha's Vineyard** in May, then joined a troupe of actors and immersed myself seriously in the town of Easthampton, the home of the theater company of the same name, where I rehearsed for days and days for a small role in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. The theater is a thrill if you've never been on stage, and I'd recommend it to any adult!

I took a holiday in late May in one of Spain's favorite cities, **San Sebastian**. This city on the northern coast is ranked as having the most expensive houses in Spain. It's a place that touches people. Nearly every time I mentioned San Sebastian to Spaniards they would nod in appreciation and a shared love of this place.

Here the *pintxos*, the more elaborate cousin to Spain's famous *tapas*, rule. They are often enjoyed in the street where the bars have overflow standing room for drinks and those tiny bites of deliciousness. The city has a large, all-pedestrian old town area, which stays open until the wee hours of the night.

Bilbao, just down the coast, is another fabulous small city with the stunning Guggenheim Museum at its center.

I was able to get close to seeing my favorite new sport, F1, in person when I drove up north with my granddaughter Sofie to try to attend

the **Montreal Grand Prix** in June, along with about 400,000 others. The tickets didn't arrive in time, so we got as close to the paddock as the entrance to the faraway stands... in the pouring rain. Later we found a sports bar north of the city with panoramic screens and watched the race together, even as we cursed StubHub for not coming through with the tickets in time.

Montreal is so close, about 3½ hours from Montague, and so worth a visit any time of year, as are small Quebec towns like Sutton. We made this same drive two months later when we visited **Lake Magog and Fitch Bay, Quebec**. These prosperous and tourist-filled townships are bursting with local wines, breads, farmers markets, and art shops.

We toured an abbey with monks who make jams and cheese, and a lavender farm and shop. The Canadian dollar still provides Americans with a 25% bump, adding to the reasons to visit!

In midsummer I took up a last-minute invitation to fly to **Chicago** for the weekend, which turned out to be a terrific suggestion. Just hours after takeoff we were diving into Lou Malnati's deep dish pizzas, right up to the bar, with throngs of other guests waiting for tables.

The next day we discovered Hanabusa Japanese pancakes, so light and fluffy, and spent hours touring the fascinating Art Institute of Chicago's vast galleries. One to note was a collection of windows into miniature rooms, crafted exquisitely with tiny chairs, realistic two-inch paintings, and period wallpapers. There are 72 rooms to peek into, it's a very interesting part of the Institute's large collection.

Dining in the city included Mr. Beef, the famous home for the TV series *The Bear*. We joined the line and chatted with friendly locals while waiting for the juicy, tasty beef on bread. Dinner was at an Israeli restaurant for pita and hummus and shawarma, and late-night comedy with six pretty-funny comedians capped off our visit.

Mallorca was September's port of call. The best part was the far side, the harbor and the beach of Pollenca. Here you can view some spectacular cliffs, and the vast Mediterranean is all around you.

In October I took a trip to **St. Louis, Missouri**, a city famous for the Gateway Arch. We rode to the top in a crowded gondola and spent time meeting local brewers, distillers, and winemakers, all attracted to Missouri for its pure water and enthusiasm for local businesses like theirs.

We ended our visit in 10-foot-long canoes, paddling the Missouri River. The sun was setting and birds chimed in from the banks of farmland. This was the same river that Lewis and Clark paddled when they explored what would be America for the first time.

2024 was a fun, less extensive, and less expensive year of travel.

Max Hartshorne, from South Deerfield, is the editor of the GoNOMAD.com travel website and the host of the GoNOMAD Travel Podcast, with weekly short form episodes, every week: feeds.captivate.fm/gonomad-travel-podcast.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Neighbor Hits Ceiling; Goose Disavowed; Insert Pilfered; Axe Jacked; Eviction Reversed; Meat Bowls Held Onto

Monday, 12/30
3:44 p.m. Caller from East Main Street reports that her upstairs neighbor has been blaring music for four days; she's been hitting the ceiling with a broom, but they won't turn it down. Quiet upon arrival.
5:15 p.m. Report of dog barking for the past half hour in the back alley off Fourth Street. This is causing other dogs in the neighborhood to bark as well. Referred to an officer.
11:34 p.m. Report of tree down blocking Lake Pleasant Road. DPW contacted. Officer reports an unoccupied vehicle that had struck the tree parked on the side of the road. Tree removed by DPW.
Tuesday, 12/31
3:07 a.m. Caller from Highland School Apartments reports that someone was knocking at the window. He did not see anyone when he got up and looked out. Requesting an officer drive through. Officer unable to locate anyone in area.
8:58 a.m. Report of tree on wires on Chestnut Hill Loop. No sparks or flames. Road not passable at this time. Officer advises road is passable; requesting DPW with barricades. Eversource contacted; ticket placed. ETA 30 minutes. DPW and Eversource on scene. Officer clear.
11:11 a.m. Caller advises she was driving by and saw a vehicle on fire in a driveway on Main Street.

Control notified. Control advises illegal burn; male party was burning Christmas trees between a shed and the front of the car.
3:14 p.m. Party into station reporting she is being stalked by a male party at the store where she works, and last night he followed her home. Officer advised party of options.
3:32 p.m. Caller states there is an injured goose in the roadway on Migratory Way. Caller is worried about it and standing by; asked if he should move it out of the road, but not sure if it has bird flu. Animal control contacted; no answer. Environmental Police contacted but do not deal with geese; transferred to MassWildlife's Belchertown field office. MassWildlife said to advise the party of his options, but they are not coming out. Goose was deceased upon arrival.
Wednesday, 1/1
12:41 a.m. Caller reporting big bonfire in Fourth Street alleyway, close to dwellings. Shelburne Control advised. TFFD extinguished fire.
3:26 a.m. 911 caller from Turners Falls Road reports there is loud music, screaming, and banging going on in the neighbors' apartment. Contact made; they will keep the music lower.
8:56 a.m. Walk-in reporting ongoing harassment and false accusations. Advised of options.
9:35 a.m. Caller from

Turners Falls Road states that someone broke in to their home overnight. They noticed one item missing; an insert to an Instant Pot. Report taken.
Thursday, 1/2
3:11 a.m. Officer cleared debris that presented a traffic hazard from roadway on L Street.
7:55 a.m. Greenfield PD requesting officer to Turners Falls side of canal bridge to close down the roadway due to a tree down on the Greenfield side. DPW contacted for Road Closed signs. Officer advises signs down. Greenfield PD to call in detail at some point. Officer removing barricades.
9:33 a.m. Caller from Highland Avenue reports that someone broke into his house and stole a guitar worth around \$1,000. Caller states this occurred sometime between a week and a week and a half ago. Officer clear of residence; caller just wants on record. Caller called back advising he found another item missing, which is a guitar amp worth about \$300. Caller wanted this added to the report. Caller called back again stating he found a large-screen TV worth \$300 to \$400 was also taken. Caller called back in stating he found the TV; it was not taken, but moved to a different location. Advised of options.
11:11 p.m. Third-party caller states his wife called

him complaining about people who reside in the same building as her playing loud music. Caller unsure which apartment is involved as he is at work. Referred to an officer.
Friday, 1/3
7:17 a.m. Report of a large amount of debris on the General Pierce Bridge that fell off a pickup truck, or maybe a trailer. Road/bridge cleared upon officer's arrival.
12:38 p.m. Walk-in reporting that she would like it on record that a male party who has been living on her property has been served by the sheriff's department with eviction papers. Today at around 12:15 p.m., she went outside and that male party told her that she was trespassing on his property, and that she needed to leave. Services rendered.
5:35 p.m. 911 caller from Turners Falls Pizza House reporting someone in the bathroom with a dog that has been barking for over one hour and won't come out. Officer will advise for EMS once on scene. Officer making contact through door. Male states he will open in a couple of minutes. Holding off on medical. Male party and dog came out. Party denied medical attention; stated he was fine and was using the bathroom.
Saturday, 1/4
5:18 p.m. Caller reports someone from DoorDash dropped food off at his house, but he's never ordered from them before. States he received two meat bowls and doesn't know what to do with them. There is a name on the receipt, but it does not say what establishment it came from, or a phone number. Advised caller that driver might come back, or that he could call DoorDash to report it himself. Caller states he will hold onto the food just in case they return.
Sunday, 1/5
8:47 a.m. Officer conducting motor vehicle stop. Vehicle ran a red light on Avenue A, almost causing a t-bone accident. Officer followed vehicle to the Gill Mill and is checking welfare. Party admits to running red light; was trying to get away from another vehicle that was following her. Verbal warning.
1:37 p.m. 911 caller reporting possible house fire on L Street; sees flames through the first story window. Transferred to Shelburne Control. Officers advise small fireplace in window; not as reported. TFFD on scene investigating.
5:19 p.m. Report of a teenager at Third Street and Avenue A pointing what appears to be a BB or pellet gun down the alley. Officer checked area; unable to locate anyone matching description.



Above: The lively Old Town of San Sebastian, Spain. Below: Chicago's famous river and high rises on the architecture tour.

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ARTIST PROFILE

Luke Litchfield



This illustration by local artist Luke Litchfield features Jerry.

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – An artist named Luke Litchfield, whom I saw at the Franklin County Fair in Greenfield in 2024, was someone I decided I would like to write about.

If you saw his work, you might call him an artist who does hippie images for his artwork. One image I saw at the fair had Jerry Garcia in it, and others had animals.

Litchfield gave me a photo of his artwork to use with this article, which makes me think even more that his artwork fits with Jerry Garcia being a part of it. I know Garcia is a musician that some would call a hippie, so the surreal images in this man's art went well with him. I mean that surreal images would work well in connection with a hippie being a feature in them. There is also what some might call Technicolor in the images.

"I have been doing art my whole life," Litchfield told me. It started with him just doodling in school. He used ink pens with his drawings. He also uses markers, and he is leaning toward painting. With his art, he said, "I really like to fill up every inch of the page."

The music he listens to inspires a lot of what he draws. He has interesting taste in music: "I listen to hip-hop, electronic music, and I like a lot of instrumental stuff. I am actually a musician."

Another element that Litchfield said he likes, when it comes to what he draws, is stuff that is chaotic. He has also recently been drawing underwater scenes. He likes doing portraits, and said he's pretty good at doing them – people like his portraits.

"I do a lot of musicians," he said as examples of portraits he makes. "Sometimes I do my wife, and my dog."

Also popular are the posters Litchfield makes for bands, who he said often commission him to make posters. What kind of posters he makes for them depends on the kind of music they play, he explained: "If it was a metal band, it would be a lot different than a bluegrass band."

Something else Litchfield is working on is trying to sell a lot of his art. He said he tries to make it affordable so it can be enjoyed by everyone. He used to have a permit to sell in Northampton, and he would go there on a nice sunny day when it was popular and a nice

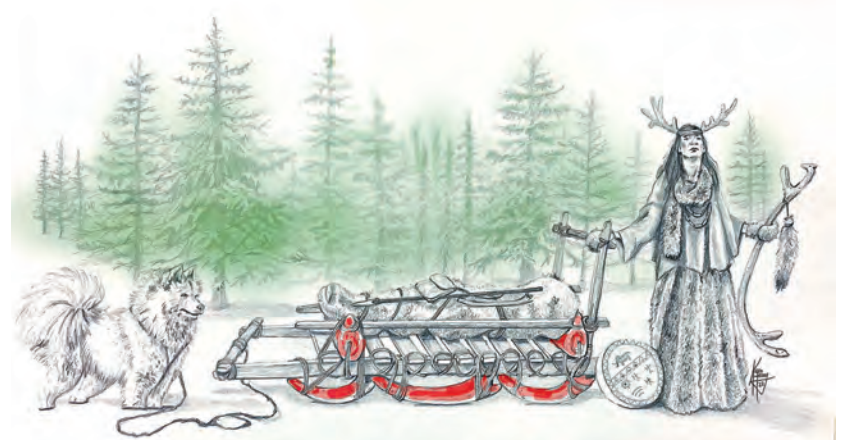
VALLEY VIEW from page B1

deep in experience and expertise pertaining to the peopling of the Americas.

Thus far, Gramly has uncovered not only previously ignored and/or undetected evidence of ritualistic mastodon hunting, but two apparent *in situ* shaman sled burials in the eastern United States: one in upstate New York, the other in Kentucky. Included among his cutting-edge discoveries are artifacts made of bone and ivory, including sled runners and carriage parts, a diadem, tools, and recently even a stone cobble worked into a Venus figurine.

Now, a new wrinkle has come to light, forcing Gramly to adjust his ever-evolving hypotheses surrounding the shaman sled burials he identified from the Hiscock Site in New York's Lake Ontario region and Lower Blue Lick in northeastern Kentucky. Dutch anthropologist and American academic Harold E.L. Prins delivered this new twist in his scholarly December article titled "The Sami Drum: Shamanic Journey of Another Kind," appearing in *Shamanism Annual*, the Journal of the Foundation for Shamanic Studies.

Prins's article discusses rare, sacred, exquisitely-painted drums used by Sami shamans in the pre-Christian world of Arctic Scandinavia. Most of these early, spiritual, Lapland relics were long ago destroyed



REN HARVEY ILLUSTRATION / COURTESY OF R.M. GRAMLY

A depiction of a shaman and a sled with mammoth-bone runners, resembling those recovered at the Hiscock site. Note the headdress and staff with caribou-antler Y-sticks.

by Christian authorities trying to rid their world of pagan symbols and devil worship. Featured with the symbolically illustrated drums are Y-stick reindeer-antler hammers used as drumbeaters, introducing a new interpretation for caribou-antler artifacts recovered in association with the Hiscock sled burial.

Gramly and righthand man James B. Harrod, a world religions expert, had previously speculated that the antler Y-sticks discovered at the burial site had either been vestiges of a shaman's headdress or ceremonial staff. Now a third possibility for at least one remnant initially thought to be a damaged Y-stick. A shaman's drum stick, perhaps?

Hmmmm?

"Yes," was Gramly's email an-

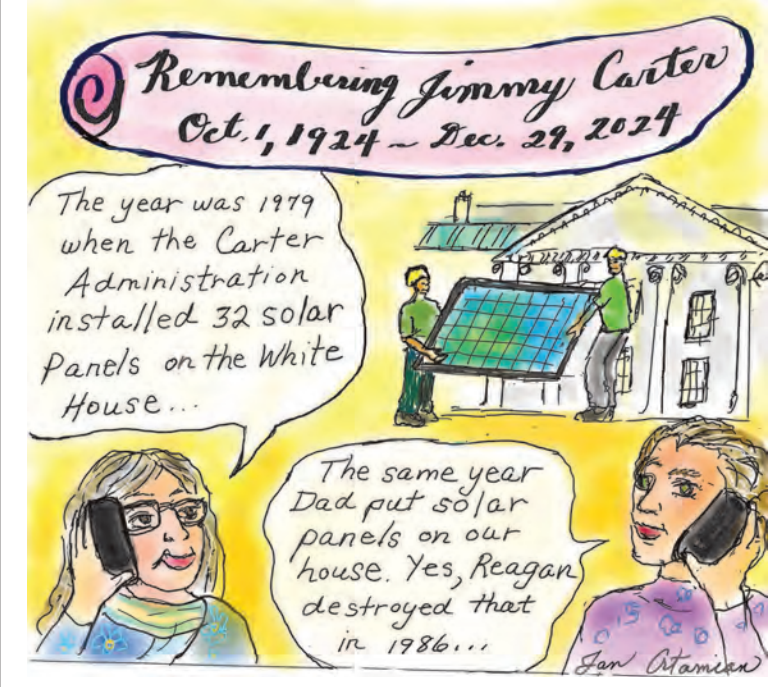
swer. "The T-shaped Hiscock-antler Y-stick with a moose effigy carving was likely a drumbeater. When I wrote it up years ago, I did not recognize its significance. Remember, this is a continuously-evolving body of interpretation."

Yes, indeed – precisely why it interests this retired old hen-scratcher most attracted to the unknown.

Oops. This just in. An unsubstantiated report about a rich archaeological site in South Deerfield being eyed for an animal shelter? I know the site. Can't confirm its archaeological significance. Poked around a bit in my old hometown to deafening silence. So, something may indeed be in the works.

We'll see what develops.

When it rains, it pours.



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FRONTIERS

New Year, New Perceptions: *The Telepathy Tapes*

By SPENCER SHORKEY

MILLERS FALLS – “Hayley, a 10-year-old severely autistic child, and her therapist are seated alone in the room, together at a table, and separated by a tall partition that prevents eye to eye or physical contact. Cards with randomized numbers, words, sentences, pictures, and equations were hidden until the experiment.

“The therapist viewed them one by one on her side of the visual barrier, and then asked Hayley what she was thinking or looking at. Hayley pointed with her wooden pencil inside characters on a stencil with her right hand to select them, and then entered them with her left into a device that converts text to speech.

“You’ll notice there are no characters for division signs, equal signs, or decimal points, so the therapist had to tell Hayley when these occurred. You’ll also notice that her answer is 100% accurate on 18 out of 18 digits. This is just one of ten equations that she did in a ten-minute period, with accuracy above 90% each time.”

The Telepathy Tapes, a popular new podcast by Ky Dickens, explores the claim that some non-verbal individuals with autism possess telepathic abilities, allowing them to communicate mind-to-mind and exchange information beyond traditional means.

Experimental data, such as participants identifying numbers and colors with high levels of accuracy – even from separate rooms – are presented to substantiate these claims. Anecdotal reports of phenomena which are more difficult to scientifically measure are also described.

Such findings defy conventional materialist paradigms. The podcast encourages its listeners to question long-held assumptions about autism, communication, and the limits of human cognition, and suggests these abilities may represent an untapped human potential which individuals with autism may be key players in unlocking.

The podcast’s popularity has grown rapidly since its initial release in September, becoming one of the top podcasts on Spotify by the end of 2024.

Research Background

The Telepathy Tapes has its roots in many years of scientific investigation into the abilities of autistic savants by Dr. Diane Hen-nacy Powell, with many of her recent research subjects participating

in its production.

Dr. Powell has long been interested in studying the relationship between physical matter and consciousness, beginning with her undergraduate research in neuro-chemistry. She trained in medicine at Johns Hopkins in the 1980s, ultimately specializing in psychiatry, and became interested in studying autistic children after listening to a seminar by Dr. Oliver Sacks detailing a case study of autistic twins whose unique abilities included an uncanny ability to spontaneously generate large prime numbers.

Many children with autism have cognitive challenges which prevent them from being able to accomplish basic tasks that most people would take for granted. However, a subgroup of about 10% of autistic children display so-called “savant skills,” including solving complicated mathematical problems without the typical training, or having amazing memories.

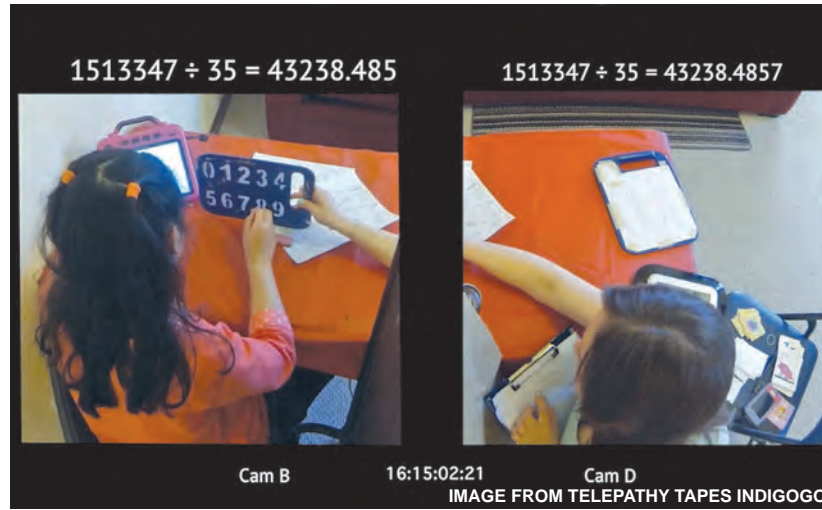
Soon afterward, Powell spent time working with leading autism expert Sir Michael Rutter at King’s College London. She then began working at Harvard, where she was advised that the incidence of autism – with a rate of less than 1 in 1,000 children at that time – was too low to do research.

Since then, the rate has risen dramatically to nearly 1 in 40 children. This current situation has provided more opportunity for Dr. Powell to conduct research, and over the past 10 years she has focused on testing a key hypothesis: that some non-verbal autistic children exhibit telepathic ability. Having worked with many test subjects since then, Powell has honed scientifically rigorous data collection and analysis protocols.

In 2014 one key test subject, “Hayley” (not her real name), consistently showed greater than 90% accuracy on tests where she identified numbers she was not able to view directly, but that her therapist could see. These experiments were meticulously documented, and Powell presented the results at academic conferences, and launched a crowdfunding campaign to support a scientifically rigorous documentary-style investigation of other children exhibiting these abilities.

“I need your help,” Powell stated in her video plea for support. “This will be a time-consuming, but very important and comprehensive, documentary that has the potential to revolutionize science and society.”

The campaign further stated that



The subject “Hayley” is shown above correctly identifying the final number in a sequence, 7, that she seems to be reading telepathically in an experiment administered by Dr. Powell.

Powell “believe[s] we are capable of so much more than we realize, but research funds are rarely spent on human consciousness, or developing its untapped potential. Instead, much of the available money is used to develop more drugs.”

The crowdfunding campaign fell well short of its goals, and was ultimately canceled. However, in the ten years since then, Powell has continued her self-funded research on the abilities of non-verbal children with autism.

Powell also seeks to more concretely understand possible physical causes underlying the phenomena of non-verbal autistic children who retain language skills. One generally recognized physical feature of autism is that autistic brains are more internally disconnected, with fewer connections in areas typically well-connected in neurotypical people. Autistic people with language deficits exhibit relatively more activity in the right hemisphere of the brain than is typical, which makes sense given that language skills are more associated with left-brain activity.

Powell suggests a possible mechanism for the existence of non-verbal autistic spellers: that “they were just starting to acquire language, and then something happens that causes inflammation in their brain, that then causes them to regress.”

The relative activity of different brain areas can be tested using a quantitative electroencephalogram (qEEG), or neuroimaging such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), techniques which Powell is interested in using. However, these require more substantial funding.

The ‘Scientific Documentary’

Ky Dickens is a journalist and

the University of Virginia Department of Perceptual Studies (UVA DOPS) is a part of their plan to produce the highest-quality data for the documentary, as well as research articles.

DOPS researchers have contributed numerous articles to peer-reviewed journals advancing the scientific study of consciousness. Their work tends to challenge mainstream paradigms, including investigations into cases of children reporting memories of past life which appear to be verifiable, and documenting near-death experience phenomena and mediumship. Director Dr. Jim Tucker, a child psychiatrist, has published articles on the topic of anomalous memories including “Life Before Life: A Scientific Investigation of Children’s Memories of Previous Lives” (2005) and “Return to Life: Extraordinary Cases of Children Who Remember Past Lives” (2013).

Studies by DOPS and many other researchers including Powell point to the importance of considering the possibility that consciousness and related phenomena may not be totally bound to the materialistic scientific treatments of space, time, cause, and effect.

“It creates cognitive dissonance,” Powell states regarding the difficulty of mainstream science in integrating data supporting non-materialist viewpoints. “I see how difficult it is for people to switch gears, because you really get belief confirmation – whatever it is you believe... gets confirmed over and over and over again – and you can have a certain blindness to anything that goes against it. And maybe that’s some kind of survival instinct in humans.”

The Telepathy Tapes blends scientific inquiry with deeply human stories, revealing a world where the extraordinary becomes conceivable.

I have read many skeptical opinions of the podcast online, and I have found it interesting that the common criticisms are actually thoroughly addressed in its episodes – that is to say, many of the skeptical opinion writers seem to have not actually listened to the podcast. Whether you approach it with curiosity or skepticism, *The Telepathy Tapes* is a must-listen for anyone interested in the mysteries of the mind and the untapped potential of human consciousness.

For more information about the podcast, go to thetelepathytapes.com.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

Northfield Mountain, Northfield: *Monthly Hike*. With snowshoes or micro-spikes, depending on conditions. Registration at www.bookeo.com/northfield is required. 1 p.m. Free.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Natalie Padilla and Quinn Bachan*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

The Drake, Amherst: *Yeison Landero, DJ Bongohead*. 8 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10

St. Kaz, Turners Falls: *Records Gumbo & Booze*. 6 p.m. No cover.

Leverett Village Co-op, Leverett: *Rebecca Weiss & Accomplices*. 6 p.m. Free.

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *Goodness Shakes Community Dance*. All ages. 6:30 p.m. By donation.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Melanie Blackbird*. 7 p.m. No cover.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Film, *Delicatessen* (1991). Music at 7 p.m.: *Tandem Jump*; screening at 7:30 p.m. \$.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Livingston Taylor*. 7 p.m. \$.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Greg Davis, Dave Seidel, Saapoto, Temporal*. 7 p.m. \$.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Content Clown, Ditch & Palisade, The Origin of the Whale, Z the Clown, The Little Man Who Makes the Music*. Clowning and puppetry. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Keith Murphy and the Band of Amber*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Eli Elkus, Garold Amadon*. 8 p.m. No cover.

Tree House Brewing, Deerfield: *Eggy*. 8 p.m. \$.

CitySpace, Easthampton: *Skinlab, Dead By Wednesday, One Ton Tommy Gun, Infinite Cruelty, Skud*. 8 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

Brewery at Four Star Farms, Northfield: *Wishbone Zoe, The Bandit Queen of Sorrows*. 5 p.m. No cover.

Looky Here, Greenfield: Opening reception for *Salt, fat. Sweet!*, work by Caroline Davis. 5 p.m. Free.

United Church of Bernardston, Bernardston: *Second Saturday Roast Beef Supper*. Delicious roast beef meal, complete with freshly mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetable and rolls, and freshly baked dessert. Call (413) 648-9306 to reserve a seat or take-out. Seatings at 5 and 6:15 p.m. \$.

Deep Thoughts, Northampton: *Bad History Month, Mibble, Bryan Gillig*. 6 p.m. \$.

The Clark, Williamstown: *Williamstown Synth Fest Concert and Synthesizer Petting Zoo* feat *Architrave, Hissquiet, OrangePeelMystic, NXOR, Michael William Gilbert*. 6 p.m. Free.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Common Hall Open Mic* feat. *Lisa Gaughran & Paul Newlin, Walt Burnham*. 6:30 p.m. By donation.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Small Town Radio*. 7 p.m. No cover.

Unnameable Books, Turners Falls: *Open Mic* feat. *Sierra D. Dickey, Julie Howd, Shannon Hearn, Madison Murray, L Scully*. 7 p.m. No cover.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Film, *Delicatessen* (1991). Music at 7 p.m.: *the frost heaves & hales*; screening at 7:30 p.m. \$.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Livingston Taylor*. 7 p.m. \$.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Joe K. Walsh and Matt Flinger*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Guiding Star Grange, Greenfield: Contra dance with *Cumming, Lavaggi, Kenney, & Kenny*, with *Will Mentor* calling. 8 p.m. \$.

Tree House Brewing, Deerfield: *Eggy*. 8 p.m. \$.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Mono Means One, The Greys*. 8 p.m. \$.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

Feeding Tube Records, Northampton: *Stella Kola, Matt Krefting*. 4 p.m. \$.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Bandit Queen of Sorrows is in town: this Saturday at the Brewery at Four Star Farms in Northfield, with Wishbone Zoe opening, and again next Wednesday at the Marigold Theater in Easthampton.

Daily Op, Easthampton: *Elucid, Billy Woods*. 7 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Karaoke hosted by *Buckingham Rabbit Vintage*. 9 p.m. No cover.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Turners Falls Business Community Stakeholder meeting*. The Town of Montague and Franklin Regional Council of Governments invite Turners Falls businesses and organizations to hear consultants recommend how three local downtowns can be supported. Light refreshments provided. 5 p.m. Free.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Queer Open Mic Night*. 6:30 p.m. \$.

New Salem Library, New Salem: *Old Time Radio Hour with Brian Casey*. Enjoy listening to Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy, with W. C. Fields and Lionel Barrymore. 6:30 p.m. Free.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

Montague Town Hall Annex, Turners Falls: *COVID and Flu Vaccine Clinic*. First 100 patients 12 and older will receive a \$75 gift card. Registration at home.color.com recommended. 4 to 7 p.m. Free.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *The Bandit Queen of Sorrows, Hannah Mohan, Lexi Weege*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:

Wes Brown & Friends. 8 p.m. No cover.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Animal Tracking*. Indoor intro with naturalist David Brown. 5:30 p.m. Free.

Montague Center Library, Montague Center: *Oral History Training*. 6 p.m. Free.

Brewery at Four Star Farms, Northfield: *Silverback Swing*. 6 p.m. No cover.

Tree House Brewing, Deerfield: *Keller Williams*. 7 p.m. \$.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *The Valley Moonstompers Society*. Ska night. 8:30 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

Leverett Village Co-op, Leverett: *Stephen Merriman*. 6 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Leftovers*. 6 p.m. No cover.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Young Shakespeare Players* present *The Winter's Tale*. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Roundabout Books, Greenfield: *Stella Kola*. 7 p.m. \$.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Ladysplain*, readings feat. *Emily Pettit, Sarah Wisby, Kel Warren, Vanessa Brewster*. 7 p.m. \$.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Emily Bloom and Sweet Petunia*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

The Drake, Amherst: *Perennial, Radical Joy, Truther*. 8 p.m. \$.

EXHIBITS

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Wax, Water and String*, paintings in encaustic, watercolor, and embroidery by Pam Allan, through January.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *A First-Class Machine Shop*, local history exhibit with images, text, maps, and artifacts, and *Junior Duck Stamps*, top youth entries for the statewide 2024 Junior Duck Stamp competition, through January 16.

Montague Center Library: *Auto Partitas*, mixed media triptychs based

on automotive parts by Nina Rossi, through February.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center: Guest exhibit featuring Andrew Vlock and Chinatsu Nagamune, ceramic and textile artists from Leverett, through January.

Rhodes Art Center, Northfield Mount Hermon, Gill: *Countervail*, words and ceramic work by Anne Thiam, through January 24. Email jroure@nmhschool.org to visit.

Greenfield Public Library, Greenfield: *Franklin County's Forgotten Alien Encounters*. In the Local History

Room, through January.

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *Forward*, a community art exhibit exploring evolution, change, and movement with work by 37 local artists. January 17 through February 28, with an opening reception Friday, January 17, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Salt, fat. Sweet!*, work by Caroline Davis. Through February 8, with an opening reception this Saturday, January 11 at 5 p.m.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Botanical Photography*, by Marilyn London-Ewing, through February.

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looking forward...

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

Greenfield Community College, Greenfield: *Music Matters Benefit Luncheon* for Música Franklin. Register at www.musicafranklin.org/musicmatters. 11:30 a.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bluegrass & Beyond* presents *An Evening of Honky Tonk Music with Betsy Dawn Williams*. Williams, a local singer and musician, fronted the country swing band *Girl Howdy* for many years and was the lead singer for the popular country swing band *The Nite Caps*. Swing dance, two-steps, and waltzes will be on the menu for this evening of classic country music. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Slowdive*. 8 p.m. \$\$.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Pablo Giménez Spanish Ensemble*. 7 p.m. \$.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Brewery at Four Star Farms, Northfield: *Rosie Porter*. 3 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Sam Amidon*. 8 p.m. \$.

De La Luz Soundstage, Holyoke: *Rio Bamba, DeeJay Theory*. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

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

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Owsley's Owls, Jay Faires*. 8 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Iron Horse, Northampton: *The Bad Plus*. 7 p.m. \$.

Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell: *Do It Now!* 7:30 p.m. \$.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Major Stars, Mibble, Bulle, Initiate Explosion, Sister Xmas*. 8 p.m. No cover.

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

Floodwater Brewing, Shelburne Falls: *Wishbone Zoe*. 4 p.m. No cover.

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

Symphony Hall, Springfield: *An Acoustic Evening with Trey Anastasio*. 7:30 p.m. \$\$\$.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

Palladium, Worcester: *Mayhem, Mortis, Imperial Triumphant, New Skeletal Faces*. 6:30 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Joan Osborne*. 8 p.m. \$

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Young Shakespeare Players* present *The Winter's Tale*. 11:30 a.m., 6:30 p.m. Free.

Second Congregational Church, Greenfield: *Envisioning the World We Want*. Speakers, musicians, etc., coinciding with the People's March in Washington, DC. 12:15 p.m. Free.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Bluey Party*. For children and their caregivers. 1 p.m. Free.

New Salem Library, New Salem: *Nourish Your Nerves: an Herbal Workshop*. Learn about several herbs that nourish the nervous system, feed the liver, and reduce stress. Participants will prepare and experience a simple facial steam and make their own herbal tea bags to take home. Registration required at (978) 544-6334. 2 p.m. Free.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Winter Wonder Party* feat. *BluGroove*. 6 p.m. No cover.

Palladium, Worcester: *Nile, Six Feet Under, Psycroptic, Embryonic Autopsy*. 6 p.m. \$.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Gravestone*. 7 p.m. No cover.

Mount Toby Friends Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Dear Ella*. 7 p.m. \$.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: Film, *Holding Back the Tide* (2023), oyster documentary, with Q&A with director Emily Packer. 7 p.m. \$.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Kamauu*, soundbath. 7 p.m. \$.

Luthier's Coop, Easthampton: *Tandem Jump, The Library Band, The Journals Kept*. 7 p.m. \$.

Belltower Records, North Adams: *akadua, Polar Identity, Minor Moons*. 7 p.m. \$.

Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell: *2 Car Garage*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Tracy Grammer*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Vermont Jazz Center, Brattleboro: *Brandee Younger*. 7:30 p.m. \$\$

Next Stage Arts, Putney: *Mike Block & Yacouba Sissoko*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Aradia, Scott Hsu, The Third Entity*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

Erving Public Library: *Bigfoot and UFOs*. With Discovery Channel's Ronny LeBlanc. 11 a.m. Free.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Young Shakespeare Players* present *The Winter's Tale*. 1 p.m. Free.

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *New Lights in the Dawnland*, Michael Kline's audio tapestry on local Indigenous history and folklore, followed by a discussion led by Nolumbeka Project president *David Brule*. 1:30 p.m. By donation.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *The Grand Trunk Hotel*. Piece together the story of the grand old days in Turners Falls. 2 p.m. Free.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Mind Left Body*. 6 p.m. \$.

Quarters, Hadley: *Western Mass Electronics*, synth meetup. Featured artist: *Hiss Quiet*. 4 p.m. No cover.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Lisa Bastoni & Helen Hummel*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Id M Theftable, Shea Mowat, Owen Manure, Sam Gas Can & David Russell, Jeff Gallagher & Kryssi*. 8 p.m. No cover.

MONDAY, JANUARY 20

Northfield Mountain, Northfield: *Snowshoe Clinic*. Basics of snowshoeing and a short, fun hike, for all ages and abilities. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy hiking boots. 1 p.m. Free.

Stone Soup Café, Greenfield: *Taking Care of Each Other: A Pay-What-You-Can Soup Supper*. In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy of service, compassion, and justice. 5 p.m. By donation.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Open Mic with *Jim McRae*. 8:30 p.m. No cover.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Make Your Own Snow Globe*. Registration required. 4 p.m. Free.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Midwinter Drawing Social*. 4:30 p.m. Free.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Song & Story Open Mic*. 6:30 p.m. \$.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22

Greenfield Library, Greenfield: *Babywearing Workshop*. Try out different baby carriers. Bring baby, etc. 11 a.m. Free.

Dickinson Library, Northfield: Poetry discussion with *Nick Fleck*. 3 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Boys From '69*. 8 p.m. No cover.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23

Brewery at Four Star Farms, Northfield: *Silverback Swing*

Django Reinhardt Birthday Celebration. 6 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Nerd Night*. 8 p.m. No cover.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24

Leverett Village Co-op, Leverett: *Little House Blues Band*. 6 p.m. Free.

Unnameable Books, Turners Falls: *Ramon & Jessica, Call Me Bea*. 7 p.m. \$.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Ken Wysk and Friends*. 7 p.m. No cover.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Film, *The Muppets* (2011). Songs and storytelling with *Davis Bates* at 7 p.m.; screening at 7:30 p.m. \$.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *True Stew*. 8 p.m. No cover.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Catamount, Outro, Mutineer*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Les Déraillieurs, Ex-Temper*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Hands Across the Hills* book launch and reading. 1 p.m. Free.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Forgotten Immigrants: The Bohemians of Turners Falls*. Beginning in the 1870s, drawn by the promise of work at the John Russell Cutlery factory, almost 300 Bohemian immigrants left farms in central Europe to start life anew in the industrial village of Turners Falls.

This illustrated talk by local historian Jim Bridgman, based on over 35 years of research and his new book, *Forgotten Immigrants*, explores the lives of these intrepid pioneers. 2 p.m. Free.

Dreamhouse, Turners Falls: *Anti-Zionist Jewish Deli Night*. 5 p.m. No cover.

Lupinewood, Greenfield: *Electro Acoustic Mechanics Launch Party* feat. *Mal Devisa, Harm, Enchanted Mirror*. 6 p.m. \$.

Montague Retreat Center, Montague: *Samir Langus & Friends, DJ Luminus*, yoga and ceremony. 6 p.m. \$.



Local historian Jim Bridgman will give a free talk at the Discovery Center on the "Forgotten Immigrants: The Bohemians of Turners Falls" on Saturday, January 25.

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Improvisations*, paintings by Gordon M. Green and GK Khalsa, through February 1.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Peace and Joy*, holiday arts and craft exhibit by member artists, through January.

Hosmer Gallery at Forbes Library, Northampton: Black and white photography exhibit by Mandana Marsh, through January 30. Reception this Friday, January 10 at 5 p.m.

PULP, Holyoke: *Locals No. 1*, group show of small and large works by

Hannah Brookman, Binda Calebrook, Larry Daniels, Maricela Garcia, Sean Greene, Janne Holtje, Amy Johnquest, Tekla Mcinerney, David Moriarty, Kelly Popoff, Kim Reinhardt, Sean Sawicki, Anja Schütz, Cara Taylor, Angela Zammarelli, and Andrew Zarou. Through this Sunday, January 12.

D'Amour Museum, Springfield: *Look Again: Portraits of Daring Women*, woodcut and collage prints by Leverett artist Julie Lapping Rivera celebrating the achievements of women who defied the status quo, through February.

CALL FOR ARTISTS

Create a Wheat Paste Mural: The Town of Montague will install six large scale site-specific wheat paste murals on historic brick buildings in May 2025. Three experienced digital artists, designers, or illustrators will receive \$4,000 each to design a pair of murals that integrates themes identified by the community. No entry fee. Deadline February 16. Full details and application at www.riverculture.org. Contact Suzanne LoManto, riverculture@montague-ma.gov, (413) 863-3200.

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RECIPES from page B1

swell in response to light. The cabbage family are also winter vegetables. The big white Dutch cabbage grown in the Valley is especially resistant to cold, as are red cabbages. Brussels sprouts are the cold-tolerant babies of the family. Prettily rose-shaped, they were traditionally boiled, but chefs have recently pioneered roasting them for appetizers or side dishes, often heightening their natural sweetness with a glug of maple syrup or a slick of honey.

Pumpkins and other winter squashes are botanically fruits, but their hard resistant skins made them winter favorites among indigenous people and the Europeans who arrived in the 17th century. Pumpkin pie is a classic, especially at Thanksgiving. Sarah Josepha Hale, a 19th-century journalist, described it as “a real Yankee pie...

made to perfection in rural districts.” Ours, for example.

Nowadays we have a multitude of vegetables in winter, either trucked from warmer places or grown in local greenhouses, where mushrooms and little leafy greens now appear year-round. Nonetheless the traditional winter vegetables are wonderfully toothsome in the cold months, their chunkiness the very thing to warm us through chilly evenings, and their hoard of vitamins and minerals just what we need to stay well.

They are versatile, too. They make delicious soups and stews. Many can be baked and stuffed – winter squash and potatoes come to mind. And they make great baked goods: think carrot cake, pumpkin bread, and quiches filled with onions or leeks.

Here are a few more recipe ideas.



WINTER VEGETABLE CURRY

Exact quantities aren't significant in this recipe, and other vegetables can be included – parsnips, for example. Cauliflower florets or chunks of butternut squash can be added half way through the cooking time.

- 3 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1-inch piece ginger, chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 Tbsp. medium curry powder
- 1 tsp. cumin
- 1 large potato, peeled and cut in chunks
- 1 medium sweet potato, peeled and cut in chunks
- half a small rutabaga, peeled and cut in chunks
- 1 or 2 carrots, peeled and cut in pieces
- salt to taste
- 1 can diced tomatoes
- 1 bay leaf
- 6 stems of cilantro, and some torn cilantro for serving
- dash of cayenne (optional)



Serves 4 to 6.

Heat 2 tablespoons of oil in a large pan. Add the onion and fry gently for five minutes, then add the ginger and garlic. Fry another couple of minutes, then stir in the curry powder and cumin, adding more oil if necessary.

Add the potato pieces and stir them around, followed by the sweet potato, rutabaga, and carrots. Season with salt to taste, then add the canned tomatoes. Fill the can with water or vegetable

stock and add it, along with the bay leaf and coarsely chopped cilantro. Simmer for about 30 minutes or until all the vegetables are tender.

Taste, and add a dash of cayenne if you would like it hotter. Also adjust the salt and curry powder if you need more. For serving, scatter on torn cilantro leaves. Serve with rice, plain Greek yogurt, and Indian or other chutney.

POTATOES & ONIONS SAUTEED WITH MUSHROOMS

Adding dried mushrooms or shiitakes boosts the flavor of this hearty dish.

- 2 Tbsp. dried mushrooms, or 3 large shiitake mushrooms
- 4 or 5 large potatoes, peeled salt and pepper
- 4 or 5 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 large clove garlic, minced
- 2 10-ounce boxes baby bella mushrooms, cleaned and cut in pieces
- 1 1/2 tsp. dried thyme
- 4 Tbsp. chopped parsley
- 3/4 cup sour cream, plus extra for serving

If you are using dried mushrooms, put them in a small bowl with half a cup of warm water and let stand at room temperature for three hours – longer if that's handier – before starting work on the other ingredients. If using shiitake, cut the caps into strips. (Use the tough stems in stock.)

Chop the potatoes into bite-size pieces. Drop them in a pan, cover with water, and add a teaspoon of salt. Boil until just tender, but not fully cooked. Drain.

While the potatoes are cook-

ing, heat a tablespoon of oil over low heat in a large sauté pan or casserole that can be used as a serving dish. Cook about two-thirds of the onion in it. Add the garlic and drained potatoes, plus another tablespoon of oil, and sauté over moderate heat until the potatoes have crusty brown patches.

Meanwhile, heat 2 tablespoons of oil in a frying pan over medium heat. Add the remaining onion and both baby bella and shiitake mushrooms if using them. Fry and toss for 3 or 4 minutes. If you're using dried mushrooms, now add the liquid to the frying pan. Chop the soaked mushrooms and add them too, omitting any hard bits.

Stir in the thyme and seasoning, including a generous grating of black pepper. Cook for another 3 or 4 minutes, adding a little water if the mixture appears to be drying. When the mushrooms are tender, remove the pan from the heat and stir in the sour cream and a tablespoon of parsley.

Taste for seasoning. Add a little



HOPLEY PHOTOS

water if necessary to turn the mixture into a sauce. Reheat.

For serving, sprinkle the potatoes with parsley. Toss and spread over the base of their pan. Tip the mushrooms on top. Garnish with the rest of the parsley. Serve sour cream for dolloping on top.

Serves 4.

GRATIN OF BRUSSELS SPROUTS & CARROTS

This is good as both a side and a no-meat main dish.

- 1 lb. Brussels sprouts salt to taste
- 3 Tbsp. butter
- 1 large carrot, grated
- 2 Tbsp. flour
- 1 tsp. Colman's mustard powder, or pinch of red pepper
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 2 cups grated cheddar cheese
- 2 Tbsp. Parmesan pepper to taste
- 1 1/4 cups freshly grated breadcrumbs

Grease a 10-inch gratin dish or quart baking dish with a little butter. Turn the oven to 350.

Wash the Brussels sprouts and discard any damaged outer leaves. Cut big ones in half. Drop them in a pan of boiling salted water and cook for 10 minutes or until tender but not soft. Drain, reserving half a cup of liquid and 2 or 3 smaller ones for garnish. Tip the rest into



the greased dish and toss with the grated carrot.

To make the cheese sauce, melt

2 tablespoons of butter in a saucepan. Off the heat stir in the flour to make a stiff paste. Add the mustard powder or red pepper and a quarter cup of milk. Stir, adding milk a little at a time.

When the mixture has thinned but still has lumps, return it to a low heat, whisking in the remaining milk a little at a time. When it thickens add the cheddar, half the Parmesan, and pepper to taste. Thin the sauce with a little cooking liquid – you may not need it all – then pour it over the vegetables.

Melt the remaining butter and trickle it into the breadcrumbs. Stir in the remaining Parmesan. Spoon the crumbs evenly on top of the Brussels sprouts. Bake at 350 for 20 minutes. Garnish with the reserved sprouts.

Serves 2 as a main dish; 4 as a side.

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