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King Charles III

Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns



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CHESTER

32nd annual **Chester on Track** *on the rails for May 20*

By Wendy Long
 Correspondent

Chester on Track will take place in downtown Chester on Saturday, May 20 and will feature family-friendly activities throughout the day, including food, a parade, train exhibits, live music, a craft fair, a petting zoo and much much more.

This not only marks the 32nd annual event, but the 182nd year since the Western Railroad was opened: the first to go over a mountain, to go through wilderness and, of course, to go through Chester.

Events kick off with breakfast offered in the Blue Caboose at the Chester Railway Museum/Station at 8 a.m. The Chester Foundation will continue to offer a hearty railroad man's menu throughout the day, where you can eat "hobo style" in an antique wooden boxcar.



Live music will be just one of many activities at Chester On Track Saturday, May 20.

Photo by Wendy Long

CHESTER ON TRACK, page 10

BLANDFORD

Retirement, ambulance assessments go up

Possible PILOT payments to increase revenue

By Mary Kronholm
 Correspondent

Town Administrator Christopher Dunne reviewed the preliminary budget for the coming fiscal year with the Select Board at their regular Monday night meeting this week.

The town's operating budget totals \$2,453,637 with an additional education sum of \$1,786,208 for a total amount for FY 2024 of \$4,239,845.

He cited savings as a result of having an in-house Treasurer/Tax Collector, falling fuel prices and the potential for an increase in revenue from Payment in Lieu Of Taxes for state owned land, which will be determined when the

INCREASE, page 6

CHESTER

Hydroponics growing station merges STEM and agriculture

By Wendy Long
 Correspondent

Students at Chester Elementary School engaged in deeper learning this year in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and agriculture.

Projects to date included tapping trees and making maple syrup and a school-wide composting program.

Saving the best for last, STEM teacher Greg Baker, partnered with Community Food Engine Farmstead to create a hydroponic growing station that has a goal of having every student in the school bring a head of lettuce, bok choy or Swiss chard home by the end of the school year.

CFE) Homestead in

HYDROPONICS, page 10



Fourth graders Layla Chaffee with clipboard records the temperature and humidity data being read by Eli Jakubasz.

Photos by Wendy Long



Gavin Gregerson labels a seedling that he transplanted to fill in a missing spot in the hydroponic garden.



Logan Houle, front, and Dalton Robitaille take measures of the electronic conductivity in one of the water boxes.



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HILLTOWNS

Baystate receives \$5.1 million digital equity grant

SPRINGFIELD – Leaders from the Commonwealth’s Executive Office of Economic Development and the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at MassTech announced \$14 million in new grants from the state’s Digital Equity Partnerships Program to address statewide digital equity gaps during an event at The Tech Foundry in Springfield.

Recipients are: Tech Goes Home \$4.5 million; Vinfen, on behalf of the Human Services Alliance for Digital Equity \$4.3 million and Baystate Health, on behalf of the Western Massachusetts Alliance for Digital Equity \$5.1 million.

The state’s digital equity programs build on initiatives launched in response to the COVID-19 public health crisis, which included public Wi-Fi hotspots in unserved towns in western and central Massachusetts, as well as the Mass Internet Connect program, which worked with MassHire to provide financial support and digital literacy tools

to help get unemployed residents back to work. The MBI has also launched a Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program to support Massachusetts communities with planning activities that will help build a broad understanding of how a lack of internet access is impacting residents in their community, as well as a Broadband and Digital Equity Working Group comprised of stakeholders from across the state that will inform the makeup and focus of state programs, providing key technical expertise and representation of target populations.



MassDOT lists overnight repair work on I-90

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces it will be conducting bridge repairs and guard rail repairs in the evening and overnight hours the week of May 8 on I-90 in Montgomery, Russell and Becket.

Travel on I-90 will be maintained through the work zones. In Montgomery and Russell night work will be held Thursday, May 11 through May 12 from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. Bridge repairs will occur requiring lane closures on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 36.0. Work starts each night at 7 p.m. and concludes the following day by 5 a.m.

In Becket, night work will be held Thursday, May 11 through Friday, May 12 from 7 p.m.-5 a.m.

Guardrail repairs will occur requiring lane closures on I-90 eastbound and westbound between mile markers 17 and 20. Work starts each night at 7 p.m. and concludes the following day by 5 a.m.

Appropriate signage, law enforce-

ment details, and messaging will be in place to guide drivers through the work area.

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 also encouraged to:

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

Visit www.mass511.com, a website which provides real-time traffic and incident advisory information and allows users to subscribe to text and email alerts for traffic conditions.

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

Download MassDOT’s GoTime mobile app and view real-time traffic conditions before setting out on the road.

Berkshire Pulse holds spring performance

HOUSATONIC Berkshire Pulse, South County’s dynamic dance and performing arts education center located in the heart of Housatonic, announces their annual performance celebration and fundraiser, taking place on Saturday and Sunday, May 27 and 28, at 2 p.m. at the Daniel Arts Center at Simon’s Rock.

The performance will showcase the work of Berkshire Pulse’s Youth Performing Arts Program students, as well as alumni, community members, and teachers. This joyful and inspired event celebrates the artistic community of Pulse, particularly the youth and teens who have worked so hard throughout the challenging years of the pandemic.

All proceeds from these performances will benefit Pulse’s Tuition

Assistance program. Thanks to generous community support, Berkshire Pulse Pulse has never turned away a student for an inability to pay. In the last year, approximately one out of every six students were awarded between 30% and 100% of the cost of tuition. Berkshire Pulse also participates in the Card to Culture program where EBT cardholders, WIC recipients and ConnectorCare recipients automatically participate for free.

The show emphasizes the creative process and collaboration intrinsic to Pulse’s curriculum and model, with students from age 6 to 60+ performing original pieces created by teaching artists in collaboration with their students. Highlights include Dance for Boys and their work to the score of A League of Their Own, a restat-

ing of Artistic Director and Founder Bettina Montano’s Unbothered, and an intergenerational ballet piece by Alex Bloomstein. Plus, their growing Flamenco program, under the direction of Joanne Bockemuehl-Jackson, features an enthusiastic group of Pulse’s youngest Flamenco dancers ever, alongside their older peer mentors.

A featured highlight will be a special performance by the Young Choreographers Initiative, originally created by young choreographers for Mass Cultural Council’s Creative Youth Development Showcase. Pulse alumni Rubi Nejaime and Laura Coe will also perform a duet they created together.

Tickets are on sale now at berkshirepulse.org/events.

WMEC Conference registration is open

The 31st Annual Western Mass Eldercare Conference is open for attendees. People may visit <https://jgslifecare.org/wmecc/> to register. Workshop descriptions are listed on the website.

Keynote topics include: Cultural Humility: Moving beyond the principles and into authentic practice with Dora and Frank Robinson and Old Age Ain’t for Sissies with Judith Black.

If there are multiple people from an organization and they would like to pay by check, they can do so. All checks need to be postmarked by Wednesday, May 31 in order to be registered for the conference.

This program has submitted for approval to meet the requirements of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing at 244 CMR 5.00 for 6 contact hours.

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HILLTOWNS

House passes \$56 billion budget for FY24

BOSTON – State Representative Nick Boldyga (R-Southwick) recently supported a \$56 billion-plus state budget for Fiscal Year 2024, which provides for increased local aid, free universal school meals, and childcare provider assistance.

The preliminary House budget was approved on a vote of 156-0 on April 26, following three days of debate on 1,566 amendments that were filed by members.

Representative Boldyga said that the proposed House budget funds Chapter 70 education aid at \$6.58 billion, an increase of \$595.8 million, which fully funds 3/6ths of the goal rate mandated under the 2019 Student Opportunity Act, while also providing an additional \$7.86 million in minimum aid supplemental funding to boost per pupil minimum aid from \$30 to \$60. Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA), which can be used by communities to support a wide range of municipal services, is funded at \$1.25 billion, an increase of \$19.7 million.

According to Representative Boldyga, the House spending proposal will provide the Third Hampden District with over \$41 million in direct education aid. This includes \$25 million for Agawam Public Schools, \$10 million for the Southwick Tolland Granville Regional School District and \$5.9 million for the Gateway Regional School District.

Additionally, Representative Boldyga said over \$7 million in unrestricted state aid would be allocated throughout the district including \$4.3 million for the Town of Agawam, \$1.4 million for the Town of Southwick, and \$1.4 million among the Hilltowns.

Representative Boldyga noted the House budget funds charter school aid, regional school transportation and homeless student transportation at

100% reimbursement rates by providing \$232.7 million in charter school reimbursements for sending districts, along with \$107.86 million in regional school transportation (an increase of \$25.68 million), and \$28.67 million for homeless student transportation (\$5.69 million more than this year). The House budget also includes \$506 million in Special Education Circuit Breaker reimbursements, an increase of \$55 million over the current year, and provides for \$10 million in Rural School Assistance Grants.

More than 80,000 students a day have eaten lunch in schools since the universal school meals program started, saving households up to \$1,200 per child per year. Representative Boldyga noted the budget also establishes a commission to study school meal nutrition and requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to study and make recommendations for minimizing school food waste.

Provisions included in the House budget require that 85% of any Millionaires Tax revenues collected in excess of \$1 billion be deposited in an Education and Transportation Innovation Fund that would be available for use in any subsequent spending bill for one-time spending purposes. The remaining 15% of excess revenues would be deposited in an Education and Transportation Stabilization Fund, which could be drawn down as needed. The balance of this fund would be capped at 33% of the surtax spent in the previous fiscal year.

During floor debate, Representative Boldyga supported an amendment filed by Republican Leadership to strike language from the budget that would exempt Millionaires Tax revenues deposited into the Education and Transportation Stabilization Fund from

counting towards the allowable state tax revenue limitations under Chapter 62F and 62F calculations. Chapter 62F was approved by the state's voters in 1986 and requires that excess tax revenues be returned to the state's taxpayers whenever revenue collections in a fiscal year exceed an annual cap tied to wage and salary growth. The amendment failed on a party-line vote of 25-132.

Representative Boldyga said the proposed exclusion is not justified, as all other taxes including taxes constitutionally designated towards specific uses like the gas tax are included in the current calculation, and tax rate increases have not been held aside from the formula previously. He argued the Legislature should not be making these changes unilaterally, as they only serve to undermine the will of the voters.

Other education and transportation initiatives set to be funded include:

\$84 million for MassGrant Plus, which provides financial assistance to undergraduate students who reside in Massachusetts;

\$50 million for High Demand Targeted Scholarships to assist Massachusetts students pursuing an in-demand profession at a community college or state college or university, with a requirement that the student commit to working for five years in an in-demand industry in Massachusetts after graduation;

\$40 million for C3 (Commonwealth Cares for Children) Stabilization Grants, which support early education and care providers' day-to-day operational and workforce costs;

\$25 million to reduce the waitlist for income-eligible early education and care programs;

\$20 million for MassReconnect, which provides financial assistance to

scholarships to community college students who are 25 or older and do not have a degree;

\$20 million for endowment matches to encourage private fundraising by the Commonwealth's public higher education institutions;

\$100 million for highway bridge preservation;

\$70 million for regional transit funding & electrification grants

The House budget increases the limit on the amount of grants the MSBA provides to municipalities to assist with school building construction and renovation projects. For Fiscal Year 2024, the cap will increase more than \$300 million, from \$800 million to \$1.1 billion.

The House budget invests in higher education by providing \$327.3 million for the Commonwealth's state universities, \$337.7 million for community colleges, and \$691.9 million for the UMass system. It also commits \$175 million for scholarship funding.

The House budget proposes transferring \$525 million in excess capital gains proceeds to the Commonwealth's Stabilization Fund, also known as the Rainy Day Fund, which is designed to protect vital state programs and services from being cut during economic downturns. The fund is expected to have a balance of \$8.5 billion this year, and the proposed transfer would push the balance to over \$9 billion in the new fiscal year.

The budget now moves to the Senate, which is scheduled to begin debating its own spending proposal prior to Memorial Day. The differences between the House and Senate budgets will then be resolved by a joint conference committee, which will produce a final spending plan to send to Governor Maura Healey.

HUNTINGTON



Hydrant flushing takes place May 16 to May 19

HUNTINGTON – The town of Huntington Water Department will be flushing hydrants Tuesday, May 16 through Friday, May 19 from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Residents may notice discolored water and experience low water pressure during this time.

RUSSELL

Russell Pond Beach opens June 24

RUSSELL – The Russell Pond Beach season will open Saturday, June 24 and end Friday, Sept. 1.

New hours are 11 a.m. and closing is now 5 p.m. Passes are now on sale on

the Town of Russell website by visiting www.townofrussell.us. In addition to the new beach hours, guest passes are once again available to purchase. People may visit www.townofrussell.us for details.

Russell Library hosts adult book talk

RUSSELL – Robert R. Madison will hold an adult book talk at the Russell Public Library, 162 Main St., on Saturday, May 13 from 2-4 p.m.

The book is General George Washington's Secret Armory, "Biography of Lt. Richard Falley Jr. Revolutionary Soldier, Patriot and Armorer."

Madison will speak about the

long military career of Lt. Falley and his secret Revolutionary War armory built along Moose Meadow Brook on the southern slope of Mt. Tekoa in Montgomery.

People may register by email rpldirector@townofrussell.us, call 413-862-6221 and leave a message, or come in and sign up at the library.

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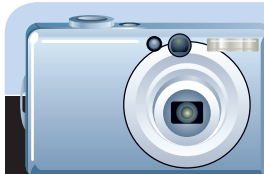
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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



Mid spring questions

Lisa, who has a beautiful daffodil collection in Palmer, wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady: "I planted a Rugosa rose bush that has encroached on a planting of 'Barrett Browning' Daffodils. For the first year in over a decade, I had no blossoms at all! I want to move them out of the way of the rose bush but I don't know if it is the right time or not. Can I lift and divide them now or should I wait?"

Thank you for your question! It is the perfect time to move your daffodils!

One thing to keep in mind, however, is that the bulbs will likely be in the ground deeper than you think. I actually use a spade when I have to dig mine up, so that is it a straight, up and down slice.

I start four or five inches all the way around the clump and then carefully lift it out entirely, foliage intact.

Usually, it is pretty easy to tease the bulbs apart by hand, separating them by size. The biggest ones I replant at the same depth they were planted prior, with ground level at the point where the foliage turns pale.

The general rule of thumb for distance from one another is twice the width of the bulb apart. This can vary depending on the variety.

A sprinkling of balanced fertilizer mixed in with the soil in the planting hole and thorough watering will get them off to a great start, hopefully with flowers for many years to come!

A question about sowing annual flowers came in from Melinda, who is introducing her young daughters to flower gardening. "I have never had much luck planting flower seeds directly in the ground. Either the rain washes them away or they come up too close. Is it too late to start a few easy flowers indoors?"

I love that you are sharing your love of gardening with your children! My mom did

GARDEN, page 5

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.

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.

Did Wright CagleCartoons.com



GUEST COLUMN

Survivor, spousal benefits are not the same



Dear Rusty:

I will be 70 in August and will file my application for benefits in May. I know I'll get my maximum possible amount at age 70, but I need you to clarify things I have read. Per an award-winning TV host, author, and host of a money podcast "if the higher-earning spouse delays until age 70 to claim Social Security, that guarantees the survivor the biggest possible benefit." But then I read in a different article that if a person delays beyond their full retirement age to obtain a higher personal benefit like I have, my spouse's benefit would still be based on my FRA benefit amount. I am confused about which statement is the correct version.

Confused About My Spouse's Benefit

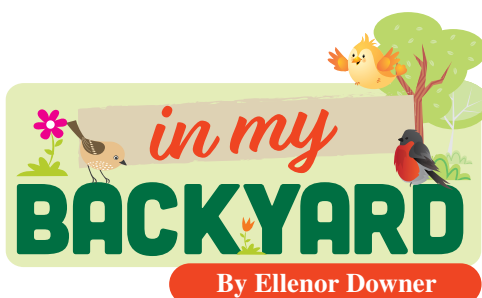
Dear Confused:

I'm not surprised that you are confused

about these seemingly contradictory statements. It is, indeed, quite logical and common for a widow or widower to think they must apply for a "spousal benefit" from their deceased spouse. And while that's technically true, those of us who live in this often confusing world of Social Security jargon would say the widow or widower is applying for a survivor benefit, not a spousal benefit. What's the difference? Well, when you're speaking with a Social Security representative or an advisor, the term "spousal benefit" means something entirely different than the term "survivor benefit."

The two articles you mention are, I believe, referring to two different types of Social Security benefit. The term "survivor benefit" is typically used to describe benefits available to a surviving spouse when the higher earner dies, but the term "spousal benefit" is typically used to denote benefits available to a lower earning spouse when both partners are still living. I agree this is confusing and that distinction was apparently not clear in the articles you read.

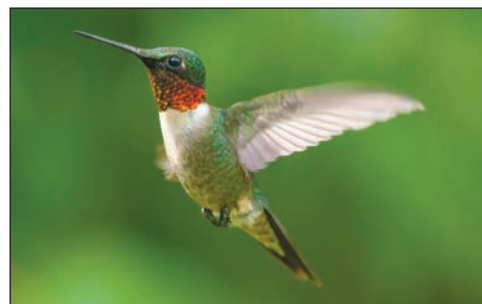
SECURITY, page 5



It is almost May and May is the month Ruby-throated hummingbirds usually return to this area.

Some people already put out nectar feeders in anticipation of their return. I will put out a nectar feeder this weekend. I usually see the males first, then the females.

The ruby-throated hummingbird is the only hummingbird found in Eastern North America.



These birds are only 3 1/2 inches long and are green. The male has a black head, iridescent red throat, which may appear black and a white breast and belly. The female is green with a whitish throat and underbelly. Eyes and bills are black.

Hummingbirds eat flower nectar, insects, spiders and sap from sapsucker drilled holes. They come to hummingbird feeders.

In spring, the male defends a territory of about 1/4 acre. In dive displays, he flies in a U shape, rising about 10 to 20 feet on

both sides. It resembles the swinging of a pendulum. After mating, the female lays two white eggs in cup shaped nest of plant down, bud scales, covered with lichens, bound with spider's silk and placed on a small, horizontal limb.

Ruby-throated hummingbirds, both male and female, near migration, will temporarily defend a food source such as nectar feeders. They migrate 600 miles across the Gulf of Mexico, having stored enough food to make the crossing.

Hummingbirds make varied chips and twittering noises. Their wings make a whirring or humming noise, which is how they got their name. When I refill a nectar feeder and return to hang it out, I often hear their humming wings or I will see them perched on a nearby branch.

Nectar

I mix 1/4 cup white sugar to 1 cup water. The mixture should be brought to a boil to ensure all the sugar dissolves and to eliminate bacteria. Cool the mixture before setting it out. It also can be kept in the refrigerator for about a week. It is important to keep nectar feeders clean and change the mixture frequently. I prefer the nectar feeders that have a moat on top to fill with water to deter ants.

I have several larger birds, who drink water from the moat. I even have downy woodpeckers that drink nectar.

Nesting bluebirds

A Belchertown resident said he saw a nesting pair of bluebirds in his yard so he built a bluebird house and now the pair call the bird house home. He succeeded in his quest to attract bluebirds to his yard.

Pileated woodpeckers

The Belchertown resident also has pileated woodpeckers at his feeders. I often hear

BACKYARD, 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

Placid Lassie comes to Westfield Air Show

By Deborah Daniels
Correspondent

Did you ever stop to think about whatever happened to those war torn airplanes after WWII?

The United States had a major stockpile of them. Some were sent to the used plane dealers. Most were not. The majority of the WWII planes were sent to “bone-yards” where they were stripped of the engine, radio and instruments and any armaments and then sliced and diced.

Next they were pushed into a large furnace and melted into ingots. Aluminum was a hot commodity. Can you imagine that fate for the defenders of liberty?

Well for a small number of planes they did find a new life, some as fleet planes for new airline companies, many were sold for parts, most were scrapped. You might say the planes were expensive to build and too expensive to recycle. Smelting required too many parts to be removed to be profitable.

Placid Lassie, a C47 WWII plane, was one of the lucky ones to be saved. People have a chance to meet her in person at the Westfield Air Show this weekend. After she changed hands many times after the war, in 2010 she ended up truly being rescued by an expert plane restorer, Clive Edwards, who returned her to her former glory and a backer, James Lyle who believed in her dignity and value to American history.

It was successfully restored and it flies friendly skies only, now. Applause, applause to the Tunison Foundation. Here is her story.

Placid Lassie was built in Long Beach California by Douglas Aircraft Co. in 1943. She was destined to carry military troops and gliders to the battlefields in Europe. She became active in the U.S. Army Force in 1943, flying over 10 days to reach England by the southern route. While the route looks like a world wide tour it was not. Flying conditions were treacherous and it took 20 days of travel to get there due to bad weather. The fighting recruits took the Queen Mary ship to Scotland then down by land to England.

The American crew named her Placid Lassie. So you know the television show



This flyer advertised the Westfield Air Show, which will be held this weekend May 13 and 14.

Lassie was not who the crew had in mind. Under the left engine was the name Idling Ada and under the right engine was Eager Eileen, both named after crew members' wives. The pilot had his name painted under the window, First Lt. Richard Lumm.

All C47 airplanes had bold white stripes painted around their wings and fuselage so they would not be shot down by friendly fire while flying over the English Channel. The crew consisted of a pilot, co-pilot, navigator and radio operator. The same crew flew the Placid Lassie throughout the war. All survived the war but one crew member who was transferred out to become a pilot of another plane.

Their mission was to fly paratroopers and supplies to the front as well as to evacuate the wounded. They trained for two months dropping parachutists from low altitude, flying in formation and towing gliders. Those gliders were not two-seaters but held a platoon of men or a jeep and supplies. That involved flying at night as well as at low speeds. Sound like a suicide mission to you?

So the Placid Lassie flew troops to the D-day Normandy invasion. In fact she was involved in four major war operations; operation Neptune (1944 Normandy); operation Market Garden (Netherlands, movie “A Bridge Too Far” based on this actual event) operation Repulse (it flew supplies to Bastogne, aka Battle of the Bulge) and operation



This photo shows Placid Lassie's pilot Lt. Richard Lumm, who flew the plane throughout WW II.



Placid Lassie leads the D-Day squadron to drop off paratroopers. They gave me permission to use the photos.

Courtesy photos from Tunison Foundation

Varsity (dropping the first fighters to cross the Rhine River). Placid Lassie was a super workhorse airplane with an all star crew. The crew were decorated by Major General Vandenberg for “outstanding duty in action against enemy on June 6, 1944 for 132 sorties flown at minimal altitudes and air speeds under unfavorable weather conditions over water and into the face of vigorous enemy opposition with no possibility of employing evasive action.”

Original radio operator Ed Tunison was found in 2014 (at the age of 92 years) and he was reunited for a last Placid Lassie flight. He talked about how he was taught to fly the airplane because his pilot believed they all needed to know this during the war. He reported the crew wore a flak helmet and vest and carried a .45 and a rifle in case they were shot down. He was 21 years old and had enlisted at 19 years into the Army Air Corps.



This shows the northern route planes flew from the United States to get to England where they were based for WWII.



Courtesy of Rich Cooper / COAP



The Placid Lassie flies near the cliffs of Dover over the English Channel.

He reminisced how all the (D-day) paratroopers were anxious to get outta the plane for fear of being shot down. How relative is the risk factor. The crew of the Placid Lassie flew over 132 missions, even behind enemy lines! The name Placid Lassie came from “such a sweet running aircraft, it never backfired and it was easy to fly,” according to Tunison. He became an electrician after the war and served as a docent in the Palm Springs Air Museum when he retired. The Tunison Foundation is named after him.

The Placid Lassie's mission today is to tell her WWII history and demonstrate great American ingenuity in both its original form and in restoration. Don't miss the Westfield Air Show, you will be humbled by technology and inspired.

SECURITY

Therefore, to clear your confusion:

If the higher earning spouse dies and has delayed claiming until age 70, that does, indeed, “guarantee the surviving spouse the biggest possible benefit.” The survivor's benefit is based on the full amount the deceased was receiving at death.

If both spouses are living and the higher-earning spouse delayed until age 70 to claim, their living spouse's benefit, when the higher-earning spouse claims,

will be a maximum of 50% of the higher-earning spouse's Full Retirement Age amount. A living spouse's benefit is based on their partner's FRA amount, regardless of when their partner actually claimed.

So, in your case, your wife's spousal benefit from you while you are both living will be based on your FRA entitlement, even though you waited longer to claim. But if you die first, your wife's survivor benefit as your widow will be

based on 100% of the amount you were receiving at your death. In effect, both statements you referred to in your question are true considering that they refer to two different benefit types. It is a terminology distinction which frequently causes misunderstanding.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature

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Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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GARDEN

from page 4

that with me and it shaped my career path, for sure.

I would so eagerly anticipate planting our garden every year! (Happy Mother's Day, mom!) Certainly it isn't too late to get a head start. I would recommend sowing easy to handle annuals, plants like zinnia, marigold, calendula and bachelor's button.

They don't take long to germinate and would be a handleable size by the end of the month, ready to be moved into the garden after the danger of frost has passed.

Generally, I fill up six-packs with moist potting soil and press two seeds per pack into the soil and cover slightly.

I like to keep them warm to start, but once the seeds sprout, I try to have them outside for most of the time, so that they don't get too leggy in the house. If both

seeds sprout, I'll separate them at planting time.

One variety that does not need to be started indoors is the sunflower, if you try, usually the plants will end up spindly and tall and difficult to transplant. Simply sow these in place, thinning to at least a foot apart.

My friend would always allow the seeds to mature on the plant and let them fall where they may, creating a colorful and eye-catching vegetable patch!

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.

BACKYARD

from page 4

pileated woodpeckers calling or hammering away on a tree, but I rarely see one. The other day, I heard the call and looked up to see one fly from my yard to the woods across the street.

Ospreys

I received an email this week. The writer visited the site in Wilbraham where osprey had nested previously. He said, “I saw two osprey at a nest on a light pole. I don't think they are incubation eggs because one bird brought a stick to the nest while I was there and both birds left the nest which I don't think would happen if incubation had started.”

He said for anyone wanting to go see this nest the best place to view the nest is from the Wilbraham Senior Center parking lot and park on the side

of the lot facing the playing fields. There are stick nests on three light poles. He said, “The nest I saw the birds at was the right most light pole as viewed from the Wilbraham Senior Center.” I think I will take a road trip to Wilbraham.

Other birds

An Oakham couple saw the first grackle of the year last week. I had a male goldfinch in bright yellow plumage perched on my feeder pole recently.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

BLANDFORD



Jenae Halsted and Cade Zimmerman painted lines for the handicapped parking spot at the Porter Memorial Library the post office and Town Hall. *Photos by Mary Kronholm*



The library handicapped space moved closer to the entrance.

Parking spots have new paint

BLANDFORD – The parking lot at the Porter Memorial Library, as well as the Post Office and Town Hall have all been upgraded with painted parking space lines and the library has a handicapped access space closer to the building. The library now meets the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. Jenae Halsted, owner of Get Striped in Lee with associate Cade Zimmerman were in town over the weekend to do the work. The library now has nine clearly marked parking spaces along with the handicapped space.

from page 1

INCREASE

legislature finalizes the state's budget. On the flip side, Dunne said there is nearly a 20% increase for the Hampden County retirement assessment, an increase in the Hilltown Community Ambulance assessment, and increases in vocational education and the Gateway Regional School District, the latter can be covered by transferring funds from the established Education Stabilization account.

Bylaw proposal

He has proposed establishing bylaw stipends for all the town's regulatory boards, which would be reviewed at least every five years. These boards include Select Board, Assessors, Board of Health, Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Board and Conservation Commission.

Proposed inter-government agreement
Dunne told the board that

Springfield Water and Sewer Commission expressed concern about posting bond for driving heavy loads on town byways. The town's bylaw does not provide specifics about how the conditions of the roads traveled are assessed, before and after use and he proposed an inter-governmental agreement to solve the matter. This is an ongoing discussion since SWSC will be working on roads that go through their property. Dunne also alerted the board to the anticipated July birth of his second child, a son and plans to adjust his contract for the coming year to include paternity leave.

Swearing in of appointed town officials

Town Clerk Doris Jemiolo pointed out to the board that there are some appointed town officials, who have failed to be sworn in or taken the state's ethics training. Going forward, every elected and appointed official must be sworn

in before they can perform any duties. There is a 30-day time limit to accomplish this, and she said when anyone is not in compliance Town Counsel would have to be informed to consider next steps. However, the time frame for swearing in for appointed inspectors is shorter. Those appointed to those posts must be sworn in within ten days or the appointment is void.

Ethics training

Every town employee, volunteer, part-time worker – or vendor – must take the ethics training and there is a 30-day time frame for compliance for this as well. The board, unless a time frame is stipulated otherwise by Mass General Law, is making all appointments starting July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024.

Appointments

The board made the following appointments effective July 1 of this

year through June 30, 2024: Highway Superintendent Dave Waldron, Board of Health Chair Jennifer Girard, Town Administrator Christopher Dunne, Interim Fire Chief Adam Dolby and Police Chief Jennifer Dubiel all to the Emergency Management team and Teresa Donovan as Inspector of Animals from May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024.

Other business

In other business, Waldron told the board town parking lots had all been freshly striped.

George Reichert inquired about the flags, some of which were not at half-staff. He also asked about any immediate plans to prevent beaver activity from causing flooding and Chair Cara Letendre told him the Resilient Road study to be done next year would give direction. He is more concerned with immediate action.

Blandford COA list lunch menu

BLANDFORD – The menu for the monthly Council on Aging lunch this Friday, May 12 at noon is turkey pot pie, cole slaw and for dessert, cherry pie bars. Breakfast on Friday, May 26 at 10 a.m. will be cheesy baked eggs, corned beef hash and apple cinnamon muffins. People should reserve a spot by calling 413-747-4279, extension 400 and leave a message.

WESTFIELD

River cleanup to be held May 20

WESTFIELD – Volunteers along the Westfield River and its streams will gather on Saturday, May 13 to clean up the banks of the Westfield River watershed in the Westfield area and Saturday, May 20 in the Agawam area at 9 a.m.

This year's Westfield River Watershed Association's cleanup was postponed from April due to weather and high river conditions. Teams of volunteers from various communities along the watershed will gather at 9 a.m. and then move out to preselected sites. Mark Damon, who is coordinator for the Westfield area cleanup encourages families, individuals and community groups and teams to participate.

Sheryl Becker, coordinator of the Agawam site and WRWA Board member, invites everyone to come out for the morning and support the work the late Agawam activist Jack Coughlin did every day. "Jack was a tireless and constant supporter of the environment.

"Besides individuals who just show up at one of our gathering points, we get Scouts, youth groups, teams from businesses and organizations, and students from the local schools and colleges.

We've been doing this clean-up for about 30 years.," said Damon.

Volunteers for the Westfield area cleanup will meet on Saturday, May 13 in the public parking lot at the end of Meadow Street near the green bridge. Volunteers in Agawam will meet on Saturday, May 20 at the Pynchon Point parking lot near the South End bridge circle on River Road. WRWA will distribute gloves and trash bags and offer safety tips, then send off site teams. Most of the cleanup is done from shore, no river wading needed. Organizers target watershed sites in Westfield, Russell, Huntington, West Springfield and Agawam. Assignments are generally completed by 1 p.m. or earlier.

Everyone is welcome; children must be supervised by an adult. WRWA will arrange with local communities for pick-up of trash and debris recovered at each site.

For questions, people may call Mark Damon regarding Westfield locations at 413-977-1577 or email markjdamon@gmail.com or call Sheryl Becker for Agawam area sites at 413-374-1921 or email sherlearth69@gmail.com.

☆ CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT ☆

Fence Viewer and Field Driver have write in candidate

BLANDFORD – Dale Buchanan of 14 Sunset Rock Road announced his write-in candidacy for the elected positions of Fence Viewer and Field Driver.

His successful candidacy will be his introduction to holding an office in Blandford. Familiar with town government, he has been a member of the Ashland Planning Board before coming to Blandford.



Dale Buchanan

Buchanan and his wife, Dale Sparr moved in just about a year ago and he has been occupied with winterizing their home.

There were no successful nominations for either of these positions at the Annual Town Caucus in March. Buchanan said, "I look forward to serving the community."

The Annual Town Election is set for Saturday, June 10 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Town Hall.



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SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Gateway Regional High School lists third term honor roll

HUNTINGTON – Principal Jason Finnie announced the honor roll for the Third Term of the 2022-2023 school year.

In accordance with the student handbook, honor roll status is granted to students with high academic achievement for a marking quarter.

First honors are awarded to students who receive A's in all courses taken. The following students earned first honors for this marking period: Heather McEwan, William Sharrow, Michael Ayden, Rachael Austin, Olivia Dame, Rylie Heeter, Liam McKellick, Nancy Mueller,

Lucy Pitoniak, Alexi Bonenfant, Elijah Gilbert, Jackson Harding, Abigail Madru, Reeghan Morawiec, Sawyer Wilkinson, Jesse Balboni, Ivan Chepurenko, Ashley Fisk, Evan Fogue, Olivia MacIver, Cynthea Papillon, Benjamin Pritchard, Abigail Robbins, Theodore DeAngelis-Page, Alexandra Henrichon, Jake Marchbanks, Eliza Mueller, Lily Peloquin, Justin Rucki, Desmond St. Martin and Michael Whitaker.

Second honors are awarded to students who receive a minimum of two A's and receive B's in all other courses

taken. Students earning second honors for this marking period are: Cecelia Balboni, Liam Bowler, Natalie Brown, Cole Chapman, Shane Cooper, Sean Fogue, Aaron Gallagher, Azades Hamblin, Edward Harding, Olivia Kanner, Hailey Krassler, Audrey Saalfrank, Rachael Fitzgerald, Matthew Kadzik, Natalie Loiselle, Kaitlyn Maynard, Joseph Pisani, Kai Rahilly, Issabella Santiago, Dalton Savoy, Ryan Tacke, Madilyn Beneway, Mason LaBranche, Caleb Mann, Joel Precanico, Jeffrey Antonellis, Bow Briggs, Andrew Chepurenko, Kathryn

Harding, Ana Holmes, Aaron Renaud, Grace Renaud, Ashley Tacke and Isabella Vera-Ortiz.

Third honors are granted to students who receive a minimum of one A, with B's and no more than one C in all courses taken. Students who earned third honors for the marking term are: Nevaeh Judson, Gage Laurie, Amelia Wallace, Molly Daggett, Meghan Gilman, Kylie Lewandowski, Anna Sakaske, Alexandra Zajko, Liam Hourihan, Kate Lewis, Rylan McCaul, Jayliana Rivera and Shedaliz Velazquez Arnaldi.

Nyarady inducted into honor society

HAMDEN, CT – Quinnipiac University's chapter of Lambda Pi Eta, the National Communication Association's official honor society inducted Elle Nyarady of Westfield, during a recent ceremony.

To be eligible for induction, students must complete 60 semester credit-hours;

have a minimum overall cumulative grade point average of 3.0; complete the equivalent of 12 semester credit-hours in communication studies; have a minimum GPA of 3.25 for all communication studies courses and be enrolled as a student in good standing, as determined by the institution's policies.

Tierney inducted into Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, LA – Jessica Tierney of Easthampton was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Tierney was initiated at Fordham University.

Tierney is among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top

10% of seniors and 7.5% of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10% of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines.

Hampshire Regional High School announces second honors

WESTHAMPTON – Hampshire Regional High School announces Second Honors for the third quarter.

Students in grade 9 making second honors are: Eliette Cerone, Parker Christy, Isabelle Couture, Laney Cunningham, Finn DeWitt, Abigail Fisette, Alexander Fried, Luke Gardner, Amelia Hanke, Colin Hogan, Sarah Hultman, Braylon Jarrett, Rylee Joseph, Efreem Korytoski, Lacy Kuehner, Madelyn Layman, Pryden Messier, Addison Morrey, Andrea Paszko, Elizabeth Puttick, Kiera Shea-Smith and Bridget Sullivan.

Students in grade 10 making second honors are: Grace Brouillard, Cassidy Clark, Alyssa Colon-Garcia, Miguel Delgado, Ryleigh Fennessy, Ava Gougeon, Beatrice Hamilton, Camden Jarosz, Robin Ketcherside,

Koleton Kolodziej, Ashton Lashway, Kayla LeBeau, Daniel Martin, Payton Norris, Thomas O'Connor, Colman Radowicz, Destiny Saltis, Mary Thibault and Kayla Velez.

Students in grade 11 making second honors are: Curtis Casey, Claire Donahue, Paige Galpin, Brennan Stortz, Josephine Taylor, Sedona Williams, Hailey Wodecki, Elena Wojcik and Olivia Young.

Students in grade 12 making second honors are: Silvia Bastek, Hailey Bergeron, Abbigail Borrego, Makenzie Colson, Kyle Dale, Alicia Deso, Olyvia Girard, Nora Hamel, Reese Hickox, Miryam Hilnbrand, Ava Kowalczyk, Christine Latka, Charles Por, Spencer Reese, Natalia Robak, Stellina Simonelli, Charles Strate, Eliza Warner and Shane Winters.

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WESTHAMPTON

SALLY LAWTON RECEIVES BOSTON POST CANE



Westhampton resident, Sally Lawton, 97, holds the Boston Post Gold cane. State Representative Lindsay Sabadosa presents a proclamation from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to Westhampton's oldest resident. *Submitted photo*

MIDDLEFIELD

Middlefield ATM and election results

MIDDLEFIELD – This year's budget warrant had nearly a \$70,000 difference between the lower recommendations by Finance Committee and the higher recommendations by Select Board, on six articles.

On the first budget article, the initial count of hands resulted in a tie of 19 to 19. The re-done count resulted in 20 voting for the Select Board amounts and 18 voting the Finance amounts. The Select Board amounts won in all subsequent votes.

Gateway School Superintendent, Kristen Smidy, attended the meeting, reporting that Middlefield will have 24 students. This is up from 18 last year. The school assessment went up due to correcting residence and mailing addresses on several students. Jeana Briggs of the

Chester Elementary PTO also attended, reporting that with this Middlefield vote for \$10,000 toward new playground equipment, the Parent Teachers Organization is still short of the over \$51,000 quotes on equipment. The PTO is looking for additional private donations.

The annual election winners were: Select Board – Tamarin Laurel, Moderator – Tonya Santaniello, Finance Committee – Jonathan Freiermuth, Library Trustee – Cheryl Beeman, Cemetery Commission – Larry Pease, Assessor – Tamarin Laurel, Planning Board – Nicole Fecteau and Michael Hitchcock. The open School Committee slot remains available. Anyone interested should contact the Select board to express interest in appointment to the position.

BLOSSOM CENTER CELEBRATES CINCO DE MAYO



Blossom Center's First Friday Bingo had a Cinco de Mayo theme last week. This table had Barb & Marilyn Miller, Crystal Main and Scott Will enjoying nachos. *Submitted photo*

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Blossom Community Center lists events

MIDDLEFIELD – Mothers' Day, Sunday May 14 from 8-11 a.m. is the final spring fair fundraiser pancake breakfast at Town Hall, 188 Skyline Trail

Tickets are \$10 per adult. On Tuesday, May 16 from 1-2:30 p.m., there will be a class on apps available in a Google account at the Town Hall. People

may register with Southern Hilltowns Adult Ed by visiting <https://www.umass.edu/shaac/workshops>.

At Blossom Community Center, 16 Bell Road, there will be a board-games afternoon, Saturday May 13 from 1-3 p.m. The third Monday potluck dinner is May 15 at 5:30 p.m.

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WORTHINGTON

Hilltown Family Center offers creative movement

WORTHINGTON – The Hilltown Community Health Centers’ Hilltown Family Center will host a series of four free Monday Creative Movement classes at R.H. Conwell Elementary School, 147 Huntington Road.

Classes will be held Mondays, May 15, 22, June 5 and June 12. Participants should arrive at 9:45 a.m. and the classes start at 10 a.m. They should proceed to the front door of the school to sign in. People may email Susan LeBarron at slebarron@hchcweb.org or call 413-667-2203 #311 with any questions. This program is made possible through a Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant through the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

The Creative Movement classes will be led by Washington town resident, Laurel Lenski. She has a passion for movement and expression, holding degrees in Dance and Expressive Art Therapy. She has long led creative movement groups for preschool aged children, exercise and movement classes for seniors and members of long-term care communities.

Creative movement activities focus on body awareness, motor fitness, rhyth-

mic skill, strength, flexibility, coordination, endurance, and physical vitality. This program is a creative movement experience rooted in basic movement vocabulary, imagination and emotional expression. Children will be invited to practice a variety of movement qualities including pace, spatial relativity, cross lateral coordination, circular, and linear movements through instruction and opportunities for free movement. This group will help children to understand that body language is a form of expression.

Preschool-aged children are in a critical period of developing fundamental movement skills that have a close link with physical activity. An extensive body of evidence underpins the relationship between physical activity (Carson et al., 2017), sedentary behavior (Poitras et al., 2017), sleep (Chaput et al., 2017) and health and developmental outcomes in the early years of childhood. Since habits formed in the early years track through childhood and adolescence (Jones et al., 2013) into adulthood (Biddle et al., 2010), early childhood is a critical time to promote healthy lifestyle behaviors.

Challenges faced by families due to the COVID-19 pandemic vary, but

generally suggest that decreased social connection and isolation have impacted children’s social and emotional development. This Creative Movement class aims to improve and reinforce those skills. Moreover, studies on music and movement classes for children have consistently been shown to enhance language capabilities, improve memory, strengthen hand-eye coordination, promote teamwork, and heighten problem-solving skills. For the parents and caregivers, classes promote parent-child bonding, peer interaction, and reduced isolation.

The Hilltown Family Center offers an extensive list of resources for parents, caregivers, and families. The Family Center programs are built around the belief in nurturing strong families, by helping them to strengthen their flexibility and resilience. Programs help families establish strong social connections and give concrete support in times of need, recognizing family’s strengths and understanding that being a parent is part natural and part learned. The Family Center also helps children connect and relate to their world.

For over 65 years, HCHC’s mission has been to provide accessible, high quality,

integrated health services to ensure the health of all Hilltown residents. HCHC is dedicated to the health and wellness of the Hilltown communities and provides a wide range of services at five sites. In addition to medical and oral health/dental services, HCHC provides behavioral/mental health services, substance abuse treatment, eye care, physical therapy, and laboratory services.

HCHC also provides numerous community services and supports through its Community Programs, located at 9 Russell Road. HCHC Community Programs connect and empower families with resources, education, and assistance. Community Health Workers can help with social services supports and referrals such as fuel assistance, SNAP (food stamps), job search, resume help or information on community resources, chronic disease management or reaching other health goals. Hilltown Safety at Home provides domestic and sexual violence victim advocacy & safety. Health Navigators can help apply for health insurance. The HOPE, Health Outreach Program for Elders, is a free preventative and health maintenance care to Hilltown residents over 60.

STOCKBRIDGE

Berkshire Art Center hosts Potter and Beauregard

STOCKBRIDGE – Berkshire Art Center, formerly IS183 Art School, announce their two resident artists, Kelly Potter and Noah Beauregard, for the Berkshire Artist Residency 2023.

The Red Lion Inn, in their sixth year hosting a resident artist, will be welcoming Noah Beauregard. Chesterwood, the home, studio, and gardens of America’s foremost 20th C. sculptor Daniel Chester French, located in Stockbridge, will be hosting Kelly Potter, their third resident artist.

Since 2012, Berkshire Art Center has coordinated Artist Residencies, which pair local visual artists with cultural institutions and historic landmarks across the Berkshires. The heart of the Berkshire Artist Residency is to give local visual artists the opportunity to create new work inspired by their home county. The extended length and flexible hours of the program give artists, who might not have the luxury to attend residencies that pull them away from home for long periods of time, the ability to further their career and create work in a way that compliments their current practice.

Berkshire Art Center recognizes the important outlet and invaluable opportunity an artist residency provides. Our tailored program gives visual artists exclusive access to world class cultural facilities and historic landmarks to develop

new work that intertwines with the fabric of our county. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Stockbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

The Summer 2023 program will begin at both locations on Monday, May 29 and run through Monday, Sept. 4. The two artists will receive access to the buildings and grounds of their site and support for the development, creation, and exhibition of their work. During the summer, both artists are invited to teach classes through Berkshire Art Center and will deliver an Artist Talk to share their experiences, inspiration, and process during their residency. Each residency closes with a reception and exhibition of the artist’s work.

BAC is a nonprofit community art center with the mission to encourage people of all ages, means, and skill levels to enrich their lives through hands-on experience in the visual arts. Berkshire Art Center strives to make art accessible by offering full and partial scholarships, work exchange opportunities, and discounts for EBT Cardholders.

For more information on Berkshire Art Center, people may visit berkshireartcenter.org, call 413-298-5252, extension 100 or email info@berkshireartcenter.org.

WORTHINGTON COA HOLDS MONTHLY PROGRAM AND MEAL



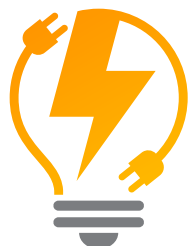
The Worthington Council on Aging held its monthly potluck on Monday, May 8 at the town hall. Special guests, Sue and Ed Lewis, presented on “Superlative Birds,” a fascinating lecture and slide show describing their birding trips around the world, as illustrated by especially interesting birds.

Submitted photo

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FLORENCE

NOFA/Mass inaugurates farm share program

FLORENCE – Northeast Organic Farming Association NOFA announces they were awarded \$495,000 in support from the Farmers Market and Local Food Production Program to work collaboratively and region-wide in the Northeast, with NOFA/Mass receiving additional support through a Local Food Purchase Assistance grant to launch a community food security program, Farm Share.

This program aims to provide limited income residents in the seven states of the Northeast (New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey, New Hampshire and Vermont), with the opportunity to support their local CSA farmer and receive reliable access to

high-quality produce on a weekly basis through an innovative cost-share model.

NOFA believes that all people have a right to access local, healthy food. They believe in strengthening the network that exists between consumers and farmers as a means to strengthen the fabric of our agrarian economy and contribute to the physical and spiritual nourishment of all people.

Spearheaded by the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut and modeled on the Farm Share program that has existed in NOFA-Vermont and NOFA-New Hampshire for many years, this region-wide collaboration is expanding to NOFA/Mass for the first time this year and is designed to

make local, nourishing food more accessible while, equally importantly, still providing CSA farmers with a fair price and increase in market opportunity.

Farm Share is a win-win-win: limited-income individuals and families gain access to healthy, affordable food; farmers benefit from an increase in market opportunities and build their customer base and make their CSA programs more viable and direct relationships are built between farmers and eaters, contributing to more socially connected and resilient communities.

If people are interested in participating in or supporting Farm Share through a donation, or for additional information on the Farm Share pro-

gram at NOFA/Mass they may email Executive Director Jocelyn Langer at jocelyn@nofamass.org or the Food Access Coordinator, Anna Gilbert-Muhammed at anna@nofamass.org.

The Northeast Organic Farming Association, Massachusetts chapter (NOFA/Mass) is a member-funded non-profit organization. Through education and advocacy NOFA/Mass promotes organic agriculture to expand the production and availability of nutritious food from living soil for the health of individuals, communities and the planet. NOFA/Mass is one of seven state NOFA chapters, with the others including New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Vermont.

HAYDENVILLE

Senator's staff to hold office hour

HAYDENVILLE – State Senator Paul W. Mark announces his staff will conduct office hours in Williamsburg on Tuesday, May 23 from 1-3 p.m. in the Town Office.

Residents of any of the 57 municipalities in the senator's

Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire District are encouraged to ask for assistance with issues involving any state agency or to share ideas on current or potential state legislation.

Appointments are not needed.

MONTGOMERY

Library to hold book and plant sale

MONTGOMERY – Grace Hall Memorial Library, 161 Main Road, will hold their annual book and plant sale on Saturday, May 20 from 9 a.m. -2 p.m.

This popular event help support the summer reading program for the library and other programs throughout the year.

Anyone interested in donating books or plants may call the library at 413-862-3894 or email montgomerylibrary@yahoo.com.

The library is open Tuesday from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Thursday from 4-8 p.m. and Saturday from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

CHESTER

Chester hosts resilient dirt roads listening sessions

CHESTER – The town of Chester will hold two listening sessions on Wednesday, May 10 for residents on planning resilient dirt roads at the Chester Town Hall, 15 Middlefield Road.

The first hosted by the Council

on Aging will be held Wednesday, May 10 from 1-2 p.m. and from 5-6 p.m. The program is a collaborative between Middlefield and Blandford and through the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

Chester Hill Association holds meeting

CHESTER The Chester Hill Association will be holding its annual meeting on Sunday, May 21 at 1 p.m. on the lawn of the Congregational Church, 343 Skyline Trail.

In case of inclement weather, it will be moved inside the historic schoolhouse building. A recap of the year's activities as well as plans for the coming year

will be discussed. The "Citizen of the Year" and scholarships will be awarded to deserving residents. All are invited to attend and join the organization as they welcome input and new ideas. They have recently partnered with the Littleville Fair Association in sponsoring community events and are looking for more board members to continue to grow.

HYDROPONICS

Easthampton worked with Baker to set up a hydroponics station in an empty classroom. Jeremy Sundel, the head farmer at CFE, loaned some of the equipment and helped set up the area. Additional materials were purchased within the school budget and funding from the district's Title I Grant. "Paired with support from our partner, we used funding from Title I to supplement this deeper learning experience in stem and agricultural learning," said Principal Vanna Maffuccio.

A few weeks before April vacation, students planted seeds, choosing between a variety of greens. Once the seedlings emerged, they transplant-

ed each into foam blocks that fit in the hydroponic tubing. By early May, fourth grade students were completing a list of tasks during class time to keep the plants healthy and growing. They had to check the seedlings for broken stems and prune them and had to tie up any hanging cords from the grow lights. Some students were measuring the ph while others were checking the electrical conductivity in the water that circulates through the tubes holding the plants. These two data points indicate a need to add fertilizer to the water. Students also needed to examine the system for any leaks or burned out bulbs in the grow lights, while repairing

either if discovered. The last group of students was looking for empty spaces within the system and filling those with viable seedlings from the "germination station."

When tasks were completed, students had the option of viewing a looping film about a hydroponic farmer Everest Fernandez and ten tasks he does every day.

Baker asked students what they thought the benefit of pruning broken stems would be. The first two guesses, "It might grow back" and "So it won't make the rest of the plant die" were logical assumptions. But the third, "So the dead piece doesn't take nutrients from

the rest of the plant" hit the mark.

While many students were familiar with growing plants in soil, this was the first hydroponic experience for most.

"The kids are obsessed," observed Maffuccio. "They want to do this more than go out to recess."

Baker said that the water pump runs continuously, while the grow lights are on for 18 hours a day.

CFE Farmstead is a hydroponic grower in Easthampton that supports home growers with expertise and a trouble-shooting software program. They have also launched a year-round Community Supported Agriculture program.

from page 1

CHESTER ON TRACK

There will be a massive parade through the town at 10 a.m., with local historian Ed Carrington serving as the Parade Marshal.

Numerous activities and exhibits will take place at the Chester Railway Museum and in other locations near the center of town. The museum will feature a train show in the station and commemorative envelopes and historic stamps with a special postal cancellation will be available all day for collectors. Revolutionary War re-enactors, hand hewn woodworking demo, the Westfield River Wild and Scenic Organization, a ham radio and morse code demo, and CCC Camp exhibit, will all be on the north lawn at Chester Railway Station. A number of 1920s-era freight cars, including the 104-year-old wooden caboose and "Children's Boxcar" will be open to the public.

Also on the museum grounds, the

Pioneer Valley Live Steamers will display their large-scale operating steam and diesel locomotives and a selection of rolling stock on the station's south lawn. The Chester Station's outdoor stage will host music by The Jenny Basset Duo, Janet Ryan Band, The 413's and Mark Franklin.

Nearby, a craft fair, face painting and "One-lung" Steam and Gas Engine demos will be held along Main Street and on the lawn of the Chester Inn, along with the Jacob's Ladder Business Association's Business Expo. Also on the Chester Inn front porch will be live music throughout the day by the group, "Just Us."

Classic cars from Model T's to the newest Corvettes will line up on Maple Street, where kids will also be entertained by Nicole the Railroad Clown, formerly of Ringling Bros. Circus.

The local ball field, located 600

feet from the Museum on Emery Street, will have exhibits and demonstrations by the Sheriff's Dept. K-9 unit, a steam train derby, a bounce house, petting zoo, garden tractor pulls, kiddie train rides and Bottom's Bistro Taco Stand. A self-guided story walk of "The Little Engine That Could" will also be located at the ball field. The story walk is sponsored by the Hilltown Family Center, which is generously funded through a Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant through the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

Hamilton Memorial Library on Route 20 will hold a book and bake sale on the lawn and have the library's mineral collections on display. The Chester Historical Commission will be on hand at the Old Jail and Chester History Museum for tours from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

The Chester Fire Department will hold their annual Duck Race on the Westfield River at 3 p.m.

Visitors may also elect to hike to the first American cluster of key-stone arch railroad bridges, which are National Historic Landmarks. These bridges were built by Irish immigrants and made the railroad possible on the Westfield River, the first Wild and Scenic River in Massachusetts. Participants can also tour an archeological stone works, enjoy historic displays and more.

Chester on Track is presented by Chester Railway Station and Museum. All events are free, but donations are welcome. For more information, people may visit www.ChesterRailwayStation.net or call 413-354-7878. Donations may also be mailed to P.O. Box 743, Chester, MA 01011-0743. Like us on Facebook to stay up-to-date.

from page 1

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CUMMINGTON

Community comes together to support fire survivor

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

CUMMINGTON – A tragic house fire is sparking generosity among local residents. Hilltowners are coming together to support the sole survivor of a devastating house fire in Cummington on April 28 that took the life of Jaye-Michaela Brink's wife and four pets and destroyed everything she owned.

A drive is underway to raise \$10,000 to help Brink get back on her feet. Friends and colleagues are working to raise money, collect clothing, and secure temporary housing.

Brink, a postal clerk at the Chesterfield Post Office, is described as 'a very special person' by the drive's organizer, Mandy Spiess, who is the Postmaster at the Worthington Post Office. Collectively, her postal colleagues created a statement about what Brink means to them, "Jaye is an inspiration to those who know her best. She is an intelligent and loving person whose humor

and wit can brighten anyone's day."

A Go Fund Me site has been established, called the Jaye Michaela Emergency Fund. As outlined on the fundraising page, Its goal is to raise enough money to help "relieve the financial burden during this emotionally devastating time. We are hoping to alleviate all emergency medical, counseling and temporary housing expenses accrued over this incident."

According to Michelle Kearney, the page's organizer, "Jaye-Michaela is fierce in all things-fierce in loving her friends, fierce about injustice, and fierce about empathy and gentleness."

The link to the donation site is <https://www.gofundme.com/f/jaye-michaela-emergency-fund>.

Spiess said that once Brink has housing, they will have a better understanding of household items that will be needed. Posts will be made to the Within Worthington and Cummington Community Facebook pages to request material donations.

One Part Luck to perform May 12

CUMMINGTON – One Part Luck will appear on Friday, May 12 from 7-9 p.m. at the Village Church in downtown Cummington in the heart of the Cummington Cultural District.

One Part Luck is husband and wife duo, John Bye and Peg Cowen from Cummington. They perform

original songs in tight, two-part harmony, backed up with acoustic guitar, bass, banjo, ukulele, harmonica and their much-loved suitcase drum.

Their songs range from sweet,

catchy love ditties, to serious spiritual meditations, from toe-tapping barn dancers to wistful lullabies. They released their first cd in September 2015 and were pretty excited when their song "My Old Truck" made it onto Car Talk. Their second cd "Every Hour" was released in May 2018. Their live shows are delivered with humor and gratitude for being lucky enough to share their music with other folks. In the end, it is all about trying to "put a little bit more love in this old world."

Submissions are always welcome.

Send us your engagement, wedding, baby, anniversary and graduation news and photos.



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REGION

Great Falls Discovery Center announces upcoming events

TURNERS FALLS –The Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, offers free programs and is open to the public.

An adult must accompany children. Inclement weather cancels outdoor programs. Reasonable accommodations available upon request. The center is wheelchair accessible. The center is open Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Wednesdays through Sundays from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Monday, May 29 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Now through Friday, June 30 Visions of the Connecticut River Valley will be on exhibit in the Great Hall. This group show showcases work from regional artists featuring the nature of the Connecticut River, all in support of the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center.

Kidleidoscope Story Hour

Friday, May 12 (fish) from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Kidleidoscope Story Hour is for ages three to six. Children must be accompanied by an adult and meet in the Great Hall. Siblings and friends are welcome. The program includes a story, activities and a craft. Activities are

indoors and outdoors, weather permitting.

Nice and easy walks will take place Fridays, May 12, 19 and 26 from 1-2 p.m. This easy-paced, 1 to 2-mile guided walk, along the Canalside Rail Trail or downtown Turners Falls, is geared for seniors, but is open to all ages. A Department Conservation Recreation Park Interpreter highlights natural and local history along the way. Participants should wear appropriate clothing for the weather and sturdy footwear.

Story Walk® book is "Ruby's Birds" by Mya Thompson for readers ages 3-7 and everyone who celebrates birds. It will be ongoing Thursday, May 11 through Tuesday, June 27. The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. Story Walk® is a registered service mark owned by Ferguson. This StoryWalk® is provided by Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Interpretive Services.

Great Falls Coffeehouse presents Eloise & Co. on Friday, May 12 from

7-9 p.m. People may enjoy Celtic, contra dance and folk music in the Great Hall. Refreshments available. Sliding scale suggested donations, all in support of educational programming at the Center.

On Saturday, May 13 from 10:30 a.m.-noon a program of discovering nature through story, poetry and art in the free Art Naturally programs in the Great Hall. This program is for adults, teens, and children ages 6 and up, accompanied by an adult. All materials are free.

On Saturday, May 20 from 1-3 p.m. Commemorate the 347th Anniversary of the Great Falls Massacre, outdoors weather permitting or in the Great Hall. Tribal members and non-Tribal public are welcome. Honored guests include members of the Chaubunagungamaug Band of Nipmuck Indians Council and the Elnu Abenaki. For more information, people may visit: www.nolumbekaproject.org. The program is free and open to all and co-sponsored by the Nolumbeka Project, River Valley Co-op and DCR.

On Sunday, May 28 from 1-2 p.m. there will be an easy paced 1 to 2 mile guided walk along the Canalside

Rail Trail or downtown Turners Falls, geared for seniors, but open to all ages. People should wear appropriate clothing for the weather and sturdy boots and meet at the Main Entrance.

On Sunday, June 4 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. the Great Falls Discovery Center will celebrate free family fish day at Barton Cove. Adults and children of all ages are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Event is held rain or shine. Parking is free at each site.



Pattacini joins Bacon Wilson, P.C.

SPRINGFIELD – Bacon Wilson, P.C. announces that Attorney Alexander Pattacini has joined the firm.

Attorney Pattacini is a member of the Estate Planning and Elder Law Department. Alexander earned his J.D. from Western New England University School of Law with a concentration in Transactional Law, where he served as a clinician in the Small Business Clinic.

He previously earned his B.A. from the University of Connecticut in Storrs, Connecticut. Prior to joining Bacon Wilson, P.C., he interned with the Connecticut Department of Education Division of Legal Affairs, and served as Legal Counsel for the CT House Majority Leader's Office.

He is a member of the Massachusetts Bar Association as well as the Education



Alexander
Pattacini

Law Association. Alexander is licensed to practice in Massachusetts and will be working in all Bacon Wilson office locations, but will primarily be in Springfield.

Managing Shareholder Kenneth Albano commented, "Alex is such a great addition to our growing Estate Planning and Elder Law practice groups and will add depth for years to come."

Founded in 1895, Bacon Wilson, P.C. is one of the largest firms in the Pioneer Valley, with 45 attorneys, and approximately 80 paralegals, administrative assistants, and support staff. From five locations in Springfield, Amherst, Hadley, Northampton, and Westfield Bacon Wilson, P.C. represents clients throughout Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut with comprehensive legal services.

MassWildlife warns of bears emerging from winter dens

MassWildlife officials are reminding the public that March is the month when hungry bears emerge from their winter dens and seek out food.

If you live in northern Middlesex County, Worcester County, western Massachusetts, or other areas where bears have been spotted, it's time to take down your bird feeders. Natural foods such as acorns and other nuts are usually available on the ground, but last year's fall hard mast crop was meager.

Bears will often ignore seasonally available natural foods including skunk cabbage in favor of an easy meal at a backyard bird feeder. Other species including wild turkeys and coyotes may also frequent bird feeders leading to a variety of nuisance issues. To avoid these problems, MassWildlife asks property owners to be proactive by removing bird feeders and other potential food

sources including garbage or open compost.

If people enjoy watching birds in their yard, MassWildlife suggests adding a water feature, growing native plants, shrubs, and trees to attract birds. Individuals should also secure bee hives, chickens, and livestock. Properly maintained electric fencing is the only way to protect chickens or bee hives from bears. Taking these actions may prevent the unnatural feeding of bears and other kinds of neighborhood wildlife.

There are at least 4,500 black bears in Massachusetts and their range is expanding eastward. People should take action by educating themselves and their neighbors about proactive measures to avoid conflicts with bears. For more information about black bears in Massachusetts, people may visit mass.gov/bears.

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THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES
Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, pay attention to the smaller details, as those are the ones most often ignored. You'll be highly regarded if you pinpoint any errors in a timely manner.

CANCER
Jun 22/Jul 22
It could be tempting to hole up in a bookstore or a coffee shop for hours. However, avoiding certain issues is not the way to go. Confront them head on.

LIBRA
Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, explore all possibilities at work rather than pigeonholing yourself into one role. How will you know what things are like if you don't try stuff out?

CAPRICORN
Dec 22/Jan 20
There's not much that will bother you this week, Capricorn. It seems you have all of your ducks in a row. Enjoy this good fortune while it lasts.

TAURUS
Apr 21/May 21
Work to the best of your ability, Taurus. Focus on your own work and serve as a source of encouragement to those around you who may be experiencing some difficulties.

LEO
Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, if you are going to leap, do so with both eyes open; otherwise, you may miss some of the dangers along the way. Always take the bigger picture into consideration.

SCORPIO
Oct 24/Nov 22
You may need to roll with the punches this week, Scorpio. Things are coming at you at a record pace and it could take a lot of effort to keep up. Learn and adapt as you go.

AQUARIUS
Jan 21/Feb 18
Remarkable opportunities are coming your way, Aquarius. All you need to do is sit back and wait for them to start. There is no need to do much legwork in this situation.

GEMINI
May 22/Jun 21
A loved one may be hinting at a few things he or she wants to do with you, Gemini. Find the time to make these things happen. Let loose and have fun.

VIRGO
Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, accept that you may be different from most of the people with whom you associate, and that is perfectly fine. What makes you unique is what others like about you.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, even though you have been faced with a number of challenges lately, you have managed to come through with your head held high. Keep up the progress.

PISCES
Feb 19/Mar 20
Big changes can sometimes be scary, Pisces. But change is just what you need to do right now to spice things up.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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60	61						62	63			64	
65						66					67	
68						69					70	

- CLUES ACROSS**

 1. Midway between south and southeast
 4. Fathers
 9. Wine grape
 14. Al Bundy's wife
 15. Organic compound
 16. Venezuelan state
 17. Interest term
 18. Experts
 20. Central cores of stems
 22. Smooth and glossy
 23. One-time S. Korean city
 24. One from Damascus
 28. Short message at the end of an email
 29. It cools your home
 30. Oh, God!
 31. Intestinal pouches
 33. Men
 37. Popular English soccer team (abbr.)
 38. Former CIA
 39. Arrange in steps
 41. A baglike structure in a plant or animal

CLUES DOWN

 1. An involuntary and abnormal muscular contraction
 2. Philly's rail service
 3. Leaves a place
 4. No longer be a part in
 5. Guitar players use them
 6. Cease to exist
 7. General's assistant (abbr.)
 8. Shaking of the earth
 9. Strong winds
 10. For each one
 11. A bog
 12. The creation of beautiful or significant things
 13. Affirmative
 19. Pie ___ mode
 21. Nonclerical
 24. Inspirational football player Hamlin
 25. Learning environment
 26. Khoikhoi peoples
 27. Bring out or develop

CLUES ACROSS

 42. The Great Lake State
 43. Dog-__: to mark a page
 44. Stop moving
 46. Ancient Dead Sea region
 49. Of I
 50. Clerical vestment
 51. Songs sung to a lover
 55. Charges
 58. Popular design program manufacturer
 59. Where to park a boat
 60. One who values reason
 64. Slang for cigarette
 65. Sailboats
 66. Actress Zellweger
 67. Screen material
 68. Country music legend Haggard
 69. Puts together in time
 70. When you hope to arrive

CLUES DOWN

 31. Shows up
 32. Theatrical device
 34. Loads
 35. Popular Hollywood alien
 36. Distinguishes
 40. College dorm worker
 41. Secondary or explanatory title
 45. Resembling wings
 47. One who delivers a speech
 48. In the middle
 52. Loop with a running knot
 53. Airborne (abbr.)
 54. Beloveds
 56. Ordain
 57. Breed of small cattle
 59. Very small period of time (abbr.)
 60. Revolutions per minute
 61. They ___
 62. Longtime ESPN anchor Bob
 63. A place to stay

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

Fun By The Numbers
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

answers

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

Wayne R. MacBrown, 65

CHICOPEE – Wayne R. MacBrown Chicopee passed on April 16, 2023 at the age of 65. He was born Feb. 18, 1958 in Holyoke, the son of Janet Guiette.

In his younger years, he worked construction and grounds keeper in local cemeteries. His true passions were writing songs and playing guitar with many friends and loved playing with his three sons especially. He also played for gatherings.

If you knew Wayne, you would also know of his keen eye for antiques and tag saleing. He loved his treasures.

He leaves his longtime companion, Vicki. Wayne, also leaves his loving sons, Breault. Justin MacBrown (Erin) of Middlefield, Shane MacBrown (Carrie) of Holyoke and Adam MacBrown of Southampton and the mother of his boys Lisa Mendez of Southampton and Nancy MacBrown. Granddaughter Jaedyn MacBrown. He also leaves his sister, Sandy Simms and Robert Reed Sr. and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by brother, Kenneth Reed.

At Wayne's request, there will be no funeral. The family will plan a memorial get together at a later date.

Marilyn M. (Fontaine) McLean, 69

RUSSELL – Marilyn M. (Fontaine) McLean, 69, passed away at home surrounded by family and friends, on Tuesday, May 2, 2023. She was born in Holyoke to the late Yvette (Roberts) Fontaine.

She was a 1988 graduate of Holyoke Community College with a degree in Business Management. Marilyn worked as the control scheduler for Digital Equipment Corporation for 20 years and more recently for the Carson Center in Westfield for 18 years in billing. She enjoyed her "Lunch Brunch" and "EMMA Gang" and loved to write in her journals. She spent her time doing what she loved, including archery, fishing, boating and hiking with her husband. She felt most at home when she was in nature, walking down to the brook with her husband and her dogs; simply sitting by the water invoked peace.



She is survived by her beloved husband of 49 years, Donald O. McLean, Jr.; her niece and god daughter, Kayla Fontaine; her sisters and brother in laws, Carol and Burt Trombley of Holyoke, Glen and Nancy Depot of Chicopee, Raymond McLean of Holyoke and Gary and Geri McLean of Agawam and many more cousins.

A Funeral Home Service was held on Monday, May 8, 2023 at 3 p.m. in the Firtion Adams Funeral Service, 76 Broad St. Westfield, MA 01085. Visiting hours will precede the service from 1-3 p.m. in the funeral home.

Donations, in lieu of flowers, may be directed to the Littleville Fair, 15 Kinnebrook Road, Chester, MA 01011. www.firtionadams.com Marilyn requested casual attire be the dress code for all guests – jeans and flip flops. She will be sadly missed by her dog Missy.

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

Notice is hereby given under Chapter 138, Section 15A of Mass. General Laws that the Huntington Selectboard, as Local Licensing Authority, has received an application from Farhat Butt of IFFA, LLC D/B/A B&D Variety requesting a change of category from a wines and malt beverages package store license to an all alcoholic beverages package store license for 22 East Main Street, Huntington, MA. A public hearing will be held on **Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.** before the Selectboard at Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road, Huntington, MA.
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. HD20P1755EA

Estate of:
Damon Alexander Bazzeghin
Also known as:
Damon A Bazzeghin, Damon Bazzeghin
Date of Death: 07/16/2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by **Griffin A Bazzeghin** of Chester, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, a determination of testacy and heirs at law and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

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 06/13/2023.**

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.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 09, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
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. HD20P0568EA
Estate of:
Kurt Elwood Showalter
Date of Death: 02/29/2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

To all interested persons:
A Petition filed by **Kristine D. Mitchell** of Chester MA and **Elaine M Jacquier** of Southwick MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order that **Kristine D. Mitchell** of Chester MA and **Elaine M Jacquier** of Southwick MA be appointed as Successor Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

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 05/31/2023.**

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.

The estate is being administered under formal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but recipients are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 03, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
05/11/2023

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) of the Town of Huntington will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 7:00 pm** in Stanton Hall. This Public Hearing is for the Special Permit Application of Anthony Martone DBA The Rapids, under the Huntington Zoning Bylaw Sections IV.D.2.A: Use Regulations; Non-Residential Uses on Lots Not Also Used for Residence, IV.I: Signs, and V: Special Permits to operate a restaurant with existing sign at 200 Worthington Road, Assessors Map # 326,

parcel 1-A.
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
TOWN OF HUNTINGTON
05/11, 05/18/2023

LEGAL NOTICE Town of Chester Invitation to Bid

The Town of Chester, acting through its Board of Selectmen, invites sealed bids from qualified companies to harvest approximately 250,415 board feet of standing timber and 235 cords of firewood located on Town land off Captain Whitney Road in Becket, MA. A bid prospectus may be obtained from the Chester Town Administrator at the Chester Town Hall or from Bay State Forestry Service, P.O. Box 416, Montague, MA 01351. A public showing for prospective bidders will be conducted on Monday, June 5th at 9:00 A.M., beginning at the Chester Town Hall. Sealed bids are due to the Chester Board of Selectmen by Monday, June 19, 2023 at 7:00 PM when they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Chester Board of Selectmen is the awarding authority and reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Board of Selectmen
Town of Chester
05/11, 05/18/2023

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

DEATH NOTICES

DONOVAN, GINGER

Died May 2, 2023
Services May 21, 2023

MACBROWN, WAYNE R.

Died April 23, 2023
Memorial gathering at later date

MCLEAN, MARILYN M. (FONTAINE)

Died May 2, 2023

Country Journal OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Community Newspaper EDITOR WANTED

Turley Publications is looking for a "hands on" energetic candidate who loves telling stories to be the editor for two weekly publications. This position will include managing and coaching a small news staff that will provide the community with a great local newspaper.

The editor will need to cover local government and events while representing the newspaper at public venues.

The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills and is also expected to gather news and write stories for the two papers as well as for other occasional companywide publications.

This is a job for a self-starter who has a vision for growing and connecting with our valued readers, and who thoroughly enjoys community journalism.

This full-time position with flexible schedule is based in our Palmer office at 24 Water St., this is not a remote position.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- Willingness to mentor a staff writer and correspondents
- Editing experience and ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style
- Management experience and/or experience managing content for a print publication.

Please send resume and writing examples to:

Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to
ekennedy@turley.com

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HELP WANTED

CONSERVATION AGENT

TOWN OF BLANDFORD The Town of Blandford is seeking candidates for a part-time Conservation Agent. Candidates must have at least one year of experience in a similar role. The compensation for this 5 to 8 hour-a-week position is \$23.00-25.00 an hour. A full job description with application guidelines can be found at www.townofblandford.com/job-openings/. Closing date for all applications is Thursday, May 18, 2023, by 12 noon. Open until filled. EEO/AEE

MIDDLEFIELD & WASHINGTON SHARED TOWN ADMINISTRATOR Full time, salaried and fully benefited position. Job description and application instructions at berkshire-planning.org/employment. Applicant screening begins immediately. AA/EEO

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM ADULT SERVICES LIBRARIAN P/T EMERGENCY DISPATCHER (2)

STAFF ACCOUNTANT Looking to fill several vacancies in the Town of Wilbraham. For application and more information please visit www.wilbraham-ma.gov. Open until filled, review of application begins immediately. EOE

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HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



Hikers listen to Otis historian, Tom Ragusa, as they trek the Knox Trail section in Otis.

Submitted photos

Hikers take 'ye trodden path'

OTIS – A group hike on Sunday May 7 of the Knox trail was the second half of the great Knox weekend with the Springfield Armory.

Saturday, May 6, the Springfield Armory held a symposium with various speakers and historians in Springfield and Sunday they hiked the trail with Otis historian, Tom Ragusa. They traveled the “ye trodden path” Knox Trail Otis section to learn, hike and enjoy the history.

They started at station #20 by two large rocks and stones, onto Department of Conservation and Recreation property in the Otis Tolland State Forest, to the Webster saw mill, Station #28 Great Rock a Native American trail marker, then the burial spot of General Burgoyne’s soldier in 1777, the massive walls on the downhill created by General Amherst’s men to repair the road and finally to Station #33 encampment site of Benjamin Wadsworth in 1694, oldest site on record on the banks of the Farmington River where a group of 50 or so men camped overnight on Aug. 9 and 10 on their way to Albany to sign a treaty with the five Native American Nations. Thanks goes out to the National Parks Service, Springfield Armory National Historic Site and Tom Ragusa for putting this weekend together to preserve Hilltown History for all.



This lichen covered boulder, known as “Great Rock,” was used as a Native American trail maker.



This hiker stops to take a photo of the fungi growing on a tree.



The Hilltown Hikers follow a section of the Knox Trail on Sunday, May 7.



Hikers pass a stream while hiking part of the Knox Trail.

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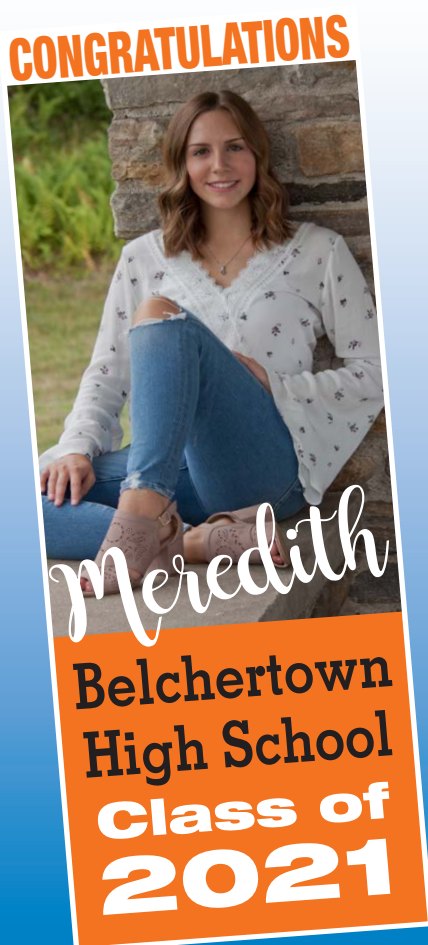
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