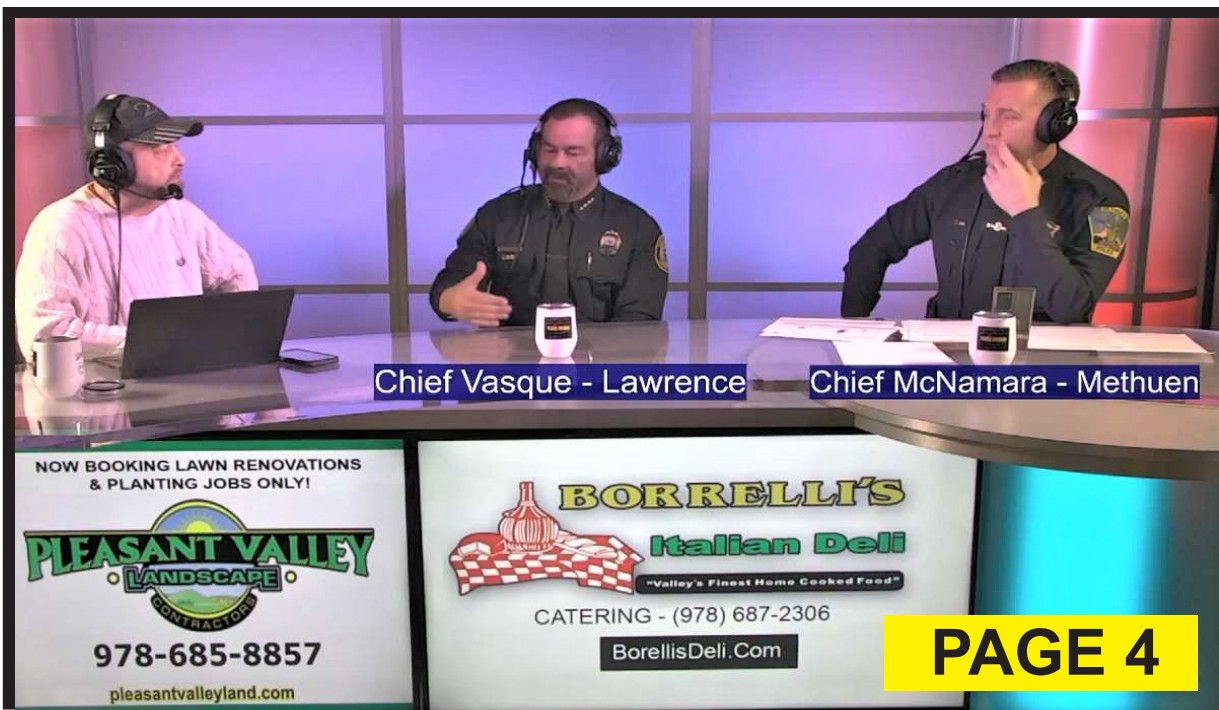



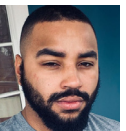





Opioioid Deaths Decline in The Valley

Local Police Chiefs Say Merrimack Valley Bucks National Trend



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VALLEY PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

Lowell's Barry Kuntz, USAF ~ Eyewitness to Both a Hot and Cold War

John Cuddy
VALLEY PATRIOT HERO REPORTER

After graduating from Lowell High School with the Class of 1965, Lowell's Barry Kuntz enlisted in the US Air Force. Asked why? He replied, "I felt the Air Force suited me best." After completing US Air Force Basic Training in San Antonio, Texas, Barry was assigned to McGuire AFB in New Jersey. AFB simply stands for Air Force Base.

Trained as a US Military Police Officer, his training was split between law enforcement and security. The latter requiring extensive Security Clearances. The duties of the US Air Force Police assigned to law enforcement was to patrol the base and protect government facilities, military personnel, and their families. Barry said these duties were very similar to being a sworn police officer in a small or midsized town. The enlisted Airmen working their assigned

shifts, dealing with car accidents, shoplifting, and an occasional intoxicated serviceman or the spouse of one.

Once an Airman received the correct Security Clearance, they would also be assigned to provide security for aircraft, weapons, and even nuclear weapons. All US Military members are trained in the use and application of "Deadly Force." While Barry was assigned duties guarding our Nation's Nuclear arsenal, he was required to follow the Code of Federal Regulations 1047.7 section a-3, which covers special provisions concerning the protecting and providing security for Nuclear weapons. When he was assigned to McGuire AFB, Barry was involved in providing security for the Northeast Corridor's Air Defense system. Basically, the dome or cone of defense against incoming missiles or enemy aircraft aimed at hitting the Northeast part of the United States.

At this point in his military career, Barry was a Sargent in the US Air Force, he was transferred to the enormous Clarke AFB in the Republic of the Philippines. There, he was assigned to provide security, protecting the US Air Force fighter jets and pilots that accompanied the B-52 Bombers on their Combat Missions over Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. The huge Bombers flew out of either Guam or Thailand, the fighter escorts, having a shorter fuel range, flew out of the Philippines.

Barry's tour in the Philippines was cut



short when the North Koreans seized the USS Pueblo (AGER-2), a Banner-class environmental research ship, on January 23, 1968. Sgt Barry Kuntz was sent to South Korea to assist with the heightened security needs of the US Military in Korea. This duty put him near one of the largest Communist Armies in the world at the time, the 1.2-million-man North Korean Army, or Korean People's Army. This is the 4th largest military organization in the world. His tour in the Philippines thrust him into the "hot" war with Vietnam, his tour in Korea, the "cold" war with North Korea, both the Koreans and the Vietnamese were backed

HERO: PAGE 14



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School Choice Options are Changing in North Andover

If you’re reading this, chances are you’re a parent, or have friends or neighbors who are. Baby Boomer, Gen X, or Millennial—the K-12 school scene has changed so much since we were kids. Understanding these changes can help moms and dads guide their children to greater learning, success, and happiness. So: here are the three biggest changes affecting education in North Andover and across the U.S. today, and what these changes mean for your family.

First, school choice opportunities have broadened over the last generation. That means parents have more options for where to send their children to school. For example: traditional public schools have adopted more flexible enrollment policies. Charter school laws have passed in 45 states, including Massachusetts. More families are aware they can choose public magnet programs, where kids receive education with a special focus,

like STEM or the arts. Today, some Massachusetts students are able to receive private scholarships to help fund their tuition at independent schools. Plus, a growing number of Massachusetts families are choosing homeschooling.

A second game-changer since when we were kids is that there’s now more community support for making school choices. There are also more resources for parents to help them find schools and learning environments that meet their children’s needs. I’ve worked in K-12 education for more than 15 years; over that time, I’ve seen dozens of parent-focused organizations spring up to shine a spotlight on learning options in local communities. From helping parents find scholarships to private schools, to helping them figure out the process of transferring to public school outside of their zone, to offering bilingual application assistance, grassroots organizations are cutting the

stress out of school searching.

You can visit schoolchoiceweek.com/massachusetts to find community organizations in Massachusetts. Keep in mind that parents cite word-of-mouth as a key factor in what school they choose. This means you have the power to help others in North Andover by sharing your own school experiences.

Third, a plethora of online learning environments have developed since our school days. These online schooling options are more comprehensive and focused than the emergency remote learning that many families experienced during the pandemic. For example, students in Massachusetts may attend Greenfield Commonwealth Virtual School or TEC Connections Academy, either full-time or part-time, with an agreement from the local school district. Besides official online schooling, resources like schoolhouse.world offer free support to supplement in-person learning.

All of these changes to K-12 education are reasons for hope. With more options, North Andover parents have more opportunities to find a free or inexpensive education personalized to their unique children.

If you are considering a new or different environment for your daughter or son for the next school year, though, the time to start evaluating your options is now. Don’t wait! Begin the school search process during National School Choice Week (January 23-29, 2022), when 432 schools and homeschool groups in Massachusetts will be working together to raise awareness of opportunity in K-12 education. You won’t regret it, and your children will thank you.

Andrew Campanella is president of National School Choice Week and the author of The School Choice Roadmap: 7 Steps to Finding the Right School for Your Child. ♦

Good News for Methuen and Haverhill

Linda Dean Campbell
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Governor Baker has signed the \$4 billion funding plan sent to him by the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate. The Legislature conducted extensive hearings before finalizing the legislation in order to hear the needs of communities across the state. The bill calls for \$2.55 billion in federal ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) spending and \$1.45 billion in surplus state spending. We in the Legislature also thought it wise to put aside in savings a little more than \$2.3 billion in ARPA funds to address future emergencies generated by the pandemic. ARPA money must be committed by the end of 2024 and spent by the end of 2026.

In general, the spending is focused on health care (\$964 million), housing (\$624 million), infrastructure (\$414 million), education (\$389 million), economic and workforce development (\$267 million), and specific workforce initiatives (\$500 million for essential worker premium pay and \$500 million for the state’s unemployment insurance system).

Methuen and Haverhill fared very well in this legislation. Some highlights below include funding secured by the Methuen and Haverhill delegations in the House of Representatives, with additional funding available to our community through grants.

Funding for Methuen:

- \$250,000 for an engineering assessment at the Burnham Road sewer pumping station for needed repairs to prevent possible sewer overflows
- \$250,000 for an engineering assessment and infrastructure upgrades at the Riverside Drive sewer main to reduce sewer overflows
- \$200,000 for Groundwork Lawrence to expand the Greening the Gateway Cities tree-planting initiative in Methuen and Lawrence – filed by Rep. Marcos Devers (Lawrence)

Funding for Haverhill:

- \$250,000 for capital and safety improvements at Haverhill Public Schools
- \$200,000 for Haverhill Public Schools to purchase an electric school bus
- \$100,000 for improvements at Winnekenni Park



- \$50,000 for the One Haverhill Fund to provide emergency assistance
- \$50,000 for the food pantry at Sacred Hearts Parish
- \$50,000 for Leaving the Streets Ministries in Haverhill for violence prevention

Our Commonwealth will soon receive an additional \$9 billion in federal infrastructure funding for combined sewer overflow mitigation, highway improvements, public transportation, broadband access, and more. Our Merrimack Valley delegation will continue to work together to make the most of these dollars in our community.

I wish you and your loved ones joy and peace as we enter the New Year.

State Representative Linda Dean Campbell represents the cities of Methuen and Haverhill in the State Legislature. She serves as House Chair of the Joint Committee on Advanced IT, the Internet and Cybersecurity. She can be reached at Linda.Campbell@mahouse.gov or (617) 722-2380. ♦



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Local Police Chiefs Discuss Opioid Addiction

Every year, Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan invites local police chiefs on to his podcast to discuss the issues of opioid abuse, homelessness, and addiction as well as the crimes that result.

More than 93,000 people died of a drug overdose in the United States in 2021. This is a record number showing a rise of nearly 30% from 2019.

In Massachusetts there were 2,104 confirmed opioid-related overdose deaths in 2020 - 102 more than the prior year and slightly above the previous peak of 2,102 deaths in 2016.

According to local police chiefs, opioid abuse and deaths across the Merrimack Valley are bucking the national and state-wide trend.

Lawrence Police Chief Roy Vasque and Methuen Chief Scott MacNamara joined The Paying Attention Podcast at Studio 21 Podcast Café in Salam NH for 75 minutes. Here is some of what was discussed.

(To watch or listen to the full podcast you can download the audio on iHeartRadio, GooglePlay, or iTunes. To watch video, visit the Valley Patriot Facebook or YouTube Page.)

DUGGAN: What strategies are you using to deal with homeless addicts in your communities, is it the same here as everywhere else?

MACNAMARA: I would say for Methuen we are fortunate that we are not seeing it as far as visible homelessness. It's not a real pervasive problem in our community. But, where we do encounter it we send our staff out. We have two employees as part of our C.A.R.E.S program, Cole, and Jackie. These two ladies do amazing things. Their primary purpose is to deal with addiction issues and intervention. These things are often intertwined – homelessness and addiction – it's something we need to build on. But those two individuals are particularly skilled at making referrals. They find out the local stakeholders, and they have made a big difference in Methuen in the time that they've been here.

We want to support our homeless population, but we also just want to get them into a better living environment. There are public health issues that

come into play that we don't want to leave unaddressed. Obviously, we don't want to seem oppressive towards that population. We want to be supportive, so we try to reach out to them, find them alternative living arrangements, often it's temporary shelters, but eventually they transition to more stable living arrangements over time.

The issue is, nobody wants that in their back yard. People are worried their cars will get broken into – and that's not always the case too, the homeless population are often, simply homeless, and not criminals.

MANDATORY COMMITMENTS

DUGGAN: Would it be better if your local mayors and city councils were trying to build more transitional housing for these people? A lot of times you would get them off the streets, get them into a shelter or rehab, and then three days later they sign themselves out, and you guys start all over again?

VASQUE: That really is the problem. But money is the main factor here. A lot of money needs to be put into education, treatment, and recovery. These individuals are arrested - as an example - on possession or smaller crimes. Part of that should include a mandatory commitment for 30 days or 60 or even 90 days in a rehab facility. It takes money to do all that. But, to your point, we get them off the streets now and they sign themselves out whenever they want. So, we are kicking the can down the road, we push them into Methuen, Methuen is pushing them into Lawrence, and it becomes a never-ending cycle. So, in order to make a big difference a lot of money has to be invested in recovery, treatment, and housing to get these people to break the cycle. Otherwise, they are going to just



continue down that path.

OVERDOSE CALLS TO POLICE BY THE NUMBERS

MACNAMARA: The national numbers are up roughly 28.5% this year over last year. Methuen has been more or less stable. In 2020 we had 50 overdoses and this year (2021) we are at 53. Now, that's just calls for overdoses. We've had a loss of about 103 deaths in the last four or five years.

VASQUE: Crime is down again consistently in Lawrence, double digits for the fourth year in a row. This is actually our best year, and when you take COVID out of the equation, 2021 is actually our best year. Before that it was 2019, and before that it was 2018. So, we are in a good four year stretch now where crime has been down significantly, it's actually in a 20-year low.

We've seen that national trend where 2020, because of COVID, the numbers were up significantly but we haven't seen that in Lawrence. Even when it comes to fatalities, we've had 19 this year but that's down from 2020 and 2019.

Our Narcan use is pretty steady as what we use every year. Lawrence has lost about 107 people to deaths from opioids.

POLICE STRATEGIES TO REDUCE

OPIOID DEATHS

VASQUE: I know Chief MacNamara talked about the C.A.R.E.S program in Methuen. I think most communities are doing that in some form or another with outreach and follow up to get people out of that cycle. We are doing the same. We follow up with every overdose. We find out how we can give this person treatment, get them resources, and get them in contact with their family – which is most often the biggest thing we have going for us. We get them involved to help us.

DUGGAN: Does that actually help? When we are on the streets servicing the homeless and we recommend that they contact their families they sometimes want to get violent with us.

VASQUE: Listen, I know there's a dynamic out there where they (the families) have tried and tried and eventually they get thrown out or ostracized. I'm sure there's some of that, but you need resources behind you. You need a family behind you if you can to be advocating for you, helping you, talking to you, being there for you. Sometimes just

COKE: PAGE 21

Lawrence, Haverhill Area Raids Net Over 10 Kilograms of Cocaine, \$200K Cash Seized During Investigation

BOSTON – Twenty-one individuals have been charged in connection with a large-scale drug trafficking conspiracy involving cocaine, fentanyl and other controlled substances with activity that spanned across Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Maine, and Puerto Rico.

According to the charging documents, in May 2020, law enforcement began investigating a Lawrence-based drug trafficking organization (DTO). Since December 2020, intercepted communications between members of the DTO and their associates revealed that the defendants allegedly distributed fentanyl and cocaine in and around the Lawrence area.

The following defendants were arrested today and charged with conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute fentanyl, cocaine, and other controlled substances:

Joseph Correa, 31, of Lawrence, MA;

Jose Martinez, a/k/a “Bebo,” 28, of Lawrence, MA;

Luis Martinez, 25, of Lawrence, MA and Manchester, N.H.;

Alberto Marrero, a/k/a “Gordo,” 40, of Lawrence, MA;

Madeline Correa-Dones, 50, of Caguas, P.R.;

Mavi Rosario, 30, of Lawrence, MA;

Sonvi Rosario, 31, of Lawrence, MA;

Fauris Guerrero Valdez, a/k/a “Duro,” 25, of Lawrence, MA;

Luis Perez Frias, 20, of Lawrence, MA;

Freddy Reyes Concepcion, a/k/a Franchve Gonzalez Irizarry, 49, of Lawrence, MA;

Alex Rafael Hernandez Mercedes, 36, of Lawrence, MA;

Felipe Martinez, 59, of Lawrence, MA;

Elvis DeJesus, 30, of Lawrence, MA;

William Rivadeneira, 28, of Haverhill, MA;

Gregorit Sanchez, 27, of Haverhill,

MA;

Jeremy Eaton, 25, of Lunenburg, MA;

Nestor Emilio Olaverria Fuster, a/k/a Pablo Pizarro-Rosa, a/k/a “Chiquitin,” 58, of Lawrence, MA;

Othoniel Lara Gonzalez, a/k/a “Jose Ramirez,” a/k/a “Anibal Pena,” a/k/a “Chirpa,” 52, of Lawrence, MA; and

Zacharia Mohamed, 26, of South Portland, Maine.

Victor Ramon Melendez, 33, of Norwich, Conn. remains at large.

Pablo Rosario Pablo a/k/a “Angel Ayala Roque” a/k/a “Cuco,” 56, of Methuen, MA, was also arrested today and charged in a separate criminal complaint with one count of possession with intent to distribute cocaine.

It is alleged that the DTO is headed by Correa, who sold drugs in both wholesale and retail quantities and employed couriers and stash house operators to store and distribute drugs, including the mother of his children and her sister.

Correa allegedly obtained fentanyl locally and obtained cocaine from suppliers in Puerto Rico.

Specifically, it is alleged that Correa, Jose Martinez and Luis Martinez are half-brothers and regularly travelled to Puerto Rico to purchase kilograms of cocaine. They and Correa-Dones, their mother, would then mail the drugs in packages to addresses in New York, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Over the course of the investigation, approximately 7.5 kilograms of cocaine was seized from packages mailed from Puerto Rico to the defendants. In total, over 10.5 kilograms of cocaine, approximately 650 grams of suspected fentanyl and approximately \$201,681 in drug proceeds were seized over the course of the investigation.

According to the charging documents, Sanchez was a Correctional Officer

COKE: PAGE 18

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Look for unopened mail or unpaid bills.
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PAYING ATTENTION! PODCAST

CHAMBER

NOW IS THE TIME TO CLEAR OUT ANTI SCIENCE MEMBERS OF BOARDS OF HEALTH

Now that most of the COVID-19 hysteria has waned, local mayor’s and town managers need to be taking a very close look at who is on their boards of health and removing any member who supported mandatory mask policies as well as mandatory vaccine policies. Thanks to actual science we now know that masks do nothing to stop the spread of COVID-19. We also know that a large number of vaccinated people have come down with either COVID or the Omicron variant of COVID. We have known this for months, and yet anti-science board of health members put in place mandatory policies based on politics and hysteria and not actual science. These petty tyrants among us must be removed their positions and replaced with people who will “follow the science” not follow what the politicians say about the science. We will be paying attention to this very closely over the next few months and will start calling out health board members by name if local officials don’t purge their ranks of anti-science political hacks.


BEAUREGARD IN AS NEW METHUEN COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

It’s a new year and in Methuen that means a new chairman of the Methuen City Council. While it has been tradition to allow a council chairman to serve two years, both Councilors Jim McCarty and Steve Saba could not garner enough support among fellow councilors to hold on to their leadership role. Last week, the city council installed a new chairman, DJ Bearegard and a new vice-chairman Eunice Zeigler. Let’s see if Bearegard and Zeigler can change the tone of the meetings and see their roles a little more seriously than their predecessors. At least Bearegard didn’t call me the day after being elected to ask if I would put him on the front page the way Jim McCarty did when he was made chairman. So far, it seems, Bearegard sees his role as being about running the council meetings and not being all about him!

METHUEN OFFICIALS STILL USING RACIST TERM “LATINX”

Genderless culture

TOM DUGGAN’S NOTEBOOK



Lawrence City Councilor Pavel Payano and School Committeeman Santiago Reyes Cruz, Jr. (with his silly mask) celebrate their swearing in. Methuen School Committee members Louann Santos and Jana Zanni Pesce give a thumbs up after being sworn in earlier this month.

cultural marxism

ELIZABETH WARREN TOO

NECC PARTNERS WITH HAVERHILL YMCA TO OFFER FREE DROP-IN CHILD CARE

Haverhill - Nationally, one in four community college students is the parent of a child under the age of 18 and, at Northern Essex Community College, the statistics are similar.

That’s why the college in partnership with the Haverhill YMCA is launching a pilot program offering free drop-in child care for students with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, beginning in January, on the Haverhill Campus. Thanks to CARES Act Funding and the NECC Fund, students—and faculty and staff—will be able to access up to eight hours a week of free child care while they participate in on campus classes and activities. The child care will be available Monday through Friday, from 8 am to 5 pm, and parents must enroll two weeks in advance since space is limited to 15 spots per hour.

This is a pilot program, and, if successful, the college will consider extending it. The Haverhill YMCA has been offering early education programs on NECC’s Haverhill Campus since January of 2021. Open to Northern Essex

faculty, staff, and student families and community families, the child care center is located in the Sport and Fitness Center on the college’s Haverhill Campus, 100 Elliott St, Haverhill.

Parents who are interested in the new free drop-in child care, can contact Julie Jordan of the Haverhill YMCA, jordanj@northshoreymca.org

NECC’s spring semester begins January 19. For additional information, contact NECC Enrollment Services, 978 556-3700 or admissions@necc.mass.edu.

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NOTEBOOK: NEXT PAGE



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NOTEBOOK: FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

FROM THE DESK OF LAWRENCE
MAYOR BRIAN DEPENA



The Mobile Health Unit will open a mobile vaccination clinic in Lawrence at the following locations starting today:

Week 1 - January 3, 2022 – January 8, 2022
O’Connell South Common, Monday – Saturday, 9am to 5pm

Week 2 - January 10, 2022 – January 15, 2022
Mt. Vernon Park, Monday – Saturday, 9am to 5pm

Week 3 - January 17, 2022 – January 22, 2022
Riverfront State Park, Monday – Saturday, 9am to 5pm



Mayor DePeña joins Senator Barry Finegold, State Representative Frank Moran and Marcos Devers, and Executive Director Meegan O'Neil and Chairperson Richard Sumberg of Habitat for Humanity in a groundbreaking project on Spruce Street in Lawrence.



Mayor DePeña takes the Rapid COVID-19 Antigen Test at the Lawrence Senior Center to show how easy it is to administer the test at home.

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Combating Waste, Fraud, Abuse in State Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund

Hello Valley Patriot Readers,
Recently in the State Senate, I called for greater transparency around Massachusetts’ unemployment insurance (UI) trust fund.

The state UI trust fund collects assessments from businesses and uses those funds to provide benefits to workers who lose their jobs through no fault of their own. The fund nearly ran out of money during the COVID-19 pandemic as unemployment soared.

For months, the Administration failed to complete a financial accounting of the UI trust fund, with a monthly financial report on the fund not produced issued since June, when the account had a \$1.77 billion balance in the red. The Administration has promised to produce a monthly report that’s been missing since June. However, we need more than just a financial report to ensure there is increased accountability within the system.

We know that some of the UI trust fund deficit is due to fraud and

IN YOUR CORNER with SENATOR DIZOGLIO

overpayments. Based on research conducted by the National Conference of State Legislatures and the U.S. Department of Labor, there could be as much as \$1.6 billion in UI overpayments and fraud in Massachusetts.

I’ve been asked many times by workers and local mom and pop shops about what we can do to help them in the economic recovery. This is one big way we can help save our local families from having to pay costs associated with the failure of state government - by uncovering where exactly waste and abuse has occurred in this fund. Working families should not be on the hook for unemployment overpayments and fraud that occurred under this Administration’s watch.

We need to know the procedures within the state Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA)

that have potentially resulted in these fraudulent claims and overpayments. And we must ensure that if a process failed us during the shutdown, it does not continue to fail us moving forward.

Those who have done right by this system can’t afford to wait for accountability. Families who need unemployment benefits and have done right by the system are being negatively impacted by others who may be filing fraudulent claims. I will continue to demand answers to how tax dollars are spent and be a voice for working families across our communities.

If you have any questions on this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me anytime via email at Dizoglio@masenate.gov or phone at 978-984-7747.

Yours in service,
Diana ♦



Mayor Perry Attacks State Officials, City Council, Abandons Pledge to “Represent Everyone”

“My Mission is to Stop THEM from Running the Show”

The Massachusetts Office of Administration and Finance (A&F) is an arm of the governor’s office. Part of their job is to oversee the state’s COVID-19 funding and grants given to local communities.

Last Month Methuen Mayor Neil Perry was notified by A&F that he had misspent \$140,000 of state COVID money on business licenses for restaurants in the city. The state says that money has to be paid back.

He was also notified that he misspent \$500,000 of state COVID money by giving “essential employees” - what he called “hazard pay” - but what the state and city councilors have called “bonuses”.

The city of Methuen has to pay back that money too.

A few days later, Perry appeared on an internet podcast where he went on a tirade, attacking state officials, city councilors, the Eagle Tribune, the legislature, the Governor’s office, and members of the community saying, “I’d do it again!”

Perry first chided state officials from the Office of Administration and Finance (A&F) for working remotely during COVID “while this mayor came in every single day.”

Perry claims that he emailed A&F before spending the money and that the state said it was appropriate to spend the money on “essential employees” for “hazard pay” during the lockdowns of 2021.

I’m going to take this appeal to the governor,” he said. “I’m comfortable with the decision I made based on the information that they gave me. No matter what you think of the mayor, they said

‘yes.’ They didn’t say yes, but there’s conditions, they said yes.”

The state’s position is that it is legal to spend COVID funding on “hazard pay” for “essential employees” but that those employees who receive the “hazard pay” had to actually be doing something “hazardous”. Perry interpreted their response as giving him permission to give “hazard pay” to all essential employees.

“I would remark here that The State House, which are the folks at A&F sitting in judgement of this, have not been in The State House for some 700 plus days. The City of Methuen never shut its doors. Your mayor went in every day during the pandemic.”

He added “The State House is still closed! So, the people sitting in judgement here have not been back to work.”

For the past two years Perry has stated publicly that there is no ‘us vs them’ conflict between he and members of the city council. “there’s no we-they, there really isn’t,” he said over and over on the Paying Attention Podcast. “Myself and the city councilors are all on the same team in Methuen. Everyone is doing the best job for the city.”

But, on his own podcast he seemed to concede that there is, in-fact, an ‘us vs them’ conflict between he and the council.

“Now the governor is talking about back-dating bonuses, yet here we are in the City of Methuen in a dog-fight because people want to focus on the negativity. It’s time for the community to smarten up and recognize that there are pot-stirrers who will never be happy as long as they’re not running the show. My mission, quite frankly, is to keep them



Neil Perry came into office two years ago with an avalanche of good will, all of which he has squandered in favor of petty politics and settling personal scores.

from running the show.”

City Councilors took turns at the next meeting chastising the mayor’s misspending state COVID-19 funding, taking particular aim at his tirade on the internet.

Councilor DJ Beauregard was so furious with Perry’s handling of state funds that he proposed changing the council ordinances to force Perry to get council approval for all expenditures over \$5,000.

Other councilors said that Perry was

blaming everyone but himself and needed to start being more transparent.

Councilor Finocchiaro, who has long said that Perry is not transparent with his spending, said that this very case is the reason why she continues to ask questions and demand documents to prove what she is being told by this administration.

She says she is worried that the money may have to come out of the city’s “free cash” account, an account that determines the city’s bond rating and ability to borrow. ♦

KANE’S CORNER

Sutra Studio in Lowell Our Community is Open to Everyone

KANE
VALLEY PATRIOT MASCOT

Kane bets you didn’t know that he practices yoga! In fact, he is a 5-year member of Sutra Studio. Why Sutra, well it appeals to everyone, and everyone is welcome. In class Kane is surrounded by a diverse community of kind people of every age and gender. The studio is beautifully calm, peaceful, and inviting. Kane also goes to the studio to think and make decisions during meditation. Kane said, “ It’s ok to close your eyes here even as a rescue dog, it’s safe and inviting”. Also, there are plenty of other men in the class, it isn’t a traditional class attractive only to woman. Kane wonders how does Sutra Studio owner Jennifer Howell create an environment so welcoming, well the answer is this is truly Jen’s vision and she breath’s life into the philosophy of coming together as one. She has created a space with the common purpose of learning about yourself and growing into different spaces of your life and practice, next to members of your community. You see Jen taught Kane that yoga is a simulation of what we do, we work through life’s ups, downs, and challenges on the mat. Kane was nervous the first day he went to yoga. Physically he enjoys zoomies, but he doesn’t really like fetch like most dogs, so he doubted his ability to “ fit in.” What if he could do the poses - would everyone stare at him.? He was used to not wearing shoes, but he needed to remember not to chew on the mat and to sit on his own mat. The first thing he noticed was how friendly the staff was, and he sat in a beautifully decorated

room in Mill Number 5 in Lowell with stars on the wood ceiling, a brick wall, listening to all different types of music. The energy was palpable with a positive high energy vibe. What made him most comfortable was the philosophy of trying different poses and seeing how they felt in your body. If you liked one you could stay there or experiment with a different version of the same pose. Although Kane was part of the class community each person was practicing at their own pace and the way that made sense in their body. Kane could feel the comfort of the traditional yoga philosophy with a contemporary twist. He liked the music and keep repeating to himself what Jennifer Howell said, “ don’t take yourself too seriously” In fact Jen told some funny jokes during the class that helped Kane relax and snort through my nose (how embarrassing)’Although Kane could not do many of the poses he learned to regard this with curiosity of what was next instead of judgement. We were invited to ask any questions to Jen when we were leaving in fact she said she enjoyed discussing music, tattoos, and dogs. “See I knew I was in the right place. Needless to say, I was hooked.” said Kane. Next, I became a regular at the



studio and felt curious about how the Studio came to be. I was excited for the opportunity to interview founder Jennifer Howell. Although she is quite humble, she is an extraordinary instructor, yoga practitioner and business person. At times, our classes had 50 people in it with an exhilarating vibe, but somehow you still felt unique and supported by your work on the mat and the community. Kane learned that Jennifer Howell had a highly successful career in the entertainment industry in Production Design where she traveled all over the world. Although this career was satisfying, she was passionately engaged in practicing and instructing yoga in the Boston area logging 15-hour days between two jobs. In 2013 while in a meditation class she put out to the universe her desire to end her long commute and be able to settle into the community she enjoyed. Her desires were answered by an opportunity and invitation to open a studio by the creative director at Mill number 5. Although starting a studio was something she had originally intended, Jen was brave enough and flexible enough to have the courage to follow her passion. She explained to Kane that passion and positive energy

are contagious, so it attracted other like-minded Instructors with a similar positive vibe and community members. Kane knows it has been a hard two years for people and small businesses. He has been grateful that sutra studio has weathered the storm by being flexible in offering outdoor classes and virtual classes. Yoga is one of the few practices that benefit the body, mind, and soul . Kane has found he leaves class feeling calmer and more centered. He is even patient with his new sister Ruby that sometimes sings in the car. Kane thought about the courageous move Jennifer Howell made when she opened the studio and asked her why she left a well-established job. She said , “I followed my passion of providing people with tools to live a happier life. What you learn in yoga doesn’t stop on the mat it provides people with long lasting change. This provides me with so much joy. “Often Jen says at the end of class the work you have done today on your mat doesn’t only benefit you; it benefits everyone you come in contact with. Kane is grateful Jen made this move so the Community at Sutra Studio can benefit from her and fellow practitioners’ passion and philosophy to spread happiness, kindness, and love. Come take a class, you will be amazed! 250 Jackson Street, #505, Lowell, MA 01852 Namaste, Kane Peaslee in Downward Dog ◇

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A VIEW FROM THE LEFT

Does Systemic Racism Exist in the U.S.?

Dani B. Langevin

VALLEY PATRIOT CONTRIBUTOR

I will be presenting you with historical facts and data. You can glean from it what you will. The question is: does systemic racism exist in the US? Here is a timeline of some fun facts.

Let's start with the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1871. Here's the History Channel's explanation of the act was:

“The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was the first significant law restricting immigration into the United States. Many Americans on the West Coast attributed declining wages and economic ills to Chinese workers. Although the Chinese composed only .002 percent of the nation’s population, Congress passed the exclusion act to placate worker demands and assuage prevalent concerns about maintaining white “racial purity.”

“...Placate worker demands and assuage prevalent concerns about maintaining white “racial Purity.” Let that settle. This had nothing to do with real concerns of safety. .002% is not a threatening number. So, what did this act entail? It meant that no person of Chinese descent could emigrate to the US for at least 10 years. It actually lasted 61 years. They could not become naturalized citizens and could not testify in court. Chinese workers were charged a foreign miner’s tax of \$3-\$5 a month creating a revenue of over \$5 million for California yet, they did not protect the Chinese people from discrimination in everyday life and in court. If a white woman married a Chinese man, she could and often would lose her citizenship. Negative images of Asian people only solidified the negative feelings toward this group.

Slavery existed in the United States for over 300 years. We even went to war over it. Slavery: “the buying, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of people through force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for profit.” In other words, human trafficking. They were kidnapped, thrown into ships, and sold for

the sheer profit of their “human” owners. They were bought and sold at whim like a dozen eggs or box of nails. They were bred like cattle, raped, beaten, starved, denied of any human decency or the respect of being able to govern their own lives or be masters of their own destiny. This is also during the time that **ONLY** white, landowning men could vote. White, landowning men-ONLY!

The Indian Removal Act passed by Andrew Jackson in 1830 was when, “more than 46,000 Native Americans were forced to abandon their homes and relocate to “Indian Territory” that eventually became the state of Oklahoma. More than 4,000 died on the journey—of disease, starvation, and exposure to extreme weather.” Although many resisted, the US government was successful in “relocating” many Native American tribes from the lands they occupied for centuries into a ridiculously small parcel of land. And when the Osage discovered oil on the land given to them, the US government found ways to either remove them from that land or gain control of the profits from that oil leaving many in poverty.

Jim Crow laws came into existence when many freedmen were elected into office. Many former slaves' owners in the south found it as a personal affront that they would be governed by a black official. So, laws started to change to prevent this from happening. Poll taxes were passed. Most freedmen and women had no money, had never handled money, and didn't know how it worked. Literacy tests were instituted. It had been illegal to teach the enslaved to read and write. How could they vote? Teachers were beaten or worse for teaching black children to read during the post-Civil War. Separate but equal made it clear who was considered inferior and superior. Interracial marriages were illegal. Whites and blacks couldn't live in the same homes. Black freedmen couldn't travel to a new town unless they had proof of employment. How can they get it if they can't travel there in the first

RACISM: PAGE 18

BENEATH THE SURFACE

Death in 2021

Paul Murano

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Right before the year changed from 2021 to 2022, there was a flurry of celebrity deaths. Just as ESPN was airing a tribute show to NFL coach, broadcaster, and pitcher John Madden, he unexpectedly died at 85.

The networks were readying to celebrate publicly the one-hundredth birthday of Betty White, actress, comedian, and game show celebrity, when she suddenly died at 99.

Along with these two, South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu passed away, as did former Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, and Dan Reeves, popular NFL player and coach.

Before that, succumbing to their mortality were popular Red Sox player and announcer Jerry Remy, home run king Hank Aaron, who held the MLB home run record before Barry Bonds surpassed it in the steroid era; and Tommy Heinsohn, all-star player and broadcaster for the Boston Celtics who died just weeks before 2021.

In politics, former Vice-President Walter Mondale, Senator and presidential candidate Bob Dole both joined former Secretary of State Colin Powell and Donald Rumsfeld in death.

Other well know members of the class of 2021 are lawyer F. Lee Bailey, and radio talk host G. Gordon Liddy who joined the one and only Rush Limbaugh in death.

Actors Cicily Tyson, Hal Bolbrook, and Christopher Plummer who played Captain von Trapp on the *Sound of Music* said farewell to the world; as did Ed Asner of *Lou Grant* fame and Gavin MacLeod (*Murray* and *Captain Stubing on Love Boat*), who finally joined co-stars Mary Tyler Moore, Valerie Harper (*Rhoda*), and Ted Knight (*Ted*) on the other side of life.

In pop culture, Mike Nesmith recently made it three out of four Monkees who are no longer monkeying around; and Dawn Wells (Mary Ann Summers) who died of Covid made it six out of seven castaways who have left Gilligan's Island for an even more mysterious tour.

And that's just the beginning of those who left us in 2021. Many loved ones in our personal lives also succumbed to their fragile mortality this past year. The bottom line is there is a constant turn-over in this world, of people being conceived and dying.

I am keenly aware that more often than not, when I watch television I am watching dead people. When I listen to music, read a book, or surf the net I am

continuously encountering people who are dead. That would freak out people in every other era in human history. In fact, in today's technologically virtual world, we may encounter more dead people than those who are alive on any given day, and think nothing of it.

This life is very short. It sounds like a cliché, but it's not. The New Testament book of James tries to remind us of this in 4:13-15: "Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we shall go into such and such a town, spend a year there doing business, and make a profit.' You have no idea what your life will be like tomorrow. You are a puff of smoke that appears briefly and then disappears. Instead you should say, 'If the Lord wills it, we shall live to do this or that.'"

Although it can be difficult, this earthly life is not meant to be clinged to. It's like being in the womb before birth; you sense there's something more but have no direct access to it. Nonetheless, after birth you never want to go back. Only in knowing that this world is a testing ground for the next, one that is tainted with suffering and injustice due to our sins, can we begin to derive meaning from our temporary stay.

God, who is Love (1 John 4:8), wants us to be saved from this state of death and come to the knowledge of truth (1 Tm 2:4), which can set us free (Jn 8:32). “I am the Resurrection and the life;” He says, “Whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live” (Jn 11:25).

Since New Year's eve has passed and we've been gifted with another year of life, a new year's resolution would serve us well to take off the blinders and look at reality as it is. We can trust in our Creator. All we need to do is say Yes to Him, with our hearts, our lives and our choices. He does the rest.

We are made in a way that we are destined to exist forever past this life. Our only options are to live that ‘forever’ in the fulfillment of God’s love in heaven or in the misery of selfish rejection of Him in hell.

As for all those who have gone before us, whether they are an acquaintance or a loved one, the only question that's important, and has ever really been important, is: Where are they now?

Paul Murano is producer and host of Beneath the Surface video podcasts, has taught college philosophy & theology, and is a producer/writer for St. Michael's Media. Check out his website at Paulmurano.com. E-mail Paul at PJDM@aol.com


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HERO: FROM PAGE 1

by China and the Soviet Union.

After serving in the US Air Force, Barry returned to Lowell, and went to work as a printer at the Courier Citizen for 16 years, later he worked as a manager for Purity Supremes' warehouse and several other commercial warehouses in the Merrimack Valley. He returned to the Courier, working at their Westford, Massachusetts location, until his retirement.

For the last eight years, he has been working for the Lowell Golden Gloves organization, giving him the opportunity to meet Lowell Boxer, Micky Ward. The Lowell Golden Gloves celebrate their 75th Anniversary this year and boasts boxing greats Rocky Marciano and Marvin Hagler among the fighters that participated with the program in Lowell.

Barry and his wife Lorraine, have a son and a daughter, along with three grandchildren. The entire family is involved helping Veterans through their work with the Dracut American Legion. Barry's wife and daughter painted Post 315's Legion Hall during the COVID 19 shutdown, and his family's efforts have resulted in a drastic increase in function hall rentals since the COVID 19 restrictions were eased by the State of Massachusetts.

Barry, who is the Post Adjutant, sees the need to help our Merrimack Valley Veterans meet their basic needs for health care, housing, employment, education, and fellowship. He sees the American Legion as playing a pivotal role in making sure these needs are met,

and keeping Veterans engaged in the community, and in particular, Voting.

For his US Air Force service, his efforts working with our Nation's youth in the Lowell Golden Gloves program, and constantly helping fellow local Veterans with their basic needs, over fifty years after his own military service, serving his family as a husband, father, and grandfather, Barry Kuntz, is truly a "Hero in Our Midst"!

The Dracut American Legion asks all World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans, to call (603) 518-5368 and sign up for an Honor Flight to the Memorials in Washington DC! Veterans of all eras are asked to go the American Legion's Web site www.legion.org, and join the American Legion, preserving our Veteran's Benefits for future generations.

John Cuddy served in the US Navy's Construction Battalions (also known as the Seabees) after retiring from the US Navy; he earned a bachelor's in history and a master's in economics from the University of Massachusetts on the Lowell Campus. He has been employed in Logistics at FedEx for the last 25 years. If you know a World War II, Korean War, or Vietnam War, Veteran who would like their story told, please email him at John.Cuddy@Yahoo.com ◇



THE DOCTOR IS IN!

Burns and Wounds

Dr. Pierre Ghassibi
VALLEY PATRIOT MEDICAL COLUMNIST

Greetings all.

It is always important to see a health care provider when it comes to the breach of our skin protective function. Let me here review the basic mechanism or principle of healing of small wounds and superficial burns. (Deep and contaminated cases need professional attention) .

In general, what heals wounds and burns are our white blood cells that are recruited to the injured area of the body and do their handy man repair. The most important action that we can take is to wash off any contamination by dirt and infectious organisms like bacteria , viruses, and fungi, but mostly bacteria. We know that adding antiseptics, alcohol, betadine and the like can cause more local tissue injury and do more damage. The best defenses are healthy tissues and antiseptics can kill the healthy tissues or worsen damaged ones. Antibiotics are often needed for deep or contaminated injuries. Add here that human and animal bites are quite dangerous and always need medical attention. Human and animal bites can introduce bacteria, but also the organisms that cause Rabies and Tetanus. These latter virus and bacteria are real killers once they start the infection. We have to treat them before they start their infectious damaging job. Mind you that people with diseases that lower immunity and people on medications that lower immunity tend to get more serious infections and need to see a medical provider as soon as possible for anything more that superficial, or if the injury seems not to heal or if it is getting painful with exudate or bad odor, or if it looks like it is spreading. Bad injuries on the face, eyes, ears, genitals, hands, and feet need to be seen by a clinician. These can affect function.

For less severe problems, the best initial action ought to be washing the burn or wound with lots of water and tap water is good enough. Putting different kinds of creams, antiseptics, antibiotics, is not necessary and could cause more harm. In the case of burns, immediately letting the body part stay under running room temperature water decreases the

pain as long as the water is running and this is much more effective that pain killers. Of course, however, we cannot keep the patient at the faucet for many hours.

Covering the injury with gauze and a dressing can protect it from environmental contamination, unless it is very superficial. In cases of abrasions and burns, as we know, the gauze can adhere to the wound and get very painful to remove for cleaning the next day. Therefore, we use special non adherent , non-sticky gauze. Now, if the dressing gets wet or dirty, it is better to change it, that is, removing it, then washing the wound and re dressing it.

Deeper, large burns or open wounds need medical and possibly surgical attention. The doctors will decide on removing contaminations, dead tissues and use special medications to promote healing.

What bridges two sides of a laceration is natural, body produced, repair type of glue, not our sutures. Surgical sutures work by approximating the gap if there is one. A cut that has no gap may not need sutures. Sutures anyhow are highways for bacteria from the outside to the depth of the laceration. Follow the medical provider's advice regarding the need for suturing or stapling. We are also using surgical glue for small cuts.

Healing takes a week or two at least. Any white , blue, or black discoloration, severe pain, bad odor, inability to move a limb or digit, mean serious developments and the need for immediate care, usually in the emergency room. By immediate, I mean immediate and not many hours later.

Of course, more important is to prevent injuries and I think they happen more often when we are multitasking. I try not to walk while on the phone, not to do laundry while I am cooking dinner, not to change the radio station while driving, not to admire a nice building while walking at the same time; I need to see where I am stepping.

Sincerely,
P. Ghassibi, md - ghassibi@hotmail.com ◇



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Earleir this month The Sullivan family celebrated the 97th birthday of family matriarch Anna Sullivan’s (formerly of Lawrence). Pictured are Former Lawrence Mayor Michael Sullivan of Lawrence, former Lawrence Mayor Kevin Sullivan of Amesbury, and brother Mark Sullivan of Methuen. Not pictured is brother Tommy Sullivan.



North Andover Lottery Player Jeffrey Costello is a Million Dollar Bread Winner

DORCHESTER – When Jeffrey Costello of North Andover was unpacking his online grocery order, he noticed that there was a rip in his loaf of bread, so he went to nearby Mike’s Market to buy another loaf. While there, he decided to purchase two lottery tickets, one of which turned out to be a \$1 million winner. Costello won his \$1 million prize in the Massachusetts State Lottery’s “\$1,000,000 Payout” instant ticket game. He opted to receive his prize in the form of a one-time payment of \$650,000 (before taxes). He plans on using a portion of his winnings to buy cars for his two daughters. Mike’s Market, located at 220 Middlesex St. in North Andover, will receive a \$10,000 bonus for its sale of the winning ticket.

Tunnel to Towers Foundation Pays Off Mortgage for Fallen Newburyport Firefighter Brett Burkinshaw’s Family

NEWBURYPORT — Chief Christopher LeClaire is pleased to report that the Tunnel to Towers Foundation — a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting first responders, veterans, and their families — has paid in full the mortgage on the home of fallen Newburyport Firefighter Brett Burkinshaw.

Firefighter Burkinshaw, who served his community for nearly two decades, passed away on July 1, 2021, after a 19-month battle with job-related brain cancer.

Firefighter Burkinshaw dedicated his life to serving his community. His firefighting career began at 16 years old, when he became a Call Firefighter for the West Newbury Fire Department.

During and after his college years, he was employed at the Essex County Sheriff’s Department.

He became a Call Firefighter for the Newburyport Fire Department in 2003, and a full-time Firefighter in 2010. He was also a Reserve Officer for the Newburyport Police Department, as well as the Fire Alarm Superintendent in Newburyport.

The Tunnel to Towers Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Staten Island, N.Y., that supports first responders, veterans, and their families across the U.S. The organization has paid the mortgages of nearly 450 homes of fallen service members and first responders.

In a small ceremony at the Burkinshaw home, attended by Newburyport Fire Department, Newburyport Police Department, friends of Firefighter Burkinshaw and family, Tunnel to Towers officials announced the final mortgage payment and ensured the family’s stability and security.

Firefighter Burkinshaw is survived by his wife, Cheryl Burkinshaw, and daughter Emma Burkinshaw.

“Home is where the heart is, and where we have so many happy memories with Brett. Knowing that my daughter and I will have the security of our forever home being mortgage-free is impossible to put into words,” said Cheryl Burkinshaw. “Brett’s passion for life was to help others and that is reflected in the true meaning of this Foundation.”

“Firefighter Burkinshaw and his family are eternally in our thoughts here at the Newburyport Fire Department,” said Chief LeClaire. “We are grateful for the compassion and dedication of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, and for their work to support families who have sacrificed so much for all of us.” ♦



Cheryl and Emma Burkinshaw — the wife and daughter of fallen Newburyport Firefighter Brett Burkinshaw — cut a ribbon in front of their home after the nonprofit Tunnel to Towers Foundation paid off the family's mortgage. The Tunnel to Towers Foundation is dedicated to supporting first responders, veterans and their families in communities across the U.S. (Photo Courtesy Newburyport Fire Department)



Firefighter Brett Burkinshaw served for approximately 18 years on the Newburyport Fire Department. He died on July 1 after a 19-month battle with brain cancer. (Photo Courtesy Newburyport Fire Department)

Property Sales, Foreclosures for DECEMBER, 2021 in Andover, Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover. (All properties are listed in order; seller, buyer, price, address.)



Northern Essex Registry of Deeds
M. Paul Iannuccillo, Register

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth
of Massachusetts

ANDOVER

Atlantic -Minuteman Realty LLC, Are-Ma Region No 93 LLC, \$160,000,000, 3000 Minuteman Rd
Forty Four LJR LLC, 44 Lowell Owner LLC, \$35,000,000, 44 Lowell Junction Rd
One Minuteman LLC, MPC Property Holdings LLC, \$6,375,000, 159-161 River Rd Unit 1
Vivian Abate Tr & Abate Realty Tr & Alfred Abate Est, TMI Main Morton Andover LLC, \$5,675,000, 126-132 Main St
Diverse Real Estate LLC & Myrka LLC, TMI Maple Ave Andover LLC, \$3,500,000, 37-37A Maple Ave
One Minuteman LLC, Andover Vision LLC, \$3,187,100, 1 Minuteman Rd Unit 4
Kedia Family Irrevocable Tr & Mihir Kedia Tr, Diem Tran, \$1,425,000, 8 Durham Dr
James & Diane Connors, Katherine Herrik, \$1,200,000, 31 Stoneybrook Cir
Hammond Barnes & Jane Cross, Christopher Orbon, \$1,200,000, 17 West Knoll Rd
Potts Family Realty Trust & Kathleen Potts Ind Tr & Christopher Potts Ind Tr, Aaron & Christina Macris, \$1,129,000, 161 Haggetts Pond Rd
Louis & Heather Iglesias, Adam & Mackenzie Giuffre, \$1,091,300, 3 Robinswood Way
Jean Fournier, Daniel Groves & Kendall Griffith, \$989,900, 10 Starwood Crossing
Peter & Susan Cannone, Sylevester & Marcial Boumil, \$975,000, 36 Bobby Jones Dr Unit 6-2
Kevin & Kim Conway, Sudheer Elapavuluru & Trupti Gupte, \$915,000, 10 Rock O Dundee Rd
Pulte Homes of New England LLC, James Bellavia & Margaret Conway, \$883,125, 1 Overlook Dr Unit 199
Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Mikhail & Lucy Klorin Tr & First Klorin Family Revocable Tr of 2004, \$870,925, 3 Overlook Dr Unit 200
Raymond Cormier Tr & SND Realty Tr, Thomas & Meghan Thornton, \$855,000, 26 Timothy Dr
Joshua Pelletier & Alaina Iannazzi, Jacqueline & Joseph Rebeiro, \$830,000, 8 Poplar Ter
Samuel & Julie Howe, Jeffrey & Ashley Coop, \$824,000, 14 Woodland Rd
David Smith, Karthik Chakkirala & Alankrita Reddy, \$790,000, 10 Boardwalk Dr Unit 10
Madhu Sirivelu & Kristin Owens-Sirivelu , Vijay Patel & Miteshbhai Patel, \$770,000, 18 River Rd
Maureen McWilliams, Barbara Hecht Tr & Michael Hecht Tr & Moreland Avenue Tr, \$740,000, 3 Moreland Ave
Alvaro & Anna Pinto, Kelsey Rose-Sinclair & Michael Mottola, \$730,000, 1 Old South Ln
Kathleen Mikilitus, Thomas & Jasmine Tierney, \$730,000, 12 Carisbrooke St
KW costello Family Trust & Kristin Cosello-Avron Tr & Kristine W Costello Revocable Tr, Joseph & Cailleen Bernardi, \$715,000, 8 Highland Ave
Nicole Niss, Brian Murphy & Jacqueline Ingersoll, \$711,000, 192 High Plain Rd
Fort Homes Inc, Songee & Taesan Yoon, \$700,000, 42 York St
Christopher & Maria Lockhardt, Ioannis & Irma Valsamakis, \$660,000, 513 Lowell St
Mark Rumson & Margaret Legner, Billy Marte & Jazmin Minaya, \$660,000, 237 River Rd
Joseph Hastings , Marcello & Brooke

Auriti, \$650,000, 27 Bellevue Rd
Gregory Bogosian & Ashley Levine-Bogosian, Heather Nolan & Krystle Thomas, \$650,000, 6 Elm Ct
Stephen Surette, Buxton Redevelopment LLC, \$649,900, 7-9 Lewis St
David & Brittany Whitworth, Karen Mayer, \$600,000, 1-3 Cassimere St
Kurt & Wendy Ring, Property Possible Inc, \$590,000, 109 Gould Rd
Michael & Corin Comtois, Stephen Surette, \$585,900, 122 Andover St
Kathleey Mackay & Kathleen Dherty, Santia Baptiste & Shelby Carney, \$570,000, 5 Theodore Ave
Thomas Jalkut Tr & Maureen Callahan Tr & 136 Chestnut St Realty Tr, Richard & Kathleen Tiberii, \$570,000, 136 Chestnut St
TMH Properties LLC, Hany Faltas, \$565,000, 379 North Main St
Ronald & Brenda Fee, Matthew Normand & Megan Crosby, \$518,000, 92 Woburn St
Michael Rotondi & Michael Rotondi Jr & Lauren Phillips, Stella Athanasopoulos, \$507,000, 512 South Main St
Mary Barry Est & John Barry Jr & Peter Barry, Sarah Hickey, \$491,000, 9 Foster Cir
Grace Palma, Timothy & Kristen Stonecipher, \$490,000, 181 High St
Judith S Schmidt Revocable Tr of 2021 & Judith Schmidt Tr, Horizon Holding LLC, \$462,500, 54 Gray Rd
Dorothy Macleod, Michelle Durette, \$459,000, 1 Reservation Rd Unit 1
KG Associates LLC, Arora Elm Square LLC, \$375,000, 1 Elm Sq Unit 1F
Jennifer Fecteau, Jacob Gordon, \$365,000, 9 Center St
Michael Manzi III Tr & Quindici Realty Tr, Arora Elm Squire LLC, \$315,000, 1 Elm Sq Unit L9-1
Mark Muzere, Stephen Cincotta, \$285,000, 10 Crescent Dr Unit 8
Douglas Casey Tr & Janet Casey Family Tr, Edward Deinnocentis & Leigh Handschuh, \$285,000, 16 Balmoral St Unit 203
Ronald Peck Tr & Evann Peck Tr & Ancon Revocable Tr, Kerri Abbott, \$265,000, 100.5 Main St Unit 0
Mark Derbyshire, Frederick Devereaux, \$205,000, 105 Washington Park Dr Unit 1
George & Allysha Moores, Gladys Valle, \$200,000, 60 Colonial Dr Unit 60-3
HG Nominee Realty Tr & Heidi Gladston Tr, 1 3A Elm LLC, \$171,000, 1 Elm Sq Unit 3A-1
Donald & Kristen Hunt, Mark & Joanna Collins & Joanna Johnson Collins, \$5,000, 103R Reservation Rd
Carol & Mark Reilly, Bernard Driscoll, \$550,000, 14 Woburn St
Philip Retelle Irrevocable Family Tr & Kim Glesmann Tr, Kevin & Jolanta Retelle, \$540,000, 52 Reservation Rd.
Alfio J Champy Revocable Tr & Fred & Barry Champy Tr, FSB Homes LLC, \$375,000, 50 Enmore St Andover

LAWRENCE

91 Glenn St LLC, Atlantic Oliver II 91 Glenn St LLC, \$15,770,000, 91-101 Glenn St
Lawrence Community Works, Trinity Marriner LP, \$2,300,000, 602-610 Broadway
La Belle Maison LLC, Abad & Vasquez Properties LLC, \$2,150,000, 7-13 Monmouth St, 91,95-97 Park St
Park St LLC, 279 Park Management LLC, \$1,085,000, 279-289 Park St

James Carter Tr & 67 Market Tr, Saida Property Management LLC, \$975,000, 53, 57-67 Market St
Douglas & Wilfredo Pena, Casimira Estevez, \$745,000, 117-119 Dorchester St
Fakhr Uddin Tr & Mohua Sultana Tr & 37 Basswood Street Realty Tr, Jose Sandoval, \$700,000, 37-39 Basswood St
Luiz Rozon & Wendy De Rozon, Edinson & Adinson Liranzo, \$680,000, 101-103 Exchange St
Efrain Delacruz, Yndira & Angel Corona, \$670,000, 20-22 Floral St
Essex Management & Realty Property Inc., Luis Rozon & Wendy De Rozon, \$660,000, 79-81 Thornton St
Abad & Vasquez Properties LLC, Kelvin Batista, \$650,000, 28-28A Eutaw St
Jose Gabin, Maria De Gabin, \$647,500, 56-58 Avon St
A & J Realty Tr & Joseph Balsamo Tr & Angela Genna Tr , Ursula Garcia & Kenia Santos & Angel Jerez, \$630,000, 189 Garden St
Cathy & Leonard Hoyt Jr, Glennys Bonilla & Diego Mejia, \$610,000, 55-57 Middlebury St
Natalia & Rafael Dasilva, Oliver Ramirez & Monica Gil, \$590,000, 88 Myrtle St
Rose & Rosetta Spinelli, Jose Burgos, \$589,000, 238 Haverhill St
Jose Grullon & Karina Rodriguez, Steven Almanzar & Claribel Ortiz, \$580,000, 9-11 Fulton St
John A Woidyla Irrevocable Tr & Alice Woidyla Irrevocable Tr, Enrique Guzman, \$570,000, 143 East Haverhill St
Kenneth & Evelyn Dalton, Franciso Alvarado & Marcia DeAlvarado, \$559,000, 44 Gilbert St
Jose Lopez, Vencente De La Cruz & Teresa Vargas, \$548,000, 71 Fern St
Roger Brito & Angelica Gil, Victor Munoz, \$530,000, 27-29 Pleasant St
Rosalba Guzman & Yavanny & Yovanny Marte, Jose Gil & Marlenny Gomez, \$525,000, 5 Haverhill St
Robert & Marcia Mucci, Manolo Portorreal & Altagracia Ortega, \$480,000, 1042-1044 Essex St
Heather & Stephen McGrath & Heather Kridel, Radaisy Martinez, \$470,000, 542 South Broadway
Mary Pelczar & Mary Kight, Victor Sanchez & Karina Badia, \$468,000, 71 Pleasant St
Dionisio & Clemencia Susana, Luis Rivas, \$467,000, 6 Glenwood Dr
Benjamin & Veronika Reynolds , Jonathan Sano, \$450,000, 28 Ridge Rd
Yuly & Francisca Brazoban, Santa Tineo & Ramon Hernandez, \$445,000, 187 Parker St
Ysabel Calixtdo, Christopher & Maridsa Ortiz, \$425,000, 39 Market St
Matthew Fehmel & Devyn Sullivan, Leonard Clauto & Ludenie Figaro Clauto, \$416,000, 5 Hamlet St
Jose & Julia Silverio, Arquimedes & Arquianys Martinez, \$409,000, 88-90 Boxford St
Douglas & Madeleine Hulslander, Pamela Gathuru, \$390,000, 719 Riverside Dr
Bernarda Cardenes, Mariano Delacruz & Zeneida Peralta, \$382,000, 74 Congress St Unit 74
66 Cogswell St LLC, Antonia Cardona, \$380,000, 52 Montgomery St
Khanh Tran & Mai Le, Nickolas & Lindsey Stelzig, \$360,000, 310 Salem St
Richard Young Tr & Spicket Realty Tr, 467-477 Broadway Street LLC, \$352,500, 81-83 Holly St

Peter & Mark Bernard & Patricia Fichera & Pamela Davis, Jose Batista, \$350,000, 366 Andover St
Maxi LLC, Daniel Almarante-Martinez, \$350,000, 416-418 Park St
Diane Spirdione & Sylvie Smith & Janelle Bois, Redfinnow Borrower LLC, \$325,000, 46 South Bowdoin St
Merrimack Valley Real Estate Solutions LLC, C I & H Realty Associates, \$320,000, 11 Daisy St
Sarah Ramey, Ronan Deleon, \$320,000, 2 Wedgewood Rd Unit 2
John & Maryna Pham, 35 Grafton Street LLC, \$320,000, 35 Grafton St Unit 35
Ithaca Finance LLC, Francisca Leger, \$300,000, 116 Bunkerhill St
Mirta Ramos & Mirta & David Vazquez, Flor Monegro & Raysa Velasquez, \$300,000, 80 Foster St
Ramon Reynoso, Jose Galvan, \$285,000, 15 Crescent St Unit 15G
Dawa Inc, Joel & Julio Rodriquez, \$285,000, 7 Lincoln Ct Unit 7B
Sunnybrook Development Inc, Natasia Hinton, \$284,911, 9 Packard St Unit 9
Maribel Amarante & Francisco Gonzalez, Ramon Tirado, \$257,000, 4 Melrose St
Megan Crosby, Gilberto Pitta & Josefina De Pitta, \$210,000, 90 Beacon St Unit 6
Steven & Nina Goulet, Liddio Anziani, \$192,000, 262 East Haverhill St Unit 8
Steven & Nina Goulet, Rafinel Castillo, \$165,000, 262 E Haverhill St Unit 19
Chong So & Yong Lee, Jessica Green, \$145,000, 262 East Haverhill St Unit 15
A & S properties LLC, Lawrence Rooms LLC & Broadway Lodging LLC, \$2,100,000, 257 Broadway, 340 Haverhill, 53 Bradford St
Ash Development Co LLC, AA Real Estate Group LLC, \$1,250,000, 139-143 May St
Eliezer Silva , Juan Martino, \$1,050,000, 457-461 Hampshire St
Wendel Suarez, Fabio Sanavia & Faviola Moreta, \$775,000, 99-101 Greenwood St
Clary Abreu & Beatro Valdez & Ayelina Roman & Ayelina Lopez, Roy Perez & Yennifer De Perez, \$660,000, 2-4 Lenox St
Emmanuel Valerio, Luis Serrano-Ortiz & Milenny Gomez, \$660,000, 33-35 Cedar St
Fe Nunez & Mercedes Guzman, Mariana & Pedro Flores, \$640,000, 16 Cornish St
Alet Sandoval, Fredwin Rivera, \$640,000, 5 Wayne St
Greysi Burroughs, Efrain Figueroa, \$600,000, 66-68 Warwick St
Aida Jimenez, Prospero Jimenez, \$575,000, 42-44 Bellevue St
Nancy Duffy Ind Tr & Nancy E Duffy Trust, Adonis Baez, \$544,400, 54 Bigelow St
Daniel Dube, Felipe Arias & Clara De Castillo, \$520,000, 61 Sylvester St
Shaun Morin, Brando Vizcaino & Fior De Vilorio, \$510,000, 374-376 Water St
Rosanna Vargas Desario, Davis Aracena & Sandry Rosario, \$486,000, 39 Medford St
Kendrys Vasquez & Gladys Peguero, Jodalys Zambrana & Jose Bonilla, \$485,000, 681 Lowell St
Tammy Sinvil, Robert Batista, \$460,000, 24 Barnard Rd
Perri Brandalise & William Engelbrecht, Ajay Misra, \$425,000, 27 Cyr Dr
Yumairy Duran & Ana Nunez, Michael Delmonte & Juliette Reyes, \$415,000, 12 Bigelow St
Edge Real Estate Investments LLC, Fanny Rodriguez & Faustino Pena,

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COKE: FROM 4

with the Middleton House of Correction in Middleton, MA. Sanchez allegedly helped DeJesus obtain a contraband cellphone while DeJesus was being held in the Middleton House of Correction after being arrested on state firearms charges.

It is further alleged that on Nov. 11, 2021, Sanchez attempted to smuggle a package containing fentanyl, cocaine and Suboxone into the Middleton House of Correction for DeJesus. The package was seized as Sanchez was arriving for work.

Rivadeneira was allegedly employed by DeJesus and Martinez to assist with distribution of fentanyl and cocaine. According to the charging documents, DeJesus scolded Rivadeneira on an intercepted call for not wearing a mask when working with fentanyl, and warned Rivadeneira, “[Y]ou can get an overdose.”

The charges of conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute fentanyl, cocaine and other controlled substances, and possession with intent to distribute cocaine provide for a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, at least three years and up to a lifetime of supervised release and a fine of up to \$100. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

This operation is part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) Strike Force Initiative, which provides for the establishment of permanent multi-agency task force teams that work side-by-side in the same location. This co-located model enables agents from different agencies to collaborate on intelligence-driven, multi-jurisdictional operations to disrupt and dismantle the most significant drug

traffickers, money launderers, gangs, and transnational criminal organizations. More information on the OCDETF program is available here: <https://www.justice.gov/ocdetf/about-ocdetf>.

Acting United States Attorney Nathaniel R. Mendell; Matthew B. Millhollin, Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations in Boston; and Brian D. Boyle, Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration, New England Field Office, made the announcement. Special assistance was provided by the Lawrence Police Department; U.S. Postal Inspection Service; Massachusetts State Police; Federal Bureau of Investigation; and Essex County Sheriff’s Office. Assistant U.S. Attorney Katherine Ferguson, Acting Chief of Mendell’s Narcotics & Money Laundering Unit, is prosecuting the case.

The details contained in the charging documents are allegations. The defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a

place?

What about the Tuskegee Study when they mistreated and lied to over 600 black men about the effects of syphilis? These men were told that they were being treated for “bad blood.” Their medical expenses were paid for, transportation, meals and medication provided. The truth is, they weren’t being treated for anything. The US was studying the effects of untreated syphilis on black men. The plan was to watch and monitor these men until death and then perform autopsies. Brings a whole new meaning until death do us part.

Have you heard of the Upstairs Lounge fire? It was a gay bar in New Orleans where 32 gay men and women perished. In the aftermath, the authorities left the body of a gay minister visible in the window for four hours. Many of the bodies were not claimed because of the shame families had that someone they loved were gay. One man was not claimed until 40 years later. Churches refused to hold services for the dead because they were gay. Those that did were met with harassment and even violence. Not to mention that homosexuality was considered a mental illness until the mid-1970’s. Earlier than that was the Lavender Scare; a spin off from the Red Scare. The US was so concerned about the ability of homosexuals to keep secrets that they went after them systematically. The fear was, if a homosexual worked for the US government, a foreign country could blackmail them for government secrets by threatening to expose their sexuality. The LGBTQ community brought up two points: 1. Our whole lives are secrets, we won’t spill. 2. Let us live openly and we won’t be subject to blackmail. The government decided, “Nah, it’s easier to fire thousands of you.” AND, they published their names, numbers, and addresses in the papers for added abuse.

World War II, a time of great nationalism and racism. While our boys were off fighting, the US was busy recruiting Mexican workers through the Bracero program. It was an agreement between the US and Mexico to bring field workers into our country to pick up the work shortage. Many Americans resented their presence, and this resentment came to explosive heads during the Zoot Suit riots, Porvenir Massacre, and others. Look them up. Once the war was over, the US was

done with these workers and wanted them out. The methods to remove them were not as friendly as those to recruit them. Many of those deported were naturalized citizens having been born in the US. At the same time, the GI bill was introduced to help the men returning from the war get back on their feet. When all was said and done, only 2% of black veterans received any benefits while 98% went toward white veterans.

Also, during WWII, we had our Japanese Internment camps. This is when the United States believed that Japanese Americans were a threat to our national security and rounded them all up, placing them in camps without the ovens. These families lost everything because of their bloodline. They were born and raised in America. They were US citizens to be covered by the same constitutional protections of every American citizen or that is what we were told to believe. And yet, when fear and hysteria take over with absolutely no factual evidence to support them, our government and citizens do inhumane things. Like telling a whole culture they are no longer welcome in their own country.

I could go on and on. This isn’t scratching the surface. It’s barely blowing the dust off the first volume. America is a great and wonderful country. We have liberties beyond comparison, opportunities beyond imagination and promise beyond belief. Our past cannot be denied. Should not be ignored and cannot be rewritten. Teaching our children the beautiful and ugly truth about the history of our country is essential to preserving Nationalism. Personally, I’m really angry at our educational system for whitewashing history and lying to me and my own children for so long. To love something or someone is to love their faults and virtues. How can you love something you know so little? Being American is being triumphant but also humble. Embracing what our country has endured, perpetrated, and celebrated is all a part of what a true American is. Why wouldn’t you want our children to know it all? Why wouldn’t you want them to see the ugliness that we had to experience to peel the layers away to see the beauty and promise of what this country was built on? What, exactly, are you afraid of if history is taught honestly? ◇

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TV TALK with BILL CUSHING



My Best TV hows of 2021

Bill Cushing

VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

It’s that time of year again. That time when all TV people start thinking about the best shows that they watched over the past year. As usual, it was tough to leave some shows off the list, but here are my picks for the best TV had to offer in 2021.

Dopesick – Michael Keaton and Kaitlyn Dever shine in this devastating limited series that delves into the opioid crisis in America, from the push of OxyContin by one company to its spread through the working class. (Hulu)

The Beatles: Get Back – A fascinating 8-hour documentary series showing the Beatles attempts to put together a live show as the band is falling apart in 1969. (Disney+)

The White Lotus – this limited series follows a group of snobby, entitled people spending a week at a Hawaiian resort and the staff that caters to them. A combination murder mystery, and cringey comedy. Definitely worth the watch. (HBO)

Yellowstone – The continuing saga of the Dutton clan, this multi-layered saga continued to explore the timeless themes of family, duty, honor, and birthright set against the backdrop of the American West. Great escapist drama. (Paramount)

Maid – Highlighted by Margaret Qualley’s performance, ‘Maid’ follows single mother Alex, a domestic abuse survivor struggling to escape her relationship and create a livable existence for her and her child. No series in recent memory has shed such a thoughtful light on socioeconomic issues like these and the barriers to entry that plague millions of Americans as they attempt to better their lives. (Netflix)

Hacks - Jean Smart and newcomer Hanna Einbender were outstanding in this terrific new comedy series centered on the mentorship/friendship between an iconic Las Vegas comedian and a recently-canceled 25-year-old writer. (HBO Max)

Midnight Mass – This series about the increasingly strange and perhaps even supernatural goings-on at a remote outpost called Crockett Island, explores themes of familial trauma, faith, guilt, alcoholism, and the ghosts of the past that refuse to die. Hamish Linklater gives one of the year’s best performances as the mysterious Father Paul. (Netflix)

Cobra Kai – Probably the most fun series of the year. The impressively inventive Karate Kid continuation was overloaded with nostalgia and managed to strike the right balance between new stories and continuing stories from the

film series. (Netflix)

Acapulco – A sweet coming-of-age story told in flashbacks about a man, recounting to his nephew, the story of himself as a young man working his dream job at a fancy resort and falling in love. It joined ‘Ted Lasso’ as the two shows that never failed to make me smile. (AppleTV+)

Only Murders in the Building – This charming series follows three strangers, bonded by their love of a true-crime podcast, who decide to try to solve a death in their New York apartment building after the police rule it a suicide. Steve Martin, Martin Short, and Selene Gomez are hilarious and outstanding. (Hulu)

Mare of Easttown – Kate Winslet gave a masterful Emmy winning performance as a small-town Pennsylvania detective embroiled in a brutal murder mystery while struggling to keep her own life together. (HBO)

Ted Lasso – The 2nd season of this series remained hilarious and continued to tug at our heartstrings. This year we got trials, tribulations, and love triangles. Smart and Funny, and still bursting with optimism, it’s TV’s best comedy. (AppleTV+)

Succession – Consistently one of the best written and acted shows on TV. Season 3 saw the Roy family jockeying for power against one another while trying to win their perpetually unimpressed father’s approval. Culminating in one of the great season finales in recent memory. (HBO)

My choice for the best TV series of 2021 is ...

For All Mankind –The enthralling alternative history series about America’s space race was even better in season 2 and its finale was the best single episode of TV this year. Tremendous writing and acting are everywhere in this show, and it totally deserves all the praise it’s been getting. (AppleTV+)

Honorable Mentions: You (Netflix), The Handmaids Tale (Hulu), Mosquito Coast (AppleTV+), 1883 (Paramount+), Physical (AppleTV+), Hightown (Starz), The Sinner (USA), American Rust (Showtime), Bosch (Amazon Prime), Dexter: New Blood (Showtime), The Chair (Netflix), Mayor of Kingstown (Paramount+). ♦



WEATHER 101 with AL KAPRIELIAN

Winter Driving/The Start of Winter

Happy New Year and welcome to January 2022, the start of a new year.

January is also known to be the coldest month of the year. Time will tell if it lives up to its’ expectations. January is also the first full month of the winter season. It can be known for very cold weather and snowstorms. Usually, a warm period occurs during the month, and this is known as the January thaw.

The days will continue to get longer as we go through the month. The sun angle has already reached its lowest point and will continue to get higher as we go through the month.

Recapping December 2021, it was another month of above normal temperatures. Very little snow occurred especially along the coast. More in the way of snowfall occurred in central and western Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont, including the northern mountains.

Boston only recorded .4” of snow for the month of December. December 2021 saw much less snowfall compared to December 2020.

In December 2020, a snowstorm occurred before Christmas. There were some cold days this past December, however, there was no arctic air which can occur in December. During this past December there were many days with high temperatures in the 50s to 60 degrees. As a result of these warm temperatures some people wore shorts not indicative of the time of year when heavy winter coats are the norm!

For December 2021, the following areas had temperatures above normal for the month.

They are Boston +3.5 degrees warmer than normal which is the 15th warmest so far, Providence +4.4 degrees warmer than normal, which is the 3rd warmest so far. Bradley, CT +5.4 degrees warmer than normal which is the 4th warmest so far. Lastly, Worcester +4.7 degrees warmer than normal which is the 7th warmest so far.

The year 2021 was the warmest year ever for Boston, ranking #1 average temperature at 54.4 degrees.

The second warmest year was 2012 with average temperature at 54.2 degrees.

The reason for the warmer than normal December was a northward track to the Jet Stream. An upper-level high pressure system was located from the Caribbean to off the southeast coast of the United States. This upper-level high pressure system caused the Jet Stream to track across Canada north of the Eastern United States. This Jet Stream pattern was more like one we would see in summer rather than the month of December. With the Jet



over the southern states and colder air coming down from the northern Rockies and western Canada this clash of two different air masses caused some days of severe weather (tornadoes) over the southern/southeast states and also the plains and Midwest states.

For December it’s rare to see as many tornado outbreaks as we saw this past December. With warmer than normal air and higher than normal humidity these fueled the development of severe thunderstorms which led to tornado development. As December 2021 was nearing the end not only did we see tornadoes we also saw devastating wildfires in Colorado. One hundred mile per hour winds in Colorado caused the wildfires to spread leading to the devastation.

Back In New England we did not see much sunshine during this past December. The end of the month featured mild weather. Also, with higher humidity came the development of dense fog during the last week of 2021. The fog was caused by the temperature and dewpoint (amount of moisture in the air) very close together. When the temperature and dewpoint are the same the relative humidity is 100 per cent and the air cannot hold any more moisture. If there is very little to no wind then dense fog forms.

So, December 2021 ended with mild, damp, and dreary weather. Will January 2022 bring a return to winter with cold weather and snowstorms? Stay tuned to next month’s article for the answer! In the meantime, stay safe and let’s hope that 2022 is a better year than the last two. ♦

area on the south side (warmer side) of the Jet Stream! As a result, we saw some days in December when the high temperature reached 60 degrees.

The cold days we saw in December did not last long. The reason for the progressive Jet Stream was a lack of high pressure in the North Atlantic extending up to Greenland (Greenland High Pressure). When this occurs, it acts as a block and prevents the cold air from lifting out of our area to the northeast. With warm and humid air



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Questionable Reputation!

The Bible clearly says in Psalms 14:1-3, "The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, There is none who does good. 2 The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. 3 They have all turned aside, They have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one." NKJV. [This is repeated in Psalms 53:1-3, NKJV.] Here we have the definition of a fool, one who says there is no God!

Before we say anything about this fool, there was a time many of us were that fool and did foolish things. I would say that at one time we all had a questionable reputation. In the New Testament, The Book of Romans says in Chapter 3:9-10, "What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. 10 As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one;" NKJV.

Everybody at one time was under sin and not right with God! Wow!!! What a Testimony! But thank God Almighty that He didn't leave us in that state of having a questionable reputation! God had and still has a plan to get mankind out of this predicament. The plan has a name and His name is, Jesus Christ! Jesus while on earth had a reputation of hanging out with people who had questionable reputations! We read this in Luke 7:34-35, 34 The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' NKJV. We all at one point qualified to be in that room with Jesus!

The Bible says in Philippians 2:6-7 "who, [Jesus Christ] being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a

bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men." NKJV. Jesus came with no reputation, he came not to be served, but serve so that our questionable reputation could be removed. Our foolishness, our sins, our unrighteousness have been removed from us by The Finished Work of Jesus Christ on the Cross! According to 2 Corinthians 5:21, "For He [God] made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin for us, [at the cross] that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." NKJV. What was not right has now been made right, meaning that our relationship with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit is now Right!

So, my prayer going forward for all of us in 2022 is that our relationship with God continues to grow in Grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ as it says in 2 Peter 3:18, "but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen." NKJV!

Notice it says glory be to Him both now and forever!!! He deserves all the glory and honor, not us. All we did was show up and believe and accept His Finished Work! He did all the work and all the heavy lifting! He sacrificed Himself for us!

And as it says in Ephesians 5:1-2, "Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma." NKJV.

Let's come together and grow in grace and love and quit complaining about COVID and all the stuff that comes with it. All our complaining will not stop it and just glorify the devil from which it comes! Let's not do that. Let's give all our time, all our praise, all our worship, all our talk to one who can actually do something about it and that is our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us!!!



Love You All!!!
Have a Wonderful Year!!!
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OPIOIDS: FROM 4

being there for someone can help.

ARE THE NUMBERS REAL?

VASQUE: You have to remember these numbers of opioid calls are skewed. They aren't real because NARCAN has really saved a lot of people's lives. I think we would lose a lot more people if not for the NARCAN. You have to remember the opioid numbers that we have are only the number of overdoses being reported.

For example, if some individuals are in their house shooting up, somebody overdoses, and their buddy gives them NARCAN to revive them, they aren't reporting that to us. Most of the time they don't go to the hospital or seek treatment unfortunately and then they just keep on doing what they are doing.

Because it's not reported to us, we don't have that statistic. But it saves lives. We have it, the fire department, the EMTs and the hospitals all have it. But now even individuals can get it and carry it with them. It's great that this is saving lives, but we are certainly losing a lot of the numbers in our stats because of it. The other drawback is that some people look at it as a safety net, so they take more risks with more potent drugs or higher doses because they know the NARCAN is going to bring them back.

MACNAMARA: We try to attack it at a number of different levels. The most important is the C.A.R.E.S. program. The idea is, when we have an overdose, we want to connect with that person directly if we can, and the next best thing is contact with the family. Ideally, we want to do that within 24 to 48 hours. 100% of the time we are making that effort. We are not always successful, but 60% of the time we actually make that connection and then from there we track them. We look at how many take advantage of the referrals that we put in place, how many of them are already getting treatment, and what unfortunate percentage of them just don't want help.

A REGIONAL APPROACH

MACNAMARA: There are always a lot of other things going on in the background. We all work as part of the Merrimack Valley in general. There's monthly meetings of all the stakeholders, we get together or do it via ZOOM. Lawrence police, Methuen police, Lawrence General Hospital, Holy Family, Eliot Hospital, the Lawrence Court System, DCF, we all get together to talk about our at-risk population.

Sometimes we will go case by individual case and say, 'who can help me with this specific case?' or 'who is best suited to provide the services that are needed to intervene in this particular situation?' Those meetings are happening every month.

One of the other great things I think we are doing as a region is taking advantage of that software system CIMS (Certified Information Management System). So, obviously we know what is going on in our own community we track that, but often it's the case where a Methuen resident overdoses in Lawrence or vice-versa. What we do now is put every overdose into the database - so that our partners in law enforcement - whether they are in Lawrence or half way across the state, their hometown police are going to see it. If they are in a hospital, we will send someone right to the hospital.

VASQUE: Yes, right to the hospital. I think that's one of the things that has changed from the past. In the past it was, we would show up at calls because we were so busy, we would throw them in the ambulance and didn't do any follow up. Now we all recognize that we have to do more, or we are just going to be chasing our tails over and over. So, now we get our partners involved like Chief MacNamara said. We can't do it alone. In Lawrence we get 70,000 calls a year for service so we need other people to help us. But, in order to have any kind of significant impact and break the cycle we need to be more involved than just answering the call, throwing them in an ambulance and then just going on our way. That doesn't work anymore.

DUGGAN: Under former Mayor Dan Rivera, he had a homeless coordinator working out of his office. Was that helpful? Did it make a real difference or was that just something political?

VASQUE: Every person looking at the problem helps. I do think we need to expand it. It's a bigger problem than people want to realize. Again, we need more money but I also think a lot more people need to be getting a lot more involved in the issue to have more of an impact. One person alone isn't going to do it, but was it helpful? Yes. Can it be improved upon? Sure. I think that it needs to be expanded. I know we are trying to do that with mental health. We were just awarded two grants worth \$800,000 to help with the homelessness and mental health issues you are always talking about.

MACNAMARA: This is not an issue that we can arrest our way out of. This is a national crisis, and it has to be addressed from a health care perspective.

DUGGAN: How do we get our local political officials to dedicate more money to treatment but more importantly getting them out of the environment they are in on the streets and get them into transitional housing?

VASQUE: Times are changing. I think their eyes are opening. I know our local councilors are. When I'm talking to them,

they want to see more done. Frankly, I think it starts before your local city council.

It has to start at the national level at the top, from the president and all the national people need to dedicate more funding to the states - and the states need to get it to the municipalities to do more. As I was telling you earlier, we've applied for grants and those grants are going to allow us to do more. But a lot of that 'more' needs to happen and that requires money.

MACNAMARA: I do want to say that in Methuen our city council has really taken a lead on this. They have their own subcommittee, we meet once a month just to talk about the issues of substance abuse, mental health, and homelessness. It's another group of stakeholders that are all in that environment to talk about the pervasive problems and what are the best way to address them.

DUGGAN: Would it make your jobs easier if local politicians were designating money for a homeless center in their own communities so that they can service their own citizens? As it is now, they all go to Lawrence because they think that's where all the services are and at least 2/3 of the homeless people we run into are not from Lawrence.

MACNAMARA: All the years I have worked in Lawrence I have recognized that very thing - where every single social program seemed to be hosted in Lawrence. What I always advocated when talking to local politicians is that there is a funding formula in place that needs to include more consideration for the socio-economic factors that these programs bring to a city like Lawrence.

If they are going to host their social programs in a certain community, there needs to be additional funding that comes along with that. I know lots of people don't want it in their back yard. In some of the more affluent communities, they pay attention, they go to meetings, they vote, and they know what's being planned and they push back on some of this and push it back into other communities.

VASQUE: Wherever the services are people are going to come. Do I think other communities need to be doing more? I do! I think there's something to be said about giving back in some of these other communities. We certainly recognize that we are getting funding as a result and it's a trade-off. But I also think that if you really want to do good, you can do a little bit more than just dropping off food, you really need to be helping, talk to local politician (about additional funding). It's one of the good things about the

LAWRENCE			
YEAR	Narcan	Fatal	TOTAL
2018	107	26	279
2019	115	33	283
2020	115	29	242
2021	112	19	238
	449	107	1042

reporting system we have now. If we have an individual in Lawrence OD and they are from Haverhill we reach out to the families there and hopefully get them out. But, certainly these other communities need to be doing more for their own citizens.

DUGGAN: How big a problem is it that a large number of people are coming into Lawrence (or Methuen) to either buy their drugs or traffic in it?

MACNAMARA: It's a huge problem and it's driven by price, it's a lot cheaper in Lawrence and the Merrimack Valley than it is in Maine or New Hampshire. So, they will drive here, stock up, and then drive back and sell it at a marked-up price.

VASQUE: So, again I want to say this is a national problem it's not a Lawrence problem. If people weren't addicted, if people could get out of the cycle, they wouldn't be going to search for drugs wherever they are.

MACNAMARA: I just want to quote something Chief Vasque said a number of years ago to show how pervasive the problem is. The Chief at the time was in charge of the narcotics unit in Lawrence, I believe there were six or seven narcotics officers. In that one year, those six or seven narcotics officers made over 1,300 drug related arrests. I said that's off the charts and he said 'I'll tell you this, if I had five or six teams just like this and I put them in the six different areas of the city, each one of them would be making 1,300 arrests. That is how pervasive the problem is. That's why I say that we've recognized there's just no way to arrest your way out of this problem.'

VASQUE: If we don't start spending significant amounts of money for rehab, education, and housing we are going to be talking about this next year, the year after that and ten years from now.

MACNAMARA: I do want to add that enforcement is part of it. There's three prongs, enforcement, treatment, and education. We can talk about treatment, and we are never going to solve this without treatment, but we have to look at the enforcement side. We have to deal with these quality-of-life issues. Nobody wants to see these transactions in their neighborhoods. ♦



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SUE PIAZZA’S BOOK REVIEW

“Made With A Special Purpose:
Caterpillar’s Growth Journey”

By Mateja Stolnik Vugrek
© 2021 Text and Illustrations by
Mateja Stolnik Vugrek
Published by: Vugi World, Croatia
Genre: Children
Bookmarkers: 5 of 5
This cute book packs a powerful message. The colorful graphics add to its charm.
Unhappy with his life, he is too small, too weak, the tiny caterpillar wishes things were different. He feels inadequate compared to his wilderness friends: fox, rabbit, bird, and bear. They help him; he would like to reciprocate and searches for a way to do so.
He tries painting deciding he could make and give them a pretty gift, but it doesn’t work. He can’t even reach the brushes. Sad, he questions his purpose in life. He is told that everyone has a special gift but since he cannot find his he doubts whether he has any.
Then he grows wings and transformed into a butterfly. Finally, he can help his friends. He can tell them where to find food, if there is trouble ahead they can’t see, where things like water are, etc. He has a reason for being alive.
The end of the book brings God into the equation. We are reminded that God has a purpose for every one of us. On occasion, it takes time to realize one’s potential. But, we all have gifts, if you do not know yours then wait, it will be revealed.

The flow and sentence structure of this children’s book is simple yet elegant, befitting a young mind. The dialogue is sweet and uplifting, not preachy. It moves the plotline along gently and is perfect for the child who is reading or being read this book.
The lessons in the book are subtle: friendship, kindness, acceptance, patience, and of course, God’s role in our lives.
This little caterpillar is tenacious. He has a goal in mind and continues undaunted as he plunges forward to fulfill it.
The friends are loving and supportive and require nothing from caterpillar. They all work together to make sure he feels special. And once he does, he pays it forward by passing support and friendship on to the next caterpillar he meets.
The book has an important message for each of us; we are all different. Unique. We each have our own role in life. We need to accept ourselves as we are and live the life we are meant to.
I would recommend this book.
Susan Piazza, a Navy veteran, is an author, columnist, and blogger. Book One in her historical American Indian series is the romance, “A Bird Call That Isn’t,” It can be found on Amazon at:
A Bird Call That Isn’t : A Bird Call That Isn’t ◇

REAL ESTATE: FROM 22

\$638,000, 989 Salem St
Steven & Ines Wilkson, Luz Alvarez,
\$620,000, 78 Turnpike St
Grace Scire Est & Alyssa Moreira &
Grace Scire, Curtis Bates Tr & Donna
Bates Tr & Bates Living Family Tr,
\$620,000, 59 Meadow Ln
Yeswanth Rao & Vimala Gopinathan,
Mukul Rathod, \$585,000, 68 Compass
Point Rd Unit D-1
Benincasa Realty Tr & John & Joan
Benincasa Tr, Birch Lane LLC, \$575,000,
463 Winter St
Russell & Patricia Ryan, Stanley &
Taylor Nganga, \$500,000, 39 Millpond
Richard Kort Tr & Kulpinski Nominee
Tr & Lisa Kulpinski Tr , Patrick & Glen
Johnson, \$500,000, 15 Lyman rd
Daec Home Improvement, Stephanie
Viera, \$415,000, 54 Elm St Unit F
Daec Home Improvement, Stephanie
Viera, \$415,000, 54 Elm St Unit B
Ninielle Bushmich & Efstathios Kesaris,
Andrew To, \$389,900, 34 Sargent St
Lawrence Chesley, Christine Cloonan,
\$388,000, 3 Harvest Dr Unit 311
Barbara & David Pybus, David Testa,
\$375,000, 130 Pleasant St
Brenley Properties LLC, Gazmend &
Flutura Gahsi, \$355,000, 26 Bunker Hill St
Unit 26
Mark Beucler Tr & Princeton
Irrevocable Tr, Andrea Slaven, \$350,000, 4
Harvest Dr Unit 117
Barry Sullivan & Bette Rallo, Zendko
LLC, \$335,000, 28 Rosedale Ave
Shelby Waldie & Shelby Downie,
Cassandra Keane, \$325,000, 16 Margate
Rd Unit 16A
Colin & Leigh Mcarthur, Mark Waller,
\$315,000, 190 Chickering Rd Unit 311D

Alyssa Paulson, Gregory & Amanda
Dry, \$308,000, 53 Village Green Dr Unit
41
Faith Obrien Est & Carli Roberts &
Cori Chisholm, Daniel & Julie Dumais,
\$277,000, 148 Main St Unit B-132
Kelley Nunnolley, Brian Jakimczyk &
Lauren Karpenko , \$269,900, 45 Edgelawn
Ave Unit 3
Manfredi & Marianne Genito, Brian
Lagrasse, \$260,000, 45 Edgelawn Ave Unit
4
Christine Caron & Geraldine Bartlett
& Margaret O’Brien & Julie Kfoury, Elba
Morency, \$250,000, 148 Main St Unit
0-304
Ann Thibault, Karen Masse, \$241,100,
30 Ciderpress Way Unit TH9-4
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Thibault, \$236,000, 106 Cortland Dr Unit
38
Krista Dargan & Krista & Michael
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C Liotta Revocable Tr, Jason Sabatino,
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\$200,000, 19 Fernview Ave Unit 2
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Herbrand, \$780,000, 178-180 Water St
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Nasta, \$720,000, 42 Highwood Way
Sybil Dalton, Lori Falzarano, \$335,000,
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