

Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

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

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SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Rida led soccer team to win title

By David Pollard

Some might say that Jessica Rida, Class of 2002, may be the greatest soccer player ever produced by the Gateway Regional School System.

Jessica Rida would not be one of those suggesting such a thing. I interviewed Jess and found her to be one of the most humble, matter-of-fact persons I have ever talked to about their own accomplishments, which in the case of Rida are extensive and amazing.

She grew up in Worthington, at the time still a very agricultural town with little room for fun and games when the hay needs to come in. The work ethic of that life, having grown up in the same myself, does establish an approach that tends to be more humble and self-less.

Self-less is a good word to describe Rida and also a good way to describe her approach to sports. While she set records on the field, her orientation on and off the field was always about

her teammates and the game itself.

Like so many children, Rida started playing tee-ball and basketball in Worthington as she went through her years at Russell Conwell Elementary School. Soccer grabbed her attention, though she was proficient at all three sports she played. She found herself recruited onto the Under 8 Pioneer Valley Travel Soccer team and the rest is history. And what a history it is.

At a time when freshmen athletes typically spend a year on Junior Varsity to learn the high school level of play, she made an immediate impact on Varsity Gateway sports. Rida made Varsity as a freshman in soccer, basketball and softball.

As an incoming Freshman, Rida caught the eye of soccer Coach Steve Estelle, who immediately saw her potential and brought her onto the Varsity soccer squad as a starter. That was a pretty big deal.

RIDA, page 10

CHESTER

Library director graduates from WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY

The Hamilton Memorial Library, 195 West Main St., community congratulates director, Tammy Merenda, who has just com-

pleted her bachelor's in liberal studies from Westfield State University and who will soon begin her post graduate training in Library

and Information Sciences to achieve a Master's Degree from the University of Rhode Island.

Merenda brings great

passion and dedication to our library and staff is happy for her accomplishments.

Summer Reading Program sign-ups have begun at the Hamilton Memorial Library. People may stop in anytime Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 1-6 p.m., Thursday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m/ to sign up or call 413-354-7808.

The summer reading program will run from Thursday, July 3 through Saturday, Aug. 9. This year's theme is, "Level Up At Your Library." Participants will be leveling up their music skills, fine motor skills, gaming skills, nature skills and of course reading skills.

Local musician, Chris Merenda will be sharing his talents during ukulele lessons for children ages 5 plus and hosting a teens and adult song writing workshop. LEGO with Tayo will be another fun event. People may visit their website at <https://chester.cwmars.org> for upcoming events.



Hamilton Memorial Library director, Tammy Merenda reads to the children in her graduation cap. She just graduated from Westfield State University with her bachelor's degree in liberal studies and will soon begin her post graduate training in library and information sciences through the University of Rhode Island.

Submitted photo

BLANDFORD

Water Supt. opts for open session

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

The Select Board opened a meeting Friday evening May 16 at 6 p.m. to enter into executive session in accordance with the Mass. General Law, Ch. 30A Sec. 21 (a)(I) "to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual."

Water Superintendent Gordon Avery was the employee.

After the roll call vote, Avery was asked if he wanted the meeting open to which he replied yes.

Chair Cara Letendre read the reason for the session. "Based on communication from the town accountant the board has determined that you are

responsible for the following violations: improper fund classifications; misclassification violating municipal accounting protocols necessitates formal correction; unauthorized activity without prior review or approval of town accountant as required by internal financial control policies and failure to exercise professional competence. Nearly five years in a role you are expected to understand the financial responsibilities.

Letendre then went through a list of specific examples of the above violations which included: an unauthorized purchase around the second week of April 2025; asked by town counsel to consult with the Town Accountant before proceeding with a \$2,200 purchase of a truck bed from a private party. Despite this

directive, Avery did not consult the accountant but proceeded with the purchase contrary to legal counsel instructions.

On May12, 2025, the accountant emailed explicit instructions not to proceed with any financial transactions or grant applications without first reviewing them with the accountant. This directive was clear and in writing, reinforcing the prior verbal instruction.

On May 13, 2025; Avery was formally notified of the executive session which included one of the reasons for the session; "a failure to follow proper financial protocol by proceeding with expenditures or applications for grant funding without prior review by the Town Accountant, as required."

SESSION, page 2



Shown from left are Water Commissioner Peter Thayer; Water Commissioner Chairman Mike Keier; Water Superintendent Gordon Avery; Water Commissioner Brad Curry; Select Board Member T.J. Cousineau and Select Board Chairman Cara Letendre.

Turley photo by Mary Kronholm

SANDISFIELD

Renovated Arts Center kicks off 30th year

The Sandisfield Arts Center announces the organization's 30th Anniversary in 2025. Opening Weekend events, focused on the theme "The Landscape We Live."

Events are planned for Friday, May 30 from 5-7 p.m. and Saturday, May 31 with the addition of climate-friendly air conditioning and a refurbished gallery. The kick-off event for the season is an art exhibition paying tribute to Sandisfield – the topography, trees, totems, rocks, rivers, animals, and the many artists who call it home. Participating artists include Bill Carlson, Erika Crofut, Jaye Moscardiello, Josie Miner, June Wink, Linda Moronti, Peter Biamonte, Sam Mercier, Susie Crofut, Teresa Bills and Virginia Overton.

The exhibit begins with a reception on Friday, May 30, from 5-7 p.m. in the newly named Garfield Family Gallery honoring the generous gift of the Estate of Leslie and Johanna Garfield. The Garfields were long-time Sandisfield residents and supporters of the Arts Center. After the opening reception, Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on weekends until closing on Sunday, July 6.



Improvements have been made to Sandisfield Arts Center Spring 2025.

Submitted photo

On Saturday, May 31, From Church to Synagogue to Arts Center: Book Talk/ Slide Show by Ron Bernard and Sandisfield in Poetry and Prose: Readings by Local Poets Hannah Fries and Hilde Weisert are planned. The afternoon ends at 4 p.m. with Singing Sandisfield's Unsung Heroes, where local residents who quietly con-

tribute to the town's life in various ways will be recognized.

The full schedule of events for the 2025 Season, including art exhibits, music, talks, workshops, performances, films, and more, can be found by visiting sandisfieldartscenter.org.

CENTER, page 10



PAGE 6

Ashfield.....7	Classifieds.....9	Haydenville.....6	Public Notices.....10	Williamsburg.....6
Becket.....3	Cummington.....3	Hilltowns.....3	Russell.....2	Worthington.....6
Blandford.....2	Easthampton.....7	Opinion.....4, 5	Sandisfield.....10	
Business Directory.....3	Florence.....7	Otis.....2	Schools & Youth.....10	
Chesterfield.....7	Goshen.....6	Pittsfield.....8	Westhampton.....7	



RUSSELL

Russell Public Library announces June event

RUSSELL – The Russell Public Library, 162 Main St., is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3-7 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Beginning July 5 through Aug. 31, the library will be closed on Saturdays. The Library will be closed on Thursday, June 19th in honor of the federal holiday, Juneteenth.

If patron haven't signed up for their CWMARS card yet, come to the library to get started with online ordering, convenient pick up and return, right here at the R.P. Library.

It would be appreciated if you would complete the Library Survey. Put it in the library drop box or complete it online. Help your library better serve your needs. Thank you!

The Russell Public Library has been selected to receive a 2025 Summer Reading visit from the Boston Bruins. Their mascot, Blades will come to Russell

Public Library this summer on Tuesday, July 22 at 11 a.m. The Russell Public Library is inviting all hilltown residents to join them for this special event.

People may register by email rpldirector162@gmail.com call 413-862-6221 and leave a message, or come in and sign up at the library, by Monday, July 14.

Tweens/Teens are invited to Game Night every Friday. All games and snacks will be provided. Participants are welcome to drop in anytime during library hours on Friday from 3-7 p.m.

Families, especially children ages 3-10 are invited to the library and in the park behind, for the Summer Reading Kick Off on June 28 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. They will have face painting, games, snacks and wandering entertainment in the park from 10 a.m.-noon. Rain will move us into the library.

This will be followed by an indoor music performance with Bruce Mandel. Participants should bring

lunch and have an indoor picnic as they listen to the music. Children are encouraged to sign up for the flexible, seven week, "Community" themed summer reading program held on Tuesdays from 1-2 p.m. from July 1-Aug. 12. Those who attend the kickoff will receive a raffle ticket for a Russell Pond Family Pass, generously provided by the Russell Recreation Committee. They may register by email rpldirector162@gmail.com, call 413-862-6221 and leave a message or come in and sign up at the Library, by Tuesday, June 24.. Funding for the music is provided by a generous grant from the Russell Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

The adult Monthly Book Club meets on Tuesday, June 10 from 6-8 p.m. the book will be "Thursday Murder Club" Books will be available at the library May 20. Register by email rpldirector162@gmail.com call 413-

862-6221 and leave a message, or come in and sign up at the library by Friday, June 6. Adults the Monthly Book Club on July 8, 2025 from 6-8 p.m. the book will be "Northwoods."

On Tuesday, June 17 from 6-8 p.m. there will be an adult Retro Tie Dye Party. Participants provide the white tee shirt or other light colored item of choice and the library will provide the dye and the other materials needed to create a fun and nostalgic evening. Participant number is limited to 15. People should register by email rpldirector162@gmail.com, call 413-862-6221 and leave a message, or come in and sign up at the Library by Friday, June 13..

People may join local author and historian, Steven V. Cormier, on Saturday, June 21 from 2-4 p.m for his presentation on his book "The Sacrificial Land" Westfield River..."giveth & taketh." The topic of his book is the Westfield River, its tranquility, its rage and

the impact it has had on the people, particularly the folks of Knightville, Indian Hollow and Littleville that "sacrificed" their land and homesteads in order for the Knightville and Littleville Dams to be built. People may register by email rpldirector162@gmail.com, call 413-862-6221 and leave a message or come in and sign up at the Library by Wednesday, June 18. Funding for this presentation is provided by a generous grant from the Russell Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Adults the R.P. Library's Technology Help session is on Thursdays, from 11 a.m.-noon. Ms. Kate will be available to help individuals with their technology questions. People should bring their phone, laptop or tablet to learn an app and/or get the tech support they need. If they have questions on how to use Libby or how to use the Kindle with CW MARS feel free to drop in.

Legion to host 'Hot Rods for Heroes'

RUSSELL – American Legion Post 356 is looking for vendors for the swap meet at the Tenth Annual Hot Rods for Heroes, Saturday, June 28 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

The event is a charity fund raiser to benefit Veterans, charities, youth organizations and scholarships.

Hot Rods for Heros will be at Strathmore Park and since it is a fund raising event, a \$5 donation is requested.

There is no rain date, but if the weather is inclement, there will be a party in the pavilion with food, raffles and music. For more information about vendor participation, people may call George at 413-862-3843.

BLANDFORD

ATM Election reminder for voters

BLANDFORD – Town Clerk Doris Jemiolo reminds the town's registered voters the Annual Town Meeting is set for Monday, June 2 at 7 p.m. and the Annual Town Election is Saturday, June 14 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Both are held in the Town Hall at 1 Russell Stage Road. The last day to register to vote either at the meeting or the election is Saturday, May 24 from 9-11 a.m. and 3-5 p.m. at the Town Clerk's office in the Town Hall.

There are over 30 articles on the June 2 warrant, which includes a length zon-

ing bylaw change for the flood plain area. There are multiple financially based articles as well.

There is only one contest on the ballot for the Annual Town Election and that is for the Municipal Light Board or Broadband. Incumbent June Masee will vie with James Gaeta for the position. Other offices open for election are: Assessor, Board of Health, Cemetery Commissioner, two openings for Fence Viewer, one for Field Driver, Library Trustee, Select Board and Water Commissioner.

OTIS

Collectors office closed May 26-30

OTIS – The Collector's office will be closed the week of May 26 – May 30.

People should either utilize the drop box or pay online. Excise tax is available through townpay.com and unipaygold.unibank.com for all other taxes.

Otis Transfer Station lists holiday hours

OTIS – The Transfer Station will be closed on Monday, May 26 for Memorial Day. The Transfer Station will be open on Tuesday, May 27 from 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

SESSION

On May 14, 2025. Avery submitted a grant application through the One-Stop platform. (confirmation from One-Stop dated May 14, 2025 with Gordon Avery as applicant)

Avery did not seek prior approval from the town; nor consult the Town Accountant despite prior directives and written instructions.

In summary, "These repeated actions demonstrate a clear pattern of noncompliance with both Direct legal and financial guidance; established town policies, which are applicable to the Water Department and your role as defined in your job description.

The purpose of the executive session was to review these violations and to reaffirm policy expectations and legal compliance obligations."

Avery then referred to the "hostile environment" he had experienced in the last "couple of years" and told the board it's not worth my aggravation Amy more so I'm done. It's that simple." Avery threw his keys on the table and said he would arrange to pick up any personal items. He added that "The Finance Committee

had signed off on everything last year."

Water Commissioner Brad Curry asked Avery to "hold on" and told the board he wanted to move forward and provided some background information from when Christopher Dunne was Town Administrator, which may have confused some of the finances.

He also said he was not able to find the forms that outline grant process, but was told they were distributed during departmental budget meetings.

Curry reiterated, "now that we are all aware, we can make this work correctly and funds can be applied correctly." He said again that he was not aware of the grant application.

The conclusion of the meeting ended with the Select Board approving a motion to issue a written warning for the three items, pre-approval, document, and engagement with municipal departments.

Again, Avery announced his resignation "effective immediately" and walked out of the room, followed by Water Commissioner Chair Mike Keier.

In a later interview with Keier, he said he walked out of the meeting because, "I just wasn't happy." He added, "I would also like to say that I have been a member of the water commission for over 5 years and I have seen how hard Gordon has worked to bring the department to where it is today. Without his dedication I believe it will go backwards very quickly. The town administrator and the select board should be helping his efforts not hindering them. If we lose Gordon the water costumers of Blandford will be in big trouble."

Keier also works for the Water Department in Westfield.

Ferrera said, following the meeting, "While our goal was to address and correct procedural concerns within

the Water Department, it is disappointing that Mr. Avery chose instead to resign as Water Superintendent during Friday's meeting. This is not the direction we had hoped for, but we remain focused on ensuring transparency, accountability and improving service to our residents. I would like to thank Commissioners for their continued commitment and clear understanding of the work ahead, as well as our dedicated Water Operators for their professionalism during this transition."

There will be a presentation on Monday, June 9 by Rural Community Assistance Partnership, a federally funded group specializing in water departments. According to Finance Committee Chair Jackie Coury and Letendre, the group will scrutinize the department, how it works and its finances and provide insight and direction.

The meeting was not recorded on a Zoom link.

from page 1



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NOTICE

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

HILLTOWNS

MassDOT announces upcoming roadwork on I-90

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces bridge painting, bridge repair, guardrail installation and drainage structure operations will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound between now and Friday, May 23.

The work will require lane closures in various locations along I-90 during both

daytime and overnight hours.

In West Stockbridge bridge painting will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 1.3, now through Thursday, May 22 from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The I-90 westbound off-ramp at exit 3 will be closed from 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 22 until 5:30 a.m. the following morning, for drainage struc-

ture repairs. During the ramp closure, I-90 westbound traffic will be directed to exit at exit 10. Detour signage will be in place to return drivers to their intended destinations.

In Stockbridge/West Stockbridge drainage structure and guardrail work will be conducted on I-90 westbound from mile markers 7.8 to 0.0, now through

Thursday night, May 22, from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the following morning.

In Becket bridge repair work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 18.4, now through Thursday, May 22 from 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Appropriate signage and law enforcement details will be in place to guide drivers through the work area.

Drivers traveling through the affected areas should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution. All scheduled work is weather dependent and subject to change without notice.

For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to: Download the Mass511 mobile app or visit www.mass511.com to view live

cameras, travel times, real time traffic conditions, and project information before setting out on the road. Users can subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions. Dial 511 and select a route to hear real time conditions. Follow @MassDOT on X, formerly known as Twitter, to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

BECKET

BAC hosts program on Civil War artists

BECKET – The Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, will present “Skirmish in the Wilderness: Winslow Homer and American Artists in the Civil War,”

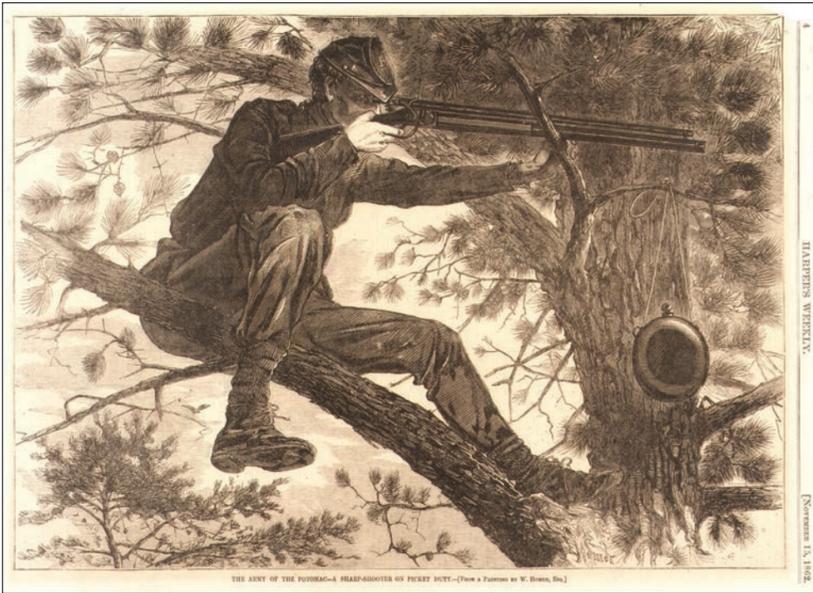
an illustrated talk by David Davidson on Wednesday, May 21, from 5-6:30 p.m.

Davison has given many illustrated talks at museums, libraries and other venues in

the Northeast and beyond.

The event is free, but donations are welcome.

For more information, people may visit beckartscenter.org.



An Army of the Potomac sharp shooter is shown on picket duty.

Courtesy drawing



Kim Geisler of Transcending Roots Herbal Apothecary will hold a workshop Saturday, May 24.

Submitted photo

Herbal workshop offered May 24

BECKET – The Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, will present an herbal medicine workshop on Saturday, May 24 from 1-3 p.m.

Led by clinical herbalist Kim Geisler of Transcending Roots Herbal Apothecary, this immer-

sive, outdoor experience will introduce two or three medicinal plants that flourish in the Berkshires during the spring. In addition to teaching how to identify and harvest them, Geisler will explain the traditional uses, spiritual connections and healing properties of each

plant. She will also help the participants make an herbal vinegar to take home. Fee is \$30 and \$25 for BAC members and \$15 for Card to Culture holders. For more information and registration - space is limited, people may visit beckartscenter.org.

CUMMINGTON

Lonesome Brothers set to perform

CUMMINGTON – The Lonesome Brothers will be back at the cafe this Friday, May 23.

People will enjoy “Hick Rock” from the best; they’ve been doing it for 40 years. They will listen to Jim, Ray and Keith. It will be fun.

The show is from 7-9 p.m. at the Village Church in beautiful downtown Cummington in the heart of

the Cummington Cultural District. The event is free, donations are appreciated. Snacks are provided, bring your own drinks.

The show will take place in the intimate Vestry space. Masks are welcome. Once again this is brought by the friendly folks at the Village Church, who believe music can be a powerful force for building community.

Friday Night Cafe receives promotional support from the Cummington Cultural District, and is supported in part by grants from the Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Hinsdale-Peru, Plainfield, Williamsburg, Windsor, and Worthington Cultural Councils, local agencies which are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor



Will 'DOGE' hurt our Social Security or Medicare benefits?

Dear Rusty:

I am a new AMAC member and have an important question for you and your answer will be greatly appreciated.

My question is: Is the new DOGE effort going to help us, or hurt us, all those living on Social Security and receiving Medicare benefits? Please let us know soon.

Regards: Worried Senior

Dear Worried Senior:

Here at the AMAC Foundation, we offer free access to everyone, the public as well as AMAC members, for our acclaimed Social Security Advisory Service, at which we answer all inquiries from anyone with questions about Social Security and enrollment in Medicare.

As you can imagine, we very closely watch all action in Washington, D.C. which will affect Social Security and Medicare, especially any Congressional legislation being considered. The new Department of Government Efficiency organization is tasked with uncovering and eliminating fraud and waste in all areas of the Federal Government and that includes Social Security and Medicare. But the important thing to remember is that DOGE is seeking only to discover fraud and government waste.

Recently a great deal of visibility has been given to DOGE's efforts to discover potential fraud and waste in the Social Security Administration.

Everything we have seen thus far indicates that DOGE's efforts have identified opportunities for reducing fraud and waste at the Social Security Administration, so our expectation is that DOGE's efforts will tend to help the Social Security Administration become more efficient but not endanger anyone's Social Security benefits.

Indeed, President Trump and the DOGE team have repeatedly said that no cuts in Social Security benefits will occur as a result of DOGE's efforts. Reducing fraud and waste at the SSA would

tend to improve the agency's financial posture and improve their ability to pay full benefits longer. The same is true for Medicare.

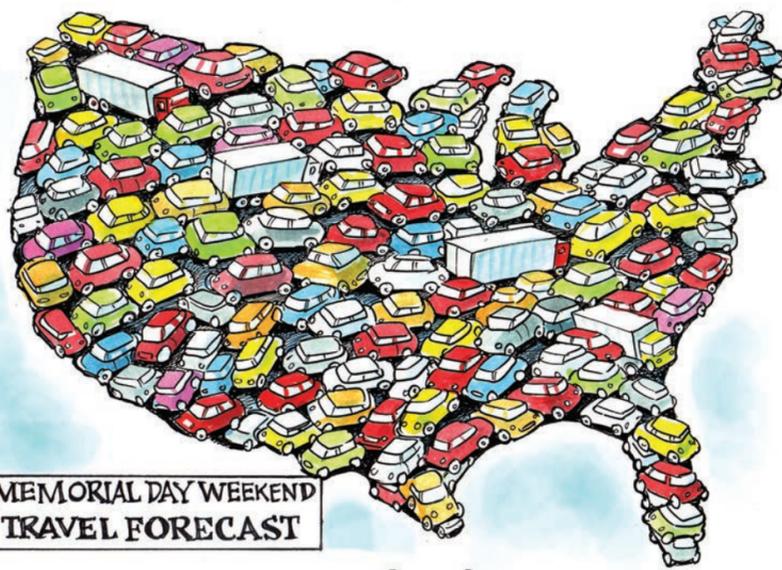
Actually, DOGE is very transparent and posts everything they find on this website: www.doge.gov. A quick look at this website reveals that none of what they have found at the SSA indicates any threat to SS or Medicare benefits.

I suggest that any negative news media and social media accounts of DOGE's activities be taken with a grain of salt. All such articles are largely meant to attract attention to unlikely "doomsday" scenarios. The reality is that our government is over \$36 trillion in debt, and that debt is growing, which is an unsustainable financial path for our country.

DOGE is specifically tasked with eliminating the deficit gap by reducing frivolous government spending and fraud. But reducing crucial benefits for seniors on Social Security and Medicare are not part of DOGE's efforts, nor their goal.

Rest assured that here at the AMAC Foundation we are watching all current DOGE efforts very closely and will vigorously oppose anything which will negatively affect Social Security and Medicare. Indeed, AMAC's stated goal is to strengthen and preserve Social Security for all future generations.

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



MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND TRAVEL FORECAST

DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

GUEST COLUMN



By Ellenor Downer

An Oakham couple saw their first Baltimore oriole at their feeder on Monday, May 5.
Photo by Sean Blood

I saw the first Baltimore oriole for this year on Tuesday, May 13. I heard it singing on two occasions, but I could not locate it. The male oriole's whistling song is often heard while the bright orange and black bird is perched in a tree top. They prefer tall trees in open areas.

The Baltimore oriole is a medium sized icterid blackbird common in eastern North America as a migratory breeding bird. It received its name from the resemblance of the male's colors to those on the coat-of-arms of 17th-century Lord Baltimore. The female weaves a hanging basket nest. As a child, orioles nested in an elm tree in our yard and my family and I enjoyed watching the orioles from our porch.

Young male orioles don't molt into the bright orange of the adult until the fall of their second year. Until that time they resemble the drab, female plumage. However, females become deeper orange with every molt and some older females are almost as bright orange as males.

Orioles have a long pointed beak with a thick base. The male has a black head with black wings and tail. The wings also have white marks.

The Oakham couple also had a Bald Eagle in their yard. The eagle was eating a fish while perched on a tree limb.

Worthington birds

I received an email from a Worthington resident. He said, "For years the red breasted grosbeak has returned to my feeder in

the first week of May. I was thinking he was late this year, but yesterday afternoon (on May 7) one arrived."

He also said, "About a week ago I heard a wood thrush, but not since...I am nervous about bird populations. I know scholars say they are declining, and this year I am seeing very few robins, making for a silent spring." He also commented he hoped there were plenty of robins my way. Yes, there are.

The Worthington resident also saw a bear. He said, "A bear reached up 7.5 feet and got the bottom of my feeder. I saw him in the dim light of a motion light, full height as he was doing it. A real monster that my 40 lb dog chased off."

Brimfield birds

A Brimfield resident said, "Last week in the yard the first ruby-throated hummingbird (male), phoebe and a house wren were seen."

He said, "In Warren it looks like the ospreys are incubating eggs." He also said, "I have several black swallow-tailed butterfly chrysalises in my garage that I need to get into the daylight now that the weather seems to be more spring like. Last year, he and his wife overwintered three and they all emerged and flew away."

Peregrine falcon cameras

Peregrine falcons are the fastest birds on Earth. They live throughout the world, including right here in Massachusetts! Several web cameras allow the public to witness falcons during breeding season.

Some site in

Massachusetts with web cameras: Clock Tower of the Custom House, Boston nesting for over 20 years <https://marriott.ozolio.com/mwcpulse-boston/>

Fox Hall Dorm UMass Lowell nesting since 2007 <https://www.uml.edu/Falcons/>

DuBois Library UMass Amherst since 2003 years <https://www.library.umass.edu/falcons/>

Bird experience

The Brimfield resident sent the following email. "I had an interesting experience earlier today, May 12. We have a love seat that is tucked under a which hazel shrub and behind a winter-berry holly. There are other small trees and shrubs nearby and there is a feeding station about 15' away. While sitting very still I began to hear bird's wings flapping close by, then I could feel the air moving near my head."

He continued, "Then the bird landed briefly on the top of my head. Of course I couldn't see the bird. As soon as it left my head I turned my head slowly but couldn't see any birds behind me. I have a very healthy hair of hair for an old coot and I think the bird might have been looking for nesting material."

I suspect it was a titmouse because several had been back and forth to the feeder before this happened."

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.

Is attending community college the answer?

By Eric Goodhart
Guest Columnist

The cost of private four-year colleges and universities has steadily increased far beyond the means of all but a small percent of American households.

Now, in May 2025, a bill

is moving through Congress to cap PLUS loans for parents at \$12,500 per year and eliminate the interest-free benefit of Stafford loans for students beginning with the Class of 2026. Colleges that did not adopt the principles and strategies as Grove City and Hillsdale College

did in the 1980s will need to become independent or die. Below is the history that has led to this.

The Higher Education Act of 1965 marked the beginning with no end. President Lyndon Johnson

COLLEGE, page 5

Corrections policy

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

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

Country Journal welcomes Election letters to the editor

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 sent to The Country Journal, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to countryjournal@turley.com.

Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by **noon Friday** to be considered for the following 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. For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's

Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Country Journal.

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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.

Mail letter to Country Journal, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or mail your letter to: countryjournal@turley.com.



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OPINION

News, photo publication policy

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

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

Deadline is Friday at NOON.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Resident grateful to Fire Department

I would like to express my Deep appreciation to the Huntington Fire Department Crew for their amazing help after the heavy rains. I had arrived home from a morning

Doctor's appointment to discover a very flooded basement in my house with the sump pump going strong. I didn't know what to do, but a friend called the Fire Department. They

came right away. It took many hours and another day to locate the water source and then solve the problem.

Thank you,
R. Peri Sossaman
Huntington

President scrutinized more than predecessors

I have lived through the Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and Joe Biden administrations.

In my lifetime, I have never seen or heard of a president being scrutinized over every word he speaks, slandered, ridiculed, insulted and lied to. I have never heard their wives or children threat-

ened, insulted and humiliated. I am truly ashamed of the behavior of the people in this country. I am ashamed of the ruthless, hating, cruel Trump haters who have no morals, and news reporters who feel the right to purposely lie and chastise the president.

Every past President was left to run the country after they were elected and taken the oath of office. They weren't on the news 24/7

being drawn and quartered, every word and sentence they speak. Dissected, constantly pressured to do this or that, without an ounce of moral support.

Enough is enough, leave the man alone. Let him do his job. Stop the lies. He won the election on what he promised, and he is doing what he said he would do.

Ted Cousineau
Blandford

GUEST COLUMN

Rhododendrons 101



I was never all that fond of rhododendrons. Indeed, they are pretty when in flower, but the other 11 and a half months of the year I find them a bit uninteresting.

As I write, however, I am staring out my window at pink rhododendron buds that before long will burst into bloom. The shrub is on the massive side, and each year a multitude of bees and our resident hummingbirds frequent the blossoms.

For this reason, I am rethinking my stand: when sited appropriately and cared for well, this shrub is deserved of a place in the average landscape, if just for its flowers alone.

Please enjoy a column from the archives that will give you some pointers to help you achieve just that!

Where in the yard should a rhododendron be placed? Most rhododendrons look better when grouped with other shrubs in a border or foundation planting.

Before doing so, however, consider the ultimate size of the variety you have chosen and position it the proper distance away from buildings and other plants. Petite two

foot tall container plants may grow upwards of seven feet tall in just ten years!

In our locale, siting in partial shade is best; morning sun and afternoon shade make an ideal combination. Too much sun will result in rhodies with yellow leaves.

What kind of soil do rhododendrons prefer? Most of us know that rhododendrons are acid-loving. They require a soil pH of 5.5. Adjust your pH if necessary by adding agricultural sulfur or ferrous sulfate, not aluminum sulfate. Soils that are light and well-drained and have a high organic matter content are desirable, especially if the humus is acidic, say from oak leaves or pine needles.

How should they be planted? Never sink a rhododendron too deeply – plant the root ball level with the ground or even an inch or two above it. Water the newly planted rhododendron well the entire first season.

Since they have very fine roots, it will take a while for the roots to grow from the existing root ball into the surrounding soil. If the root ball dries out during this period it will be hard to rewet and the

plant may die. Should this happen, drip water from your hose for several hours until the root ball is rehydrated.

What else can be done to keep rhododendrons healthy? Since rhododendrons are shallow-rooted, keep cultivation at the base of the plant to a minimum. To prevent weeds and conserve soil moisture, consider using a coarse mulch.

If your soil is fertile, extra nutrients are rarely necessary.

Rhododendrons planted in less than ideal soil can benefit from a balanced fertilizer intended for acid-loving plants. Apply it in early spring; never add fertilizer past June or you will encourage succulent growth that is

apt to be winter killed.

After large-flowered rhododendrons are done blooming, they can be deadheaded quite easily. Simply hold on to the center of the spent flower cluster and bend it forward. Deadheading will keep your shrub looking tidy as well as prevent excessive seed formation.

Plants that spend energy making seeds have less energy for next year's flowers. If pruning is needed it can be accomplished at the same time as deadheading; any later and you may sacrifice flower buds.

Since flowers are the plant's main attribute, don't risk it.

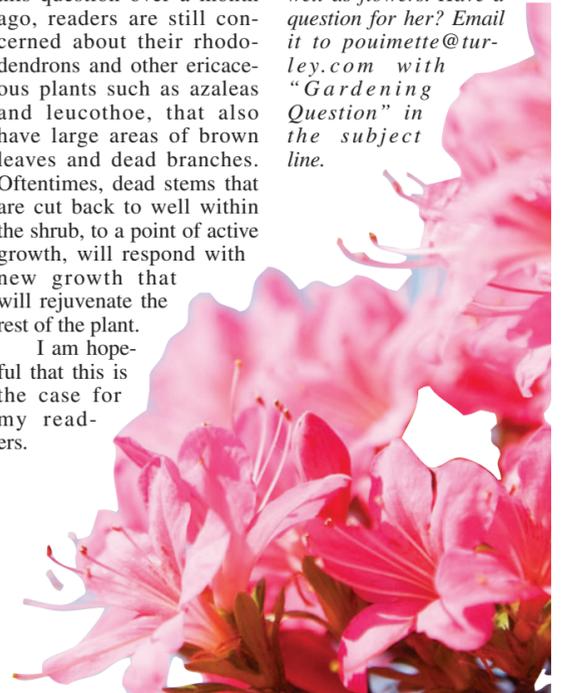
How do I deal with large areas of winter kill? This

spring has brought with it some seriously damaged rhododendrons. My guess would be that this came as a result of excessive wind and a few days of very chilly late winter weather.

Although I addressed this question over a month ago, readers are still concerned about their rhododendrons and other ericaceous plants such as azaleas and leucothoe, that also have large areas of brown leaves and dead branches. Oftentimes, dead stems that are cut back to well within the shrub, to a point of active growth, will respond with new growth that will rejuvenate the rest of the plant.

I am hopeful that this is the case for my readers.

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



COLLEGE

from page 4

signed the Higher Education Act on Nov. 8, 1965. The act aimed to strengthen the educational resources of our non-profit colleges and universities in the U.S. and provide financial assistance to students in postsecondary and higher education. What first appeared to be a positive thing has become something entirely different.

There are three primary reasons for that. In 1971, President Richard Nixon broke the 1944 Bretton Woods Agreement and removed the dollar from the gold standard. During the 1960s, the Federal Reserve was printing dollars at an unprecedented rate, a period now known as the "Guns and Butter" decade. Nixon's move was the catalyst for inflation as the dollar lost value.

A year later, Nixon signed Title IX of the Civil Rights Act into law. Many of the most expensive private colleges were beginning to admit women. Title IX pro-

hibits gender-based discrimination in any college or other educational program that receives federal funding, also known as American taxpayer dollars.

In the fall of 1979, President Carter raised the Department of Education to a cabinet-level position. All colleges agreed with the principles of Title IX. However, a few questioned the long-term impact the law would have on academic freedom and the cost of college.

One of those was a highly regarded college in Pennsylvania, Grove City College. It did not agree to sign the Title IX agreement because it had already followed the ideals of Title IX since the co-ed colleges' founding in 1876. Upon close examination, the college's Board of Directors decided Title IX would increase families' college costs. Hillsdale College followed their lead.

Grove City College

was 100% correct, but they had to go all the way to the Supreme Court to maintain their independence. Watch the video on their website at www.GCC.edu (Type "Supreme Court" in the search box.) That is proof enough to show how Title IX has been the key factor in why college is so expensive today.

The entire Cost of Attendance for a good four-year private college in 1962 averaged \$2,300 to \$3,000 per year. In 2025, those same colleges will cost \$77,000 to \$88,300 per year. State universities now cost up to \$40,000 per year.

Financial aid has not made the colleges affordable. In fact, in most cases, it has made them more expensive and put more students and their parents into debt. The formulas used to determine "need" penalize families that save for college. The Asset Protection Allowance in 1990 has been steadily reduced to Zero in 2024.

Read what follows carefully.

The Higher Education Act of 1965 included Stafford loans to students at an increased annual amount over five years. However, by 1980, colleges began to increase their yearly costs as the DOE expanded the grant and loan amounts to students with need. All kinds of adjustments to benefit colleges more than students began to appear to astute observers. None of which could be forgiven in bankruptcy.

As families became alarmed by higher costs, the effective lobbyists that colleges paid influenced lawmakers in Congress by making adjustments to "help" families afford college. The DOE made it even less affordable. In 1980, the Parent Loan to Undergraduate Students (PLUS) was introduced as a "generous" funding source for parents. Only one parent needed to sign, and no serious credit check

was required. The borrowing limit was \$4000 per year. However, as colleges increased their costs, their lobbyists went to work.

In 1993, the \$4,000 annual cap was removed, allowing parents to borrow up to the full cost of attendance, less any other financial aid received by the student. That soon put parents in debt more than the students with their Stafford loans. That should never have been done.

It gets worse. Now, Congress does not even believe that a family of four, for example, with the oldest parent at 48, needs an emergency fund of about \$49,000. Such budget planning was once sacrosanct and basic to sound family financial planning. It does not say much about either Congress or non-profit tax-exempt colleges' understanding of basic economics. Now, three to six months of household expenses are considered an asset to pay for college.

Additionally, Congress continued to yield to the pressure of paid college lobbyists not to increase the financial need when a family has more than one student in college. In other words, if the Student Aid Index, formerly known as the Expected Family Contribution, were \$40,000 with one student in college, it would remain the same if two students were in college, rather than \$20,000 per student.

The Trump administration's proposed changes, as outlined at the top of this article, will affect the high school class of 2026 and younger. Therefore, parents should be aware of what is coming for planning purposes. If a family with more than one child is not debt-free by the time the first child applies to college, the family income is less than \$400,000, and the family is living below its means, significant challenges will lie ahead.



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HAYDENVILLE

Barbara Allen to speak Sunday at Haydenville Congregational Church

NORTHAMPTON – On Sunday, May 25, Barbara Allen, the sixth generation granddaughter of famed equality activist Sojourner Truth, will deliver a sermon at Haydenville Congregational Church and also participate in the annual celebration at the Sojourner Truth statue in Florence.

Allen will preach at the Sunday service in Haydenville at 10 a.m. and then participate in the 2 p.m. memorial celebration of her great-grandmother, which includes the presentation of scholarships to high school students active in the cause of social justice. This is the 20th anniversary of the event held at the Sojourner Truth

statue on Pine Street, in the neighborhood where the 19th century activist lived from 1843 to 1857.

Allen currently serves as the Operations and Human Resources Director for Habitat for Humanity in Kalamazoo, Michigan, a neighboring city of Battle Creek, where Truth eventually settled. She is also the author of several children's books about her great-grandmother. For more information, people may visit <https://www.sixth-generation.com>.

For her sermon, Allen told church leaders she would preach on the religious conversion of her great-grandmother, born into slavery as Isabella Baumfree

and how that experience led her to change her name and become a sojourning preacher and advocate for a number of reform and social justice causes.

Allen wrote: "Sojourner Truth, my great-grandmother, embodied how accepting God's call can transform an individual and an entire society."

The worship service and the celebration at the Sojourner Truth statue are open to the public.

For more information about Sojourner Truth, her legacy in Florence, the memorial, and the scholarship program, people may visit <https://sojournertruth-memorial.org/>.

GOSHEN

Williams-Boltwood House Trust to hold tag sale this Saturday

GOSHEN – There will be a tag sale fundraiser at the Williams-Boltwood House Trust, 2 Williams Drive, on Saturday, May 24 and

Sunday, May 25 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

The trust received three grants this spring that are matching grants to replace

most of the roof, fix part one of three of the basement beams and do a feasibility study for the connecting barn project.

Dog license information released

GOSHEN – The Town Clerk announces the late fee for dog licenses goes into effect June 1.

The late fee is \$25 per dog on top of the license fee. To obtain a 2025 dog license, dog owners can:

stop by during office hours Monday from 8 a.m.-

2 p.m. and from 6-8 p.m. and bring cash or check, valid rabies certificate and spaying/neutering certificate.; mail the dog license form, fee(s) and certificate(s) along with a stamped self-addressed envelope for the return of the license(s) and tag(s) to: Goshen Town

Clerk, 40 Main St., Goshen, MA 01032 or drop the paperwork described in option B in the town clerk drop box, located to the left of the door to the town offices.

A dog license form can be found by visiting the town website at www.goshen-ma.us.

WORTHINGTON

Rolland Scholarships due June 30

WORTHINGTON – The late Art and Peg Rolland established a scholarship fund to benefit citizens of Worthington seeking to further their educational goals.

The annual interest earned on the Fund is distributed each year to qualified students by a committee consisting of the Town Clerk, a member of the Select Board and a School Committee member.

The requirements for consideration are:

The applicant must have been a resident of Worthington for at least two

years prior to the date of application.

The applicant must be a high school or secondary school graduate, pursuing a course of study at an approved school or college.

The applicant must demonstrate financial need.

Applications must be postmarked no later than June 30, 2025.

All application essays must be typed in order to receive consideration.

Each scholarship awarded will be for at least \$500, but the actual amount and the number of scholarships awarded will depend

on the number of applications received and the Fund interest available. Funds will be distributed by Sept. 1 payable to the appropriate institution.

To apply, applicants must complete the form and mail to:

Rolland Scholarship Committee c/o Town Hall, P.O. If people have any questions, they may call a Scholarship Committee member -- Amy Wang, Select Board; Katrin Kaminsky, Town Clerk and Deborah Clapp, Worthington School Committee.

WESTFIELD

Westfield Athenaeum host Abbie Steiner exhibit on July 12

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Athenaeum announces the opening of the exhibit, "A Beautiful Mess: Abbie Steiner's Paintings of the Known and the Unknown."

This exhibit will remain on view in the Athenaeum's Rand Gallery until Saturday, July 12.

"We are so pleased

to have this exhibit at the Athenaeum," said Guy McLain, the Athenaeum's Executive Director. "This show not only provides us the opportunity to show some of the most original art being produced in Western Massachusetts at this time, it also allows us to address an injury that is not talked about

regularly, but can have debilitating effects on its victims."

The paintings featured in this show reflect the work that Abbie Steiner has done over the last decade after she suffered a severe concussion. The process of recovery was extremely difficult and led her in several new directions as an artist.

Steiner returns to her

paintings again and again, reworking and rethinking the composition. "I might start with a realistic landscape of the rainforest," Steiner says. "Two weeks later, my unconscious mind takes over, and I find myself adding a half-recognizable portrait of one of my children." Steiner is also interested in the forms

and shapes the human body takes in certain settings, an interest that stems from her work as a physical therapist. Her paintings are full of motion and exploration.

Steiner also explores the relationship between the observable world we encounter every day and the unknown world – just as real

- but hidden to our normal observations. Her paintings live both in an ordinary environment of fleeting impressions and in another world of the inner mind, in dreams, and in symbolism. Abbie Steiner invites you to enter the layers of her world and discover the unexpected places it might take you.

WILLIAMSBURG

Library hosts author book talk

WILLIAMSBURG – The Meekins Library, 2 Williams St., will host an author book talk with Emily Everett of Williamsburg on Saturday, June 7 at 3 p.m.

Everett recently published her debut novel, "All That Life Can Afford." A young American woman navigates class, lies and love amid London's jet-set elite. Sparkling with intelligence and insight, "All That Life Can Afford" peels back the glossy layers of class and privilege, exploring what it

means to create a new life for yourself that still honors the one you've left behind.

Emily Everett is an editor and writer from western Massachusetts. Her short fiction appears in The Kenyon Review, Electric Literature, Tin House, and Mississippi Review. She is a Massachusetts Cultural Council Fellow in Fiction.

Everett grew up on a small family dairy farm, studied English and music at Smith College and studied abroad for a year at

University College London. After graduating, she returned to London to do a Master of Arts in literature at Queen Mary University of London. She lived and worked in the UK from 2009 to 2013.

Everett has been managing editor of The Common, a literary magazine based at Amherst College, since 2016. At The Common, she edits fiction, manages print and online production and hosts the magazine's podcast.



Steve LaValley will give a talk on orchid growing, Saturday, May 31 from 1-2 p.m.

Submitted photo

Steve LaValley to speak on orchid growing

WILLIAMSBURG – Steve LaValley, an orchid aficionado, will give a talk

on orchid growing at the Meekins Library, 2 Williams St., on Saturday, May 31

from 1-2 p.m. He will answer questions and demonstrate how to repot an orchid.

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 \$275, 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.

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ASHFIELD

Hilltown Land Trusts loses TerraCorps service members

ASHFIELD – Hilltown Land Trust is a service site partner with TerraCorps, which received unexpected notification Friday, April 25, that the federal AmeriCorps agency abruptly terminated nearly \$400 million in grant program funding including funding for TerraCorps.

This sudden termination of FY24 grants will likely shutter TerraCorps and prematurely ends the service of HLT's TerraCorps member three months early. TerraCorps partners with a network of 40+ nonprofits in Massachusetts and Rhode Island focused on community needs related to local land and water conservation, sustainable farming and local food systems.

This year, 43 TerraCorps members are serving in one of five coordinator roles focused on Land Conservation, Land Stewardship, Sustainable Agriculture, Community Engagement and Youth

Education. Hilltown Land Trust, the only host site that exclusively serves the Hilltowns, hosts one Land Stewardship Coordinator.

Just hours before learning that her program had been cut, Hilltown Land Trust's TerraCorps member Mariel Hohmann was busy welcoming 35 hikers to brand-new trails at Clary Hill in Goshen, where she had coordinated 700 hours of volunteer trail work on the property. The DOGE slashes stunned Hohmann, who was planning to spend the last three months of her second service term at HLT checking up on the land trust's 5,000 acres of conserved land.

"At Hilltown Land Trust, our TerraCorps service members aren't just the icing on the cake - they are the cake," said HLT Executive Director Sally Loomis. "As an accredited land trust, HLT is required to visit each of our 50 conserved lands at least once a year to ensure all is

well. Our TerraCorps Land Steward coordinates that monitoring program, which taps the assistance of many volunteers."

HLT is committed to supporting the work of land conservation despite these short-sighted federal actions. The land trust will find private funding to pay Hohmann's stipend for the next three months, allowing her to complete the remainder of her work through July. It is an unexpected draw on the organization's operating budget during already uncertain economic times. TerraCorps is also fundraising to cover this financial gap.

For Hilltown Land Trust, the challenge will come in the fall, when a new crop of TerraCorps service members were supposed to start. "The TerraCorps program provided more than 70% of funding for the 11-month service member position at an organization the size of Hilltown Land Trust. Without the federal support,

that program will likely cease to exist and HLT will need to raise significant funds to continue our land stewardship and volunteer engagement work," said Loomis. "We hope that ongoing lawsuits will successfully reinstate AmeriCorps programs across the country, but the forests, trails and wildlife in our care can't wait that long."

During the 12 years that Hilltown Land Trust hosted AmeriCorps members through the TerraCorps program, a total of 18 individuals served with the organization. Most of Hilltown's TerraCorps alumni are still connected to HLT as staff, board members, partners or volunteers.

In addition to gaining career-building experience in the land trust realm, these service members greatly increased HLT's capacity to advance its mission to conserve and steward land for the benefit of all. As the organization has grown its staff

to five permanent positions, the TerraCorps program has served as a valuable pipeline of experienced practitioners.

"TerraCorps was my foot in the land conservation door," said Community Engagement Manager Sarah Welch, who stepped into a permanent role at Hilltown Land Trust after her second TerraCorps term ended in 2023. "I didn't just find a professional field, I tapped into a community of people in the Hilltowns who care about what makes this place special. Without TerraCorps, we're losing people who have helped make the Hilltowns a better place to live."

Service members are paired with a partner site supervisor who provides them guidance and mentorship while they learn to manage community programs and projects over an 11-month, 1,700-hour service term. This year's service term was funded by Congress to run from Aug. 26, 2024, through

July 25, 2025, before those funds were abruptly terminated. Because members are in national service and are not employees, they are ineligible for unemployment.

"We will need to fill the void left by not having access to the TerraCorps program in the future," said Loomis. "We'll continue to need our community's support as we conserve and care for the broader landscape of western Massachusetts."

TerraCorps has established a TerraCorps Member Emergency Fund. Contributions to this emergency fund will initially provide financial assistance to members as they determine their next steps. Hilltown Land Trust encourages the community to consider making a donation to support the fund at terracorps.org/emergency-assistance-fund-for-terracorps-members, or directly to Hilltown Land Trust at hilltownlandtrust.org/donate.

FLORENCE

Florence Bank awards \$150,000 to local nonprofits

FLORENCE – Over 100 nonprofit leaders representing 40 organizations across the Pioneer Valley came together at Florence Bank's annual Customers' Choice Community Grants Program reception to network and accept a total of \$150,000 in awards.

The annual event took place at the Garden House in Look Park in Florence. Recipients praised Florence Bank not only for its generosity but also for providing a space to celebrate area nonprofits and their dedication to the community.

"Our Customers' Choice Community Grants program is very unique, and we are proud to give voice to our customers and their preferences on where we allocate our funds," said President and CEO Matt Garrity. "We also enjoy having the chance to connect with each of them and to hear about the important work they are doing in our midst. We know it is good work because our customers voted for them."

The grants program was founded in 2002 and, through it, Florence Bank customers are invited to vote for their favorite local nonprofit in hopes it will receive a share of grant funding.

Voting takes place all year long, online at florencebank.com/vote and in bank branches, and each customer has only one vote. To qualify for a community grant, organizations must

receive at least 50 votes. In 2024, over 7,500 votes were cast, making 40 nonprofits eligible for a grant.

Once again, Dakin Humane Society of Springfield received a \$5,000 grant, as it has for the past 13 years. The nonprofit has received a Customers' Choice grant each of the 23 years the program has been offered.

In addition to Dakin and Cancer Connection, these organizations received a \$5,000 grant: Amherst Survival Center, Food Bank of Western Massachusetts in Chicopee, Friends of Forbes Library in Northampton, Friends of Northampton Legion Baseball, Friends of the Williamsburg Library, Goshen Firefighters Association, Historic Northampton, It Takes Northampton, It Takes A Village in Huntington, Northampton Survival Center, Our Lady of the Hills Parish in Haydenville and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Florence.

Along with Stone Soup, the following organizations also received an award: Bright Spot Therapy Dogs in West Brookfield, \$4,626; Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton, \$4,552; Williamsburg Firefighters Association, \$4,478; Manna Soup Kitchen in Northampton, \$4,367; Friends of M.N. Spear Memorial Library in Shutesbury, \$4,182; Friends of Lilly Library in Florence, \$4,034; Amherst Neighbors,

\$3,737; BARC, Inc. in Belchertown, \$3,552; Ludlow Boys & Girls Club, \$3,515; Kestrel Land Trust in Amherst, \$3,293; Smith Vocational High School PTO in Northampton, \$3,293; Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School in Hadley, \$3,071; Easthampton Community Center, \$3,034; Northampton Neighbors, \$3,997; Thomas J O'Connor Adoption Center in Springfield, \$2,849; Hospice of the Fisher Home in Amherst, \$2,812; Northampton Community Music Center, \$2,812; Northampton Youth Football, \$2,812; Edward Hopkins Educational Foundation in Hatfield, \$2,701; New Hingham Regional Elementary School PTO in Chesterfield, \$2,701; Grow Food Northampton, Inc. in Florence, \$2,516; Therapeutic Equestrian Center in Holyoke, \$2,368; Shriners Hospital for Children in Springfield, \$2,331; Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter School in South Hadley, \$2,257; Safe Passage in Northampton, \$1,998 and Northampton High School PTO, \$1,850.

Florence Bank has branches in Amherst, Belchertown, Chicopee, Easthampton, Granby, Hadley, Northampton, Williamsburg, West Springfield, Springfield and it is headquartered in Florence.

EASTHAMPTON

bankESB announces three employee promotions

EASTHAMPTON – bankESB announces the promotion of three outstanding employees.

Darci Furr of Westfield was recently promoted to assistant vice president, branch officer at bankESB's 85 Broad St., Westfield office. Furr has 27 years of banking experience and joined bankESB in 1997 as a teller. Throughout her tenure she has held the role of teller supervisor, assistant branch manager, and most recently branch officer in Westfield. In her new role, Furr earned an associate degree from Springfield Technical Community College. She currently volunteers at the Westfield Soup Kitchen and is a member of the Kiwanis club of Westfield.

Betsy Schabacker of Southampton was recently promoted to assistant vice president, branch officer at bankESB's 134 College

Hwy., Southampton office. Schabacker has 21 years of banking experience and joined bankESB in 2004 as a teller. Throughout her time at the bank, she also held the role of senior teller, assistant branch manager, and most recently, branch officer in Southampton. In this expanded role, she will have enhanced leadership responsibilities and will continue to deliver exceptional service to customers while playing a more active role in business development, community engagement, and cross-departmental collaboration. Schabacker earned a bachelor's degree in art from Westfield State College. She is currently treasurer on the board of directors for Riverside Industries in Easthampton and is also a member of their development committee.

Robyn Michaud of Indian Orchard was recent-

ly promoted to branch manager at bankESB's 241 Northampton St., Easthampton office. Michaud joined bankESB in 2018 as a teller. She has also worked as a personal banker, teller supervisor, and most recently senior assistant branch manager at the bank's 605 Granby St., South Hadley office. In this new leadership role, she will have the opportunity to drive branch performance, ensure compliance with regulatory standards, and lead business development efforts to grow the bank's presence in the Easthampton community. Michaud earned a certificate in branch management from the Massachusetts Bankers Association. She currently volunteers for Westfield on Weekends, Junior Achievement and Veterans in the Park and enjoys attending local chamber events.

CHESTERFIELD

Chesterfield Congregational Church holds breakfast June 8

CHESTERFIELD – Celebrate Father's Day early at the best breakfast in the Hilltowns at Chesterfield Congregational Church on Sunday, June 8 from 8-10 a.m.

The cost is a voluntary

donation. The menu features pancakes with or without blueberries, French toast, with pure Chesterfield maple syrup, free range, organic, farm-fresh eggs any style including eggs Benedict,

breakfast sandwiches, sausage, home fries and excellent homemade corned beef hash, juice, tea and coffee. In addition, the special item for this breakfast will be homemade lemon bread.

WESTHAMPTON

Westhampton Library announces upcoming June programs

WESTHAMPTON – The Westhampton Library, 1 North Road, is open Monday and Thursday from 2-8 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

The library will be closed Thursday, June 19, Juneteenth. People may visit the town website or Facebook or Instagram @ WesthamptonPublicLibrary for library updates. To place a request for curbside pickup, people may email westhampton@cwmar.org or call 413-527-5386.

Recurring programs

(holidays may impact schedule) include computer classes with Bob Miller Monday, June 9 from 10 a.m.-noon; knitting group Mondays at 6 p.m.; yoga Mondays at 6 p.m.; Scrabble group Tuesdays at 2 p.m. and book group fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Yoga is drop-in, first-come/first-served and registration is not required. Please check Facebook and the town calendar for updates on yoga at the library. Book group will not meet on June 24, but will meet on July 1 at 7 p.m. joined by local debut author Emily Everett to discuss her

book "All That Life Can Afford." All are welcome to attend.

Walk-in Wellness Clinics with Westhampton's Public Health Nurse are first and third Wednesdays from 10-11:30 a.m. Coffee and Chat meets Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-noon and Tech Connect drop in tech help is Thursday, June 26 from 2-4 p.m.

CFCE Playgroup meets Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Playgroup Picnic with Music by Caylin is Saturday, June 7 from 10:30 a.m.-noon.

On Thursday, June 5 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. there

will be pride: cupcakes, crafts and community. June is LGBTQIA+ Pride Month. This family-friendly event celebrates queer community. They'll be decorating cupcakes (think rainbow sprinkles), making buttons and participating in a large-scale community coloring project. Allies are welcome.

June/July Artists Hampshire County Food Council opening reception is Monday, June 9 from 5-7 p.m.

People will explore the community food story archive, a collection of food stories. Share conversations

with neighbors and envision a better future. Refreshments will be served and the exhibit will be on view in June and July during library hours.

Hilltown Permaculture Club meets Thursday, June 26 from 7-8 p.m. People should check the library calendar on the town website for an announcement about our June topic of discussion.

Lounging for Literacy II, the world's largest gathering of people reading in lawn chairs returns to Westhampton Public Library. On Saturday, June 28 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. join friend on the library lawn. Participants

should bring a lawn chair, book and picnic. They may pick up pledge forms in person at the library or download on the library page of the town website.

Lounging for Literacy was a fundraising event held in 2007 to raise funds for our "new" library. Lounging for Literacy II will also be a fundraiser for the Friends of Westhampton Library, to continue to support the wonderful community library. The event will include book signings, fun children's activities, a library-themed sing-along and more.

PITTSFIELD

Berkshire Art Assoc. celebrates 75 years

PITTSFIELD – The Berkshire Art Association is celebrating 75 years, as a visual arts organization in Berkshire, on Friday, May 23 from 5-7 p.m.

Artists, supporters, dignitaries and former and present board members will gather at Hotel on North, 297 North St., to toast, enjoy, and reflect on all that the BAA has given to the community, and how much we have grown by our association with Berkshire Art Association.

This event is part of ArtsWeek Berkshires, an

annual celebration of local creativity, sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

ArtWeek Berkshires features events throughout the county and promises a captivating experience for art enthusiasts and community members of all ages. Many events are hands-on or offer behind-the-scenes access. ArtWeek Berkshires, May 16-26 calendar of events is available on Berkshires.org at https://berkshires.org/events/list/?tribe_eventcategory%5B0%5D=1589.

BEAT offers Kids in Kayaks program

PITTSFIELD – Berkshire Environmental Action Team will host its annual free “Kids in Kayaks” program at the Westside Legends Summer Block Party on Saturday, May 24 from 1:30-3:30 p.m., at Riverway Park in Pittsfield.

Youth will have the opportunity to experience the Housatonic River hands-on, learn how to navigate it safely in a kayak and discover the local flora and fauna found in and along the River. They will also gain insights into

important environmental topics such as stormwater runoff and the water cycle. In addition to BEAT’s programming, the summer Block Party offers games, vendors, music, and more.

Kids in Kayaks is sponsored and organized by Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Pittsfield. For more information regarding BEAT and this program, people may email Chelsey Simmons at chelsey@thebeatnews.org or call 413-464-9402.

Artswalk to be held June 6

PITTSFIELD – The First Fridays Artswalk in downtown Pittsfield continues its five-month season (May through September) on Friday, June 6 from 5-8 pm as part of the city of Pittsfield’s First Fridays at Five.

Participating venues on Friday, June 6 include Berkshire Art Center, Berkshire Theatre Group, Clock Tower Artists, Dottie’s Coffee Lounge, Framework by Downtown Pittsfield, Inc., Hotel on North, Lichtenstein Center for the Arts, Living in Recovery, Marketplace Cafe, Methuselah Bar & Lounge, Ralph Froio Senior Center, Roots and Dreams and Mustard Seeds, Soda Chef and TKG Real Estate.

People may download the Downtown Pittsfield App in the App Store or on Google Play to follow a virtual walking tour of art on their cell phone.

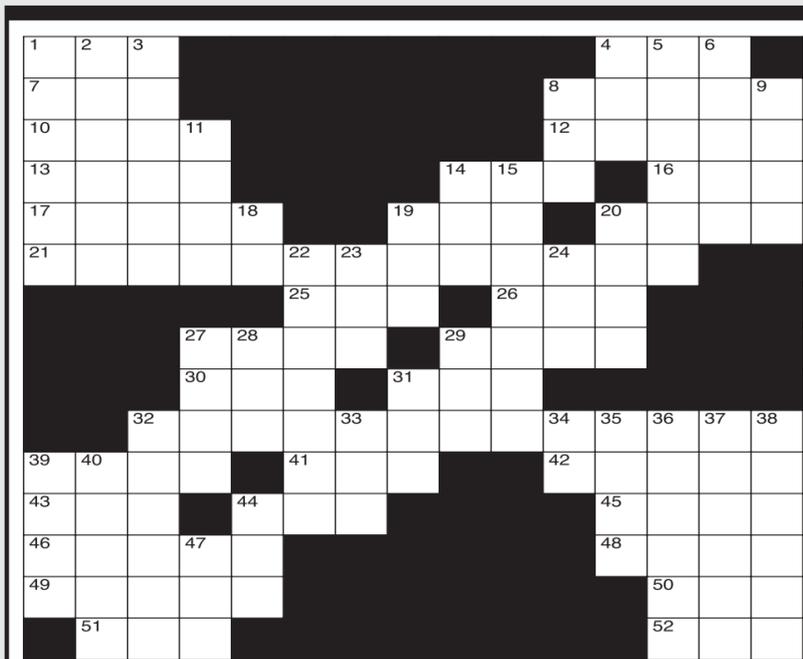
Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. and First Fridays

Artswalk will feature a different “Art in the Park” artist each month of the First Fridays at Five Season. On June 6 from 5-8 p.m, Isabel Rosenthal will be popped up in Palace Park (near 122 North St.), inviting the community to watch her paint and alter recycled clothing. She will be discussing her process with all who are interested.

Isabel Rosenthal is 14 years old and grew up in Williamstown and Adams, Massachusetts. Isabel specializes in painting clothing and has a strong interest in fashion. She is inspired by women artists, such as Jenny Saville and Barbara Kruger, who incorporate feminism and female empowerment into their art. Isabel finds that painting, especially on unconventional surfaces, heightens her perspective and makes the world more interesting. “Art in the Park” is supported by the Feigenbaum Foundation.

Submissions are always welcome.

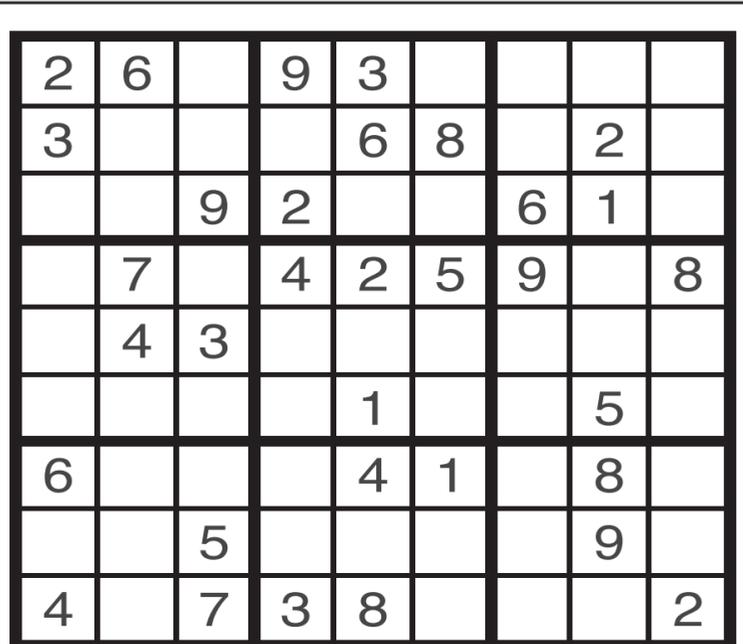
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- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
 - 4. British thermal unit
 - 7. Afflict
 - 8. Refrain from harming
 - 10. Galls
 - 12. Leg bone
 - 13. Rhine distributary
 - 14. Recipe measurement
 - 16. Chap
 - 17. Useful book
 - 19. Mountain Time
 - 20. Snakelike fishes
 - 21. Places where people live
 - 25. US, Latin America, Canada belong to
 - 26. Periodical
 - 27. A type of sense
 - 29. A way to get possession of
 - 30. Everyone has one
 - 31. Body art
 - 32. Mr. October
 - 39. Abba __, Israeli politician
 - 41. Head movement
 - 42. Jeweled headdress
 - 43. VCR button
 - 44. A way to change color
 - 45. Basketball move
 - 46. Upright stone slab
 - 48. Forest-dwelling monkey
 - 49. Pulsate steadily
 - 50. Negative
 - 51. Sino-Soviet bloc (abbr.)
 - 52. Unit of work
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Island
 - 2. Pittsburgh ballplayer
 - 3. Chemical compound
 - 4. Indicates density of data (abbr.)
 - 5. Mesas
 - 6. Wild, long-legged sheep
 - 8. Engine additive
 - 9. “CSI” actor George
 - 11. Stony waste matter
 - 14. Thyroid-stimulating hormone
 - 15. Pores in a leaf’s epidermis
 - 18. Digraph
 - 19. Married woman
 - 20. Peripheral
 - 22. Northern Italy city
 - 23. Klutz
 - 24. Type of tree
 - 27. Witnessed
 - 28. Popular breakfast food
 - 29. __ Mahal
 - 31. BoSox legend Williams
 - 32. Professional drivers
 - 33. Atom or molecule type
 - 34. The Constitution State
 - 35. Chest to store clothes (Scottish)
 - 36. Type of solution
 - 37. Speaker
 - 38. Specifying
 - 39. Formerly (archaic)
 - 40. Wiseman and Krom are two
 - 44. The bill in a restaurant
 - 47. Tennis shot

THIS WEEK’S HOROSCOPES

- ARIES**
Mar 21/Apr 20
Telling the truth has always come naturally to you. But tact isn’t always your specialty and sometimes your candor is now well-received. Keep that in mind.
- CANCER**
Jun 22/Jul 22
It is fair to say this week that you desire some time alone and maybe need it as well, Cancer. Take some time for yourself and let others know you’re going off the grid.
- LIBRA**
Sept 23/Oct 23
Your negotiation skills are well-known, Libra, and you’re usually the first person anyone thinks of when they need a third party to help them smooth over a situation. Enjoy the attention.
- CAPRICORN**
Dec 22/Jan 20
Expect to experience a strong feeling of wanderlust this week, Capricorn. You may find it challenging to pass up a trip or a new experience of any kind.
- AQUARIUS**
Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, right now the old adage that if you ignore it, it will go away might not hold true. Failing to face something right now may not be the best approach.
- PISCES**
Feb 19/Mar 20
You are ready to share secrets with a soulmate, Pisces. The challenge lies in trying to find the time when you are alone to have this important conversation.
- TAURUS**
Apr 21/May 21
It is time to make peace with someone even if it is the last thing you want to do this week, Taurus. There is no better option than to talk it out, so schedule that chat as soon as possible.
- LEO**
Jul 23/Aug 23
Although your first inclination might be to get into a war of words with someone with whom you disagree, this week you might want to try a different approach. Remain open to others’ views.
- SCORPIO**
Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, even if someone is pushing your buttons this week, you won’t let that get in the way of doing something for this person because they are dear to you.
- SAGITTARIUS**
Nov 23/Dec 21
You are no stranger to good luck, Sagittarius. This week that luck will be shared with people who cross your path. They will appreciate the fortune.
- GEMINI**
May 22/Jun 21
Sometimes there is nothing you like more than being silly with other kindred spirits who get you, Gemini. But you’re in a different mood this week and it might feel unfamiliar to you.
- VIRGO**
Aug 24/Sept 22
You might be tired of recent drama in your life, Virgo. But if you dig deeper, you might find that you have contributed to the noise. Make some meaningful changes this week.



SUDOKU

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

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answers

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For more information and to apply, contact Fr. Stephen Shanahan at (774) 315-3107 or by email: brstephenofstjoe@yahoo.com. holyroodguild.com

The Town of Huntington is seeking a **FULL-TIME HIGHWAY TRUCK DRIVER/EQUIPMENT OPERATOR/LABORER.**

Applicants must possess at least a Massachusetts Class D driver's license. Class A or B CDL with Air Brake Endorsement is preferred. Must possess or be able to obtain 2B or higher & 4G Hoisting Engineer's licenses within 6 months of hire. \$22.00 to \$28.79 per hour based on qualifications. Application and complete job description are available online at www.huntingtonma.us or by emailing admin@huntingtonma.us. Position is open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

HELP WANTED

The Town of Huntington is seeking a **PART-TIME ASSISTANT TAX COLLECTOR.**
18 hours per week to be worked Monday through Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. \$20.00 to \$22.00 per hour based on experience. Application and complete job description are available online at www.huntingtonma.us or by emailing admin@huntingtonma.us. Position is open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

YARD AND BARN HELP. 14-years or older working with Morgan horses, grooming and helping with showing (I need some good help). 508-867-7855.

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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

FOR RENT

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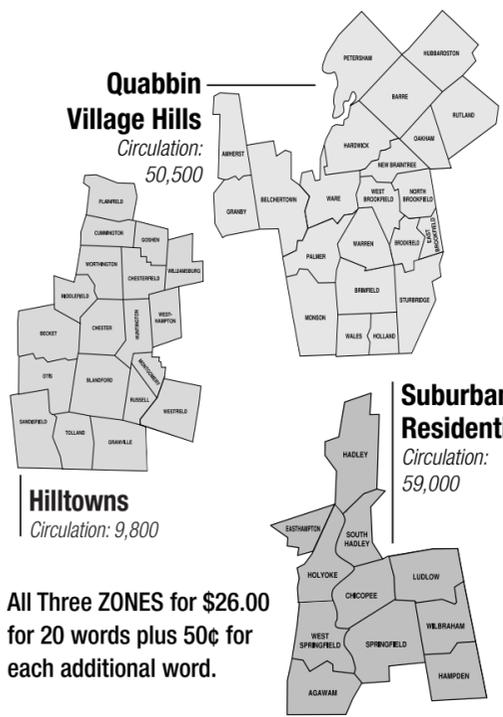
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SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Samir Ghalayini graduates from SUNY Potsdam

POTSDAM, NY – Samir Ghalayini of Westfield graduated cum laude from SUNY Potsdam with a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Performance.

The State University of New York at Potsdam held their Commencement 2025 on Saturday, May 17. During Commencement, SUNY Potsdam honored students, who have either

earned their degree or are eligible to graduate during that calendar year. To learn more about Commencement at SUNY Potsdam, people may visit www.potsdam.edu/commencement.

SNHU announces Dean's list

MANCHESTER, NH – Southern New Hampshire University congratulates the following students on being named to the Spring 2025 Dean's list.

Leet of Williamsburg, Michael Egan of Westfield and Cody Leveille of Easthampton,

Full-time undergraduate students, who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to

3.699 for the reporting term, are named to the Dean's list. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring and summer.

SNHU announces President's list

MANCHESTER, NH – Southern New Hampshire University announce the Spring 2025 President's list.

of Westfield, Brandon Provo of Westfield, Amber Grimaldi of Westfield, Alexandra Ferrante of Easthampton and Dominick Nomakeo of Easthampton. Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point

average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

RIDA

from page 1

What she did with that opportunity is a much bigger deal.

As a freshman, all Rida did was score 11 goals plus 7 assists and lead the Gateway Team to the Western Mass tournament. This was at a time when the Gateway Girls played up to Division 2 and faced such powerhouses as Lee, Chicopee, Southwick, etc.

The drama of that Freshman Western Mass. tournament is an epic story in itself.

After beating Lee High School and then St. Mary's, the Gateway Team faced their biggest challenge in the Finals of the Tournament, a powerful Hampshire Regional team.

Well, according to Coach Estelle, his regular goalie got injured leaving the coach with limited options for this critical final game with Hampshire.

What he did is now legendary and will be forever remembered in the history books. He put rRda in goal. And, he also played her in her regular striker position. After the first half with Rida at Forward, Coach Estelle put her in Goal for the second half to protect the 0-0 tie he found himself in.

She did protect the lead, amazingly. And then,

when the title came down to a Shootout, Jess scored the only goal and then raced back to her own Goal to shut out her opponent's attempts, to win Western Mass 1-0 over a powerhouse and stunned Hampshire team.

Now, Jess Rida waved this off in our interview as no biggie, as is her way. It was and remains a huge deal to this day. She would never say this out loud, but I will. She won the final game of the Western Mass. Tournament on both sides of the field.

For the next four years, Jess Rida led Gateway to straight Western Massachusetts titles and left the following performance forever on the record books:

Freshman Year 11 Goals and 7 Assists

Sophomore Year 18 Goals and 9 Assists

Junior Year 13 Goals and 22 Assists

Senior Year 19 Goals and 5 Assists

A total of 104 Points is record for the ages.

Oh and by the way, Rida was an accomplished basketball player threatening the 1,000 point threshold. And a great softball player and it was actually softball that helped her secure scholarships at Southern New Hampshire University,

where she studied to be a teacher.

But it was soccer that makes Jess a Legend of Gateway Sports. And what a career it was.

Coach Estelle shared an anecdote that really tells the story about who Rida is as a person. Apparently, Jess once scored a Hat Trick or three goals, in a single game; a huge deal for a defensively minded Gateway program. Well, after the Hat Trick, she approached Coach and ask if it were okay if she assisted on the third goal if that ever were to happen again. She was uncomfortable with the attention and wanted the other players to score. That sums up Rida. A humble Star wanting the limelight shared with her Team and Mates.

She has gone on to a great teaching career and currently teaches second grade in Easthampton. She resides back in her hometown of Worthington with her young family of which she is most proud. The biggest smiles of the interview were Jess sharing family photos of her greatest joy and accomplishments.

But, for all us Gators, we remember Jess Rida as one of our greatest athletes ad a legend of Gateway sports.

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SANDISFIELD

CENTER

from page 1

The renovations to the historic building, including climate-friendly HVAC, an upgraded electrical system, gallery improvements and the framework for a kitchen and storage shed, were possible thanks to grants from the Homestead Foundation, the Wyomissing Foundation, the Feigenbaum Foundation, the 1772 Foundation, as well as the Estate of Leslie and Johanna Garfield mentioned above, along with generous individual donors. The project has been guided by two local master architects and one project manager, all working pro bono.

The Sandisfield Arts Center, located at 5 Hammertown Rd. in Sandisfield, MA, is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with the mission to preserve our historic building and provide cultural and educational programs for our community.

The Sandisfield Arts Center is managed by a volunteer board of directors, assisted by additional volunteers and generous donors. Programs are supported, in part, by grants from the Sandisfield Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.



This is an exterior photo of the Sandisfield Arts Center.



This is interior view of the Sandisfield Arts Center.

Submitted photos

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN OF BLANDFORD ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
The Town of Blandford will be holding its Annual Town Meeting **Monday, June 2, 2025 at 7pm**, at Blandford Town Hall 1 Russell Stage Road Blandford, MA. 05/22/2025

TOWN OF BLANDFORD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Pursuant to MGL, Ch. 40A Sec. 9 the Blandford Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing at the Blandford Town Offices, 1 Russell Stage Road, Bland-

ford, MA 01008 at **6:05pm on Wednesday, June 4, 2025**. This hearing is scheduled under the following Blandford Zoning By-Laws: Section VIII – Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations and Section IX – Site Plan Review and Special Permits. The Hearing is to consider the application for a request for a Site Plan Review and Special Permit for Peebles Brook, LLC, solar photovoltaic installation with battery energy storage system, located at 89 Chester Road (Map 108, Parcel 19.1) in Blandford, MA 01008.

The Project proposes the construction of a 4.04 mega-

watt (MW) direct current (DC) single-axis tracking solar photovoltaic (PV) installation with a battery energy storage system (BESS). The project will involve construction of a gravel access road and minor grading for stormwater management features on 32.6 acres, that is currently zoned as Agricultural.

The completed application and plans are available for public inspection at the Town Offices or on the Town of Blandford's website: townofblandford.com.

You may also make an appointment to view a hard copy of these forms at the Town Hall by e-mailing the Planning Board

Chair at planning@townofblandford.com.

Any person interested or wishing to be heard should join the virtual meeting as outlined above or e-mail the chair at: planning@townofblandford.com. Please submit comments, in writing, to the Blandford Planning Board at 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA 01008. Failure to make recommendations on the matter for review shall be deemed lack of opposition thereto.

Paul Martin, Chair
Blandford Planning Board
05/15, 05/22/2025

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- 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.

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