

"If conscience disapproves, the loudest applauses of the world are of little value." – President John Adams

Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns



Becket, Blandford, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Otis, Plainfield, Russell, Sandisfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Worthington

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HUNTINGTON

GEF enhances education at Gateway

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

Since 2012, the Gateway Education Foundation has funded over 150 educational projects totaling over \$125,000.

With a mission to fund educational endeavors that will enhance and inspire the students of the Gateway Regional School District, most of the non-profit's work is done through its "Funds for Learning" program.

"We are thrilled to be back in full force since the pandemic shutdown and the slow reopening of school life," said school committee representative and board member Lisa Goding. "During that time, we were unable to support student projects and received little funding."

For the current school year, GEF awarded \$7,249 for the fall semester, which included KIBO robot purchases for elementary school coding projects, attendance at a White Cane Day event for visually impaired students, creating a Spanish Reading Library, support for Gateway's First Lego League Robotics Team, team

EDUCATION, page 3



Second graders Bryce MacIver, from left and Johnny Wright work with KIBO robots in Greg Baker's STEM class. Courtesy photo

BLANDFORD

Eversource to clear trees

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

Highway Superintendent David Waldron told the Select Board Monday evening that Eversource had viewed School House Hill Road and will arrange to clear trees near the power lines. He also discussed issues with Huntington, Virgil Lloyd and Russell Stage Road where there is an "outcropping of boulders," he said.

According to Waldron the boulders are near the town line on the right side of the road approaching Russell. The Highway Department will put barriers up for safety and an engineer will inspect the area to see what needs to be done.

Virgil Lloyd Road is very narrow and can be difficult for passage if there are two vehicles coming from different directions.

Waldron said the width of roadways varies from as little as 16 feet to 24 feet. "The center line of the road is always going to be in the same place," he said. The road widths vary so much

TREES, page 7

HUNTINGTON

Gateway students present 'The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon'

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

"The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon" will be presented by the Gateway Regional Middle/High School Club on Friday, May 5 at 6 p.m.

A matinee will be presented on Saturday, May 6 at 1 p.m. Both performances will be in the Gateway Performing Arts Center. Admission at the door is \$5, with \$3 for Gateway students.

This play mashes up all 209 stories from the Brothers Grimm, including the classics "Snow White," "Cinderella" and "Hansel and Gretel," as well as the lesser known stories of "The Devil's Grandmother" and "The Girl Without Hands."

Senior Jordyn Dubour, who is in the cast but also serves in the role of student director, will play the part of the Queen. Her fellows in her scenes will be a King, raven and Johannes. "Compared to last year's play, this play is a huge mood change. There's no mystery, like last year. It's really just entertaining and super fun."

In her support role to faculty advisor Heather Dekarski, Dubour maintains a master script with line changes and stage directions, as they occur.

Many cast members will play multiple roles in this rollicking production. Senior Hailey Krassler, who was in last year's production of "Clue" along with previous middle school plays "Cheaper by the

Dozen," "Cinderella" and "Peter Pan" will play the Enchantress, a king, Snow White and the Grandmother of Little Red

Riding Hood fame. Nevaeh Judson, also a senior and also in last year's play, will portray a "girl," Hansel, a witch and

Cinderella.

"I think it's really funny,"

BROTHERS GRIMM, page 3



The cast and crew of Gateway's drama production, "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon", which will take the stage on Friday, May 5 and Saturday, May 6. Photo by Wendy Long



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HILLTOWNS



Blandford resident Susan Racine, from left, and former neighbor Lucia Sullivan exhibited their artwork at the 22nd Southwick Art Exhibition show sponsored by the Southwick Cultural Council. Mary Martin visited the art show and is also a Blandford resident.



Lucia Sullivan with her art work.

Photos by Mary Kronholm

Local artists exhibit their work

SOUTHWICK – Local artists Susan Racine and Lucia Sullivan were among the 40 artists exhibiting their work last weekend, April 21, 22 and 23 at the Southwick Town Hall.

The juried exhibition has been an

annual Southwick Cultural Council event since 1999, with a couple of years hiatus due to Covid. This was the 22nd Annual Art Exhibition.

Racine’s work is water color while Sullivan works with oils as well.

MassDOT continues with I-90 road and bridge repairs

LEE/MONTGOMERY/RUSSELL/BECKETT – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces it will be conducting pavement marking operations and bridge, guardrail, and drainage repair work on I-90 eastbound and westbound in Lee, Montgomery, Russell and Becket during the week of April 24. The scheduled work will require temporary lane and shoulder closures.

In Lee, bridge repair operations will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 8.3 from Thursday, April 27 into Friday, April 28 from 7

p.m.-5 a.m. Work is anticipated to conclude on Friday, April 28 at 5 a.m.

In Montgomery and Russell, bridge repair work will be conducted nightly on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 36.0 on Thursday, April 27 into Friday April 28 from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. Work is anticipated to conclude on Friday, April 28 by 5 a.m.

In Becket, guardrail repair operations will be conducted nightly on I-90 eastbound and westbound between mile marker 17 and mile marker 20 on Thursday, April 27 into Friday, April 28

from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. Work is anticipated to conclude on Friday, April 28 by 5 a.m.

Traffic will be allowed through the work zone. The work will require temporary lane closures to allow crews to safely and efficiently conduct pavement marking work and bridge, guardrail and drainage repair operations.

Drivers who are traveling through the affected areas should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution.

All scheduled work is weather dependent and subject to change without notice.

For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to:

Download the Mass511 mobile app or visit www.mass511.com to view live cameras, travel times, real-time traffic conditions, and project information before setting out on the road. Users can subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions.

Dial 511 and select a route to hear real-time conditions.

Follow MassDOT on Twitter @MassDOT to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

Rep Boldyga and Sen. Mark to hold public forum May 9

TOLLAND – Rep. Nicholas Boldyga and Sen. Paul Mark will take questions and invite comments at a “ReMarks and Refreshments” town hall forum in Tolland on Tuesday, May 9 from 10:30 a.m.-noon.

The event is open to the public and will be held at Town Hall, 241 West Granville Road, Tolland. The forum will also be accessible through Zoom. To get the link, people may email Casey Pease at casey.pease@masenate.gov.

The legislators will start the forum by sharing legislative updates from the State House before taking questions and comments from attendees and engaging in a conversation about opportunities and

challenges facing Tolland and Western Massachusetts.

Rep. Boldyga’s 3rd Hampden District consists of ten municipalities in Hampden and Hampshire Counties. He is the Ranking Minority Member of the House Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs. Sen. Mark’s Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin, and Hampshire District consists of 57 municipalities in western Massachusetts. He chairs the Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts, and Cultural Development.

The Tolland “Remarks and Refreshments” event is one in a series of public forums Sen. Mark is organizing in an effort to reach all 57 communities.

Baystate Health Center to hold Men’s Health Awareness Day

SPRINGFIELD – About two-thirds of men avoid booking appointments with their primary care provider and when they finally do see their doctor, they often keep important health information to themselves because they are afraid what their symptoms might reveal.

It’s Men’s Health Awareness Day at Baystate Mason Square Neighborhood Health Center on Saturday, April 29 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. This awareness day is designed to put men in-the-know about their current health and how they can lead a healthier lifestyle.

The free educational and informational event will feature free blood pressure, diabetes and prostate cancer screenings, tobacco cessation tips, music and more.

“We invite you to join your brothers and peers to learn more about staying healthy for yourself, your family, and

your community. We want to make this the first of a series of events, and ask your input on what is important to you and the community,” said Dr. Andrew Balder of Baystate Mason Square Neighborhood Health Center.

Men’s Health Awareness Day is presented by Baystate Health and Baystate Mason Square Neighborhood Health Center & Community Advisory Board (CAB) in partnership with UMass Amherst Center for Community Health Equity Research, Men of Color Health Awareness (MOCHA), and Holy Trinity C.O.G.I.C.

Baystate Mason Square Neighborhood Health Center is located at 11 Wilbraham Road in Springfield.

For more information on Baystate Health and its several health centers, people may visit baystatehealth.org.

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HUNTINGTON

Huntington COA lists May events

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Council on Aging will host the following events at Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road, on Wednesday, May 3 at 1 p.m.

Arthur Steinmeyer will present a program on the Eagle sailing ship. Musician Larry Southard will entertain seniors on Wednesday, May 10 from 2-3 p.m. The monthly movie is “Top Gun,” which will be shown on Thursday, May 11 at 1 p.m.

Scott Gullett from Highland Valley Elder Services will present “Financial Fitness” on Wednesday, May 17 at 1 p.m. On Wednesday, May 24 at 1 p.m., Heather Morgan from the Southern Hilltowns Adult Education Center will

conduct a class on how to add and delete unwanted apps from cell phones. People may call 413-354-1055, email southernhilltownsaec@gmail.com or visit www.umass.edu/shaec to register for the class.

Indoor walking and exercise will be held on Thursday, May 25 at 10 a.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.

All events are free of charge. People may call the COA at 413-512-5205 or email coa@huntingtonma.us for more information.

BROTHERS GRIMM

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noted Judson.

The play is appropriate for families with children, but parents should be mindful that the Brothers Grimm stories are known for having a bit of a dark side.

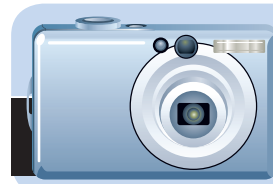
Cast members include Joey Pisani, Erica Madru, Vee Damon, Jayden Damon, Jordyn Dubour,

Bella Santiago, Hannah Primack,

Kaitlyn Maynard, Nevaeh Judson, Ana Holmes, Lucas Gilbert,

Oliver Jensen, Cailin McKellick, Nariyah Renaud, Felina Knachel, Char Hansen, Anya Niles, Elle DeMoss, Hailey Krassler, Kathryn Harding and Emilee Silvagni.

Backstage crew members are Cailin McKellick, Jaidon Plante, Lillianna Mitchell and August Assarian.



Send Us Your Photos!

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EDUCATION

from page 1

building activities for seventh graders, a fine motor and spatial awareness project for kindergarten, subscriptions to Scholastic News for second grade and UpFront Magazine for world studies and civics classes, a visiting planetarium, library mural project, access to Slooh Telescopes and Astronomy missions/quests; braille and large print library project; exploring communal music making with “bucket drums,” a kindergarten hatching project, community experience options for substantially separate special education students, and the fifth Grade Science Up Close project on seeing the world through a microscope. Along with partners from the American Legion in Westfield, GEF is also supporting students who will be selected to attend Boys and Girls State, Massachusetts.

GEF also provided \$4,175 for the spring semester, including three activities that met a “Gateway Goes Green” goal. These included an Arbor Day Celebration at Chester Elementary School; spring gardening for full day preschool students, and learning to compost. They also had support from the board’s efforts to “grow business partners,” which provided crucial support for GEF with little fundraising through the pandemic. These “green” projects had additional support from Gateway Farm and Pet (which donated \$175 in tools

and supplies for the preschool garden), Home Depot (which donated gardening boxes, also for the preschool garden), and the town of Huntington, which provided a composter valued at \$150.

Summer grant request applications opened April 24 with a deadline of Friday, May 5.

Once funded projects are completed, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics teacher Greg Baker received funding to purchase KIBO Robots. “Thank you, thank you, thank you. The addition of these KIBO robots to our stem classroom has been so beneficial for students of all ages.” In learning to code the robots, students have had the opportunity to access all levels of thinking. While remembering the process of inputting codes, students had to think critically in order to solve authentic field problems by creating unique and innovative routines for the robots to complete. They frequently went through analysis and evaluation of the codes to

find the formula that correctly solved the problem they faced.” Baker added that the students also had to complete an engineering task as a team, that included a cycle of “problem, idea, build, test and analyze.”

“Perhaps most importantly, the unit has enhanced student self-efficacy.

“Perhaps most importantly, the unit has enhanced student self-efficacy. Not only have students learned about the concept of coding, but they have become more confident that they can solve problems on their own.”

STEM teacher Greg Baker

Not only have students learned about the concept of coding, but they have become more confident that they can solve problems on their own.” Baker added.

GEF is funded by donations from community members, business partners and civic organizations, and is managed entirely by volunteers who are passionate about the students of the Gateway Regional School District. Anyone interested in participating can email gatewayeducationfoundation@gmail.com.

Gateway covers a rural, economically disadvantaged region that includes the towns of Blandford, Chester, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery and Russell.

Gateway is actively advocating the state to provide full funding for Rural School Aid, needed to address the economic shortfalls in small, rural districts. GEF fills an important role for Gateway students to have the same kinds of enrichment programs that students in larger districts enjoy.

In addition to accepting donations during Valley Gives Day or any time of year GEF also hosted a Trivia Night at Strathmore Park last year. This popular event actually puts the “fun” in fundraising and had teams competing for the highly coveted “Gator Trophy” and raffled off numerous door prizes. Back by popular demand, this event will again be led by master of ceremonies (and former Gateway teacher) Matt Collins and will be held at Strathmore Park on Saturday, May 13. Music and mingling begin at 4 p.m. with trivia underway at 5. Teams bring their own food and drinks (adult beverages welcome), and some go all out in creating a themed table! Tickets are \$25 per person or buy a table (and save money) for \$175. Tickets may be purchased online at www.GatewayEducationFoundation.org/trivia.

Donations to GEF are always welcome and may be made by sending checks (payable to the Gateway Education Foundation) to GEF, 12 Littleville Rd., Huntington, MA 01050. Donations are also accepted

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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

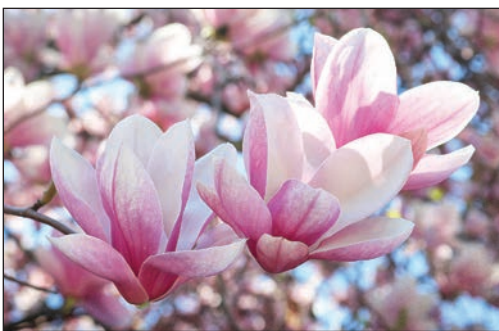


Garden Lady questions for a rainy Sunday

I received a pruning question from a reader as a follow-up to my recent article on the subject of what to prune when in terms of spring flowering bushes.

The question was directly related to pruning a white magnolia bush. Without knowing the species exactly, I would venture to guess that because it is white the question relates to *Magnolia stellata*, or the Star Magnolia and not its cousin, the large pinkish-purple flowered Saucer Magnolia.

The Star Magnolia is a shrub or small tree that is highly adaptable to various soils and heat/cold conditions spanning from Maine to Georgia, to Minnesota and even the West Coast.



Magnolia

Fragrant flowers are 3-5-inches wide and typically made up of 12-18 tepals (a term for petals and sepals together) but depending on which cultivar or variety chosen, there may be upwards of 30-50 of these per flower.

What makes this bush extra showy (if double flowers weren't enough!) is that it blooms prior to leaf break, and the flowers show up beautifully against smooth gray bark.

Because it can stay in bloom long - if conditions are right, almost three weeks, sometimes there is an overlap of unfurling leaves alongside flowers.

It's a beauty alright.

Sometimes a heat wave, then a cold wave can turn the flowers to mush overnight, but it is a chance we gardeners take. This year the show is a glorious one, indeed.

Our reader wrote in that his Magnolia has suffered some damage in the late snowstorm we had. Branches were bent and broken and some corrective pruning needed to happen, but when? Typically, regular pruning would take place after flowering so as not to compromise upcoming blooms, but this type of pruning can be accomplished as needed to prevent further injury.

Prune back to limbs that show no sign of injury.

Regular training of the tree should be done within the first five years - magnolias are notoriously slow healers; so bigger cuts could

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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.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Scholarship keeps Karen Hart's memory alive

Each year the Karen Hart Scholarship helps a graduating Gateway High School senior pursue their education and helps keep Karen's memory alive in the Hilltown Community. Karen Hart, a resident of Blandford, lost her life to domestic violence in 2002.

Students who apply for this scholarship submit an essay answering one of these questions:

Karen May Hart was a loyal, courageous person. When have you called on these strengths in your own life?

How would you define a healthy relationship? How do you think a relationship stays healthy?

If you have been aware of a domestic violence situation, how has it affected you? If you have experienced domestic violence, how has it changed your life?

Tell us about the values that you have learned from your family or community. How will you build on these values in your future?

GUEST COLUMN

Why can't I get Social Security Disability on my own or my husband's record?



Dear Rusty:

I am considered disabled by State of Washington doctors, but Social Security has turned me down three times when I applied for disability saying I don't have enough work points. I am the wife of a retired, disabled veteran who served over 20 years in the U.S. Navy. I raised three children, one of which is disabled. How do I get Social Security to accept my disability?

Signed: Frustrated and Disabled

Dear Frustrated and Disabled:

Social Security's criteria for disability eligibility are separate and distinctly different from any other authority such as the State of Washington. To be eligible for Social Security Disability Insurance benefits, you must have earned a minimum number of credits on your own from working and contributing to Social Security and that work must have occurred recently (you must have worked at least five of the last ten years). If you did not personally earn the required credits through recent work, you cannot get SSDI benefits. I presume that is what Social Security has determined to be the case for you. And to clarify, you must

As a parent, teacher, coach, faith leader, healthcare worker or friend, we encourage you to discuss these questions with the youth in your life, regardless of whether they apply for this scholarship.

The more youth discuss these issues with caring adults, the better equipped they will be to make healthy choices. Research tells us that it helps if young people have these conversations with more than one adult. Learning something in more than one setting, from more than one person, helps to deepen and integrate learning.

We urge you to have the conversations ~ even if you think someone else already has ~ it makes a difference. As always, thank you for all you do to keep our community safe and strong.

Our members thank you,

Lindsey Maxwell, Sen. Paul Mark,
Kim Savery, Sarah Powers,
Stephanie Conway, Diane Meehan,
Mary Krol, Phil Barry
and Donna Larocque

be totally disabled (rendering you unable to work for at least one year) and that must be confirmed by your medical service providers, who will be contacted by Social Security's representatives.

For information, SSDI is an individually earned entitlement, thus your husband's lifetime earnings history applies only to him, and his earnings record does not extend to you for SSDI purposes (in other words, he might be eligible for early SSDI benefits on his own, but his eligibility for those benefits does not make you eligible too). Nevertheless, if your husband is collecting SSDI benefits and you are caring for your child who became disabled before age 22, or if your husband is collecting SS and any of your children are under age 16, you may be eligible for "child-in-care" spousal benefits. Child-in-care spouse benefits are available at any age, but your husband would need to be collecting either SSDI or his regular SS retirement benefit for you to be eligible for those benefits. And if your husband is collecting SS of any kind, his disabled child (or any minor children under 18) may also be eligible for dependent child benefits from him, subject to the Family Maximum.

So, to answer your specific question about how to get Social Security to "accept your disability," unless you meet the recent work test and have earned the needed credits on your own as described above, and are

SECURITY, page 5

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor should be 500 words or less in length. We require letter writers to include his or her name, town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

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OPINION

HILLTOWN HISTORY

Earth Day greeting from the Potholes

By Deborah Daniels
Correspondent

First a high paddle salute to all you intrepid canoe and kayakers, oh and paddle boarders. You accepted the challenge of the Westfield River and you did us proud. But aren't those air bags in the canoe cheating? It was great fun watching.

Have you been to the potholes in Shelburne Falls? They are truly an impressive sight left over from the glaciers creep some 14,000 years ago. They lay in the Deerfield River easily visible above the water because they are in what appear to be striated ledge rock.

Geologists call them kettles. They are holes ground out of granite by the whirlpool action of water and gyrating stones during the high water of the glaciers. Shelburne Falls has over 50 potholes. They vary from tiny six inches to 39 feet in diameter and yes you would lose the car in this one if it were in an asphalt road. Now you know the origins of the name for potholes that you lose your front tire in.

When you see the potholes you understand how the Indians understood the uniqueness of this natural wonder and treated it with the utmost respect. This became a fishing site they called Salmon Falls. In fact nearby Turner's Falls on the Connecticut River and Salmon Falls on the Deerfield River were the preeminent fishing spots for all the indigenous folk back in the 1600s. What is also amazing is that all the various tribes shared this area in peace, no one owned it.

There is a sign explaining that a treaty was signed in 1708 protecting the area for all to use peacefully. The native Americans had already practiced this for a century, but European settlers had to codify this. Well wouldn't you know it, some of our ancestors got greedy. The English settlers along the Connecticut River and the Dutch settlers along the Hudson River were each eyeing the valley land between the rivers.

European settlers arranged a conference between the Pocumtuck Indians of Massachusetts and the Mohawk Indians of New York. The Pocumtuck

were mostly an agrarian nation and the Mohawks were an expansionist nation. Well political unrest between the nations was stirred and one nation was pitted against the other. A Mohawk man of high standing was killed and the Pocumtuck Indians were blamed. Furious Mohawk warriors attacked the Pocumtuck settlements and annihilated the whole tribe in 1664. Over time the English took the land along the Connecticut River and the Dutch took over the land along the Hudson River. My apologies to native Americans for this oversimplification of what was a very complicated time in history.

Now how about the salmon in the river? They were glad the blood shed that was going on was not theirs. However their legacy was not so different. The falls were ideal for preying on exhausted salmon swimming upstream to spawn. There is a wall art mosaic depicting native Americans spearing and drying the salmon caught for food at Salmon Falls, right next to the potholes. Atlantic salmon spawn in the fall after living 1-3 years in the ocean. Scientists don't know how they return to only their natal stream to reproduce, but that is their story. It is thought they use the Earth's magnetic fields like a compass as well as scents to guide them home. The female will lay an average of 7,500 eggs in multiple redds (nests they dig) in the river over 30 - 40 hours. Some work week. The male is right there fertilizing the eggs. Not much tangoing going on but remember they have used up most of their fat swimming miles upstream to get here. It is estimated that only 15 -35% of the eggs survive to become fry (juvenile fish). The fry will live and grow in fresh river water for 1-2 years.

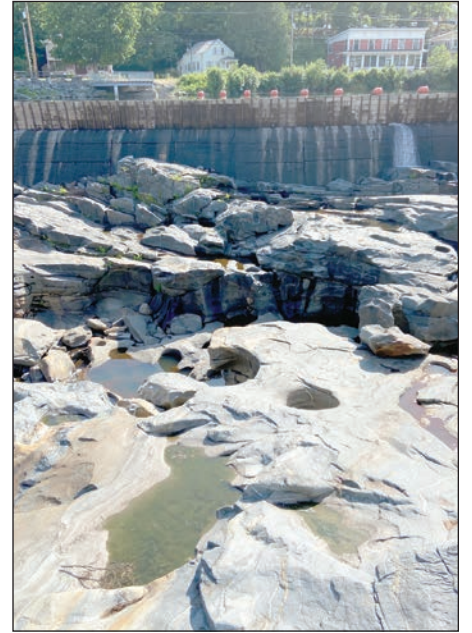
They then begin the journey to the sea changing their color to silvery instead of camo brown and adapting their body to breathe sea water (saline) instead of fresh water. What a miracle. It would seem as though the adult salmon fed half the stream with her eggs while leaving her small fry to its fate unnurtured

The adults swim back to the ocean or die from their efforts to spawn. That change in biology to breathe saline



This is a view of Shelburne Falls.

Photos By Deborah Daniels

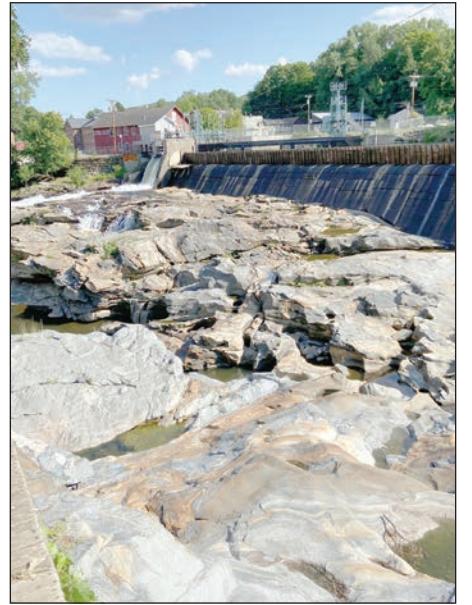


The dam above the falls is shown.



The plaque commemorates the peace treaty "brokered" by white settlers.

instead of fresh water, amazing. Could we adapt to life on Mars and breathe carbon dioxide instead of oxygen Elon? (Musk) Well apparently the salmon have survived the wrench we threw them when the dam above the falls was built. Or have they? Just how many Atlantic



The potholes show the beautiful striations in the bedrock.

salmon swim this way now? Earth Day gives us time to pause and reflect on nature. A little more respect and gratitude for the planet please. We still have time to adapt to changing conditions and protect what we have. Celebrate our planet, make changes to preserve it.

SECURITY *from page 4*

totally disabled, you cannot. You may wish to confirm this by discussing your situation with an attorney who specializes in SSDI matters. You can find such an attorney online by searching for "SSDI attorney near me" - just be sure to fully vet any firm you are considering. SSDI attorneys should not charge for an initial consultation and they will only take your case if they believe you can win (they take their fees from any back SSDI benefits they can secure for you). SSDI attorney fees are also limited by federal law, and seeking such counsel should not result in any out-of-pocket expense for you.

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Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

GARDEN

take a long time to heal.

Thank you for your question. I hope this helps.

The following question came from Marvin, who is wondering how to acclimate overwintered geraniums back into the garden.

"I potted some geraniums from the garden last fall and took them into the house. They have been blooming since late February and bring sunshine and joy to the room!!! I would like to put them back into the garden this spring. What steps do I need to take to make this transition successful? Cut them back? etc."



Yay! I am so happy that you had success with your geraniums.

Like you, I have been doing this same process for a few years now and agree with you that they do indeed add "sunshine and joy" to our indoor spaces at a time when we need it.

You are smart to think about the transition back into the garden. If you were to simply move them outside on the first nice day, no doubt you'd be met with disappointment.

First off, I would gradually start reducing the amount of fertilizer you are giving them, if any. We don't want a lot of tender new growth that could

be susceptible to damage from the elements. Next, give the plants a good grooming. Lift up foliage to reveal any brown leaves or spent flowers and pinch these away.

Now comes shaping.

If the plants have grown lopsided prune them back to a good overall shape by cutting stems to right above a node (the place where the stems of the leaves attach). If you are happy, stop here and begin to harden them off.

I would try this beginning around Mother's Day Weekend barring there is no frost in the forecast. Find a sheltered spot (from wind and sun) and set them outside for a few hours then bring them in for the night.

Gradually expose the plants to more and more sun until they are outside all day and night. The process should take a week to 10 days.

By following these steps, you will hopefully avoid sun scald and other issues. Best of luck to you!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 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.

from page 4

WESTHAMPTON

WESTHAMPTON HOLDS OPEN HOUSE FOR NEW PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX



An open house event on Saturday, April 22 celebrated the new Westhampton Public Safety Complex.

Submitted photos

CHESTER

Baptist Church celebrates anniversary

CHESTER – People are invited to attend special services during the 17th Anniversary of Chester Baptist Church, 14 Middlefield Road.

Anniversary Sunday begins on April 30 with Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m. At 10:45 a.m. there will be special music from the Dave Howard family and the preaching of God's Word.

A delicious meal will be served at noon followed by an old fashion afternoon service.

Evening services will be held on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 7 p.m. with special guest, Delmer Duvall. People may email Pastor Dan Herr at pastor@chesterbaptistchurch.org or call 413-668-7768 for more information.

BECKET

Becket Athenaeum lists events

BECKET – The Becket Athenaeum, 3367 Main St., the Becket and Washington Community Library will hold game night Thursday, April 27 from 6-8 p.m. at the library

Spring Wildflower Walk with Ed Neumuth will be held Saturday, May 6 from 9-11 a.m. For more information, people may visit bit.ly/BA-wildflower.

Movie night for adults is Saturday, May 6 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the library.

For more information, people may visit bit.ly/BA-May-movie.

Upcoming events include: Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. storytime and craft; Tuesday, May 2 at 1:30p.m. Book Club - "Lab Girl" by Hope Jahren; Monday, May 8 at 6 p.m.: Cookbook Club - "The Blue Zone Kitchen" by Dan Buettner and Saturday at 10:30 a.m. Creative Movement and Storytime with Laurel Lenski.

WORTHINGTON

Worthington Library offers scholarship

WORTHINGTON – The Worthington Library announces the 2023 Worthington Library Scholarship.

This award is available to any student completing their high school studies and continuing their education at a post-secondary learning environment. Applicants are asked to write an essay introducing themselves, describing their next educational pur-

suits and answer this question: "When you look back, what book has been your favorite and what lessons will it bring you in the future?"

Applicants should submit their essay by Saturday, May 27. They may mail their essay to Worthington Library, P.O. Box 598, Worthington, MA 01098 or hand deliver it to the library. For more information, they may call Eileen at 413-238 4461.

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BLANDFORD



The completed effort at Bicentennial Park by Project 351 members and staff was in honor of Earth Day. *Photos by Mary Kronholm*

Project 351 leaders host planting group

BLANDFORD – Reeghan Morawiec Project 351 Regional Leader for Regions 1 and 2, Western Massachusetts and the Berkshires and a junior at Gateway Regional High School, organized a planting event in Bicentennial Park in honor of Earth Day.

She along with Wunnyuriti. Ziblim of Westfield, another Regional Leader hosted the Project 351 Regional Earth Day Service. She is a regional Leader for Project 351 Regions 1 and 2, which includes the Berkshires and Western Mass. Any Project 351 members from their regions were invited to attend.

The planting group included Project 351 members Lewin Coady of Eastham, Willem Vollmer of New Marlborough and Alexa Cortis of Westhampton and 351 staff members Michael Lawler of Newburyport and Alex Richardson of Attleboro.

Reeghan is the daughter of Keri and Michael Morawiec and granddaughter of Joann and Paul Martin, all Chester Road residents. She began her service with Project 351 as an eighth



Project 351 members and staff work on getting the ground ready for begonias.

grade Ambassador for the organization and has remained active.

Project 351 is an independent nonprofit organization that builds a movement of youth-led service by engaging an unsung hero from each of Massachusetts' 351 cities and towns.

Nurse to hold creativity workshops

BLANDFORD – Christine Southworth, Blandford's shared nurse, will conduct monthly creativity workshops for people 12-years-old and older.

Participants are invited to relax, connect and create, escape the day the creative way. The creativity work-

shops will be at the Blandford Country Store Monday, May 1 for line design; Monday, June 5 for doodling art from the heart and Monday, July 10 for visual journaling. All the workshops will be a 1 p.m. There is no charge to attend the workshops.

TREES

from page 1

because of when they were historically laid out.

Town Administrator Christopher Dunne reported that he and Conservation Chair Dick Gates were still looking for a Conservation Agent for five to eight hours a week which will be covered by the District Local Technical Act. They hope to have someone in place by July 1.

He also discussed getting prices and costs for basic maintenance for Watson and Bicentennial parks. Additionally, he suggested a new resi-

dent be considered for the Zoning Board of Appeals or Finance Committee. The Select Board reviewed the resident's resume.

The board did appoint Eric Kinsherf as accountant, Teresa Donovan as Animal Control Officer and Jason Forgue as Building Commissioner.

George Reichert complimented the board on the spring cleanup accomplished at Bicentennial Park. It was pointed out that Project 351 had made a project planting flowers in the center garden.

Blandford holds second listening session for MVP

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – Pioneer Valley Planning Commission's Senior Planner Erica Larner again presented information about why and how the town will go about gathering information to better prepare for possible climate change induced problems on dirt roads.

This was the second of two listening sessions for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant program. The MVP program provides support for cities and towns to begin planning for climate change resiliency and implementing priority projects. The state awards communities with funding to complete vulnerability assessments and develop

action-oriented resiliency plans.

Blandford, Chester and Middlefield have been awarded funding to review the three communities' dirt roads and assess culverts and prioritize repairs.

At Monday evening's 5:30 presentation at the town hall there were 12 residents present, who lived on eight of the town's approximately 15 dirt roads.

Brought out at this listening session were the current problems with power lines on School House Hill Road, the lack of crowning on Huntington Road which brings water gushing down the middle of the road and it was noted that Old Chester Road has both utility lines and a water main.

Larner will compile the information from both sessions for the town.



Pepper Fristik and Nora Smith play with "worms" at the Porter Memorial Library.



Mason LeFrance tries his hand at painting a "snake."

Courtesy photos

Library provides vacation week fun

BLANDFORD – The Porter Memorial Library offered several opportunities for fun and learning during school vacation week for elementary aged youngsters.

The programs included a scavenger hunt, snake painting, Lego building and a tea party with Ashley Nevu's pet rabbits. The pre-school Book Squirms engaged with worms.

All ages worked on fine-tuning gross motor and fine motor skills throughout the planned programs. "All developmental skills are approached," said Library Director Nicole Daviau.

Patrons and those who participated in various programs numbered 70 for a very busy vacation week.

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SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Hampshire Regional High School announces honor roll

HUNTINGTON – Hampshire Regional High School announces students making first honors for third quarter.

Students in grade 9 making first honors are: David Adzigirey, Ishetia Black, Phoebe Bowser, Keegan Butler, Colin Cahill, Sicily Chase, Alexandra Cianciola, Gabriel Couture, Marc Ferrero-Sancho, Jayden Hamel, Ethan Kudelka, Carmen Laflam, Carlea Manley, Kiersten McKay, Lucy McVey, Joseph Moro, Augustus Niswonger, Reese O’Connell, Caitlyn Packey, Evelyn Palmer, Lauren Pellegrini,

Lillian Popham, Samuel Robbins, Oscar Schiff, Corinne Somes, Elisabeth Sturtevant, Rachael Theroux, Avery Tudryn, Lila Watkins and Lucia Winters.

Students making first honors in grade 10 are: Sabah Alshmlh, Dara Cassidy, Matthew Cesare, Breanna Dale, Isabella DeMar, Delsin Diaz, Hayden Durazo, Layla Gauger, Addison Hufnagle, Emma Kelly, Jack Laliberte, Sadie Mahon-Moore, Olivia Manganelli, Benji Marconi, Riley Marney, Alexander Materdey, Isabelle Mondschein Philip Morin,

Julianne Moro, Madeline Oravec, Zachary Phakos, Ava Senecal, Anna Shadrick, Jacob Sicard, Julia Sicard, Katherine Simmons, Zola Simonelli, Ash Skow, Brendan Stevenson, David Thibodeau and Dana Warren.

Students in grade 11 making first honors are: Megan Adams, Hailey Bean, Maisie Bowler, Matthew Brouillard, Timothy Cahill, Owen Connor, Brandon Couture, Lydia Donatelli, Dominick Dyback, Anjou Edwards, Nicholas Elias-Gillette, Ava Gaida, Jonah Graves, Emma

Kraus, Cassandra Littlefield, Kaylee McConnell, Evan O’Malley, Anna Puttick, Zachary Roy and Olivia Urbanek.

Students making first honors in grade 12 are: Norah Benkley, Hannah Burke, Emma Czarniecki, Alayna Deliz, Ozzie Frazier, Jerica Ayne Gilbuena, Mikayla Joyner, Lindsey Ledoux, Sage Leigh, Ellia Masenor, Jocelyn Mettey, Dillon Neveu, Shelbee Parker, Riley Smith, Cady Spelman, Kathleen Sullivan, Jared Szwajkowski, Abigail Thibodeau and Alex Willard.

Emma Bean-Barlow participates in White Coat Ceremony

CASTLETON, VT – Castleton University nursing student Emma Bean-Barlow of Montgomery recently joined more than 50 other nursing students, who participated in the annual Arnold P. Gold Foundation White Coat Ceremony.

The White Coat Ceremony was designed in 1993 by The Arnold P. Gold Foundation as a way to welcome new students into the medical profession and to set clear expectations regarding their primary role as physicians. The annual tradition, which includes the cloaking and recitation of the medical oath by par-

ticipants, emphasizes the importance of compassionate care as well as scientific proficiency in medicine and nursing.

The APGF is a growing international not-for-profit organization with the mission of optimizing the experience and outcomes in the field of health care for both patients and practitioners. The foundation works with physicians and nurses in training and in practice, as well as other members of the healthcare team, to instill a culture of respect, dignity, and compassion for both patients and professionals.

Landon Reyes scores seven goals for Lasell U Men’s Lacrosse team

BOSTON – The Lasell Lasers Men’s Lacrosse team defeated the GNAC leading Emmanuel Saints 7-6 in overtime on Saturday.

The Lasers are now 9-6 on the season, and 7-2 in GNAC play. The Lasers are tied with Rivier and Saint Joseph’s (Maine) for second place in the conference, with each team having one game to play.

The Saints started to gain momen-

tum in the second half, scoring the first goal of the third quarter eight minutes in. After a Landon Reyes of Westfield goal for the Lasers, the Saints scored twice to close the period trailing just 5-4. The Saints then tied things up at five with four and a half minutes remaining in the game. The Lasers peppered the Emmanuel goalie with shots, having 32 be on goal. Reyes and his Jack Tauson each led the team with seven.

Send us your news & photos: countryjournal@turley.com

HCC and WNEU sign joint admissions agreement, strengthening support

HOLYOKE – Representatives from Western New England University and Holyoke Community College will gather at HCC on Tuesday, April 25, to sign a joint admissions agreement between the two institutions.

The agreement is intended to strengthen existing academic and student support partnerships, facilitate student access to baccalaureate and graduate education, and provide barrier-free movement from the associate’s degree to

bachelor’s and graduate degrees for students enrolled at HCC.

The joint admissions program will serve as a guideline to simplify the transfer process for eligible HCC students to WNE after they complete their associ-

ate’s degrees and meet other conditions.

HCC President Christina Royal and WNE Provost and Sr. Vice President of Academic Affairs Maria Toyoda offered remarks at the event.

CUMMINGTON

Fromm and Kinsey to perform at cafe

CUMMINGTON – Last fall Andrew Kinsey and Marc Fromm were scheduled to play at Pettingill Park but the cold weather forced cancellation.

They will perform this Friday, April 28 from 7-9 p.m. at the Village Church in downtown Cummington. They can play pretty much anything.

Andrew Kinsey and Marc Fromm

play various types of acoustic music: bluegrass, folk, Irish and old-timey. Kinsey, a member of Rani Arbo and Daisy Mayhem, is a multi-instrumentalist and vocalist, playing bass, banjo, ukulele and penny whistle. Fromm plays guitar and sings. They have in common a love for music, complaining and being captains of their respective high school soccer teams.

OTIS

Otis Library hosts story walk celebrating Earth Day through May 5

OTIS – The Otis Library story walk will remain up through Friday, May 5.

Participants can celebrate Earth Day and build a fairy house, fort or boat house with any materials they find along the way.

Founded in 2007 by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vermont and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library, StoryWalk® was created to promote a love of reading and physical activity.

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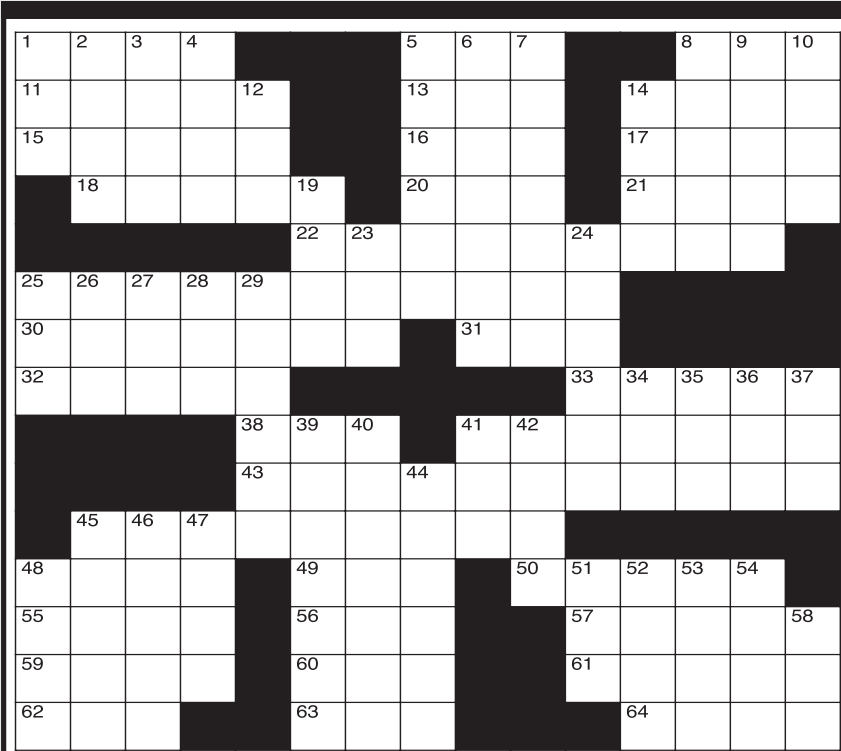
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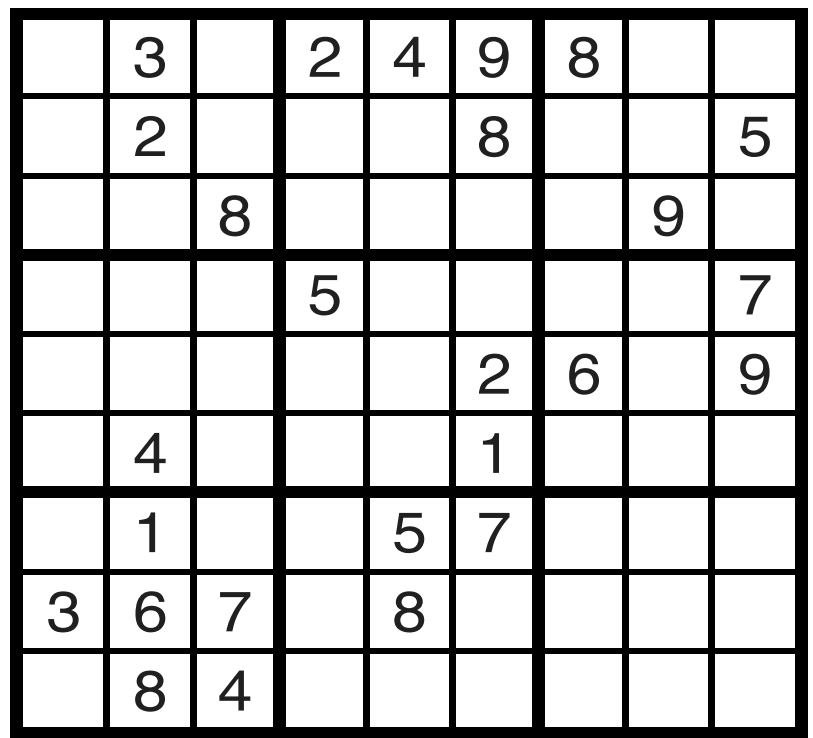
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- CLUES ACROSS**
1. It's all over the beach
 5. A cirque
 8. Corpuscule count (abbr.)
 11. Influential report author
 13. Satisfaction
 14. Recurring only at long intervals
 15. Islamic calendar month
 16. Neither
 17. Gelatinous substance
 18. American electronic music producer
 20. Old computer system
 21. Professional organization
 22. Malaria mosquitoes
 25. Not composed of matter
 30. It's in the ocean
 31. Peyton's little brother
 32. French commune
 33. Eyelashes
 38. Equal (prefix)
 41. Quality of little or no rain
 43. One who beheads
 45. Sung to
 48. Influential punk artist
 49. Amount of time
 50. Polio vaccine developer
 55. Abba ___, Israeli politician
 56. Job
 57. Flat-bottomed sailboat
 59. Japanese wooden clog
 60. Folk singer DiFranco
 61. FL city
 62. Naturally occurring solid
 63. Language of indigenous Asian people
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Soviet Socialist Republic
 2. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
 3. Venomous snake genus
 4. Uninteresting
 5. Straightforwardness
 6. Expression of wild excitement
 7. Arrange in order
 8. East Indian cereal grass
 9. Hillsides
 10. Bird beak covering
 12. Baseball stat
 14. Edge of a surfboard
 19. Wrapping accessory
 23. Express approval
 24. Deduce
 25. Similar
 26. Born of
 27. Automobile
 28. Obligated to repay
 29. Live in
 34. Influential journalist Tarbell
 35. Set aflame
 36. OJ trial judge
 37. Scottish town
 39. African nation
 40. Egg-shaped wind instrument
 41. Mimic
 42. Frees
 44. In slow tempo
 45. Sword
 46. Related on the mother's side
 47. Mars crater
 48. Plant of the lily family
 51. Suitable in the circumstances
 52. Hillside
 53. Metrical foot
 54. Amazon river tributary
 58. Adult male human

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

- ARIES**
Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, figure out where your priorities lie, then position yourself in the right corner to get things done effectively. It could take some time before you see progress. Remain patient.
- CANCER**
Jun 22/Jul 22
The week may start off sluggishly, Cancer. Give yourself permission to start off slowly and build up as you get enough energy and motivation to move along.
- LIBRA**
Sept 23/Oct 23
If someone at work has been holding you back or seems to be standing in your way, it's justifiable to feel resentment. Take the high road and remain pleasant and positive.
- CAPRICORN**
Dec 22/Jan 20
You may be tempted to butt heads with authority figures in the days to come, but you'll catch more flies with honey, Capricorn. Get your frustrations out another way.
- TAURUS**
Apr 21/May 21
It's best if you can keep tight control of your emotions and not let others see what is brewing behind your stoic demeanor. This will give you an advantage in negotiations.
- LEO**
Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, rather than being ready to roar at the world, you can barely let pass a meow. You're more than happy to roll back over in bed most days. Search for an energy boost.
- SCORPIO**
Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, don't ignore your responsibilities, no matter how mundane they may seem. Completing small tasks will help you set the course for more success.
- AQUARIUS**
Jan 21/Feb 18
Relationship issues come to the forefront, Aquarius. This can be any relationship, be it personal or professional. Sit down with this person and flesh things out.
- GEMINI**
May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, if you're too pragmatic this week, you may miss the opportunity to do something spontaneous and really enjoyable with friends. Don't think; jump in this one time.
- VIRGO**
Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, early on in the week you may feel disorganized and out of sorts. But soon enough you will find your stride. Once you're in a groove it will be smooth sailing.
- SAGITTARIUS**
Nov 23/Dec 21
Your judgement may be clouded by some lofty dreams you have been having, Sagittarius. Separate the whimsy from what you actually may be able to transfer to real life.
- PISCES**
Feb 19/Mar 20
The current cosmic climate has you a tad restless, Pisces. You're ready to stretch your fins, so to say. Set off on a grand adventure.



SUDOKU

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GOSHEN

Goshen town clerk lists town election information

GOSHEN – The Annual Goshen Town Election will be held on Saturday, June 3 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in the John James Memorial Hall, located at 42 Main St.

In addition to in person voting on election day, Vote by Mail is a permanent option for all Massachusetts voters. People can register to do so in the following ways:

Submit a signed application via email, mail or fax to the town clerk's office. The application can be found on

the town clerk website: www.goshen-ma.us/elections/. It must include a signature that can be compared to your handwritten signature. Electronic signatures, scanned applications and photos of applications are acceptable.

Use the State's Mail-in Ballot Application System, found at this website: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/MailInRequestWeb/MailInBallot.aspx>

Any mail-in ballot must be requested in writing by Friday, May 26 by 5 p.m. The application can only be accepted if it

has reached the town clerk's office by the deadline. Apply as early as possible, especially if the ballot will need to be mailed out of town. The U.S. Postal Service recommends allowing up to seven days for mail delivery. To ensure people receive their ballot with enough time to mail it back, they should apply 2-3 weeks before Election Day.

The last day to register to vote in time to participate in the Annual Town Election is Wednesday, May 24 from 9-11 a.m. and 3-5 p.m. in the town clerk's office.

The Annual Town Meeting will be held a few weeks before the election on Saturday, May 20 at 9:30 a.m. and is currently planned to take place in the John James Memorial Hall at 42 Main St.. The last day to register to vote in time to participate in the Annual Town Meeting is Wednesday, May 10 from 9-11 a.m. and 3-5 p.m. in the town clerk's office.

People may email the Town Clerk Kristen Estelle with any questions or concerns at clerk@goshen-ma.us or call 413-268-8236, extension 107.

Goshen announces Consortium Council on Aging events

GOSHEN –The May luncheon cooked by Jerry at Spruce Corner Restaurant will be held on Tuesday, May 9 at no on (please note change in time) in the downstairs of the Goshen Town Hall.

This month the menu includes grilled Teriyaki chicken or vegetable stir fry rice, green beans, tossed salad and rolls. Seniors can stay and enjoy their meal, but to-go containers are available. They should call Kerry Normandin by Wednesday, May 3 at 413-268-9354 to let her know their choice of meal.

On May 3 from 1-3 p.m. people are invited to bring knitting, crochet, drawing, needlework or any craft project. They will meet in the upstairs Dining Room at the Goshen Town Hall. All are welcome. People may call Pat at 413-695-5503 if they have any questions.

On Friday, May 5 from 10-11a.m. in the Goshen Town Hall upstairs dining room. The Northern Hilltown Consortium on Council on Aging is coordinating with the Hilltown CDC to have Goshen's own Kelly Sturtevant, Reiki Master and Animal Reiki Practitioner. All are welcome.

A multigenerational outing to Three Sisters Sanctuary will take place Saturday, May 6

from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Entrance fees will be paid for through a HVES grant. Participants will enjoy a walk through this beautiful and unique location in Goshen. A picnic lunch will also be included: Black Forest ham or turkey grinder, pasta salad and chips from Spruce Corner Restaurant. People should email Kerry Normandin at coa@goshen-ma.us or call 413-268-9354 or to sign up by Monday, May 1.

Peg Whalen continues her monthly series to assist with questions about all types of technology devices and their uses. She is available on Tuesday, May 9 between 10 a.m-noon in the upstairs dining room of the Town Hall. Please enter through the Library. People may email nhillocoastech@gmail.com or call or text Peg at 413-404-4566 in advance to schedule enough time for help with their specific needs. There will be another hot curbside pick up style meal. The Highland Valley Elder Services lunch will now be on the third and fourth Tuesdays of the month, pick up from noon-12:30 p.m..

On Tuesday, May 16, the meal will be spaghetti with meat sauce or vegetarian chili, and on Tuesday, May 23 the meal will be chicken Cordon Bleu or beef Wellington plus vegetables, milk and dessert. If people have not signed up and would like to for June, they should call Kerry Normandin at 268-9354 to fill out a brief intake form. There is a suggested \$3 donation that is given to Highland Valley Elder Services to offset the cost of the meal.

Games Group will be on Wednesday, May 17 from 1-3 p.m. and continues on the third Wednesday of each month. they will meet in the upstairs dining room at the Town Hall. This will be in coordination with the Goshen Library and the library is open right afterward.

Wednesday May 17 from 6-7 p.m. Scott Simundza from Massachusetts Senior Medicare Patrol Program will be coming to Goshen for an informative workshop at the Town Hall. SMP helps consumers take a more active role in their healthcare finances by educating them on how to protect their healthcare identity, how to detect errors or fraud in their healthcare billing, and

how to report billing issues to the right resources for help. Seniors from all towns are invited to attend.

Thursdays, May 4, 11, 18, and 25: at 1 p.m. there will be a gentle, weekly walk at Tilton Town Field.

People should bring water and snack. It is always more fun to exercise with others.

New writers workshop with Goshen's own Siegfried Haug will be held on Fridays May 12 and May 26 at the Goshen Town Hall. Residents of all towns are welcome to attend.

Practical Aging Issues Support Group starts Thursday, May 25 from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the upstairs dining room of the Goshen Town Hall. Grace Gibson and Jackie Compton lead the group.. They will have discussions and share resources about various topics including long term care, hospice, estate planning, elder care managers, and the roles of local agencies. People may email Jackie at jackiecompton2@yahoo.com or call 413- 268-7265 or email Grace at gracecgibsonphd@verizon.net or call 413- 374-4357 for more info and to indicate interest in this group.

MIDDLEFIELD

Middlefield lists upcoming events

MIDDLEFIELD – The monthly schedule at Blossom Community Center, 16 Bell Road, is: First Friday Bingo on May 5 at 5:30 p.m. Third Monday Potluck dinner is on Monday, May 15 at 5:30 p.m. Cat will host a board-game afternoon on Saturday May 13 from 1-3 p.m. For more of the May schedule people may visit blossomcenterma.org/calendar/.

At Town Hall, 188 Skyline Trail, Annual Town Meeting is on the first Saturday in May. Elections for town

positions will be held the same day on May 6 from 8 a.m.-noon, by ballot. Early Voting in person will be available at the Town Clerk's office on Monday, May 1 from 1-6 p.m. Tuesday, May 2 from 1-4 p.m. Town Meeting begins Saturday, May 6 at 1:30pm Saturday May 6, with discussion and votes on the warrant articles as posted beforehand and available by visiting the website at www.middlefieldma.site. All registered town voters are eligible to participate.

Town of Middlefield Part-time Administrative Assistant Job Posting

The Town of Middlefield is seeking an organized individual with strong communication skills to serve as a part-time Administrative Assistant. The individual will provide administrative and special project support to the Town Administrator and Select Board. Work will include assisting the town Administrator and Select Board with planning, organizing, developing, coordinating, maintaining, and managing town operations and initiatives related to the Town's priorities and other duties as assigned. The Assistant will work approximately 18 hours per week with a somewhat flexible schedule. Hourly wage commensurate with experience and budget appropriation. A complete job description and required Town Employment Application can be found on the Town website: <https://middlefieldma.net>. Applicants will need to submit a cover letter, Town Employment Application, and a list of three references with contact information to the Select Board PO Box 238 Trail Middlefield, MA 01243. Applications and materials must be received no later than 2:00 PM on Thursday May 11, 2023. Middlefield is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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 **Tuesday May 9, 2023 at 7:00 PM** at the Town Hall at 188 Skyline Trail to consider the following:

A Notice of Intent (NOI) submitted by the Town of Middlefield for proposed eradication of Japanese knotweed in the vicinity of Glendale Brook at Root Road culverts. To consist of cutting and spraying with aquatic approved herbicide and follow up treatment for 2 years following. All proposed work will occur in the Riverfront Area.

Per Order
David Fuller,
Chairman
04/27/2023

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH
OF
MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF
THE TRIAL COURT
Docket 23 SM 001545
ORDER OF NOTICE
To: Amber Small

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (*et seq*):

Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Huntington, numbered 6 Maple Street, given by Amber Small to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns, dated December 3, 2020, and recorded in Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 13883, Page 90, and now held by plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA**

02108 on or before **May 29, 2023**, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of this Court on April 12, 2023.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
23-003112

04/27/2023

Town of Chester Transfer Station Re-Bid

The Town of Chester is accepting bids for the Chester Transfer Station Three Year Contract for Rubbish Hauling and Disposal, Bulky Waste Hauling and Disposal and Recycling Hauling for July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026. This includes rental of a 40-yard rubbish compactor container and a 30-yard open top bulky waste container. Bids are also being accepted for providing a open top 30-yard container for scrap metal and the hauling of ferrous scrap. Please mail and/or email bids by May 31, 2023 to Boardofhealth@town-ofchester.net Town of Chester Board of Health, 15 Middlefield Road, Chester, MA 01011.

04/27/2023

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WANTED TO BUY

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HILLTOWNS MONDAY AT NOON

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EVENTS

WINTERGARDEN FARMS ANTIQUES AT WINTERGARDEN FARMS JUST 15 MINUTES FROM THE HEART OF BRIMFIELD MAY 3RD THROUGH MAY 9TH 9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM DAILY BY APPOINTMENT ONLY INCLUDING EVENINGS 359 STAFFORD ROAD (RTE 32), MONSON, MASS CALL (413)539-1472 TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT OR STOP BY. THE BARN IS PACKED WITH GREAT MERCHANDISE!! KEEP WATCHING FOR UPDATED PHOTOS AT www.antiquesatwintergardenfarm.com

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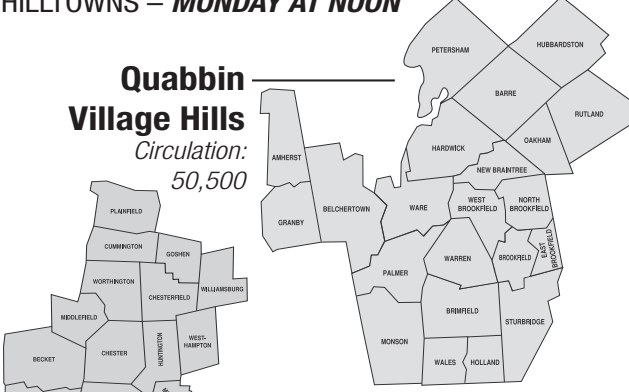


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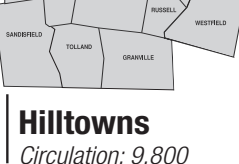
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HILLTOWNS – **MONDAY AT NOON**

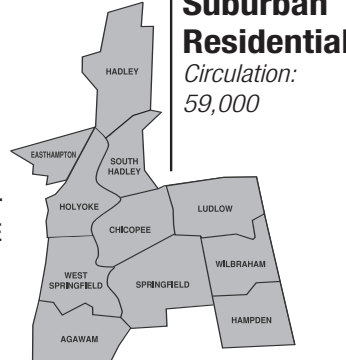
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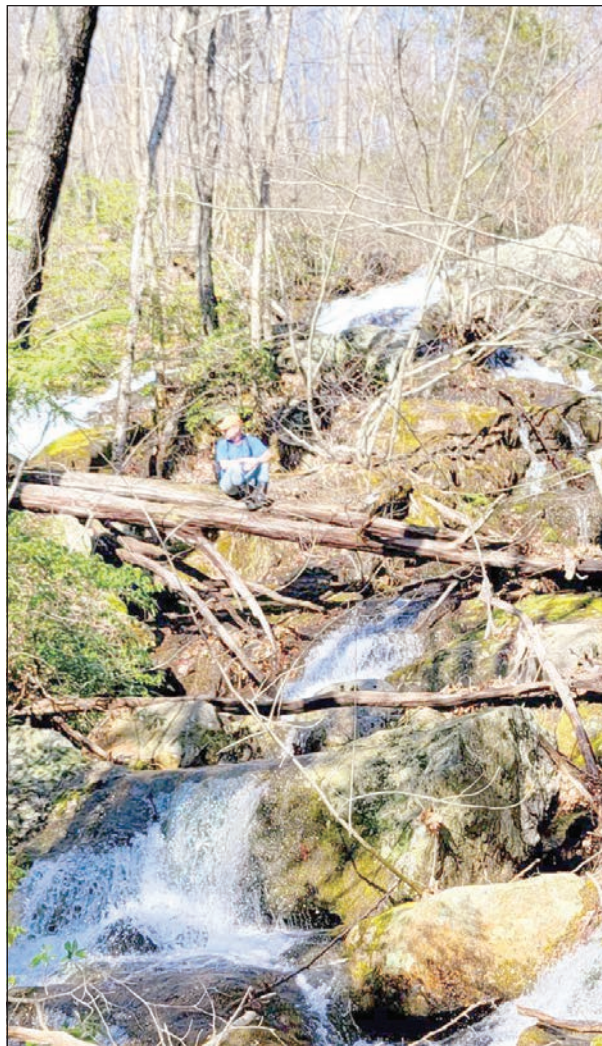
HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



A Golden Retriever enjoys wading in Shatterack Brook during a recent hike by the Hilltown Hikers while his human companions watch him. *Submitted photos*



Hilltown Hikers followed Shatterack Brook. The trail was always on the left side of the brook.



One hiker climbed out on a fallen tree over the Shatterack Brook as it cascades under him.

Hiking Shatterack Brook to waterfalls

Shatterack Brook runs from Shatterack Pond in Montgomery to the Westfield River in Russell in the deep valley on the backside of Shatterack Mountain.

This land was clear cut by the settlers for grazing like most of the Hilltowns. The barbed wire is still there along the old cart path that follows the brook. The Shatterack waterfalls, each unique in appearance and extremely beautiful are showcased in Christy Butler's book "Berkshire Destinations."

Available by visiting <http://www.berkshire-destinations.com/> available on Amazon.

The Hilltown Hikers followed the cart path from Russell Road, next to the Shatterack Ridge Trailhead, one way with a 700 feet of elevation drop from falls #5 to falls #1

at the bottom. Five official waterfalls are covered in "Berkshire Destinations." Cart path is not blazed, and maps are available by visiting www.hilltownhikers.com.

The trail follows the brook downstream, which is always on the left. GPS and way pointing of falls before hiking this trail is recommended. A group hike to this location is planned for next spring.



A hiker sits on a rock at the top of one of the five waterfalls along the Shatterack Brook.



This is one of the five official falls listed in the book "Berkshire Destinations" by Christy Butler.

EASTHAMPTON

bankESB promotes Ian Megraw to IT officer

EASTHAMPTON – bankESB recently promoted Ian Megraw of Southampton to information technology officer.

Megraw joined bankESB in 2016 as a systems administrator. He has seven years of experience in banking and has many strengths that have significantly contributed to the success of the IT department and the bank's conversions since joining the team. He is a respected manager, strong technician, and an important part of the growing Hometown Financial Group family.

Megraw earned an Associate Degree in business administration and network administration from John Abbott College.

Founded in 1869 as Easthampton Savings Bank, bankESB is headquartered in Easthampton and operates 11



Ian Megraw

branches throughout Western Massachusetts. Through its sponsorship and charitable giving program, The Giving Tree, bankESB and the Easthampton Savings Bank Charitable Foundation support non-profit organizations and causes throughout Hampden and Hampshire counties. In 2022, The Giving Tree donated nearly \$500,000 and over the past decade has donated more than \$3.2 million. For more information, people may visit bankESB.com.

bankESB is a member of the Hometown Financial Group, a \$4.5 billion mutual multi-bank holding company headquartered in Easthampton, Massachusetts, and the parent company of bankESB, bankHometown, and Abington Bank as well as Hometown Mortgage. For more information, visit bankHFG.com.

RUSSELL

Russell Public Library announces upcoming events

RUSSELL – The Russell Public Library announces new hours Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3-7 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

On Saturday, May 13 from 2-4 p.m. there will be an adult book talk with Robert R. Madison. He will talk about the long military career of Lt. Falley and his secret Revolutionary War armory built along Moose Meadow Brook on the souther slope of Mt. Tekoa in Montgomery. Register by emailing rpdirector@townofrussell.us, calling 413-862-6221 and leave a message or come in and sign up at the library.

A children's program "Signs of Spring" will be held on Saturday, May 20 from 10 a.m.-noon. This is open to everyone and no registration is required.

Ongoing activities at the library include help with the research tools and the database available on the library computers, adult coffee and community

hour on Thursdays from 10-11 a.m. and read the "Berry Song" along the StoryWalk® sponsored by the Hilltown Family Center through a state grant. No registration is required for these programs.

The Hilltown Community Health Center's Community and Family Support program sponsors an

Outreach and Enrollment Worker and SHINE certified Navigator on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 3-4:30 p.m. They assist families in completing forms for MassHealth and Health

Connector enrollments, applications for Fuel Assistance and SNAP. They are ready to advise you on assistance after the final extra snap payment in June 2023. All are welcome.

Preschoolers ages 1-5 may come for "Merry Munchkins," an interactive story time for preschoolers on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. No registration is required.