

"If conscience disapproves, the loudest applause 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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BLANDFORD



This sign marks the nature trails at the Carl Herrick Knittel Conservation Area in Blandford.

Photo by Mary Kronholm



There are three different beaver dams at the Carl Herrick Knittel Conservation Area in Blandford.

Knittel Conservation Area trails open

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

Conservation Commission Chair Dick Gates announced this week that the nature trails at the Carl Herrick Knittel Conservation Area are now cleared of debris and open for hiking.

The area has 254 acres of preserved land. The trails are close to the center of

town and are great for all ages. Parking is available near the conservation area sign on Herrick Road, opposite the Highway Department Garage on Route 23.

Trail maps and more information can be found in a black metal box attached to the sign, as well as online at townofblandford.com/places-of-interest.

The two main loop trails are blazed with white metal

squares and each trail takes about 45 minutes to complete. The first, Rosemary's Trail which starts from the parking area, features a large pond with an active beaver population. An interesting offshoot of this trail can be found at the top of the rise near the end of the pond with the triple beaver dams. It leads to an observation point on a rock plateau with a rustic bench.

The Sally Robbins Trail begins by the beaver dam and goes along the water.

The second main trail, which is unnamed, begins about 100 yards downhill from the parking area on the field side of Herrick Road and passes by what is referred to as the Ice Pond and a beaver meadow.

Currently at the conser-

TRAILS, page 6

BLANDFORD

School budget increases slightly over 1 percent

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

Town Administrator Christopher Dunne told the Select Board and Finance Committee at their joint meeting Monday evening that there will be a slight increase in the school budget from less than one percent to just over one percent and an additional vocational education student.

There is a tax title auction in the works for property primarily owned by non-residents and year-end departmental budget transfers, which were accomplished at

the meeting.

The Rural and Small Town Development fund will consider grant funding for the highway/fire facility design phase. Dunne will file an application. There is no funding opportunity for Shepard Farm through this program. The Conway School will come up with trail designs for that property.

Dunne said that there has been progress on indirect costs for the Water Department and no indirect costs for the Municipal Light Plant which has minimal infrastructure.

Reports on the state's

budget process have favorable indications for Blandford in that there will be an increase in tax revenue to the town for state-owned land and some additional funding in the unrestricted general government aid. This is in the House version of the state budget which still has to go before the Senate.

There will be a joint meeting with Chester's Select Board on May 15 to discuss a proposed joint Fire Chief for the two towns.

Action items included approving the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association renewal at

\$86,584; appointments included Nicole Daviau and Ryan Stafford to the Historical Commission through June 2024, John Vanheynigen as Electrical Inspector through June 2024 and Nathan Maynard to the Conservation Commission through June 2026.

The board also approved a \$20,000 grant agreement for the American Rescue Plan Act funds for the Blandford Animal Hospital.

Chair Cara Letendre and member Jeffrey Allen voted to postpone putting a ques-

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HUNTINGTON

Brothers Grimm

appears at Gateway

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

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

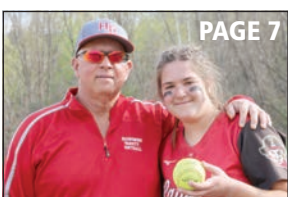
This play mashes up all 209 stories from the Brothers Grimm, including the classics Snow White, Cinderella, and Hansel and Gretel, as well as the lesser known stories of The Devil's Grandmother and The Girl Without Hands.

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.



Jayden Damon, playing the woodcutter from the story "Little Red," gets into character.

Photo by Wendy Long



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HILLTOWNS

MassDOT lists I-90 lane closures



The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces crews will be conducting bridge and guardrail repair work on I-90 eastbound and westbound in Montgomery, Russell, Becket and Blandford during the week of April 30. The scheduled work will require some lane and shoulder closures.

In Montgomery and Russell, bridge repair work will be conducted during overnight hours on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 36.0. Work between the hours of 7 p.m.-5 a.m. is anticipated to conclude on Friday, May 5 by 5 a.m.

In Becket, guardrail repair operations will be conducted during overnight hours on I-90 eastbound and westbound between mile marker 17 and mile marker 20 from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. and is antici-

pated to conclude by 5:00 a.m., Friday, May 5.

Bridge repair operations will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 17.4, during overnight hours on Wednesday, May 3, to Friday, May 5, from 7:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. the next day. Work is anticipated to conclude on Friday, May 5 by 5 a.m.

In Blandford, guardrail repair operations will be conducted in overnight hours on I-90 eastbound and westbound at various locations, from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. and is anticipated to conclude on Friday, April 5 by 5 a.m.

Traffic will be allowed through the work zones. The work will require temporary lane closures to allow crews to safely conduct guardrail and bridge 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.

OTIS

Trail group to hold narrated hike

OTIS – Knox Trail Otis group will hold a hike narrated by Tom Ragusa on Sunday, May 7 from 1-4:30 p.m. on the Knox Trail (GPS 42.175683, -73.063875).

The hike will start at by parking along Norton Road Extension where the group will have a tent set up.

They will start on Norton Road and hike on the Knox Trail to Route 8 in Otis. The hike is easy to Tom Ragusa is a local historian and retired from the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

During the winter of 1775-1776 General George Washington held the high ground around Boston while the British were firmly in control of the city. If Washington had artillery, he could dislodge the British and retake Boston. The nearest available artillery was at Fort Ticonderoga, which was under Continental Army control, in up-state New York.

General Henry Knox then was commissioned, in December 1775, by General Washington to secure these artillery pieces and transport them from New York through Massachusetts

to Dorchester Heights outside Boston. To do this General Knox successfully crossed the Berkshire Mountains and several large rivers, in winter, with fifty-nine pieces of artillery. When the artillery arrived in Boston, in early March 1776, General Howe realized the hopelessness of his position and evacuated the city.

Hike participants will go back in time with Ragusa to hike those same steps. He has spent 30 years working on achieving National Historic Designation for the Knox Trail. This event is in collaboration with the National Parks Service, Springfield Armory National Historic Site.

People should register per car load by visiting <https://westernmasshilltownhikers.ticketleap.com>. Hike is free and volunteer lead, suggested donation is \$5. Maps and bottled water provided. Be prepared for rocks, some road walking and deep woods. The hike will be held rain or shine. Friendly dogs are welcome.

For more details, people may visit www.hilltownhikers.com, email westernmasshilltownhikers@aol.com or call/text 413-302-0312.

STOCKBRIDGE

Church to hold concert May 7

STOCKBRIDGE – The Board of Music of the First Congregational Church United Church of Christ in Stockbridge announces the resumption of its Music on Main concert series with a chamber music concert on Sunday, May 7 at 3 p.m. The concert features cellist Peter Seidenberg and pianist Hui Mei-Lin, performing music of Beethoven, Boulanger, Chopin and Britten.

Peter Seidenberg made his solo debut with the Chicago Symphony, and has since appeared as soloist with many orchestras including Century Orchestra of Osaka, New American Chamber Orchestra, De Paul Chamber Orchestra, New York Chamber Soloists, and the Eastman-Rochester Philharmonic. He was also a founding member of the critically acclaimed Elements Quartet which created groundbreaking commissioning projects involving over 30 composers.

Hui-Mei Lin made her New York solo debut at the Weill Recital Hall at the Carnegie Hall as the winner of the Artists International Competition. She was described by the New York Times

as “an excellent pianist throughout.” Concert tours have taken her to Italy, France, Canada, and various cities in Taiwan. As a chamber musician, she has performed with cellist Carter Brey, flutist Robert Stallman and soprano Berenice Bramson at the Weill Recital Hall, with the New Hungarian Quartet at the Taos Chamber Music Festival and with the Cassatt String Quartet.

Hui-Mei Lin and Peter Seidenberg have been musical partners for over 20 years and have toured throughout the U.S. and Taiwan.

The concert will take place Sunday May 7 at 3 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 4 Main St. in Stockbridge. The suggested donation is \$30 at the door. The concert will benefit the Musician’s Concert Fund at the church, which will subsidize and support future concerts in the Music on Main series and allow those future concerts to donate their proceeds to local charities. For further information, people may call the church office at 413-298-3137.

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HUNTINGTON



Students and staff from Gateway's VIP (Visual Impair Program) attended a "White Cane Day" last October, funded by the Gateway Education Foundation. *Submitted photo*

Trivia Night benefits Gateway Education Foundation

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – A reminder that the Gateway Education Foundation is sponsoring its second annual Trivia Night fundraiser on Saturday, May 13 at Strathmore Park in Russell.

Pre-paid tickets are \$25 each or book a table of eight with friends and family for \$175. Doors open at 4 p.m. with music and mingling. Trivia gets underway at 5 p.m. and will include 10 rounds of questions with five questions each.

This popular event puts the "fun" in fundraising and will again be led by master of ceremonies and former Gateway teacher, Matt Collins, who will bring adult-style humor to the evening. Teams bring their own food and drinks (adult beverages welcome). The evening will include a penny social and a 50/50 raffle.

Tickets may be purchased online

at www.GatewayEducationFoundation.org/trivia.

All proceeds will benefit the Funds for Learning program of the Gateway Education Foundation. Since 2012, GEF has funded over 150 educational projects totaling over \$125,000.

If people are unable to attend but still want to support GEF, donations are always welcome and may be made by sending checks (payable to the Gateway Education Foundation) to GEF, 12 Littleville Road, Huntington, MA 01050. Donations are also accepted online at www.GatewayEducationFoundation.org/donate.

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.

Registration now open for five-week summer camp

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – Registration is now open for the Huntington Recreational Summer Camp, which has been operating for over 30 years.

Camp will run from Monday, June 26 to Friday, July 28 from 9 a.m.-noon and will take place at Stanton Hall on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Wednesdays will be family-friendly field trips and parents/guardians and siblings are welcome to come along.

Registration is \$50 for the entire five weeks and includes the admission costs for the field trips for campers.

Camp is open to Huntington residents, aged 5 through grade 5 (completed). Activities will include arts and crafts, science and nature, walking/exploring trips to the library, indoor games and playing outdoors. Children should dress appropriately for the weather (no flip-flops) and for creative arts projects.

Registration forms are available at Town Hall and will be posted on the town website. Forms must be returned by Saturday, May 20 with a check payable to the Huntington Recreation Committee, P.O. Box 430, Huntington, MA 01050.

People may email questions to recreation@huntingtonma.us.

WORTHINGTON

PTO hosts spaghetti dinner

WORTHINGTON – The R.H. Conwell Elementary School Parent Teachers Organization will hold a spaghetti dinner fundraiser to benefit the school on Saturday, May 13 at 5 p.m.

This is an opportunity to treat mom, grandmother or mother-in-law for an evening of delicious food and fun raffles. Tickets must be purchased by Friday, May 5 by either calling Lynn Lak at 413-238-4274 or Lisa Oulette at the school at

413-238-5856. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6-14 and free for children age 5 and under.

The PTO seeks basket raffle donations with each class creating a themed basket; raffle donations and

donations of pasta, pasta sauce, rolls, drinks, etc. for the dinner. People may call Lynn Lak at 413-238-4274 with any questions or to donate for the raffle or dinner.

Flag Committee seeks donations

WORTHINGTON – The American Flags are traditionally put up along Worthington's roads on the power/telephone poles and have always been maintained by volunteers and funded by contributors here in town.

The Worthington Flag Committee said, "Over the last couple years, as you may have noticed, the number of flags they've been able to put up has dwindled. We need your help to bring back the great patriotic coverage here in Worthington."

There are three key elements: the poles, the brackets that mount to the light poles, and, of course, the flags them-

selves. Prices vary, but like everything else, cheap ones don't last.

Flags are around \$30 each, poles are about \$25 and the brackets are about \$15. The total cost is about \$70. The Worthington Flag Committee needs to raise about \$2,800 this year for about 40 new flags.

People should send a check made out to The Town of Worthington with a note that it's For the Flag Fund and mail to: Town of Worthington, P.O. Box 247, Worthington, MA 01098 or drop off at the secure Drop Box outside the door at the Town Hall.

ATM set for May 6

WORTHINGTON – The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 6 at 9:30 a.m. outside on the R.H. Conwell Elementary School, 147 Huntington Road, grounds.

There are 30 articles on the meeting warrant.

Library lists new hours

WORTHINGTON – The Worthington Library, 1 Huntington Road, changed its hours on May 1.

New hours are Sundays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Tuesdays from 3-7 p.m., Thursday from 10 a.m.-noon and 3-7 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The library is closed Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

SOUTHWICK

Health and Wellness Fair on May 17

SOUTHWICK – Regional Nurse Christine Southworth announced a Health and Wellness Fair Wednesday, May 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Southwick Town Hall Auditorium at 454 College Highway.

The Fire Department will be available to take back unused and unwanted prescription or non-prescription over the counter medicines. The Behavioral Health Network will administer Covid boosters and there will be many informative tables promoting health benefits of Reiki, Yoga and Massage. Participants will learn about

affordable hearing care options.

Highland Valley Elder Services will be there with program information. The Office of Consumer Affairs will have information about their programs and fraud prevention tips.

A local vendor will have maple products for sale.

There will be representatives available from Alzheimers Association, Hilltown Safety, the Arbors and more.

There is no charge to attend and those who get a Covid booster will receive a \$25 gift card.

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.

Responsible harvesting is the first step in producing our lumber. We mill over four million board feet per year, with most coming from local privately-owned forests. We use only the best cutting processes for minimal impact to the land. If you are interested in managing or foresting your land of three acres or more, let our family walk it with your family, and we'll give you a free assessment and suggestions on how to best manage your woodlot. Contact the office by email at lashway@live.com or by phone 413-268-7685 and we will have our forester set up an assessment.



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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



April showers make for great transplanting weather

It was a lot of fun to take advantage of the overcast days this week to get some transplanting done.

Do you wonder why it is advantageous to undertake this task when it is cloudy, or even drizzling out? If your guess has to do with less stress on the plants, you are right on target.

Read on for more about what kept me busy and why!!

I hope I am smarting up some when it comes to homegrown seedlings. This year, instead of growing 300 tomato plants (yes, I was a little kooky last year) I downsized to just under 70.

Still enough for me to share but not so many that we have to have a brigade to get the many trays into the house each night that temperatures dip in my unheated greenhouse.

The tomato seeds were sown in the third week or March and were transplanted into 6 packs the second week of April.

Recently, they started to show signs that they were ready to be potted into bigger containers. Height was one give-away. Secondly, was a root ball that was pretty filled out but not quite root bound (roots swirling in a tight mass).

I lifted each plant from the cell of its 6-pack and positioned the plant on the bottom of a 4" pot and filled in with new potting soil.

Tomatoes are unique in that they will make roots up the stem.

After all the transplanting was done, I gave them a drink or fish emulsion/seaweed fertilizer to lessen any shock and provide them with a good boost.

Because it was overcast, I was able to do this right in the greenhouse and keep them in there without worry that the sun or heat would be too much for plants that recently had their roots disturbed.

On occasion, when I've been forced to get transplanting done during a sunny stretch, I would immediately water the plants then place the trays of plants in the shade to recover for at least a day or two.

Now, a mention on temperature. Cloudy is one thing, and today with my greenhouse doors closed, 50 degrees outdoors meant a few degrees warmer inside.

I would not keep tomato plants outside if temperatures were colder than fifty or they will start to show signs of distress. They are much happier at 55 to 60 degrees.

So, for the next couple of weeks, (gasp) in and out they will go each day.

Without a greenhouse would mean mov-

BUDGET, page 5

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.



GUEST COLUMN

Ambulance's financial struggles put it on life support

By Charley Rose

Hilltown Community Ambulance Association's co-director Bailey Jones and chief financial officer Jade Rice find themselves in a strange position for first responders: they are the ones asking for help.

HCAA is a nonprofit organization serving the towns of Blandford, Chester, Huntington, Montgomery, Russell and Worthington.

It has always operated close to the bone, but a confluence of circumstances, aging equipment, non-competitive pay and lack of benefits, woefully inadequate financial contributions from member towns and a new state law that has an outsized impact on its finances in particular, have pushed that bootstrap situation into a full-blown financial crisis threatening the association's very existence.

"Community members aren't fully aware of exactly what we receive as funding or the current state that we're in," Rice says. "I don't think it was ever really fully portrayed just how much Hilltown needs everyone's help."

"Due to the lack of funding, we're not able to keep up with things as simple as payroll, like regular maintenance on our vehicles, normal upgrades that are very much the industry standard for EMS as a whole," Jones says.

"Unfortunately we do have employees leave to go to better opportunities where the pay rate's higher or where it's more sustainable for their families because they have health insurance and benefits" which HCAA isn't able to offer.

"We've had times where, because we've been busy, we've turned down a 911 call. We don't have the funding to staff a second ambulance and if Westfield has had no ambulances available, then the city of West Springfield has had to send an ambulance all the way out to Chester to respond to calls as serious as chest pain," Jones says. "There is a possibility that somebody may be at the side of their family member for over 45 minutes of them having an emergency medical situation, and there's no immediate help available."

Inadequate town contributions

The majority of the association's finances come from a combination of member town assessments and subscriptions paid by community members. Both sources of income are currently woefully insufficient.

"Given our non-municipal, private, non-profit status, we don't qualify for a lot of the state and federal grants," Rice says. "We are forced to rely on just what the towns can provide us with, along with insurance billing, and donations we receive."

Subscriptions and donations total about \$40,000 from the six towns and 635 subscribers. Town assessments are calculated based on its population. Towns pay \$25 per

person, a fee for emergency services far below that of other area emergency service providers.

"We could double our per capita cost to \$50 and it would still be one of the cheapest ambulance services around," Jones says, citing Highland Ambulance's \$51 per person assessment to its six member towns.

"That is exactly why Highland has two brand-new ambulances, with a new base [of operations], and they're able to keep up with state-of-the-art equipment and training," Jones says.

The annual support HCAA receives from all six towns combined is \$211,694, which represents only about half of what it needs just to make yearly payroll.

Blandford pays \$31,624, Chester \$33,226, Huntington \$54,176, Montgomery \$20,825, Russell pays \$44,111 and Worthington pays \$28,728. "The town of Huntington, when we get a quarterly check it's \$13,544, and that is covering payroll for one week for us," Jones says.

So far, requests for more funding from the towns have not been met.

"We did, last year, talk to the towns to give them a heads up that we want to increase our rates for next fiscal year," Jones says. "To try and give them enough notice that there wouldn't be as much shock value. But the reality is, when we have gone back to towns, we have gotten either a response that 'we have no money' or that 'we feasibly just can't do that.'"

Jones says she wants towns to realize that they need to support Hilltown, because neighboring towns are too busy and shorthanded to step in when HCAA can't respond.

Aging equipment

The association's two ambulances together have clocked nearly 300,000 miles; breakdowns and maintenance issues are a constant worry.

"We've run into a ton of maintenance problems over the past couple of years, and it's only getting worse," Jones says of the maintenance problems that have exceeded \$12,000 in the last year. Keeping the association's older equipment in working order is also a strain because they don't have the funds to replace them. Some critical pieces, like heart monitors, are so old replacement parts aren't available.

"They're not making parts for certain computer components, so if something were to go wrong, those are toast," Rice says. "Without those we would be [downgraded] to basic level, and we wouldn't be able to provide any life support."

Replacing both cardiac monitors would cost more than \$57,000, more than the highest contributing town gives the association in a year. There are also lengthy waiting lists for receiving new equipment.

AMBULANCE, 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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Country Journal TEAM



EDITOR
Ellenor Downer
countryjournal@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Theresa Wegiel
twegiel@turley.com

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PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager

Turley Publications, Inc.

www.turley.com

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BECKET

Becket church to hold flower sale and tag sale

BECKET – There will be a Mother's Day Flower Sale on Saturday, May 13 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of Becket on YMCA Road.

This flower sale is to raise funds to complete the restoration of the church, which was subjected to powder post

beetle damage. The belfry has been restored and now church members are addressing the basement beams and foundation.

Ten inch hanging baskets, ten inch patio pots and bedding plants may be purchased. There will be a fundraising tag sale at the same time.

Town announces upcoming meeting/election information

BECKET – On Saturday, May 13 at 7 p.m. the town of Becket will hold its Annual Town Meeting in the Becket Washington Elementary School, 12 Maple St.

On Saturday, May 20, the Annual Town Election will be held from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. in the Becket Town Hall, 557 Main St.

CHESTERFIELD

Colson-Montgomery retains Select Board seat

CHESTERFIELD – Incumbent Select Board member "Trish" Colson-Montgomery won her seat against write-in candidate, Gregory Meister. Colson-Montgomery had 161 votes to Meister's 110.

About 30% or 296 of Chesterfield total number of registered voters of 984 went to the poll for the voted was 296 out of 984 registered voters for the Monday, May 1 election.

Voters elected incumbents Daniel Henshaw with 240 votes and Eileen McGowan with 168 to two of the three Planning Board seat for three-years each. John Lyons with 140 votes was the winner of the third seat. Other candidates were Carol Rhine with 89 votes and Jordan Bak with 77 write-in votes.

In the only other contest on the ballot, Sarah Hamilton won a two-

year seat to the Planning Board against write-in Jordan Bak with 92 votes.

All other candidates won their seats and included Assessor Mary Anne Severence-Rys with 248 votes, Board of Health "Peg" Margaret Whalen with 250 votes, Library Trustee Jennifer B. Peotter with 268 votes, Tax Collector Lenore Pittsinger with 282 votes, Town Clerk Sandra Wickland with 291 votes, Treasurer Margaret McWherter with 269 votes, School Committee/Chesterfield-Goshen three-year term Donald A. Willard, III with 265 votes, School Committee/Chesterfield-Goshen two-year term Barbara A. Bak with 271 votes and Tree Warden John Lynch with 266 votes. There was no clear winner for the Hampshire Regional School Committee or for Constable.

OPINION

AMBULANCE

from page 4

The association also struggles with a manual stretcher, while a cot powered by hydraulics dramatically reduces strenuous lifting and back injury risks.

"That is very much the industry standard with private services as well as municipalities, and we still don't have one," Jones says.

The Impact of the Nonpublic Ambulance Service Reimbursement Trust Fund

The latest blow to HCAA's finances has been the outsized impact it has seen from a new state law enacted in January 2023, the Nonpublic Ambulance Service Reimbursement Trust Fund. HCAA is a 911-only responder, meaning it doesn't respond to non-emergency calls or transfer patients from one hospital to another. Those two revenue streams are excluded from how the assessments to ambulance services are determined.

"Companies that do large amounts

of transports or transfers in general, [the state] is not even looking at that income, that's just income in their pockets," Rice says. "Whereas we who do only 911 calls, our entire revenue is being assessed."

The result is that Hilltown received a bill from the trust fund for \$6,670, which it will have to pay four times a year. And it might not be able to recoup those funds with reimbursements from the trust fund.

There are agencies that are going to pay into this and end up not getting any money back, which is very much so the possibility with us right now," Jones says.

HCAA is not prohibited from doing transfers, it is hampered by a lack of resources.

"Our biggest nervousness with trying to do transports, number one, is it takes our secondary ambulance out of our service area," Jones says. "There's a high probability that at any given point our primary 911 ambulance could go

down, and then we have to answer to our towns and our community members why our secondary ambulance was out in Springfield."

Both Jones and Rice are hoping that, when community members realize the dire straits HCAA is in, they will move their towns toward supporting an increase in their assessments.

"We don't need to be rich, we don't need brand-new ambulances, but we want to be able to come in to work with equipment that works, trucks that we don't fear are going to break down when we're on an emergency call, and we want to make sure that we don't have to worry about the stress of making payroll," Jones says.

The alternative?

"I don't think that we would be here next year at this time," Jones says. "We are at the point where we have done as much cutting of any fat or pork that would be in our budget. And the reality is that

there is nothing to cut, because there was no budget to begin with."

The bottom line is that residents of HCAA member towns need to show support for 24-hour ambulance service. There are two principal ways to do that.

Annual subscription flyers will be arriving in the mail shortly. Please renew if you're already a subscriber and if you are not, please consider a subscription. As a subscriber your transport is paid for if Hilltown Community Ambulance needs to transport you. Just as importantly, you're making a contribution to support this life-saving service in your town, visit www.HilltownAmbulance.org/donate.

Attend your annual Town Meeting and vote to support your town's Annual Assessment warrant article. It's vital that all member towns vote to fund this service in Chester, Russell, Blandford, Huntington, Montgomery and Worthington.

GARDEN

from page 4



ing them around your windows to catch the sun, or placing them back under the grow lights until temperatures moderate. At least I am not moving 300 this year.

Overcast skies were also helpful when it came time to re-do one of my perennial borders. I did a soil test on this particular garden last year and followed the recommendations to increase nitrogen (blood meal) and potassium (wood ashes).

It is neat that the wood ashes do double duty to get the pH a little higher as well.

Once the amendments were mixed in, I began lifting plants from the old garden, dividing them up and replanting them in the new garden. Some of the plants were overgrown, hence the need for division.

Using a sharp shovel, I simply sliced them down the middle of the clump and if needed, divided the halves into quarters. Now lots of roots were

severed in the process, so cloudy skies and the rain that followed really helped to settle the plants into their new locale without shock.

The garden is a collection of plants that butterflies love. I have a butterfly bush in the corner that is 3 years old. That one really frigid night we had where temperatures dipped into the negative double digits killed off top growth, but I am hopeful that growth will return from the crown.

Hopefully, I will see that over the next two to three weeks. What did you accomplish over these cloudy days?

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.

Election policy

The Country Journal welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be emailed to countryjournal@turley.com or to edowner@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Tuesday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

Candidates statements may be emailed to the above email addresses. All statements must be received two weeks prior to the election as no statements will be printed the week before the election.

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FLORENCE

Florence Bank promotes Candace Pereira

FLORENCE – The Florence Bank has promoted Candace Pereira of East Longmeadow to the role of vice president/commercial lender.



Candace Pereira

Since 2018, she has worked at Florence Bank as assistant vice president/commercial portfolio manager in the Commercial Lending department. In her new role, Pereira will concentrate on commercial and industrial lending and lending to women-owned businesses.

Pereira holds an associate degree in finance from Springfield Technical Community College and a bachelor's in business administration from the Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She is currently pursuing an MBA from Isenberg as well.

Pereira began her career in banking in 2003 and has held various roles at mutually held and stockholder-owned banks in Western Massachusetts in both residential and commercial lending.

Working at Florence Bank as a lender excites Pereira because she believes customers are better served with a mutual bank. "Decisions are made locally. The management team

knows the market," she says. "A mutual bank is also more invested in the community and its overall success. We give back to the community."

Recently named an ambassador for the Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce, Pereira is also a member of the 2017 class for BusinessWest's 40 under Forty, and she attended the Springfield Leadership Institute. Pereira has served on various local boards over the last several years and has also volunteered as an athletic coach in East Longmeadow, where her daughter is a student.

Matt Garrity, president and CEO of Florence Bank, said of Pereira, "Candace has a solid foundation in working directly with customers and understanding their financial situations. We are pleased to welcome her to our team of commercial lenders."

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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PLAINFIELD



The Plainfield Tree Alliance in cooperation with the Plainfield's Tree Warden planted 15 new trees along South Central Street and Route 116. Submitted photo

Plainfield celebrates Arbor Day by planting trees

PLAINFIELD – The Plainfield Tree Alliance in cooperation with the town Tree Warden, Bob Mellstrom, has been working for the last several years to survey and replace the aging and often ailing sugar maples, which once gracefully lined our streets.

Many have been removed; others are suffering from environmental damage such as climate change and warming, widening of streets and salting. Two years ago Mellstrom introduced a budget item into the Warden's budget for replacement trees. Since then the Tree Alliance has celebrated Arbor Day by planting replacement native street trees. They have been carefully selected for their usefulness to

the environment as host trees for indigenous insects, birds and other wildlife which depend on them for sustenance and shelter. Their adaptability to the changing climate and particular growing conditions, as well as proximity to overhead wires which have caused many old trees to be severely pruned, were also considered.

The chilly, wet weather on this last weekend of April was perfect for the new trees but rather uncomfortable for the hardy group of residents, Tree Alliance members, and organizers of the newly formed Cummington Trees group, who planted the 15 new trees along the historic district section of South Central Street and Route 116.

BLANDFORD

TRAILS

from page 1

vation area, beavers can be observed working on a series of dams, which have recently raised the water level in the

large pond. Blue herons are nesting and are often seen flying to their nests high up in the trees.

BUDGET

from page 1

tion on the town's annual election ballot to cease assessing the farm excise tax on animals, machinery and equipment until next year until more information is available. Board member T.J. Cousineau abstained.

In other business Select Board approved maintenance of Bicentennial

Park for \$1,755 and \$1,680 for Watson Park. To

prevent using all the available funds from Bicentennial Park there will be a budget item for voters to consider at the Annual Town Meeting. Both parks have trust funds but they are restricted except for the income generated.

The year-end transfers of funds moved \$13,850 to Water Department Utilities, office expense and testing, \$411 to Highway Equipment Rental and \$2,000 to Town Insurance. The vote for the transfers by both Finance Committee and Select Board was unanimous.

The trustees of Norwich Bridge Cemetery wish to thank all those family and friends who helped in this year's spring cleanup. A special thanks to the scouts & leaders of Boy Scout Troop 821. Your hard work is very much appreciated.



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SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Timmons named HCC president

HOLYOKE – Calling him “creative,” “innovative, and a “strong leader” who would be an “excellent ambassador for the college,” the Holyoke Community College Board of Trustees today voted in favor of George Timmons as the next president of HCC.



George Timmons

Timmons, Ph.D., is now provost and senior vice president of Academic and Student Affairs at Columbia Greene Community College in Hudson, New York.

Robert Gilbert, chair of the HCC Board of Trustees, said Timmons is expected to start his term as HCC’s fifth president the last week of June, pending approval from the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education on May 9.

“We’re excited to have voted Dr. George Timmons as the fifth president of Holyoke Community College,” Gilbert said. “We’re looking forward to his leadership, his work with the entire community, and his ability to lead this institution for the success of the students, faculty, and staff.”

During deliberations, trustees noted that the strength of all four finalists for president made the exercise of choosing difficult.

Besides Timmons, the other finalists were Noemí Custodia-Lora, vice president of the Lawrence Campus and Community Relations at Northern Essex Community College in Massachusetts; Tony D. Hawkins, former provost and vice president of Academic Affairs, Continuing Education and Workforce Development at Frederick Community College in Maryland; and Arlene Rodríguez, provost and vice president of Academic and Student Affairs at Middlesex Community College in Massachusetts.

Each of the four finalists visited HCC earlier this month for a day and a half of tours, open forums, presentations, and interviews.

“I have struggled because each brings their own unique talents and skills,” said Trustee Vanessa Smith, “but the one who embodies the whole package for me is Dr. George Timmons.”

After initially failing to reach a major-

ity, the board ultimately voted for Timmons by a margin of 6-2-2. A third, ceremonial vote was unanimous.

“We had four very diverse candidates,” Trustee Yolanda Johnson said, “but the candidate I could envision leading HCC is George Timmons. He is a leader who could build on what has already been accomplished under President Royal. He is well prepared to build on

that foundation, and he has a story that could resonate with our black and brown students and move the needle on enrollment.”

Trustee Smith recalled something Timmons said during one of his interviews that really sealed her choice: If approved as the next HCC president, he said, “I will be in and of this community.”

In August, Royal, who’s been with HCC since January 2017, announced that she would retire after the 2022-2023 academic year. Her last day will be July 14. Her last three weeks will overlap with Timmons’ first three at HCC.

“I’m thrilled that the process was inclusive of all voices in our community,” she said, “and that our Board of Trustees really took the feedback and the perspectives of all our constituency groups – faculty, staff, students, community – into consideration while deliberating and now I’m excited to be able to start the transition and prepare Dr. Timmons for serving as the fifth president to help set him up for success as he leads HCC into the future.”

Timmons, 61, holds a Ph.D. in higher education administration from Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio; a master’s degree in higher education from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia and a bachelor’s degree in financial management from Norfolk State University in Norfolk, Virginia.

He has held his position as provost and senior vice president of Academic and Student Affairs at Columbia-Greene Community College since 2019. Before that, he worked at Excelsior College in Albany, New York, where he held a number of administrative positions culminating with dean of the School of Liberal Arts.

JOCELYN METTEY MAKES 100 HITS



Hampshire Regional High School student Jocelyn Mettey made a game stopping 100th hit at home field. Jocelyn is also the Hampshire Regional High School Varsity Softball pitcher with a seasonal record. A senior, she will be attending LaSalle University. Coach Brian McGan, from left, presents Jocelyn Mettey with home run game ball.

Submitted photo

Downey inducted into honor society

SCRANTON, PA – Clara Downey of Easthampton was among the 15 University of Scranton students inducted into Pi Gamma Mu, the international honor society in social science.

Downey is a senior political science major. For induction into the honor society, students must be of

junior academic standing, maintain an overall grade point average of 3.4 or higher and have completed at least 21 credits in the disciplines of economics, human services, psychology, sociology, political science or history. The University’s chapter of the honor society was established in 1971.

Gateway High Class of 1973 to hold reunion

HUNTINGTON – The Gateway Regional High School Class of 1973 will be celebrating their 50th reunion on June 24.

Any classmates who would like to attend and have not received information should email Dawn Petrovsky at macwellmim@gmail.com.

Lasell Men’s Lacrosse team has 10-6 record

NEWTON – The Lasell Lasers played the Johnson and Wales University Wildcats recently defeating them 10-6. The win clinched the second seed in the upcoming GNAC playoffs with a 8-2 conference record. The Lasers are now 10-6 on the season.

Landon Reyes of Westfield is on the team and scored several goals.

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CUMMINGTON

One deceased and another injured in house fire

CUMMINGTON – An early morning fire in Cummington claimed one adult resident's life and injured another, said Cummington Fire Chief Adam E. Dragon, State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey, and Northwestern District Attorney David E. Sullivan.

"On behalf of the Cummington Fire Department, I want to express our heartfelt condolences to the victim's family," said Chief Dragon. "This is a tragedy for them and our community."

The fire was first reported through a 9-1-1 call on Friday, April 28 at

about 5:37 a.m. The Cummington Fire Department responded to the area of 9 Thayer Corner Road. to find the single-family home fully involved. They immediately began suppression efforts but the structure sustained catastrophic damage. Firefighters battled the flames for more than two hours.

The home had working smoke alarms. One occupant was able to escape the fire and was transported to an area hospital with serious injuries. The preliminary investigation suggests that the second occupant went to

retrieve personal belongings, but never escaped.

"If there's a fire at home, it's urgent that everyone get out, stay out, and call 9-1-1," said State Fire Marshal Ostroskey. "A fire at home can become deadly in less than three minutes. Don't risk your life for items that can be replaced."

While the exact cause of the fire has not been determined, investigators from the Cummington Fire Department, State Police Fire and Explosion Investigation Unit assigned to the State

Fire Marshal's office and State Police assigned to the Northwestern District Attorney's office have found no evidence that it was intentionally set.

Firefighters were able to keep the blaze from spreading to nearby homes, but one vehicle was damaged. The fire departments of Ashfield, Goshen, Plainfield and Worthington provided mutual aid. The Department of Fire Services deployed a Rehab unit to support personnel at the scene and Code Compliance and Enforcement officers to support the investigation.

GREAT BARRINGTON

Berkshire Agriculture Ventures receives USDA Grant

GREAT BARRINGTON – Berkshire Agriculture Ventures received a \$630,000 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture through its Rural Development Meat and Poultry Intermediary Lending Program.

Together with an additional \$210,000 match from community members, BAV will use this grant to establish a dedicated, \$840,000 fund that will enable BAV to issue loans to meat processors within the Berkshire-Taconic foodshed, over the next three years. As these loans are repaid, they will be invested into a permanent funding mechanism that will significantly enhance BAV's ability to support any kind of local food processing, distribution, and aggregation.

The creation of this additional, dedicated loan fund complements the

work BAV conducts through its Local Meat Processing Support Program. Through the LMPSP BAV provides loans and high-level one-on-one technical assistance, ranging from financial planning to grant writing support, to processors and other agribusinesses in the middle of the local meat processing value chain. The LMPSP has helped BAV forge relationships with many of the existing meat processors in the Berkshire-Taconic foodshed and, with the MPILP funding, will now look forward to working with other regional processors to assess needs, develop strategies, and build a more resilient regional meat processing system.

"The MPILP award from the USDA is transformative," says BAV Interim Executive Director Glenn Bergman. "It puts BAV in a unique

position to continue to provide high-level support to regional meat processors that will increase their ability to meet food supply demands in financially and environmentally responsible ways," said Bergman.

Berkshire Agricultural Ventures (BAV) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit founded in 2016, working to support the development and viability of local farms and food businesses, to build a thriving local food economy, improve access to fresh food for everyone and address climate change through regenerative agriculture.

For more information about BAV, people may visit www.berkshireagventures.org, call Ciana Barnaba, Community Relations & Resource Development Manager at 413-258-1215 or email ciana@berkshireagventures.com.

Bard College to host concert

GREAT BARRINGTON – On May 4 at 7 p.m., Simon's Rock Madrigal Ensemble, Chorus and Chamber Orchestra will host their spring concert featuring an eclectic and exciting array of music.

This joint program will feature music from the Baroque and Classical eras, including performances of Mozart's "Ave Verum Corpus" and "Alleluia" along with folk, jazz, pop, and musical theater. The event will occur in the Kellogg Music Center on Bard College at Simon's Rock campus, 85 Alford Road. The event is free and masks are required. Ryan LaBoy is the Chorus and Madrigal Ensemble conductor and Anne Legêne leads the Chamber Orchestra as conductor.

EASTHAMPTON

Valley Jazz Voices hold concert

EASTHAMPTON – Valley Jazz Voices will hold a spring concert on Friday, May 19 at 7 p.m. in the Blue Room at CitySpace, 43 Main St.

The concert is at 7 p.m. with singers' open mic at 8 p.m. Cost is \$20, \$15 and \$10 at the door. Children under 12 are free.

Valley Jazz Voices is the longest-running, community jazz vocal ensemble in Western Massachusetts. Now in its ninth year, the ensemble is staging its spring concert to share the love of jazz vocals with its community. Directed by Jeff Olmsted and accom-

panied by a professional jazz trio with Ellen Cogen on piano, George Kaye on bass and Jihian Cooper-Munoz on drums, the ensemble sings a wide range of songs from standards to modern arrangements of familiar songs to originals by director Jeff Olmsted.

After the concert, it opens up to a singers' open mic when singers are encouraged to bring their chart of a jazz standard and sing accompanied by the band.

For more information, people may visit valleyjazzvoices.org or Facebook at www.facebook.com/valleyjazzvoices.

WESTFIELD

Church to hold community dinner

WESTFIELD – On Sunday, May 21 at noon St. Joseph's National Catholic Church at 73 Main St., will host a community Christian Fellowship Dinner on Sunday, May 21st at 12 noon.

This community dinner will feature delicious baked stuffed chicken breast with gravy from Waniewski Farms in Feeding Hills, flavorful rice pilaf, fresh

green beans, dessert and coffee/beverages.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$8 for children under 12. All are welcome.

For tickets, people should call the Rectory at 413-562-4403. Deadline for purchasing tickets is Tuesday, May 16. A limited number of take-out dinners are available at 12:30 p.m.

WASHINGTON

Town lists meeting/election dates

WASHINGTON – The town of Washington on Wednesday, May 10 at 7 p.m. will hold its Annual Town Meeting in the Washington Town Hall, 8 Summit

Hill Road.

The Annual Town Election will be held Saturday, May 20 from noon-4 p.m. with voting in the Town Hall.

NORTHAMPTON

Nomination papers available for Library Board of Trustees

NORTHAMPTON – The Board of Trustees is the governing body for Forbes Library.

The Trustees are responsible for the hiring and evaluation of the director and the oversight of the library budget and policies. As an example, a few years ago Forbes Library eliminated fines after the Trustees voted on and approved this new policy. Trustees also fundraise and advocate for the library.

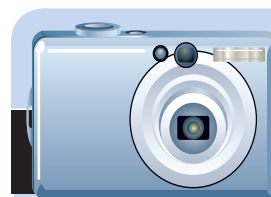
These important roles are filled by five people, elected by the residents of Northampton in the general election. Three of these five seats will be on the ballot in November. One incumbent trustee is running for re-election and two incumbents have decided not to run again. The term of office is four years and these volunteer positions are open to any registered voter in Northampton.

To be put on the Tuesday, Nov. 7 ballot for library trustee, individuals must take out papers from the City Clerk of Northampton. These papers are available at the City Clerk's Office in Northampton's City Hall. Applicants then need to have their papers signed by at least 50 Northampton registered voters and return them to the Registrar's Office in

City Hall by Monday, July 24.

The trustees attend 11 monthly meetings a year and are asked to do committee work. "Every member of the board brings a unique perspective and skill set. Ideally, the board is a reflection of the community. In this way diverse backgrounds and lived experiences are one of the most important things a candidate can bring to the table along with a strong interest in libraries," said Lisa Downing, Library Director. The library has often benefited from trustees who bring their professional and personal expertise to the Board. Past examples of this include those with non-profit experience including fundraising, grant writing and marketing, lawyers, and those who have facilities and human resources backgrounds.

Anyone interested in learning more about serving as a member of the Forbes Library Board of Trustees may email Library Director Lisa Downing at director@forbeslibrary.org or call 413-587-1016 or any of the current Board of Trustees of the library. Individuals from historically under-represented communities are strongly encouraged to run for office. More information is available by visiting <http://www.forbeslibrary.org/trustees>.



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THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES
Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, even though you have been making great progress, you have some more work ahead of you this week. Overcome any distractions that get in your way.

CANCER
Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, there are a few decisions that you will need to make in the days to come and they are not to be taken lightly. Give each ample time and consider all angles.

LIBRA
Sept 23/Oct 23
Expect some strange things to happen to you. The unexpected could be the breath of fresh air you need, especially if your schedule has been stagnant.

CAPRICORN
Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, allow others to take the lead when a project ends up coming across your desk. You could learn something from the expertise of others if you emulate their actions.

TAURUS
Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, you may want to avoid crowds this week. Use this opportunity to enjoy some quiet, alone time to recharge. There will be time for socialization in the weeks ahead.

LEO
Jul 23/Aug 23
An opportunity all but falls into your lap, Leo. Make sure you jump on this because opportunity may not knock again. The benefits are too big to pass up.

SCORPIO
Oct 24/Nov 22
Assist a loved one as much as you can this week. You may need to be a devoted caregiver or a listening ear. Whatever the case, handle it with undivided attention.

AQUARIUS
Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, you have left no stone unturned in a situation that involves relocation. Now it is just a matter of wait and see. Give it a few weeks, then move on.

GEMINI
May 22/Jun 21
You may be called in as a mediator this week, Gemini. It may be challenging to remain impartial, as you are friendly with both people involved. Tread carefully.

VIRGO
Aug 24/Sept 22
There is not much more help you can lend to a situation, Virgo. This week you may have to accept that you have simply done all that you could do. Move on and focus on the future.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, a deep focus on health may compel you to get around to making some changes you've been planning. Embrace this newfound resolve.

PISCES
Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, others have very positive things to say about you, especially during the course of the next few days. Relish in their attention.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
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54		55			56					57	58	59
60					61					62		
63					64				65			
66					67				68			

- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Dull and flat
 6. Baking measurement (abbr.)
 9. Education-based groups
 13. Not behind
 14. Runners run them
 15. Japanese ankle sock
 16. Grave
 17. Japanese industrial city
 18. People of southern Ghana
 19. Particular designs
 21. Device fitted to something
 22. Infections
 23. Pirates' preferred alcohol
 24. Expression of sympathy
 25. Rock guitarist's tool
 28. Neither
 29. Ancient city of Egypt
 31. You ___ what you sow
 33. Ruined
 36. Narrations
 38. Body art (slang)
 39. Fencing sword
 41. Apartment buildings
 44. Type of missile
 45. Fathers
 46. Extremely high frequency
 48. Type of school
 49. Incorrect letters
 51. Two-year-old sheep
 52. Nasty manner
 54. One who accepts a bet
 56. Indian prince
 60. Asian country
 61. Rhythmic patterns in Indian music
 62. "Uncle Buck" actress
 63. Detailed criteria
 64. Son of Shem
 65. Talked wildly
 66. Discount
 67. Not good
 68. Growing out
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Actor Damon
 2. A call used to greet someone
 3. Part-time employee
 4. Emaciation
 5. "Westworld" actor
 6. Gains possession of
 7. Relaxing spaces
 8. 23rd star in a constellation
 9. Northern grouse
 10. Monetary unit of Bangladesh
 11. Manila hemp
 12. Unites muscle to bone
 14. Makes deep cuts in
 17. 18-year period
 20. Member of a people inhabiting southern Benin
 21. Synthetic rubbers
 23. Unwelcome rodent
 25. Expression of creative skill
 26. Some is red
 27. Seems less in impressive
 29. Harry Kane's team
 30. Gland secretion
 32. Action of feeling sorrow
 34. Disallow
 35. Deceptive movement
 37. More dried-up
 40. Crimson
 42. Actress Ryan
 43. Adherents of a main branch of Islam
 47. Accomplished American president
 49. Side of a landform facing an advancing glacier
 50. Sheep breed
 52. Appetizer
 53. Broadway actress
 55. Influential film critic
 56. NY Giants ownership family
 57. Type of script
 58. Assist
 59. London park
 61. Bar bill
 65. In reply indicator

4	7			1	8		6	
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	8	3	6				4	

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

E	A	V	E	D	B	E	T	V	S	
P	R	E	V	E	O	E	O	E	S	
L	B	V	G	S	V	T	N	V	W	O
H	J	V	H	M	R	K	A	K	T	A
D	I	N	G	T	E	S	P	F	S	S
M	F	H	F	S	S	I	R	E	S	S
K	E	N	S	T	N	M	E	T	E	T
R	B	V	S	T	V	T	A	V	T	R
H	G	V	T	O	B	S	A	V	S	A
S	I	N	S	O	N	A	M	P	A	A
M	V	W	U	S	E	S	O	S	E	S
N	A	C	B	S	A	C	F	A	V	T
C	N	V	K	A	V	I	K	A	V	O
I	B	I	T	A	V	L	D	E	H	V
S	T	S	P	S	T	E	T	E	M	A

5	4	2	1	7	6	3	8	9
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4	1	4	8	3	6	7	9	2
3	9	5	8	1	2	6	7	4

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OBITUARIES

Burton Fred "Poppy" Macia, 97

CHESTER – Burton Fred Macia, "Poppy" a World War II Army veteran and longtime resident of Chester, passed away peacefully at home on Thursday, April 27, 2023.

He was born in Chester on March 20, 1926, to Irving Macia and Stella (Lawrence) Macia.

He leaves his sister, Alberta Jordan, many nieces and nephews. Burton was predeceased by his brother, Donald Macia and his sister, Katherine Thomas.

Burton also known as Burt, Poppy and Uncle Burt is survived by his loving niece Karen Avery, great-niece Kiirsten Cooper, and her husband Steven Cooper, his great-nephew Erik Pedersen, his wife Suzie Pedersen, his beloved great-great nieces and nephews, Aliisa Cooper Mazaik her husband Mike Mazaik, Nicholas Cooper, Shane Cooper, Ava Pedersen and Christopher Pedersen.

Burton was a graduate of the old Chester High School and retired from Sterling Radiator in Westfield.

Burton's military service awards include the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, American Campaign Medal and World War II Victory Medal, in the 827th Chemical Co Air operations as a Toxic Gas Handler.

Burton "Poppy" Macia, was predeceased by his wife of 67 years Anita Macia "Nana" in 2021, his niece Sharen Engwer in 2021 and Karen's husband, George Avery in 2012.

Burton loved his garden, his yard and being outdoors, but most importantly he loved taking his golden



retriever Kellie "over the mountain" twice a day for walks.

Burton liked to watch Red Sox baseball on TV and feed and watch all the critters that came down the mountain daily to visit him.

Per his wishes, there will be no services. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Yankee Golden Retriever Rescue <https://www.ygrr.org>

Westfield Funeral Home & Cremations, 4 Princeton St, Westfield, MA 01085 is assisting the family with arrangements. To express condolences to the family and to share photos or memories, please visit www.westfieldfuneralhome.com.

Beverly J. Wiley

WASHINGTON – Beverly J. Wiley passed away at Berkshire Medical Center on April 23, 2023 with her sister, Nancy and two nieces at her bedside.

Beverly lived her life in Washington and was a bookkeeper at Mapleview Nursing Home. She enjoyed her home and working in her gardens.

Bev was grateful for the many friends she had in town. They all were a great source of comfort and support.

She leaves behind two sisters, Nancy Engwer and



Marge Florence and many nieces and nephews and her beloved cat Callie, who was adopted by one of her great supporters and close friend.

Beverly was predeceased by her loving husband, Sid Wiley and parents, George and Dorothy Burnham, and brothers, George Jr., Larry and Bruce Burnham.

Per Beverly's request there will be no services held, however donations can be made in her memory to the Berkshire Humane Society, 214 Barker Road, Pittsfield, MA 01201.

Steve Kulik

SHELBURNE – A memorial for Steve Kulik will be held Sunday, May 21 at Apex Orchards, 225 Peckville Road, Shelburne.

There will be a gathering, greeting and quiet reflection at 2 p.m. Service is at 3 p.m. and refreshments to follow.

All are welcome.

Czelusniak Funeral Home, 173 North St., Northampton is in charge of arrangements.



PHONE

413.283.8393
Fax: 413.283.7017
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL

Advertising Sales
Theresa Wegiel
twegiel@turley.com

Editor

Ellenor Downer
countryjournal@turley.com

Subscriptions

cgriswold@turley.com

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DEATH NOTICES

KULIK, STEVE

Memorial Service May 21
Apex Orchards
Czelusniak Funeral Home

MACIA, BURTON FRED

Died April 27, 2023
No services
Westfield Funeral Home

WILEY, BEVERLY J.

Died April 23, 2023
No services
Dery Funeral Home

PUBLIC NOTICES

Town of Blandford Conservation Commission Public Notice

At its regularly scheduled meeting on **Monday, May 8, 2023 at 6:00 PM** at the Blandford Town Hall, 1 Russell Stage Road, the Blandford Conservation Commission will consider a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) received from the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (SWSC). The RDA is related to proposed maintenance/upgrades to Julius Hall Road in the Town of Blandford within the SWSC Watershed. The Commission will make its determination in accordance with the provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. c 131, Sec. 40 (as amended).

Plans and additional information are on record in the Office of the Conservation Commission.

Richard Gates, Chair
Town of Blandford
Conservation
Commission
05/04/2023

Town of Russell Legal Notice

Pursuant to Chapter 87 of the Massachusetts General Laws, there will be a public hearing at Russell Town Hall, Select Board Office, **Tuesday May 16, 2023 at 6:00 PM**, to consider the removal of certain public shade trees located on West Main Street. Specific trees have been posted in accordance with the law. Any person objecting to the removal of one or more of these trees must make their objection in writing at or before this public hearing.

Louis E. Garlo
Tree Warden
05/04, 05/11/2023

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD23P0858EA

Estate of:
Eugene Robert Ullstrom
Date of Death: 10/15/2022
CITATION ON

PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Daniel C Rinaldi of Westfield MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Daniel C Rinaldi of Westfield MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/23/2023.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon.
Barbara M. Hyland, First
Justice of this Court.
Date: April 25, 2023

Rosemary A.
Saccomani
Register of Probate
05/04/2023

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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FOR RENT



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NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

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33	34	35	36
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Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

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Add a second ZONE	\$10.00	
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Subtotal	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Quabbin
x Number of Weeks	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Suburban
TOTAL Enclosed	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Hilltowns

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HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



Hikers trek to old gold and silver mine

BLANDFORD – The old Blandford Gold Mine is located in the center of the Chester Blandford State Forest.

The Blandford Gold and Silver Mining Company was organized on Jan. 15, 1880. The discovery of the mine occurred in 1875. A few gentlemen from Springfield were walking in the hills and came across a rock. They broke off a piece and showed it to some experts. It was ascertained to be a good indication of silver or gold. The land was leased and a vein of gold and silver found.

Source: By-laws of the Blandford Gold and Silver Mining Company, 1880 from “The Gateway District, Pomeroy.”



This is the site of the Blandford Gold Mine located in Chester Blandford State Forest.

Submitted photos



This photo shows Blandford Gold and Silver Mining Company, which was organized in 1880.

Members of the Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers stands above the now water filled old gold mine in Blandford.

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