

"Happiness and moral duty are inseparably connected," – George Washington

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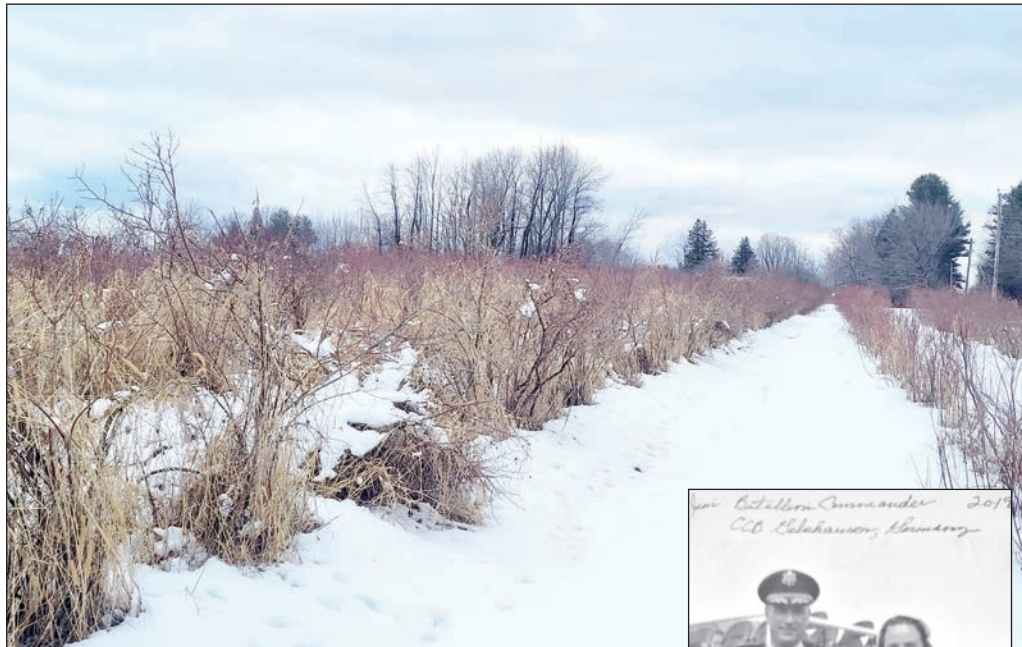
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February 15, 2024 | Vol. 45, No. 43 | 75¢

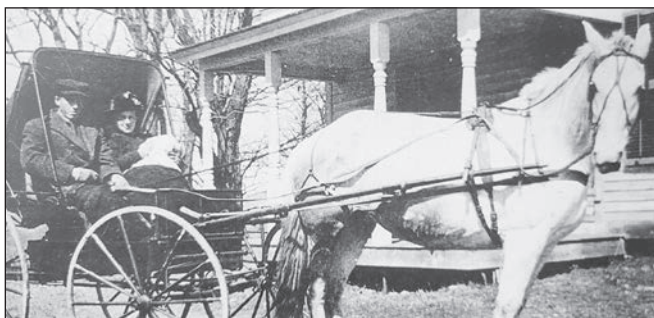
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NORTH CHESTER

Harriet Kelso Gilman recalls living in post war Germany



The blueberry fields in North Chester are pictured under a blanket of snow on Feb. 2. Turley photo by Kathryn Koegel



Harriet Kelso Gilman's baby brother with her parents are shown in front of the farmhouse in 1917. Submitted photo



Jim Gilman and Harriet Kelso Gilman are pictured during their second duty tour of Europe when he was Battalion Commander. Submitted photo

PART 2

North Chester Farm to Nuremberg

Editor's note: This is the second of a two party story. The first part appeared in the Feb. 8 edition.

By Kathryn Koegel
Correspondent

Harriet Kelso Gilman and Jim Gilman were married when she was in college but he was not deployed for a year and a half.

She followed him around the U.S. from military base to military base. She became pregnant and came home to her parents and the farm. "I had the baby in Westfield. Jim saw him ten days after he was born and then he was deployed and I didn't see him (Jim) for two years."

Not only was the distance hard, but the nature of Jim's work in intelligence kept them apart. "I would get what they called VMAIL and various words would be blacked out. He really

GILMAN, page 8

BLANDFORD

Select Board hires two new highway employees

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

The Select Board accepted two recommendations for new full time Highway Department employees from Superintendent David Waldron.

The board voted their approval to hire Clayton Therrien of Blandford and Alex Tatro of Russell.

Therrien is a recent graduate of Westfield Technical Academy and has Occupational Safety and Health Administration certification, a Class D driver's license and can operate various department equipment including a Bobcat and tractors. He will start full time next week.

Tatro has had experience as a Maintenance Technician, industrial mechanic and millwright. He has OSHA and forklift certifications and a driver's license. His starting date has yet to be confirmed.

Mini excavator

Funds for the purchase of the mini excavator will come from Free Cash according to Town Administrator Michael Szlosek.

SELECT BOARD, page 8

EASTHAMPTON

11th Annual Winter Fest enjoy recordbreaking warm temperatures

Participants in Easthampton's 11th Annual Winter Fest arrived coatless on a balmy 57 degree February day.

Organizers thought ahead and a furry inflatable abominable snowman donated by the Big Y grinned in the warmth. A Mt. Tom ice cream flavor contest proved appropriate for the day.

Non-weather related events like horse drawn wagon rides and participatory mural making at the Emily Williston Memorial Library were well attended.

Proceeds from the event go towards keeping Nashawannuck Pond clear from the invasive plant Eurasian Milfoil and monitoring cyanobacteria in the summers.



Williston Northampton students from New Zealand (Mia Hui) and Japan (Riko Tanizawa) face up to their first abominable snowman.



Easthampton Youth Services Librarian Emily Prabhaker works with 13 year old Luka Doherty on a participatory mural.



Clay Hill Farm provided their working draft horses for wagon rides. Photos by Kathryn Koegel

MONEY MATTERS

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HILLTOWNS

Hilltown holiday program helped local families

HUNTINGTON – The true meaning of the holiday season was on display in the hilltowns, as presents, clothing, books and other items were delivered to local children.

The Hilltown Community Health Centers, along with the Gateway Regional School District National Honor Society coordinated the Hilltown Holiday Help program, as they have for over twenty years. “It truly is the work of the community, as whole. We are blessed to live in a place where your friends and neighbors can be counted on” says Kim Savery, Director of Community Programs for the Health Center. “In the season of giving, it is a love letter to the community from the

community.” This is the one holiday program that benefits only the children and families in the hilltowns.


There were thousands of dollars in donations from over sixty donors, through a boot drive coordinated with the National Honor Society and the Huntington Fire Department, a GoFundMe fundraiser and checks mailed in. Over twenty individuals and families “adopted” families in need. “Donations of toys, hand knitted items, winter coats, gift certificates, books, holiday meals, clothing and more have poured in since the start of the campaign” Savery says. “Local businesses and nonprofits have been extremely generous as well.” “We would like

to give a special thanks to our staff, The Blandford Country Store, The Huntington Branch of the Westfield Bank, The United Way of Pioneer Valley, Jo’s Jackets, staff at Gateway Regional, the team at the Toys for Tots site, John Bergeron and the Huntington Lion’s Club, The Chester Baptist Church, The First Congregational Church and the very generous individuals and other organizations who donated.”

After receiving wishlists from families, volunteers went to work. At Thanksgiving, turkeys and meals were delivered to local families in need. Volunteers started shopping, soliciting donations, organizing donations and

purchases for recipients. In addition to food and gifts, families were helped in other ways. “We had a cord of wood delivered to a family in Worthington and furnishings for an apartment for a young family with very little.” For the last three years, the program has hand delivered toys to families in need due to concerns about gatherings during the virus and flu season. Volunteers helped organize bags and delivered to families throughout the region.

“The gratitude expressed from recipients has humbled us all.” “The families served are from the local community and are having a hard time making ends meet. This program makes it easier for them over the holidays.”



HOUSING REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE

Chester, Huntington, Middlefield and Russell

The town of Monson with the assistance of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) is applying for funding to assist qualified homeowners in making necessary repairs to their homes. In order to be eligible for assistance, total household income shall not exceed current federal income guidelines based on the number of people residing in a household. *(See table below).*

If you need to make improvements to your roof, windows, siding, plumbing, electrical, lead paint/ asbestos removal, heating system, septic system repair/ replacement and/or other program eligible improvements, please fill out the following form and return to Shirley Stephens at the PVPC (address appears below). **ALL** information received is strictly confidential and will be maintained in the Springfield office of the PVPC. If you have questions, please contact PVPC Housing Coordinator Shirley Stephens, at (413) 781-6045.

Name: _____

Property Address: _____

Mailing Address/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Single/Multi Family (Please Circle One)

Type of improvements needed: _____

My household income is not greater than (circle one according to your household size):

1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person	6 Person	7 Person	8 Person
\$55,800	\$63,800	\$71,750	\$79,700	\$86,100	\$92,500	\$98,850	\$105,250

Return to: Shirley Stephens, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street - 1st Floor, Springfield, MA 01104

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\$31 per year pre-paid
(\$36 out of state)
Newsstand: \$.75 per copy

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SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Colleges and universities announce fall 2023 Dean's List

President's list

University of Hartford
West Hartford, CT

Margaret Philpott of Westfield.

President's list

Western New England University
Springfield

Christina Harris of Montgomery, biology major; Liam McKellick of Montgomery, business analytics and information major; Garrett Barnachez of Westfield, business analytics and information major; Ryan Lapoint of Westfield, business analytics and information major; Cody Thibodeau of Easthampton, civil engineering major; Reed Everis of Westfield, computer science major; Brittany Cardoza-Rebollo of Westfield, criminal justice major; Sean Alvord of Westfield, finance major; Lindsey Bryon of Westfield, forensic biology major; Rebekah Harry of Goshen, history major; Jeffrey Nolan of Westfield, industrial engineering major; Jessica Cloutier of Easthampton, law and society major; Abigail Dean of Easthampton, law and society major; Daniel McKellick of Montgomery, law and society major; Jeremy Trotter of Westfield, sport management major and Matthew Bowen of Westfield, sport management major.

Dean's list

Dean College
Franklin

Gracia Jorgensen of Westfield, Dylan King of Westfield and Skylar Raskevitz of Easthampton.

Dean's list

Emmanuel College
Boston

Caitlin Bolduc of Easthampton, Lauren Menzel of Westfield, Brigid Moriarty of Westfield, Jacob Proulx of Westfield and Ryan Lambert of Westfield,

Dean's list

Hartwick College
Oneonta, N.Y.

May Lieberman-Bachman of Huntington, art major.

Dean's list

University of Hartford
West Hartford, CT

Avery Brooks of Westhampton and Angelina Krikunova of Westfield.

Dean's list

University of New England
Biddeford and Portland, Maine

Mackenzie Bates of Florence, Tyler Janik of Florence, Cloey Parlapiano of Pittsfield, Emma Collingwood of Westfield and Ella Jasmin of Westfield.

Dean's list

Western New England University
Springfield

Shauna Post of Chester, working toward a Juris Doctor degree, Mariam Aydah of Westfield, working toward a Juris Doctor degree and Christopher Williams of Easthampton, working toward a Doctor of Pharmacy degree.

Dean's list

Western New England University
Springfield

Jordan Tomczak of Westfield, psychology major; Colby Lapoint of Westfield, actuarial science major; Sean O'Leary of Easthampton, computer science major; Connor Perreault of Easthampton, computer science major; Zachary Cloutier of Easthampton, computer science major; Zakery Thibodeau of Easthampton, construction management major; Jordan Dunham of Easthampton, criminal justice major; Kailey Downs of Westfield, health sciences major; Emily Figiela of Worthington, health sciences major; Wenjing Yang of Westfield, business analytics and information management major; Ryan Charland of Westfield, business analytics and information management major; Vasco Sardinha of Westfield, finance major; Ariana Contreras-Munoz of Westfield, general business major; Jaiden O'Kane of Westfield, general business major; Emma Cassell of Westfield, management and leadership major; Jeffrie Surgen of Easthampton, sport management major; Matvey Hancharonak of Westfield, electrical engineering major; Naomi Harry of Goshen, mechanical engineering major; Pavel Usatyy of Westfield, mechanical engineering major; Tyler Hamel of Westfield, mechanical engineering major; Max Kusnierz of Westfield, mechanical engineering major and Gabriel Sayre of Huntington, mechanical engineering/mechatronics concentration major.

Dean's list

William and Mary College
Williamsburg, VA

Lucas Visentin Laing of Northampton.

Dean's list

Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Worcester

Emma Barnes of Easthampton, class of 2025 biomedical, electrical and computer engineering; Ava Gaguhan of Westfield, class of 2025 mechanical engineering; Ella Moreau of Huntington, class of 2027 aerospace engineering and Gabire Rapoza of Easthampton, class of 2027 aerospace engineering.

Graduates

Georgia Institute of Technology
Atlanta, Georgia

Alison Adamski of Westfield, Master of Science in electrical and computer engineering.

Graduates

University of Tampa
Tampa, FL

Rachel Ruell of Westfield, Bachelor of Science in marketing.



Frankie Dolby receives gold medal in swimming



Frankie Dolby took a gold medal in the 200 yard Individual Medley and she took first place in the 500 yard freestyle. Submitted photo

BLANDFORD – Frankie Dolby competed in the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association Central and Western championship event at Springfield College Saturday, Feb. 10.

Dolby took a gold medal for a 2:09.32 finish in the 200-yard Individual Medley and she took first place in the 500-yard freestyle, finishing with a time of 5:15.73.

Next weekend she will compete in the state-wide swim event at MIT. Dolby, the daughter of Adam and Jackie Dolby, is a 17-year-old junior at Westfield High School. She has been swimming for more than ten years.

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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

Gardening questions that pose a challenge



A recent visit to mom's house prompted the following question about poinsettias. Now, don't worry, I haven't forgotten what the date is. Sure, the poinsettia hasn't been in its glory for a few weeks now, but that doesn't mean she is going to give up on it.

You see, my mother likes a challenge, especially when it comes to plants. She wanted some advice on how to encourage new healthy growth before trying to coax it into re-bloom next fall.

Read on to learn how it's done:

In early April cut back the plant to eight inches. Fertilize with an all-purpose houseplant fertilizer once a month. New growth should appear by the end of May.

After the danger of frost has passed, move the plant outdoors. Continue to water but increase fertilization to every two weeks.

Pinch plants in late June or early July to promote bushy growth. At this time you may also wish to repot the poinsettia. Select a pot one size larger, filling around the root ball with a good potting soil.

Bring the plant indoors as temperatures fall in late summer.

The poinsettia is photoperiodic, and long nights of uninterrupted darkness encourage it to bloom. In greenhouses, growers go to great lengths to withhold light, as even small

amounts can delay or stop the plant from setting bud.

At home, putting the plant in the closet for 14 hours each night is your best bet. Setting a reminder alarm or making a note helps to keep on track.

Most people get on a 5 p.m.-8 a.m. schedule beginning Oct. 1 and continue it for eight-10 weeks until color shows on the bracts. Night temperatures should be no higher than 70 degrees or flowering may be delayed.

This all sounds fairly straight forward. I think the biggest frustration for her over the years has been missing a night of darkness, especially near the end of the routine.

Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't. Still fun to try, however.

A friend of mine recently asked what I thought of the cloth grow bags that are all the rage right now. Although I haven't used them myself, another friend, Chris, has been gardening up a storm the last few years using these bags.

She has an amazing flower border that you would think is growing in the ground, but it is a collection of dozens of bags in various sizes, holding everything from cannas to dahlias, zinnias and marigolds. She has great success with potatoes and other vegetables, too.

Read on to learn about the benefits of these bags.

I guess the one benefit that I never thought of is breathability. Because the fabric is permeable there is good air exchange, the roots grow to the edge, are air-pruned and branch out.

This is altogether different than plastic or glazed ceramic pots that don't breathe and encourage tangles of roots that encircle the pot eventually becoming bound. When a plant is root bound, it suffers until it is repotted; not so with grow bags!

Another pro would be drainage. The grow bags hold only what moisture the soil can hold and the rest of it drains away. Sure, the flip side is that you will need to water often in times of drought, but it's nice to know that if we have another summer like we did last year, the plants won't rot, either.

Other more obvious benefits include portability, heat resistance and ease of storage. If you purchase bags with handles, you can move them around the yard much easier than you could if the plants were in heavy pots.

The bags weigh next to nothing compared to clay or ceramics. Grow bags also do not heat up the way glazed or plastic pots do; roots are cooler and the plants are happier.

When the season is over, you can wash the bags and flatten to store. Most brands say that they last for four-five seasons or longer with good care.

Do some research to pair the size bag you use with the plants you are growing. A quick check gleaned that 10 gallon bags are good for three seed potatoes or a single indeterminate tomato plant. Bush type tomatoes would grow well in a seven gallon pot.

Also research the best potting soil or compost mixes to use; there are many out there. Chris uses a blend and uses organic fertilizers, crediting that to her success.

The apple may not fall far from the tree. Mom likes her challenges, and I like mine. I think trying out grow bags is in my near (gardening) future.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

How is my Social Security benefit calculated?



Dear Rusty

I appreciate your recent article dispelling the myth that politicians have stolen Social Security money.

As a Certified Public Accountant, I dispel this myth repeatedly to clients, who falsely claim SS funds have been raided. But another thing I deal with often is how SS benefits are calculated. I know the formula for determining each person's benefit amount is complex, but I have had to explain numerous times that those, who put the most into Social Security get the lowest rate of return and those who put the least in get the highest return based on the way the benefit formula is structured.

I get tired of people complaining that

monthly Social Security payments are higher for retired doctors and other highly paid individuals. Can you please explain how Social Security is weighted in favor of lower income workers?

Signed Tired of the Misunderstandings

Dear Tired

Please don't be frustrated. Because of the program's complexity, Social Security is prone to misunderstanding and educating the misinformed is an important professional duty we share. Here's how each person's SS benefit is determined:

The first thing to know is that each person's SS retirement benefit is not based on their financial contributions to the program. Social Security's purpose is to provide a benefit, which replaces a portion of the person's pre-retirement income, so the SS benefit is based on actual lifetime earnings, not on the payroll taxes withheld from those earnings.

Social Security has your lifetime earnings record, obtained annually from the IRS

and that record determines your "Primary Insurance Amount." Your "PIA" is initially determined in your eligibility year usually age 62 and is the amount you will get if you claim for benefits to start exactly at your Full Retirement Age.

To develop your PIA, Social Security first adjusts (indexes) each year of your lifetime earnings up to the annual payroll tax cap to account for inflation. They then select the 35 inflation-adjusted years in which you earned the most, from which they compute your average monthly earnings over your lifetime, this is called your Average Indexed Monthly Earnings. They then break your AIME into three segments, the first of which includes a majority of and possibly all of your AIME.

They then take a percentage of each segment and total those three amounts to determine your PIA. The first segment is the largest and 90% of that first segment contributes most of your PIA. Smaller percentages of the other two segments (32% and 15% respectively if your AIME is higher), are then added to the first computation to arrive at your full PIA - the amount you get if you start benefits in the month you reach your FRA. Note that since most of the PIA comes from the first large segment of each person's AIME, lower income workers get a higher percentage of their lifetime average monthly amount.

Since benefits are based on earnings, those with lower lifetime earnings do, indeed, get a smaller benefit than those with higher average lifetime earnings, but the percentage of pre-retirement replacement income lower income workers receive is higher than for those with higher monthly average lifetime earnings. The Social Security benefit for lower income workers is typically about 40% of their pre-retirement average monthly income, while those with higher lifetime average earnings may get a benefit as little as 20% of their average monthly pre-retirement earnings.

In that sense, the Social Security benefit formula is progressive and weighted in favor



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ISSN NO. 0747-2471

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The Country Journal (USPS 483-550) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.



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OPINION

HILLTOWN HISTORY

Let Medicine Be Thy Food Hippocrates

By Deborah Daniels
Correspondent

Valentine's Day is about matters of the heart. Most health professionals remind us to exercise because after all your heart is a muscle. The food you put in the tank – your diet is also important. Beginning your day with cereal is a good way to keep a strong heart.

A top notch breakfast used to be eggs, bacon, biscuits with butter and jam washed down with whole milk and coffee most days of the week. During the 1850s health sanitariums promoted granula, a cold cereal that was thought to help cure illness.

Actually oatmeal predated granula, being the first horse food (oats) that was sold as breakfast food. This was Ferdinand Schumacher's handiwork with an oat grinder in 1854. This was served as hot cereal. He went on to make a picture of a Quaker man his logo and eventually the Quaker Oats Company in Ohio came about.

James Caleb Jackson developed the first cold cereal in his upstate New York health spa in 1863. It was one step above hardtack, dry biscuits Civil War soldiers called dog biscuits and molar breakers. It's only ingredients were flour, water and salt cooked to stone hard consistency that made them virtually indestructible.

Jackson's granula, as he called it, was made of graham flour baked into brittle cakes that were crumbled up and baked again. It was found to be best served after it had soaked overnight in milk (lest it be mistaken for construction mortar). Next John Harvey Kellogg and his brother William came up with a recipe of wheat flour, oatmeal and cornmeal, twice baked, that they served in their health spa. It became popular.

They had to rename it granola when Jackson threatened to sue them for using his granula name. The Kellogg brothers



This is a vintage 1945 advertisement for Vintage 1945 advertisement for Cheerios, originally called Cheerioats.

experimented with cereal and developed flakes as well as other cereal varieties. They went on to build a cereal empire still strong today.

Consider Cheerios, the o-shaped oat cereal made by General Mills since 1941. It was first called Cheerioats but Quaker Oats claimed they had exclusive use of the term oats. Rather than argue, GM changed the name to Cheerios in 1945. The oats were turned into oat flour in Minneapolis, then cooked and blasted through a steam cannon where they are puffed up. They are then shipped to factories in Iowa, Georgia and Buffalo New York where they are packaged.

Plain Cheerios survived alone for 35 years and then Cinnamon Nut Cheerios was introduced in 1976. Honey Nut Cheerios came next in 1979 and since then some 30 different derivations have come along. Flavors like very berry, chocolate, toasted coconut, lemon and much more exotic ones have been developed.

Many are discontinued or declared limited editions to test market what will be popular, but they all seem to have increased in sugar content or "ancient grains." Have they gotten healthier? It is clear that the cereal business became big business with hundreds of cereal makers



This shows Cheerios before being puffed. Submitted photos

looking for the dream recipe. Between 1970 – 1998 the number of breakfast cereals had about 160 to 340 brands and by 2012 there were almost 5,000 brands.

Cheerios has claimed to help lower cholesterol since 2012 if you eat two servings of one and a half cup servings daily along with a diet low in saturated fat. It is true that the fiber in oat cereal will help lower the bad cholesterol by preventing it from being absorbed.

The FDA challenged that claim, but the science was there to support the whole grain oats in Cheerios worked. Plain Cheerios delivers three grams of fiber plus gives added minerals and vitamins for 100 calories in a one cup serving. It is a product made in America that delivers on its promise. Only shredded wheat and oatmeal beat Cheerios in the cholesterol lowering competition.

Cheerios had some clever advertisements through the years. They teamed up with Simon and Schuster to sponsor new authors booklets to be given away in boxes of cereal. With titles like "How Do You Hug a Porcupine" and "Henry Hyena Why Won't You Laugh?," they were hard to resist.

What toddler didn't develop their pincher moves with their fingers while eating Cheerios? How about snacking on one of the deluxe boxes of Cheerios with



This shows Cheerios after being shot from the puff cannon.



This shows heart shaped Cheerios along with traditional O shaped Cheerios.

nuts, whole grain oats and seeds? Keep the sugar low and that makes a healthy snack.

Your heart will appreciate a cold cereal breakfast even if you don't get that brisk walk in today. Have fun watching Edward Blizzardhands the snow plow at work.

State Fire Marshal warns people to check carbon monoxide alarms and keep vents clear

With the season's first significant snow in Massachusetts, State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine reminds residents to test their carbon monoxide alarms and keep dryer, furnace and other exhaust vents clear of snow.

"Carbon monoxide is a leading cause of fatal poisoning, and home heating equipment is the primary source of carbon monoxide in the home," State Fire Marshal Davine said. "As part of your storm planning, check your CO alarms to be sure they're working properly, and if an alarm is past the manufacturer's recommended lifespan, replace it."

Residents should also be sure to keep outside vents clear of falling, drifting or shoveled snow. In January 2005,

7-year-old Nicole Garofalo died when a heating vent was blocked by snow drifts outside, allowing carbon monoxide to accumulate inside her Plymouth home. This tragedy led to Nicole's Law, which requires CO alarms on every habitable level of a Massachusetts residence.

"Fuel-fired heating appliances like dryers, furnaces, boilers, and fireplaces are all sources of carbon monoxide," State Fire Marshal Davine said. "If the vent or flue is blocked, this poisonous gas can reach deadly levels inside the home. Know where the vents on your home are, be sure to clear them when shoveling and be careful not to blow snow onto them if using a snowblower."

Massachusetts fire departments

detected CO at nearly 5,000 incidents in 2022, officials said and 90% of these calls were at residential settings. The poison gas can cause headache, fatigue, dizziness and/or nausea at lower concentrations and death at higher concentrations. Exposure while asleep is particularly dangerous. Children, older adults and people with lung or heart disease are especially vulnerable.

"We can't see, smell, or taste carbon monoxide, but we can detect it with working CO alarms," State Fire Marshal Davine said. "If your alarm sounds, get outside and call 9-1-1." For more information on carbon monoxide and CO alarms, people may visit the DFS website.

SECURITY

from page 4

of lower income workers. Nevertheless, albeit a smaller replacement percentage, higher income workers receive a higher monthly SS benefit because of their higher lifetime earnings. Even so, those higher earners did, indeed, contribute more payroll taxes from their higher earnings.

So, each person's SS retirement benefit amount is a percentage of their pre-retirement income. Coincidentally, those with higher pre-retirement income also contributed more to the Social Security program than did those with lower earnings. But their higher SS benefit amount is based on their higher pre-retirement earnings, not on payroll

taxes paid from those higher earnings.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Country Journal corrections policy

If you notice a factual error in our pages, please let us know, so that we can set the record straight. Email information to countryjournal@turley.com, or call us at 413-283-8393.

Corrections will be printed in the same section where the error originally occurred.

News, photo publication policy

As a community newspaper our focus has always been local news. While we try very hard to run upcoming events as a public service whenever space allows, space does not allow us to run an upcoming event repeatedly. Our policy is to limit publication of upcoming events to one article in advance of the event and, space permitting, a second brief reminder article the week prior to an event, and to run those articles in only one section of the paper, and not in multiple sections simultaneously.

All such public service announcements and photos are subject to space limitations and deadlines, therefore publication cannot be guaranteed. Whenever copy for the week exceeds allotted space, news copy will take priority, and public service copy is the first area to be cut. We also reserve the right to edit for style and space, and are under no obligation to print lists of sponsorships, or articles that arrive after deadline, unless time and space allows. **Deadline is Monday at NOON**, on holidays it is **Friday at 2 p.m.**

WILLIAMSBURG



This is one of the painting by Haydenville artist Brantner DeAtley on exhibit at the Meekins Library, 2 Williams St., Williamsburg. *Painting by Brantner DeAtley*

Meekins Library exhibits Brantner DeAtley art

WILLIAMSBURG – Paintings and sculpture by Haydenville artist Brantner DeAtley are presently on exhibit at the Meekins Library until Thursday, Feb. 29.

“Brantner DeAtley’s richly textured landscape paintings and drawings present views of the forested landscape surrounding his New England farm. DeAtley’s detailed and densely packed compositions capture the natural world with vivid colors. The striking brushstrokes appear to crawl across his canvases, making the trees move Ent-like across

the landscapes of his uncanny worlds.”

DeAtley’s sculptures, a variety of creatures from the animal realm are made of mostly post consumer goods, for example, Outside Bear has a core of skewered Styrofoam with an assortment of trash (rubber gloves, paint mini-rollers, etc.) covered with the epoxy line marking street paint left over from the cross-walk mural in downtown Florence.

People may visit the Meekins Library website for open hours at www.meekins-library.org.

Church installs prayer box

WILLIAMSBURG – On Sunday morning the Williamsburg Congregational Church put out a Prayer Box in front of their building on North Main Street. Folks are welcome to write any requests for the church

community to lift in prayer during Sunday’s worship service.

The box was the idea of the church Archivist Daria D’Arienzo and made by head deacon Roy Beals with the help of his wife, Evelyn.



Roy and Evelyn Beals put up the Prayer Box in front of the “Burgy Church” Sunday morning. *Photo by Jennifer Burdick*

WORTHINGTON

Worthington announces Cultural Council awards

WORTHINGTON – The Mass Cultural Council has awarded the Worthington Council \$5,500 for FY24.

The Worthington Cultural Council’s priority statement: “We place special emphasis on projects that serve the entire local community, as well as those aimed at families and school-age children. We are seeking to expand the types of projects we fund to include social and recreational events that encourage community togetherness.”

Here is list of Cultural Council grantees for 2024:

Smith Vocational Agricultural School – The Viking Runestone student magazine, publishes spring 2024

It Takes a Village – Caregiver and Child Music Class for Hilltown Families, takes place throughout 2024 at Meekins Library in Williamsburg

Hilltown Seed Saving Network – Free Tree Grafting Workshop, takes place in early March 2024 at the Village Church in Cummington

Hampshire Music Booster – HRHS 2024 Musical, takes place March 22-24 at Hampshire Regional High School

KlezCummington – a klezmer music festival that takes place on July 6 in Cummington

Hilltown Theatre Anonymous 2024: As You Like It – takes place in June of 2024 in Chesterfield or Worthington

Diane Edgecomb – “Let’s Go Eco Show!” for Worthington Library Summer Reading, July 18 at 10:30 a.m. at the Worthington Library

Hilltown Community Health Centers – Built Your World activities for children entering kindergarten and first grade, takes place in Worthington during the month of August

Scott Rogers – Windsor Jazz and Blues Workshop, takes place at Windsor Town Hall and Town Park during the summer

Hilltown Arts Alliance – Hilltown Open Studio Tour, takes place Oct. 5-6 at artist studios around the Hilltowns

Seva Water – Make a Seed Paper to Plant activity, takes place April 22 at the Cummington Village Church

Steven Cormier – Author presentation of Life and Times of Parley B. Hutchins, takes place at the Worthington

Historical Society on March 9

Rochelle Wildfong – Everybody’s a Storyteller workshop, winter 2024 at the Cummington Village Church’s Friday Night Cafe

Sevenars 56th Anniversary Season – July-August, Worthington

2024 Littleville Fair – Aug. 2, 3 and 4 at Littleville Fairgrounds, Chester

North Hall Association – Historic North Hall Arts Festival 2024, May-September at North Hall in Huntington

Tori Lawrence – Atland Dance Film Festival, August, Chesterfield

Worthington Historical Society – Archiving project, ongoing in 2024

Chesterfield 4th of July Parade – July 4, Chesterfield

Rondae Drafts – Hip Hop Chair Dance for Seniors, February 2024 at the Council on Aging

Plainfield Concerts at 7 – chamber music series, Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26 at the Plainfield Congregational Church

John P. Porcino – Read, Renew, Repeat performance for families, July 25 at 10:30 a.m. at the Worthington Library

Gregory Maichack – Painting

Seascapes Inspired by Winslow Homer: Maintaining Habitats (class), May 4, 2024, from 2-4 pm at the Worthington Library

Cummington Village Church – Friday Night Cafe, musical performances place on the 2nd and 4th Fridays: Jan. – June and Sept. – Nov. 2024 at the Cummington Village Church

Hilltown Families, Inc. – Hilltown Families Suggest, a newsletter roundup of family activities in the region, comes out every Thursday in 2023 (52 weeks)

Mary Jo Maichack – Adventure with the Froggyman: Playing with Stories and Songs of Nature, family activity on Thurs., Aug. 1, 2024, 10:30-11:30 am at the Worthington Library

The Worthington Library – Windbourne Concert, vocal music performance takes place January 19, 2024, at the Worthington Congregational Church

Kamaya M. Diggs – Worthington Writing Residency culminating in a public reading, takes place in spring or fall 2024 at the Goldenrod Country Inn (tentative)

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HUNTINGTON

Town Clerk announces upcoming 2024 election dates

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Town Clerk announces there are four elections scheduled in 2024.

Massachusetts voters will take part in the “Super Tuesday” presidential primary election on Tuesday, March 5 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Massachusetts is one of 15 states and one territory American Samoa that will vote; 36% of Republican delegates will be determined on Super Tuesday.

Huntington’s Annual Town Election will be held on Saturday, May 11 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. In addition to voting on the town positions up for re-election this year, voters will also have a ballot question to determine if the Town Clerk can move from an elected position to one appointed by the Select Board. This is the final step in moving forward on this, which was first approved by residents that attended the

2023 Annual Town Meeting.

The Massachusetts State Primary will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 3, with votes cast from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

Finally, the State and Presidential Election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 5; again, votes can be cast between 7 a.m.-8 p.m. on that day.

In-person voting for all elections is held at Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road.

Voters also have the option of voting by mail or filing an absentee ballot. Instructions on these options and applications are available on the Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth’s website by visiting <https://www.sec.state.ma.us>.

Questions may also be directed to the Town Clerk’s office by emailing town-clerk@huntingtonma.us or calling 413-512-5209.

COA lists upcoming events

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Council on Aging will be hosting the following events at Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road.

A winter birthday celebration will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 1 p.m. Everyone is welcome to enjoy cake, ice cream, and Bingo. On Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 2 p.m., the Pioneer Valley Fiddlers will entertain seniors.

The Age & Dementia Friendly Task Force will meet on Wednesday, March 6 at 1 p.m. Terry Olbrych from Norcom will present a program on Reverse Mortgages on Wednesday, March 13 at 1 p.m.

On Saturday, March 16 at noon a sit-down St. Patrick’s luncheon featuring Wild Thyme will be held. Reservations

are limited to the first 70 people, who sign up by Friday, March 1. Suggested donation is \$7 per person.

Lois Kiraly will present “From Wild to Mild – How the Wolf has Evolved to a Pet Dog” on Wednesday, March 20 at 1 p.m. The Hilltown Memory Café is held weekly on Wednesdays from 2-3 p.m. and provides seniors with activities while their caregivers participate in a support group. The café is open to all with and without memory issues.

Chair yoga is held every Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the cost of \$5 per person per class. Line Dancing is held on Thursdays at 10 a.m. All events are free of charge unless noted. People may call the COA at 413-512-5205 or email coa@huntington-ma.us for more information.

Council on Aging announces new activity clubs offered

HUNTINGTON – The Council on Aging is looking to build more social activities by offering activity clubs.

Suggestions being considered include card games, chess, scrabble, knitting, quilting, pickle ball or even a coffee club. People may call the COA at 413-512-5205 to suggest new activities or to sign up for those that have formed. Transportation can be provided by the Franklin Regional Transit Authority van or by volunteers.

Another new project for the COA, in partnership with the Huntington

Public Library, is a weekly book pick-up and drop-off for homebound seniors. Volunteers are needed to help with deliveries. To volunteer, or to take part as a homebound senior, people may call the COA to register.

Two exercise programs are currently offered at Stanton Hall. Chair Yoga is available every Wednesday from 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m., at a cost of \$5 per class. Line dancing is offered on Thursdays from 10-11 a.m. for free. Participants will watch an instructional video and then dance.

TA announces Town Hall and Stanton Hall ramp open

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Town Hall and Stanton Hall ramp is now open with temporary handrails.

There will be interruptions in accessibility when the permanent handrails are installed. During that time, the front and back doors at Town Hall and the front door at Stanton Hall will be used

for entry. If any member of the public is unable to use the stairs to these entrances, they may call Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin at 413-512-5200 or the department in which they wish to see in advance for an accommodation. The town apologizes for the inconvenience and appreciates the public’s patience.

FLORENCE

Florence Bank promotes Andre Motulski to VP

FLORENCE – The Florence Bank promoted Andre Motulski of Broad Brook, Connecticut, to the role of vice president/controller.

Motulski joined the bank’s team as assistant vice president/controller in September 2019. He holds a bachelor’s degree in accounting from Central Connecticut State University and is a Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Commissioned Risk Management Examiner.

In his new role, which he assumed in December 2023, Motulski is responsible for managing financial records, ensuring regulatory compliance and assessing risks associated with lending and investment activities.



Andre Motulski

Motulski is involved in the community, serving on the Finance Committee for Hampshire Regional YMCA in Northampton.

Matt Garrity, president and CEO of Florence Bank, said, “As an evolving leader, Andre can think strategically, delegate, problem-solve and work effectively across multiple departments, always keeping the customer and his colleagues top of mind.”

Florence Bank is a mutual savings bank chartered in 1873. Currently, the bank serves the Pioneer Valley through 12 full-service branch locations in Florence, Northampton, Easthampton, Williamsburg, Amherst, Hadley, Belchertown, Granby, Chicopee, West Springfield and Springfield.

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RUSSELL

RUSSELL LIBRARY HOSTS HORACE MOSES PROGRAM



Dr. Robert Kidd of Blandford spoke at the Russell Public Library Saturday, Feb. 10 about Horace Moses and his contributions to the town of Russell.

Courtesy photo by Lucia Sullivan

BLANDFORD

Town Clerk list early voting

BLANDFORD – Town Clerk Doris Jemiolo announced that in-person early voting for the March primary will be Saturday, Feb. 24 from 9

a.m.-1 p.m. and Monday, Feb. 26 from 5-7 p.m.

All early in-person voting will be in the Town Clerk's office.

SELECT BOARD

from page 1

The board heard research on health insurance plan costs from Szlosek and approved including vision to the current health care plan for town full time employees.

Snow policy

The board discussed the snow policy and will include the opportunity for part time employees to come to work on another day if Town Offices are closed due to inclement weather. The policy will be voted on next week.

The board will meet soon with Chester Select Board to discuss combined services with Police, Fire and Water Operator.

ACO vehicle

Another topic suggested was the Animal Control Officer's vehicle. Sgt. Frank Murphy of the Chester/Blandford Police Department was present and said that Chester's ACO wanted to purchase the vehicle to be used only for his purposes with a Comfort Dog, which is still in training. Sgt. Murphy will take the car to an automotive shop to be checked off.

Blandford will host the meeting on a day other than a regular board meeting. No date has been set yet.

Contact negotiations

The board will discuss contract negotiations in executive session at their next meeting.

In other business the board discussed invoices for tree work and police detail for tree cutting. Invoices presented were for \$7,200 from the Tree Warden's outside services account, \$9,600 for Ash tree removal and \$488 for Hampden Country Sheriff's police detail.

Chair of Planning Board Paul Martin briefly addressed his boards warrant articles for the March 18 Special Town Meeting, addressing the town's

ability to assess solar projects for battery storage areas as personal property.

Building permit

Talking about Belle Fleur, the cannabis cultivating concern on Otis Stage Road, Martin asked that the board consider applying all new building permits against the original \$39,225 building permit issued in 2021.

Martin said, in the interest of "fairness and good business practices... I can't see the town keeping that fee... considering it was nothing Belle Fleur did..."

Letendre said she could agree to having the additional building permits, which may be for at least four, applied against the original fee.

Martin said he would track the costs of permits deducted from the previously paid \$39,225 already paid.

The board approved the motion and will pass that on to the treasurer/collector and accountant.

Sen. Paul Mark and Rep. Nicholas Boldyga will hold a meeting at Town Hall on Friday, February 23 at 9:30.

Other business

The board also approved endorsing the Small Town Administrators of Massachusetts legislative priorities which includes changing the Chapter 90 formula, a Municipal Building Assistance Authority, reforming Education funding formulas, increasing procurement thresholds, improving prevailing wage laws, reforming the state's Payment in Lieu of Taxes, providing staffing support for the Office of Rural Affairs and reducing administrative burdens for small towns.

There will be a meeting with the DEP Monday, March 7 at 5 p.m. to review the town's emergency plan already in place.

CHESTER

Chief administrative officers advocate legislative priorities

More than 100 Chief Administrative Officers representing communities with populations of 12,000 or less from across the Commonwealth join with the town of Chester and Small Town Administrators of Massachusetts to advocate for legislative priorities impacting resident lives.

STAM members listed addressing crumbling Infrastructure as their top legislative priority. Other important issues were permanently change the Chapter 90 formula and increasing total funding to more than \$330 million per year to help small towns improve roads, bridges and water systems, create and und the Municipal Building Assistance Authority and regional school support and sustainable approaches to education.

Other priorities were reforming the

Education Funding Formulas to provide more support for regional school districts in towns having to choose between schools and municipal services, create regional incentives for districts looking to create sustainable pathways in the face of declining enrollment and increased costs for personnel and transportation and increase the procurement thresholds to reduce administrative and cost burdens on small towns with limited budgets and vendor choices.

Also they advocate to improve prevailing wage laws by providing exemptions and rural factors, reform the Payment in Lieu of Taxes on state owned land to create more equity, provide staffing and support for the Office of Rural Affairs and reduce administrative burdens that prevent small towns for getting state grants.

GILMAN

from page 1

couldn't tell me anything. I know he was in England, France and Germany, and near the Battle of the Bulge, but I know little of this." Unlike other GI wives, she never had the jubilant state-side reunion. "Jim worked with the Marshall Plan and could not come home. He did send for me and I was so excited."

Her mother did not want her to leave the farm, especially with a two year old. "But I went. This would be a real adventure." The Europe she saw was in ruins and she landed in the absolute heart of darkness for the realization of Nazi atrocities: Nuremberg. Jim Gilman was a logistician for the Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunals. They lived in the home of a banker for the Nazi party who served time. His family still lived in the house, but had moved to the top floor.

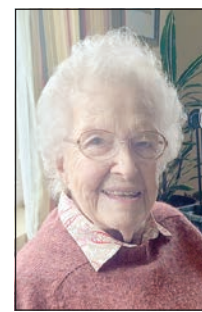
"I couldn't go anywhere by myself. Jim's driver took me in a Jeep. All around me Germans were trying to clean up the streets. It was hard to tell what Germans thought at that point, but people looked as if they were in a state of shock. The women who worked for us were lovely. I became friends with one of the them and visited her long after the war."

She never witnessed the concentration camps, but remembered the Displaced Persons camp on the outskirts of Nuremberg. "They had no homes or anything to live on. They were often caught stealing. A friend of ours from the U.S. was guarding Nazi officers in another camp and reported that they complained about the food."

She was a witness to Hermann Goering at his trial. Goering had been president of the Reichstag and Chief Commander of the Luftwaffe or German air command. He was also notorious for his love of art and plundering of Jews possessions for his own collections.

"Jim arranged for me to get in [to the trials] and I remember this gadget with a dial that you could turn for the language translation. I saw what you sometimes see in photographs: the prisoners on the dock with the guards behind each one. Goering committed suicide not long after. I remember there being lots of whispering among the servants in the house that day. We had several women working for us as they just wanted a meal."

Nuremberg was certainly a remarkable place to begin new parenthood and she remembers huge contrasts within daily life. "They had opened up the grand hotel and used it for entertaining. We would celebrate



Harriet Gilman

anything including just a birthday. I went to Carmen at the opera. I remember one night going to some party and driving back in a Jeep on the main road that had been fixed up. There was utter darkness."

The Gilmans stayed in Europe for a year before returning by boat. "I was so happy to sail into New York harbor and see the Statue of Liberty."

Stateside, the Gilmans moved to northern Virginia as Jim continued out his service at the Pentagon. Together with now two young boys, they went back to Europe and lived in Germany and France in the 1950s.

After his retirement with 26 years in service, they both taught in public schools, Jim at science and Harriet in home economics. "I loved what we were doing as finally we could talk about each other's work."

With Jim retiring from the military, they decided to return home, which for them would always be North Chester. After such an active military career "Jim didn't know what to do with himself," she says. They tried growing strawberries which didn't work.

They joined lots of local committees. They finally stumbled upon blueberries and began planting the varied kinds that dot the hillsides of Kelso farm today.

"Each generation has taken a whack at the homestead," she says. In addition to her two sons, who return each summer, she has six grandchildren. She's hoping one of them decides that the family connection to Hilltowns farming will be unbroken. "One is interested," she says, "but it's a real life change moving here from somewhere else and his wife has a career as a nurse."

It's been hard keeping up a farm without many local people interested in working for them. The farm has kept running since the '80s with the help of Ukrainian immigrants from Westfield. "The best pickers are older women with patience," she says.

When I first met the Gilman's I noticed the women chatting to each other in what I thought was Russian as they picked. I asked them where they were from. A woman with hands stained purple apologized for her English and told me she had just arrived in the U.S. three months prior from Ukraine.

Wars, blueberries on a hot summer day, lives come full circle as Mrs. Harriet Kelso Gilman continues happily into her 103rd year.



MONEY MATTERS

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sionals who collaborate seamlessly to provide clients with the highest level of personalized service. Through continuous training, the team stays well-informed and equipped to navigate the complexities of the financial landscape. The courteous approach reflects the firm's commitment to treating clients with respect and professionalism.

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THE ROAD TO **Financial Wellness**

The Benefits of Using a Financial Planner

In today's complex financial world, many investors seek out financial planners to help them navigate the intricacies of personal finance. The benefits of having expert financial help are manifold, including investment advice, retirement planning, tax strategies and estate planning.

Most financial planners collaborate with their clients to choose an asset allocation that melds the client's risk tolerance with their goals. After investments are chosen, often the advisor plays the role of cheerleader. Keeping clients from making rash decisions and veering off course from their financial plan may be one of the most important roles an advisor plays. All advisors have seen clients panic and try to make changes to portfolios in response to political or economic events that soon pass.

Retirement planning may be one of the most important acts that an advisor can perform. Everyone would love a stress-free retirement. A good planner can help calculate how much you will need to save to retire. He or she will also create a

strategy for claiming social security and any pensions in order to meet retirement spending needs.

An often-overlooked benefit of having a good financial expert is tax planning. Should you invest in a traditional 401k or a Roth? When should you begin withdrawing from your taxable accounts? Do you have to pay taxes on social security? When do you need to take Required Minimum Distributions and are you taking the correct amount?

In addition to all the above, proper estate planning is imperative to make sure that your assets end up where you would like them to, with the least amount of hassle. Do you need trust or is your will sufficient? Is your house protected from Medicaid in the future? Hiring a good financial expert can greatly enhance your financial life.

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A Personal Representative of an estate will have to navigate a daunting the list of responsibilities and tasks. For an inexperienced family member, this can result in missed deadlines, increased tax liabilities, and long delays that can draw the ire of other family beneficiaries. In some cases, the situation can end up in costly, wasteful legal battles between family members over the disposition of the estate.

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Estate Settlement Tasks

- Entering the Will into probate, and handling other legal requirements.
- Gathering all of the personal property and arranging for support of the family.
- Obtaining appraisals of required property for tax purposes.
- Reviewing real estate records to assure timely payment of taxes and collection of rents.
- Evaluating contracts and leases to comply with all requirements, including giving necessary notices.
- Investigating and handling all claims against the estate.
- Collecting all life insurance, rents, and other amounts due to the estate.
- Preparing and filing estate and inheritance federal and state tax returns.
- Paying related estate and inheritance taxes.
- Preparing a final accounting of the estate.
- Distributing the estate to the beneficiaries as directed by the Will.

WESTFIELD

Westfield Bank donates to Shriners Children's

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Bank announces a \$12,500 donation to Shriners Children's in partnership with Elan Credit Card Charitable Giving Program.

Shriners Children's is dedicated to improving the lives of children by providing excellent, high quality pediatric specialty care for children up to age 18, regardless of their ability to pay or insurance status.

"We are proud to continue our support of this wonderful organization," said James Hagan, President and CEO. "For close to 100 years, Shriners Children's has done incredible work providing pediatric care, innovative research and offering educational programs for medical professionals. Westfield Bank is proud to be a long-time partner with Shriners Children's," he said.

Westfield Bank, headquartered in Westfield, is a federally chartered sav-



Shown are Jim Hagan, President and CEO of Westfield Bank and Stacey Perlmutter, Senior Director of Philanthropy at Shriners Children's New England. Submitted photo

ings bank organized in 1853 and is the largest publicly traded bank headquartered in Western Massachusetts. Currently, the bank has twenty-five branch offices, fifty-four ATMs, and an additional thirty-one seasonal ATMs and serves Hampden and Hampshire counties in Western Massachusetts and Hartford and Tolland counties in Northern Connecticut.

Shriners Hospitals for Children is a non-profit organization, commonly known as Shriners Children's. At Shriners Children's, they are committed to reaching as many children as possible, wherever they may live and offering them the unique, patient-centered, wraparound care. Since opening the first hospital in 1922, they have been devoted to providing high-quality specialty medical care to the children and families, who come to us, regardless of their ability to pay or insurance status.

WILLIAMSTOWN

Clark opens exhibit on paper acquisitions

WILLIAMSTOWN – Marking the fiftieth anniversary of its Manton Research Center, the Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., presents the opportunity to see a selection of prints, drawings and photographs acquired between 1973 and 2023.

Titled "50 Years and Forward: Works on Paper Acquisitions" opened on Saturday, Dec. 16 and is on view through

Sunday, March 10, 2024 in the Clark Center. The exhibition features several recent acquisitions as well as other works never previously shown at the Clark.

A companion exhibition, "50 Years and Forward: British Prints and Drawings Acquisitions," is on view in the Eugene V. Thaw Gallery, located in the Manton Research Center, through Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024.

Clark Art Institute offers free admission

WILLIAMSTOWN – The Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., will offer free admission for all visitors from January through March 2024.

In its second year, the "Free for Three" program is part of the Institute's ongoing effort to expand awareness of its programming and to welcome new visitors.

"We want everyone in our community to feel welcome at the Clark and hope that they will take advantage of our free admission months to explore our galleries, wander our grounds, and get to know the Clark better," said Olivier Meslay, Hardymon Director of the Clark. "By offering three months of free admission, our visitors will

be able to discover our permanent collection, see three new exhibitions and participate in a number of free events and programs offered between January through March.

During the free admission season, visitors will have the opportunity to tour the Clark's noted permanent collection and to see three new exhibitions, 50 Years and Forward: British Prints and Drawings Acquisitions (open through Feb. 11), 50 Years and Forward: Works on Paper Acquisitions (open through March 10) and Paper Cities (opens March 9). On Feb. 10, the Clark will open the latest presentation of contemporary art in its public spaces with an installation by David-Jeremiah.

Clark Art Institute holds school vacation programs

WILLIAMSTOWN – From Monday, Feb. 19 through Friday, Feb. 23, the Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., hosts special activities during February School Vacation Week.

Every day this week, visitors can also pick up a set of complimentary colored pencils and a drawing pad at the Clark Center Admissions desk. Admission is free for all visitors through March 31.

Fifty Years and Forward: Works on Paper Acquisitions, is on view during February School Vacation Week and through March 10. To learn more about the art-making methods depicted in the exhibition, visitors are welcome to par-

ticipate in the exciting programs offered.

Drop-in Cyanotype-Making will be held Thursday, Feb. 22 from 2-4 p.m. in the Clark Center Michael Conforti Pavilion. People may drop in anytime from 2-4 p.m. to learn more about the photographic printing process.

Printmaking workshops will be held on Friday, Feb. 22 at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. in the Clark Center Family Room. In these guided workshops, participants will create unique prints to take home or share with friends. Advance registration is required. For more information and to register, people may visit clarkart.edu/events. Family programs are generously supported by Allen & Company.

OTIS

Author Gail Gelburd to talk about her book March 21

MONTEREY – The Otis Historical Commission and Otis Preservation Trust, in collaboration with the Monterey Historical Society, are co-hosting a talk by Gail Gelburd about her upcoming book "Slaying the Dragons: The Liberation of Sue Moody."

The 45 minute talk will be held on Thursday, March 21 at 7 p.m. at Monterey Library, 452 Main Road. A question and answer session will follow the talk. The program will also be available for viewing on zoom. Admission is free but pre-registration is required.

In the corner of an abandoned house on the border of Monterey and Otis, sat dozens of cardboard boxes covered with cobwebs. Inside were extensive journals, thousands of letters and many manuscripts written by journalist, author, and poet, Sue Moody. These documents were rescued by Gail Gelburd and preserved by the Otis Historical Commission; Gail Gelburd has spent several years researching and telling Sue Moody's fascinating story.

During the 1930s and 1940s, Sue Moody was a food editor for major media outlets in the U.S.A. and the International Herald in Paris. While there, she huddled with her young child as Hitler's army marched down the boulevard beneath her window. Moody wrote about starvation, survival and escaping German occupation. Primarily using Moody's own words, Gail Gelburd gives insights into 1940s Paris, being a female journalist in the mid-twentieth century and why Moody ultimately found refuge in the Berkshires.

The ephemera that she left behind reveals her personal and professional struggles. During the course of her career, she met the "Unsinkable Molly Brown" and many writers. She describes these people and places in surrealist fantasy, historic fiction and memoir. Moody writes about foods and their origin as well as writing poet-



Sue Moody

ry for the local Monterey, Massachusetts paper.

Gail Gelburd is an author, curator, artist and the co-chair of the Otis Historical Commission. She was a Professor at Eastern Connecticut State University as well as Chair of the Arts Department. As an art historian with a PhD she has published more than 15 books about artists with Abrams, U

Penn Press and others. It is always the artist's story that most interests her; so when Gelburd discovered Sue Moody, an international journalist in her own Berkshire backyard, she felt compelled to tell her story.

Monterey Historical Society and Otis Preservation Trust are pleased to be collaborating on this program.

OPT works with the Otis Historical Commission to organize and preserve the history and heritage of Otis for future generations by supporting efforts to preserve, restore, repurpose and educate about buildings, monuments, lands and memorabilia of Otis.

OPT is a not-for-profit (501c3) organization operated for fundraising and educational purposes. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Otis Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, an agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Monterey Historical Society is also a non-profit similarly engaged in preserving local history and telling stories about the rich cultural heritage of the Berkshires.

The event is at the Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, on Thursday, March 21 at 7 p.m. The program will also be live-streamed on zoom. To register for in-person attendance or for streaming on-line or for more information, people may visit www.otispreservationtrust.com or www.townofotisma.com. There is no charge to attend this event, but pre-registration is required. Donations are welcome.

Seniors to enjoy music, cookies

OTIS – On Monday, Feb. 26 at 1 p.m. Annette Eva Devine will entertain at the Otis Senior Center, One North

Main St.

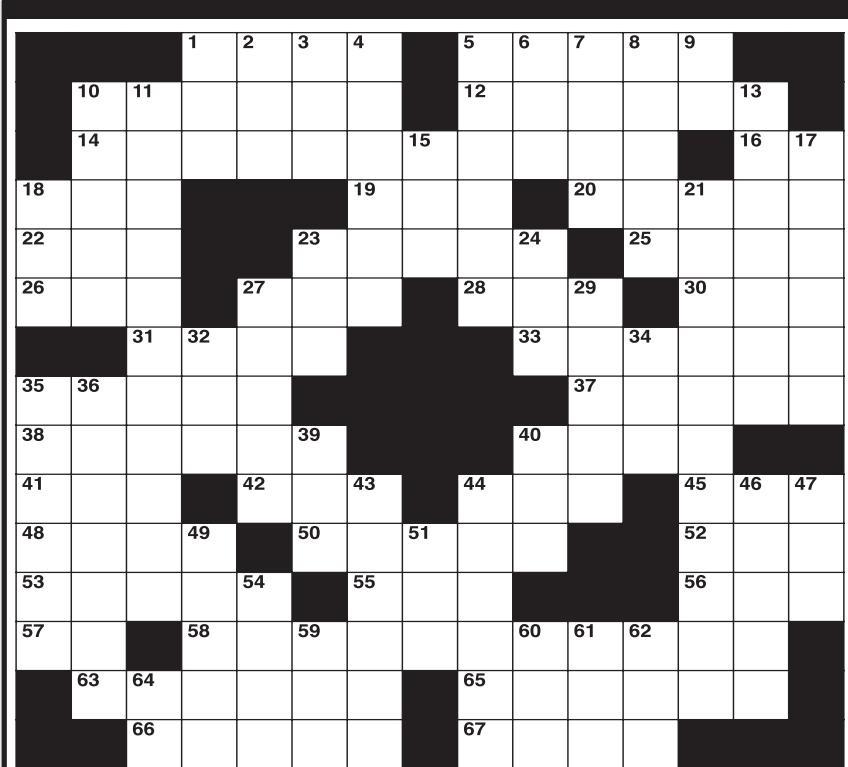
Devine is an accomplished singer and songwriter.



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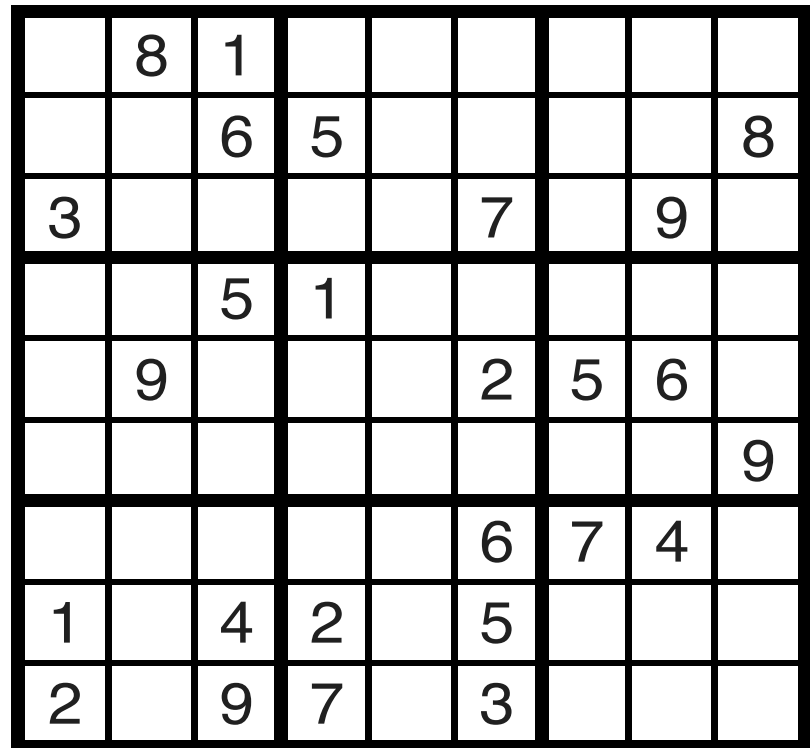
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- CLUES ACROSS**
- Gene type
 - Persian male given name
 - Type of protection
 - Cloud
 - One who returns to life
 - Gym class
 - General's assistant (abbr.)
 - Baby's dining accessory
 - Enchantress
 - Prefix denoting "in a"
 - Spiritual leader
 - Cavities
 - Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
 - Foot (Latin)
 - Sweet potato
 - Pharaoh of Lower Egypt
 - Land
 - More inquisitive
 - Dog breed: ___ Apso
- CLUES DOWN**
- DC Comics superhero
 - Brew
 - Play
 - Single-celled animals
 - Rough to the touch
 - Small island (British)
 - Often noted alongside cons
 - Preparation of rootstock
 - Atomic #44
 - Egyptian unit of capacity
 - About secretary
 - Particular groups
 - Poke fun at
 - Make certain that something occurs
 - Financial term
 - Justify
 - Arbiter
 - 007's creato
 - Czech name for Prague
- CLUES ACROSS**
- Stood up
 - Direct and uninhibited
 - Authorless
 - Blocking type of drug (abbr.)
 - Retrospective analysis (abbr.)
 - Root mean square (abbr.)
 - Macaws
 - Actress Remini
 - Polynesian wrapped skirt
 - City of Angels hoops team (abbr.)
 - Fitzgerald and Baker are two
 - Bowling alley must-have
 - A way to cool down
 - Ethnic group in Asia
 - A way to alter
 - Set of five
 - Removes from the record
 - Dummies
- CLUES DOWN**
- Set period in office
 - Groans
 - American time
 - No seats available
 - ___ Stahl, journalist
 - Cleft lip
 - Talk incessantly
 - Expresses atomic and molecular weights (abbr.)
 - A part of a river where the current is very fast
 - Curdled milk
 - Running competitions
 - A team's best pitcher
 - Carthaginian explorer
 - World-renowned city
 - Most common Japanese surname
 - The bill in a restaurant
 - They ___
 - City of Angels football team (abbr.)
 - Distinctive practice
 - One quintillion bytes

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

- ARIES**
 Mar 21/Apr 20
 Creativity may prove elusive this week, Aries. You want to get into a crafty project but you simply can't find traction just yet. Don't give up too soon.
- CANCER**
 Jun 22/Jul 22
 Romantic matters are going very well right now, Cancer, even if you may not feel entirely confident. The person who cares for you will not notice your insecurities.
- LIBRA**
 Sept 23/Oct 23
 You may be in the mood to expand your knowledge on one or more subjects. Visit the library or a bookstore and pick up something that piques your interest.
- CAPRICORN**
 Dec 22/Jan 20
 Information coming to you could have you feeling nervous about your financial security. If this is outside your area of expertise, you may want to sit down with a planner.
- TAURUS**
 Apr 21/May 21
 Taurus, a distracted friend or loved one may not be good company over the next few days. Reach out and offer to be a sounding board to help this person re-center their focus.
- LEO**
 Jul 23/Aug 23
 The more challenging path may prove the best one to take as your work on a certain task, Leo. Dig in and start figuring a way out to the other side.
- SCORPIO**
 Oct 24/Nov 22
 Scorpio, you may pick up on some vibes when hanging out with others that just don't fit in with your line of thinking. Give it some time before you cut any ties. You may be misinterpreting.
- AQUARIUS**
 Jan 21/Feb 18
 Confusing messages from work may find you reconsidering plans that you already put into motion. Get more information before modifying your plans.
- GEMINI**
 May 22/June 21
 Are you feeling preoccupied, Gemini? You can't seem to focus on one thing or another and friends will start to notice when you are in their company.
- VIRGO**
 Aug 24/Sept 22
 Virgo, there is so much to do around the house that you may not know where to start. Spring cleaning comes a month or two early. Ask for help if you're feeling frazzled.
- SAGITTARIUS**
 Nov 23/Dec 21
 There has been a lot going on in your life, Sagittarius. You may be experiencing some apprehension about the future. Take every concern individually and give it thought.
- PISCES**
 Feb 19/Mar 20
 Your mind is all over the place right now, so it could be difficult to focus on mundane things like chores or other activities right now. However, don't push them off.



SUDOKU

Here's How It Works:
 Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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answers

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REGION

Federal grants announced for Safe Streets and Roads for All

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announced that nearly \$18 million in additional 2023 grant funding is being awarded to 11 communities and two planning agencies as part of the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program. The Program was established through the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and includes approximately \$5 billion in appropriated funds to be awarded over the next five years. The additional grant awards will be going to planning and infrastructure initiatives to improve road safety in a number of locations, including over \$14 million for the City of Boston.

"We continue to be grateful to the U.S. Department of Transportation and our congressional delegation for their support through Safe Streets and Roads grant funding awards like these," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt. "MassDOT will continue to partner with communities throughout the Commonwealth support projects and programs for these grants. We are particularly proud that these awards align so well with MassDOT's multimodal safety and travel goals."

The SS4A program funding awards can be used to improve roadway safety by supporting communities in developing comprehensive safety action plans based on a Safe Systems Approach, conduct data analyses, and implement projects and strategies that seek to significantly reduce or eliminate transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries involving pedestrians, bicyclists, micromobility users, motorists, public transportation

customers, users of personal conveyance, and commercial vehicle operators. Additionally, awarded funding can also be used to support robust stakeholder engagement to ensure that all community members have a voice in developing plans, projects, and strategies.

The announcement made by the U.S. Department of Transportation and MassDOT awarded grants to the following communities and Regional Planning Agencies: Westfield – \$200,000, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission – \$1million and Pittsfield – \$310,000.

Earlier this year, MassDOT announced that 21 municipalities and Regional Planning Agencies in Massachusetts received grant awards through the first two rounds of the Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program. The recipients of these first two rounds of funding awards included Berkshire Regional Planning Commission – \$198,593.

The Safe Streets and Roads for All Program projects are approved based on including specific timelines and projects for implementation, specific prioritization criteria, and incorporation of the Safe System Approach.

For more information about the award announcement, people may visit <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/ss4a/announcement>.

For the full list of Safe Streets and Roads for All Awards, people may visit <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/ss4a/2023-award>

For more information about the Safe Streets and Roads for All Program, people may visit <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A>.

Sen. Paul Mark announces upcoming staff office hours

BOSTON – State Senator Paul W. Mark announces his staff will host office hours at locations in Berkshire County in February.

Dates include: Tuesday, Feb. 20 from 9 a.m.-noon. Town Hall, 8 Park St., Adams; Monday, Feb. 26 from 9 a.m.-noon. Town Hall, 334 Main St., Great Barrington; Tuesday, Feb. 20 from 1-4 p.m. Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, Alumni Relations Building, 228 East Main St., North

Adams and Wednesday, Feb. 21, and Thursday, Feb. 22, from 9 a.m.-noon District Office, 773 Tyler St., Pittsfield.

Residents of any of the 57 municipalities in the Senator's Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin, and Hampshire District are encouraged to share ideas on current or potential state legislation, or to ask for assistance with issues involving any state agency.

Appointments are not required.

Great Falls Discovery Center announces news and events

TURNERS FALLS – Great Falls Discovery Center, Department of Conservation and Recreation, 2 Avenue A, list upcoming programs.

All programs are free and open to the public. An adult must accompany children. Inclement weather cancels outdoor programs. Reasonable accommodations available upon request. Wheelchair accessible. For more information call 413-863-3221 or visit: <https://www.mass.gov/locations/great-falls-discovery-center>; or email janel.nockleby@mass.gov. The Great Falls Discovery Center is located at 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

The Visitor Center is open six days per week Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Wednesdays through Sundays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

People can explore the natural, cultural and industrial history of the

Connecticut River Watershed in the dynamic exhibit dioramas. Adjacent to the Canalside Rail Trail, the center also includes the Great Hall exhibit gallery, restrooms and drinking water.

Snowy Indoor StoryWalks® includes "Tracks In the Snow" by Wong Herbert Yea now through Sunday, Feb. 17. This is for ages 3 and up, who must be accompanied by an adult. They should meet at the welcome desk.

The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. Story Walk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson. This StoryWalk® is provided by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Interpretive Services.

Berkshire Pulse receives National Endowment for the Arts grant

HOUSATONIC – Berkshire Pulse, South County's dynamic dance and performing arts education center located in downtown Housatonic, announces it has been approved by the National Endowment for the Arts for a \$10,000 Challenge America award.

This award will support Soul Steps Residency 2024, a three-week artist residency with Soul Steps, a NYC-based dance-theater company founded in 2005, dedicated to teaching and performing African American step dance. In total, the NEA will award 257 Challenge America awards totaling \$2,570,000 that were announced as part

of its first round of fiscal year 2024 grants.

"The NEA is delighted to announce this grant to Berkshire Pulse, which is helping contribute to the strength and well-being of the arts sector and local community," said National Endowment for the Arts Chair Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD. "We are pleased to be able to support this community and help create an environment where all people have the opportunity to live artful lives."

During this 2024 residency, five Soul Steps company members will teach significant in-school programs

at Taconic and Pittsfield High School, continue developing their work-in-progress Step Show: The Musical in the Berkshire Pulse studios and offer a free workshop and performance for the community. Berkshire Pulse's ongoing partnership with Maxine Lyle and Soul Steps, who have been artists-in-residence at Pulse and teaching artists in Berkshire County Schools, started in 2022 and continues to expand.

Berkshire Pulse's partnership with Soul Steps has also received support from the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation Arts Build Community Innovation Grant. The Challenge

America program requires grantees to raise matching funds of \$10,000 from community sources. Individuals and companies interested in supporting this project can call 413-274-6624 or visit berkshirepulse.org for more information or to make a donation. For more information on other projects included in the NEA's grant announcement, people may visit arts.gov/news.

Berkshire Pulse is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to building and strengthening community life through diverse and accessible programming in performing, movement and creative arts.

MassDOT Aeronautics can now fly drones outside operators field of vision

BOSTON – The Federal Aviation Administration issued the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division a wide-ranging drone waiver, granting MassDOT permission to fly uncrewed aircraft over the state's entire rail network, "Beyond Visual Line of Sight" or outside the remote drone operators' fields of vision.

The waiver enables MassDOT's Drone Operations Program to more efficiently collect data on more than 1,000 miles of track when monitoring for impediments such as vegetation encroachment, flooding or storm damage, further increasing rail safety.

To assist the MBTA with vegetation and storm management, the Drone Operations Program has already collected baseline imagery and data on the condition of rail tracks by flying over the MBTA rail corridors.

Before granting the waiver, the FAA reviewed a rigorous safety evaluation that MassDOT Aeronautics had performed. This evaluation builds upon a

previous narrower dispensation from the FAA allowing MassDOT to fly drones, "Beyond Visual Line of Sight," over the MBTA's Fitchburg Commuter Rail Line, including through "controlled airspace" managed by air traffic control.

MassDOT Aeronautics partnered with the MBTA and MITRE Corporation to devise a unique "blended" performance-based approach, providing flexibility to adjust operations according to variations in factors such as geography, urban density, or airspace. For higher altitude flights, at over 50 feet and as high as 400 feet above obstructions, remote drone operators will rely on a visual observer to ensure safe separation between the drones and crewed aircraft. However, for drone flights up to 50 feet above rail lines or up to 50 feet above obstructions, MassDOT Aeronautics has received a special "obstruction shielding" waiver, with which drones can fly BVLOS without the need for visual observers. This blended, flexible approach to operations will allow

MassDOT Aeronautics to perform its mission more efficiently across a variety of landscapes with rail lines.

To identify and implement innovative drone technologies and air operations, the MassDOT Aeronautics' Commonwealth UAS Integration Program (CUIP) is developing the state-wide BVLOS rail initiative with the support of Massachusetts-based organizations including MITRE, the U.S. Department of Transportation Volpe Center, and MIT Lincoln Laboratory. CUIP works to expand the use of drones to improve the safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of transportation services across MassDOT, the MBTA, and other state agencies.

A division of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, MassDOT Aeronautics works to make air transportation safer, cleaner, more efficient, and more economically advantageous for the people, communities, and businesses of Massachusetts. MassDOT Aeronautics employs the

highest standards in safety, engineering, and financial management to regulate and promote air transportation in the Commonwealth. The Agency maintains and oversees 35 of the State's 38 public-use airports, supports economic development and job growth, reduces aviation's environmental impact, and explores the introduction of advanced aviation systems.

The MassDOT Aeronautics Drone Operations Program uses Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS, or drones) to support state and local agencies, municipalities, and quasi-governmental entities, primarily working with MassDOT and the MBTA. The Drone Program provides services such as assessing the condition of critical state infrastructure, including rail and transit facilities, roads, bridges, and airports. The Drone Program also leverages a Data and Analytics Team, turning collected imagery into insightful data and actionable information for public transportation stakeholders and decision-makers.

MIDDLEFIELD

Middlefield COA lists menu

MIDDLEFIELD – The Middlefield Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail, on Wednesday, Feb. 21 will serve lunch at noon.

The menu is eat in or take out. The

choice is tuna salad and chicken salad sandwich, coleslaw, cucumber salad and fresh fruit. People should call 413-623-9990 to reserve a meal the previous Monday, Feb. 19. Suggested donation is \$3

Middlefield to hold caucus March 27

MIDDLEFIELD – The town of Middlefield is having a Town Caucus on Wednesday, March 27 from 4-8 p.m. at Middlefield Town Hall.

Three year offices available are

Select Board, Finance Committee, Planning Board, Assessor, Cemetery Commission, Library Trustee, Town Clerk and Constable. A one-year term is available for Moderator as well.

APPAREL BINS HELP KEEP TEXTILES OUT OF LANDFILLS



Shown are Ann Marie Visconti, Char Gero, Judy Hoag, Linda Cernik HRMC Director, Tim Parker and Sharon Barry by a recently installed textile bin in Middlefield, to lessen the impact of textiles disposed at the landfills.

Submitted photo

BLOSSOM CENTER TO HOLD PIZZA MAKING



Blossom Community Center, 16 Bell Road, Middlefield will hold children's pizza making on the Wednesday, Feb. 21 during school vacation. Making pizza starts at 10 a.m. and eating pizza is at 11:30 a.m. This is open to the wider community and all ages can help.

Submitted photo

NEXT PANCAKE BREAKFAST TO TAKE PLACE MARCH 3



Last Saturday was the February pancake breakfast fundraiser by the Middlefield Fair. The March Pancake Breakfast has been moved up on week and will be held on Sunday, March 3 from 8-11 a.m. in the Middlefield Town Hall, 188 Skyline Trail, Middlefield.

Submitted photo

GOSHEN



Ernie Carver, age 98, is currently the oldest person living in Goshen. This occasion called for him to receive Goshen's Golden Scepter, the town's version of the Boston Post Cane.

Submitted photo

Carver celebrates 98th birthday

GOSHEN – Ernie Carver celebrated his 98th birthday milestone at a small gathering of friends and family on Friday, Feb. 2.

He was presented with a framed

certificate, flowers and the Golden Scepter by members of the Select Board and Council on Aging Board.

He has lived in his house on Route 9 for 70 years.

REGION

Velis makes amendment to gun bill

BOSTON – During the Senate's gun bill debate, an amendment by Senator John Velis (D-Westfield) was unanimously adopted with bi-partisan support to create a legal mechanism to ensure that repeat violent offenders of gun crimes, who have violated the conditions of their release can be detained until trial.

The amendment, which was supported by both the Massachusetts Chief of Police Association and the Massachusetts District Attorney Association, focuses directly on individuals without a license-to-carry who have been charged with a gun or violent offense, released following a hearing, and who subsequently have violated the conditions of that release by committing yet another gun crime or violent offense.

"If we keep allowing repeat violent firearm offenders who have no regard for the conditions of their release, our gun laws, or human life back on the streets then we are going to continue to see lives lost by senseless violence and families forever devastated by what should have been preventable," said Senator John C. Velis. "The violent gun crimes that we are seeing and hearing about in our communities, are overwhelmingly being committed by individuals without a legal license to have a gun, who have a known demonstrable propensity for violence, and it's past time that we had a mechanism to address that," he said.

"The Massachusetts Chiefs Police Association is pleased to see that Senator Velis's amendment number six regarding repeat gun offenders has been included for consideration," shared Chief Eric Gillis, President of the Massachusetts Chief of Police Association. "We believe that accountability for both our judiciary and gun offenders is essential for the

safety of the communities that we serve."

In the Senator's floor remarks, he noted several recent gun crimes in Western Massachusetts that this amendment aims to address, including the arrest of an individual charged with murder just last week in Springfield. The individual had not only been convicted of a prior firearm offense but was out on bail for three separate gun charges at the time of his arrest. Senator Velis also recounted the tragic death of an infant this past fall in the City of Holyoke where an innocent pregnant woman was struck by a stray bullet while traveling on a PVTA bus resulting in devastating loss of her baby. One of the suspects charged with the infant's horrific murder was out on bail for an unrelated open firearm charge at the time of the shooting.

"We cannot lose sight of all the people who live in constant fear of the gun violence happening right outside their front door or across the street from their child's school on a daily basis by the offenders who are released over, and over, and over again," said Senator Velis, who noted that the City of Springfield's shot spotter had picked up 9 separate instances of gun fire on Wednesday afternoon, including a couple hundred yards away from an elementary school. "We have an opportunity today that would send a clear message to these violent repeat offenders- if you are released for a violent crime or unlawful gun offense and go back into our communities and cause more of the same havoc you will be detained until your trial, and we will not let you cause more senseless harm."

With the amendment included in the Senate's final gun bill, the legislation will now be a part of the House-Senate negotiations on a final compromise bill.

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OBITUARY

Doris Goodlatte Walmsley, 84

Doris Goodlatte Walmsley, 84, passed away Jan. 30, 2024 at Natchitoches Community Care in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

She was born April 8, 1939 in Upper Montclair, New Jersey to Doris Mentzendorff Goodlatte and Robert Swan Goodlatte. Dorie graduated from Classical High School in Springfield and received her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Framingham State College in Framingham.

Dorie was born a teacher. Before marriage, she taught in a boarding school in London for three years and then in the Massachusetts school system for over 30.

She met David Benjamin Walmsley at a dog show, both showing Smooth Fox Terriers and they were married on July 8, 1970. Dorie loved to read travel, and play Scrabble and Parcheesi. She was a life-long Christian Scientist.



Dorie was preceded in death by her husband, of 48 years, and her parents. She was survived by her son, William Goodlatte Walmsley; daughter, Susan Walmsley Hyams and husband Louis Collier Hyams; grandchildren, Gwyneth Walmsley Berry and husband Aaron Berry, Rowan Cassandra Walmsley, Juliet Claire Marie Hyams and Pierce McPhearson Hyams; and daughter-in-law, Gillian Heather Walmsley.

A memorial will be held at Blanchard St. Denis Funeral Home on Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024, at 1 p.m. The family would like to thank everyone at Natchitoches Community Care for caring for her these last several years and to Hospice of Natchitoches for these last several months.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The American Fox Terrier Club or The First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston.

DEATH NOTICE

WALMSLEY, DORIS GOODLATTE

Died Jan. 30, 2024
Memorial Service Feb. 24, 2024 at 1p.m.
Blanchard St. Denis Funeral Home

OBITUARY POLICY: Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief Death Notice listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a Paid Obituary, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com. Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Legislation helps access to medically necessary formulas

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Representatives James P. McGovern (D-MA), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee and co-chair of the Cystic Fibrosis Caucus, and John Rutherford (R-FL), co-chair of the Crohn's and Colitis caucus, led their colleagues in introducing legislation to remove barriers to access for all Americans who require medically necessary foods to lead healthy lives.

The Medical Nutrition Equity Act would require coverage of specialized formulas, vitamins, individual amino acids, or other medically necessary foods under Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, Medicare, the Federal Employee Health Benefit Program, and private insurance for patients with specific gastrointestinal and inherited metabolic diseases and disorders.

It is narrowly drafted to focus on individuals for whom medically necessary nutrition is the treatment for their diseases.

"I've heard devastating stories from constituents struggling to access medically necessary foods to keep themselves or their child healthy," said McGovern in a press release. "As a dad and husband, I can't imagine not being able to access the food your child or your partner depends on to live. To me this is simple: no one should struggle getting medically necessary food, and insurance companies shouldn't be creating more barriers to receiving proper care. Our bill cuts through the red tape and ensures those with inherited metabolic diseases or gastrointestinal conditions can access the nutrition they need."

"Our health systems must be structured to support innovative treatments," said Rutherford. "As co-chair of the Crohn's and Colitis Caucus, where I advocate for those living with digestive diseases, I am excited to join Rep. McGovern to introduce this important legislation that would make medically necessary nutrition more easily accessible to patients across our nation."

Approximately 2,000 infants every year are diagnosed with an inherited metabolic disorder. When left untreated, inherited metabolic diseases or gastrointestinal conditions can cause the body to fail to absorb necessary nutrients and food can even become toxic.

An inability to access specialty formulas forces patients to go without adequate nutrition or seek hospitalization to maintain nutrition levels. Already, 40 states require coverage of medically necessary nutrition, but coverage is highly variable from state-to-state and does not apply to patients covered by private sector health plans governed by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act.

This bill builds on the precedent of the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act which improved coverage for medical nutrition for military families enrolled in TRICARE, so more Americans can access medically necessary nutrition.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Gateway Regional FY '25 School Budget Public Hearing

In accordance with Chapter 71 Section 38N of the Massachusetts General Law the public hearing for the 2024-2025 Gateway Regional School District budget will be held in the Performing Arts Center at the Gateway Regional Middle-

High School Complex located at 12 Littleville Road, Huntington, MA 01050 on **Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.**

Reference: Massachusetts Newspapers Publishers Association website: masspublicnotices.org
02/15/2024

Town of Middlefield Conservation Commission PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131, Section 40) that a Public Hearing of the Middlefield Conservation Commission will be held on **Wednesday, Feb 21, 2024 at 6:30 PM** at

the Town Hall at 188 Skyline Trail to consider the following: A Notice of Intent (NOD) submitted by Dan Hart for proposed installation of a driveway at map 40 lot 50 on skyline trail.

Per Order

David Fuller
Chair

02/15/2024

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This position is part-time Monday through Friday, 25 hours a week, pays \$21-\$23 per an hour depending on experience, and hours can be flexible. This would be an excellent experience for a college student going into the human service or medical field. You must be 18 years old, have valid driver's license, pass a CORI, fingerprinting check, have a clean driving record and good computer skills.

If interested mail or email your resume to: Multicultural Community Services 1000 Wilbraham Road, Springfield, MA 01109 or Lisapodworsi@mcsnet.org.

HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers look at the quarry walls during a tour of Chester Granite Company.



Hikers look at cut and polished granite during a recent tour of Chester Granite Company. *Photos by Karen McTaggart*

Hikers get a tour of Chester Granite Company

OTiS – The Bowe Quarry originally opened in 1890 being the first in Otis.

It reopened about 1920 by a group of men of Finnish men and was thereafter known as the “Finn’s Quarry.” Officially, it was Chester Granite and Polishing Works. Since the rails to it had been taken up and sold for scrap during the war, the new company used trucks.

At first they trucked their stone only as far as the siding at Turner’s Switch, the right to erect a derrick there was granted them by the District Court in 1920. The upper, “Finn’s Quarry, Chester Granite and Polishing Works, lost its finishing shed on the Knox Place in Chester to fire in 1930. It was reorganized as the Chester Granite Company and continued to operate using facilities at the quarry.

In 1946, Lester Williams left the

lower quarry to do finishing work for the upper. The finishing works of the upper quarry again burned in 1952 and the stock was bought by the treasurer, who failed to make the quarry operate.

Williams purchased the stock from him in 1953 and is now successfully operating the business with his family. Many of the granite curbing blocks on the Massachusetts Turnpike were cut from this quarry.

There are several “lost” quarries along the granite vein, search our blog to see them all.

The Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers thank Allen Williams for spending his Saturday giving the group a tour of his Chester Granite Company, site of the historic Bowe Quarry in Otis.



The Hilltown Hikers tour the granite quarry last Saturday.



This shows Bowe Quarry in Otis, which first opened in 1890.



Allen Williams shows the process of cutting the granite slabs from the walls of the quarry.

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WINTER FEST IN WARMER WEATHER



A Winter Fest participant takes in the sun gleaming off the ice of the Nashawannuck Pond. *Photo by Kathryn Koegel*