

"The further a society drifts from the truth, the more it will hate those that speak it." George Orwell

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

Gateway plans longer school days

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

Gateway Regional School District Superintendent Kristen Smidy announces longer school days in the 2024-2025 school year, which begins Thursday, Aug. 29.

The elementary daily

schedule will be from 8:35 a.m.-3:35 p.m., which is an additional 30 minutes of instructional time in the day. It marks that day starting 20 minutes earlier and ending 10 minutes later than the current school day of 8:55 a.m.-3:25 p.m.. Dismissal times on half-days for elementary students will be at 12:05 p.m.

Middle and High Schools will begin at 7:20 a.m. and end at 2:20 p.m., which will add 20 minutes to the school day. Half-day dismissal for these schools will be at 10:50 a.m.

In her notice to families, Smidy wrote, "These times were determined with the successful adoption of a new

teacher contract, which was agreed upon by the teachers' union and the school committee with town select board representation. Bus times and routes will be shared over the summer. However, I wanted to share this information with you for planning purposes,

GATEWAY, page 6

BLANDFORD

Historical Society showcases WW II flight officer

Although the drizzle was light in the morning, the fog was thick as the proverbial "pea soup" giving the hilltop the feel of a Brigadoon setting.

Visibility was not great. The Recreation Committee had postponed the annual Memorial Day town-wide picnic as of Saturday because the forecast was so bleak.

The robo call announcing the cancellation of all events went to residents at 10:56 Monday morning.

The Historical Society was open early, well before the call went out, in preparation for the day's events.

The society had a featured display about Blandford's James Leonard Cook who served in the Army Air Force FLT 01 Glider Group at Biak Island, New Guinea, today Indonesia.

According to research completed by his great niece Melissa Ackley Hamm, the "22-year-old Flight Officer Cook was preparing for "Mission Appari," which took place on Luzon on June 23, 1945 when he lost his life."

According to Hamm, his body was returned to Blandford in the spring of 1948 for burial in the Hill Cemetery.

Plans are being considered to conduct the traditional Memorial Day observations prior to the picnic.



The Blandford Historical Society on Monday Memorial Day was ready. The American flag was at half staff until noon, as required.

This portrait of Army Air Force FLT 01 Glider Group James Cook is on display at the Blandford Historical Society.

Historical Society President Chips Norcross stands by the featured display of Army Air Force member James Cook.

Turley photos by Mary Kronholm

HUNTINGTON



Storyteller and musician Davis Bates will present "Imagine That" at the Huntington Public Library on Saturday, June 15 at 11 a.m. All are welcome. Submitted photo

Davis Bates presents 'Imagine That'

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

Library Director Amanda Loiselle announces upcoming events at the Huntington Public Library, 7 East Main St. for June.

June kicks off with a book sale at the library on Saturday, June 1 starting at 10 a.m. Sponsored by the Friends group, the annual book sale takes place inside the library. Books

IMAGINE, page 2

HUNTINGTON

Terry a La Berry presents concert

New families welcome for ParentChild+

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

Terry a La Berry will present a free concert to families with young children on Friday, June 7 at 10 a.m. at Stanton Hall, 26

Russell Road.

While open to all, the concert is also a celebration of the children and families who have completed the first full year of the ParentChild+ program, sponsored by Hilltown Community Health Center. There will be special toys

CONCERT, page 6

BLANDFORD

Board airs water main break issues

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

The Select Board met Thursday evening at 6 p.m. to review and sign the warrant for the June 3 Annual Town Meeting in order to have the meeting posted by May 24.

The board then discussed with both the Water Department and Fire Chief

concerns revolving around the water break discovered on Mass Turnpike property the weekend of May 11 and 12.

Board Chair Cara Letendre said at the beginning of the discussion that there would be discussion of Emergency Management, Highway Department payroll

BOARD, page 15

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

The Select Board has been working on making appointments at both May 13 and 20 Select Board meetings.

Every week through June the board will have multiple appointments to make to various town boards, committees and commissions. The following appointments were made May 13 made: Nathan Kowalczyk, Assistant Electrical Inspector for the term May

APPOINTMENTS, page 2



PAGE 8

Becket.....5	Classifieds.....14, 15	Northampton.....11	Public Notices.....15
Blandford.....7, 8	Goshen.....11	Obituaries.....12	Schools & Youth.....9, 10
Business Directory.....3	Hilltowns.....2, 3	Opinion.....4	Westhampton.....7
Chester.....5	Huntington.....16	Otis.....16	Williamsburg.....7
Chesterfield.....8	Lenox.....6	Pittsfield.....6	Worthington.....7



HILLTOWNS

Hilltown Hikers head to Mount Greylock May 31

The Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers will hike the Magic Triangle on Friday, May 31 at 10 a.m.

They will park at Jones Nose parking area on Rockwell Road in New Ashford, 4.0 miles north of the Mount Greylock Visitor Center. Drive Rockwell Road from the Visitors Center (30 Rockwell Road, Lanesborough, MA 01237) continue for four miles, and you will see the Jones Nose Parking area on your right. Hike rating is strenuous; the first mile is the Jones Nose climb 4.3 mile loop

Department of Conservation and Recreation Interpretive Guide Mike Whalen and the Western Mass Hilltown Hikers will explore the lofty Nose of Mount Greylock along the Magic Triangle. This classic 4.5-mile, 3-trail loop starts at the Jones Nose parking area, follows the steep 1.0-mile Jones Nose Trail to the Appalachian Trail on the crest of Saddleball Mountain, continues east on the A.T. and wraps up the triangle along Old Adams Road.

Stops include stunning vistas and the rustic Mark Noepfel Campsite Shelter. Hike is strenuous with an initial elevation gain of 800 vertical feet and includes rugged trail conditions. Leave-No-Trace trail steward-

ship ethics and historical commentary on the Appalachian Trail will be offered. Suitable for ages 12 and older. Participants should wear sturdy waterproof shoes and dress for the weather. They should bring a lunch, water and trekking poles.

They should register per car load by visiting <https://westernmasshilltownhikers.ticketleap.com>. Maps and bottled water are provided. Well behaved dogs allowed on leash. Event is volunteer lead. More details are on www.hilltownhikers.com. People may email westernmasshilltownhikers@aol.com or call/text 413-302-0312 if you have any questions.

Become a Hilltown Hiker Member people may visit www.hilltownhikers.com and support this non-profit.

For more hike information email: westernmasshilltownhikers@aol.com or call/text 413-302-0312. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Meetup, YouTube, TikTok, Pinterest, Threads and Twitter (X). Tees, hoodies, hats, patches and photos will be for sale at the event. Our free catalog of printed hiking maps will be there too. See all our events, maps, blog and photos at www.hilltownhikers.com Please keep our beautiful places clean and carry in and carry out.

Clark Art Institute opens Guillaume Lethière exhibit

WILLIAMSTOWN – On Friday, June 14 from 7:30-9 pm, the Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., celebrates the opening of Guillaume Lethière with a free community-wide celebration, offering guests an opportunity to preview its newest exhibition.

On Saturday, June 15, at 11 a.m. in the auditorium, exhibition co-curators Esther Bell, deputy director and Robert and Martha Berman Lipp Chief Curator, and Olivier Meslay, Hardyman Director, introduce Guillaume Lethière and provide an inside look at the development of this ambitious exhibition.

People are invited to join in a community-wide celebration, enjoy light refreshments, and be among the first to view the Clark's major summer exhibit-

ation, Guillaume Lethière. Through more than 100 paintings, drawings, and sculpture, the Clark tells the remarkable story of Guillaume Lethière's rise to the heights of the art world and of the remarkable role the gifted artist and teacher played in French history.

The events are free. Advance registration required by emailing clarkart.edu/events or calling 413 458 0524. Guillaume Lethière is made possible by Denise Littlefield Sobel and the Mellon Foundation. Major funding is provided by Ford Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy Demands Wisdom; with additional support from Charles Butt, the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, the Robert Lehman Foundation and the Terra Foundation for American Art.

WRWA to host canoe and kayak cruise June 8

WESTFIELD – On Saturday, June 8, the Westfield River Watershed Association will sponsor a scenic six-mile paddle from the Great River Bridge in Westfield to Robinson State Park in Agawam.

For those used to seeing the river only in glimpses from the road, the family-friendly canoe and kayak cruise offers a new, close-up view of the waterway. "We're excited to be back on the water this year for our Canoe and Kayak Cruise after needing to cancel last year due to river conditions. This is a fun section of river to paddle for anyone who enjoys being on the water and it is ideal for beginners looking to develop their skills," says Mark Damon, WRWA Board president.

For those who wished they could participate in the Wildwater Races sponsored by the WRWA in March, Damon suggested, "For anyone interested in building up to the Wildwater Races this is a chance to expand your knowledge and experience. There will be some experienced paddlers participating in the Cruise and they will likely be glad to share their knowledge of the river and paddling in general."

Participants need to bring their own canoe or kayak, paddles and personal safety devices, as well as sunscreen and drinking water. Organizers recommend that participants have some experience

paddling, given that river conditions may be unpredictable. Children under 18 must be supervised by a parent or guardian. Children under 14 must paddle in the same boat as an adult. Other suggestions for what to bring include a picnic for a late lunch once they reach Robinson State Park and snacks for munching along the way.

A participation fee of \$15 per person will help cover shuttle service, insurance and light refreshments. Registration begins at 9 a.m. in the municipal parking lot off Meadow Street near the Great River Bridge in Westfield. Participants will register, unload boats and gear, drive their vehicles to Robinson State Park and return by shuttle to the launch area. Staggered Cruise departures will begin around 10:30 a.m.

Low or high water conditions or severe weather may require cancellation of the event. If people plan to participate and would like to receive a cancellation notice by email the evening before the event, they should email markjdamon@gmail.com and put the word "Notify" in the Subject line. WRWA will also post the cancellation on its facebook page and website, www.westfieldriver.org the evening before. For more information about the Canoe and Kayak Cruise, people may visit www.westfieldriver.org.

Clark Art Institute presents classical concert

WILLIAMSTOWN – On Wednesday, June 26 at 6 p.m., the Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., presents a free classical concert on the career and repertoire of the famous eighteenth-century soprano Minette by musicians of Opera Lafayette and soprano Arian Wehr.

Presented in conjunction with the exhibition Guillaume Lethière, the free concert takes place on the Clark's reflecting pool lawn. One of the great stars of theatrical life in colonial Saint-Domingue in the 1780s, the soprano Minette was unlike almost all the actors and actresses of that time in that she was a woman of African descent. The title of Marie Chauvet's novel about Minette,

Dancing on a Volcano, aptly suggests the tensions swirling around this contemporary of artist Guillaume Lethière and composer Joseph Bologne, the Chevalier de Saint-George.

Brazilian-American soprano Ariana Wehr joins musicians of Opera Lafayette to present music from the operas of Gluck, Philidor, Grétry, and others (which Minette performed in the years leading up to the Haitian Revolution), as well as music from the Chevalier de Saint-George. For accessibility concerns, people may call 413 458 0524. They may bring a picnic and folding chairs. Rain moves the event to the auditorium, located in the Manton Research Center.

APPOINTMENTS

from page 1

13 through June 30, 2025; Jennifer Girard as Risk Management officer for the term May 13 through June 30, 2025; John Carrington as representative for the town on the Hilltown Community Ambulance Association for the term July 1 to June 30, 2025; Dick Gates to Conservation Commission for the term July 1 through June 30, 2027.

Other appointments were Douglas Emo as Watson Park Groundskeeper for the term July 1 to June 30, 2025; Joseph Henning as Veteran's Agent for the term July 1, to June 20, 2025; Margit Mikuski as Registrar of Voters for the term July 1 to June 30, 2027; Justin LaFrance to the Recreation Committee for the term July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028; Jennifer Dubiel as Animal Control Officer for the term July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025; Jason Fogue as Building Inspector for the term July 1 to June 30, 2025.

They also appointed John Piper to the Conservation Commission for the term July 1 to June 30, 2027; and

Joann Martin to Council on Aging for the term July 1 to June 30, 2027.

The following appointments were made May 20: Ryan Stafford to the Historical Commission for the term July 1 through June 30, 2027; Nicolas Pietroniro as Conservation Agent for the term July 1 through June 30, 2025; Margit Mikuski as American Disabilities Act Commission member for the term July 1 through June 20, 2025; Gordon Avery as Water Department Superintendent for the term July 1 through June 30, 2025.

Other appointment made on May 20 were Cara Letendre as FRTA Advisory Board for the term July 1 through June 30, 2025; John VanHeynigen as Electrical Inspector for the term July 1 through June 30, 2025; Nathan Kowalczyk as Assistant Electrical Inspector for the term July 1 through June 30, 2025; Eric Kinshurf, CPA as Town Accountant for the term July 1 through June 30, 2025.

Kim Bergland was appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals for the term July 1 through June 30, 2026.

IMAGINE

from page 1

will sell for \$1 each or bring a bag and fill it for \$5. There are boxes of books in many genres including adult fiction, non-fiction, youth and children's books so stop by and stock up.

Weekly activities continue with drop-in painting on Wednesdays at 5 p.m., with materials provided. Story Hours take place on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. in the library. All are welcome to attend.

A very special program on Saturday, June 15 will be "Imagine That" with Davis Bates. People are invited to bring their children or grandchildren to the library on Saturday, June 15 at 11 a.m. for a fun-filled morning of music and stories that celebrate literacy and inspire creativity. Pete Seeger once called Bates, "thoughtful, creative, human, and a fantastic storyteller." Bates hails from Shelburne and conducts programs for young people throughout the region that emphasize empowerment, spirit, history and the environment.

The Huntington Public Library

joins libraries across Massachusetts in organizing a summer reading program for community youth. By reading throughout the summer, children not only continue to learn, imagine and grow, they avoid the "summer slide." Children who do not keep reading when school is out have a tendency to lose some of the reading progress they gained during the previous school year.

Huntington will take part in the iRead Summer 2024 program, whose theme this year is "Read, Renew, Repeat." They may stop by the library to sign in for the summer reading program, where children will log the books they are reading and take part in special activities.

The Book Club has opted to go on hiatus for the summer months and will resume regular meetings this fall. As always, Library Director Loiselle invites suggestions for future reads or for special events and activities at the library. People may email the staff at library@huntingtonma.us, stop in the library or call 413-512-5206.

HILLTOWNS

MassDOT list I-90 road repairs

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces crews will be conducting daytime and overnight hour guardrail repair, drainage work, pavement marking, and bridge repair operations at various locations and times on I-90 eastbound and westbound during the week of Tuesday, May 28.

Lane closures will be in place during the construction operations and traffic will be able to travel through the work zones. In Otis and Blandford guardrail and drainage work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound between mile marker 21.0 to 26.2 from now through Thursday, May 30 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, May 31 by 5 a.m.

In Otis bridge repair operations will be conducted nightly on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 22.5, from now, through Thursday, May 30 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, May 31 by 5 a.m.

In Stockbridge and West Stockbridge guardrail and bridge repair work will be conducted nightly on I-90 eastbound and westbound from mile marker 4.5 to 7.0, from now through Thursday, May 30 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude by 5:00 a.m. on Friday, May 31.

In Stockbridge ridge repair operations will be conducted daily on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 7.5, from now through Thursday, May 30 from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. each day.

In West Stockbridge ridge repair operations will be conducted daily on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile

marker 0.6, from now through Thursday, May 30 from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. each day.

Bridge repair operations will be conducted nightly on I-90 eastbound from mile marker 2.0 to 3.0, on now from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the next morning. Bridge repair operations will be conducted on I-90 westbound from mile marker 2.0 to 3.0, on Thursday, May 30 from 7:00 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the next morning.

In Lee pavement marking operations will be conducted nightly on I-90 eastbound and westbound from mile marker 7.5 to 15.0, now through Thursday, May 30 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, May 31 by 5 a.m.

Appropriate signage, law enforcement details, and messaging 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 with-out 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.

Friends group hosts line dance fundraiser June 21

WESTFIELD – The Friends of the Westfield Athenaeum will host a Line Dance Fundraiser with Stompin’ Boots on Friday, June 21, at St. John’s Lutheran Church, 60 Broad St., doors open at 5:30 p.m. and dancing starts at 6 p.m.

This will be a fun night of dancing while supporting a great cause. All levels from absolute beginner to experienced dancers are welcome.

There will be lessons from Stompin’ Boots throughout the evening, along with social dancing time.

People may visit their at website (www.friendsofwestath.org/) line-dancing for details and to purchase tickets online. Tickets may be purchased in advance for \$25 or at the door for \$30. Spaces are limited, so people should buy their tickets early.

DCR announces restricted access to Mount Greylock

Beginning on Tuesday, May 28, and continuing through Friday, June 14, 2024 excluding weekends, the Department of Conservation and Recreation will restrict access to Sperry Road and close the parking area on

Rockwell Road at Mount Greylock State Reservation in the towns of New Ashford and Williamstown to accommodate hazard tree removal work. Sperry Road is expected to reopen for weekend hikers.

Asparagus Festival set for June 1

HADLEY – The 10th Annual New England Public Media Asparagus Festival takes place Saturday, June 1 from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. on Hadley Town Common, Route 9.

Known as “the asparagus capital of the world,” western Massachusetts is still home to hundreds of working farms, and many locally-owned restaurants and breweries. Now in its tenth year, the NEPM Asparagus Festival returns to the Hadley Town Common on Saturday, June 1 to celebrate the area’s local businesses and organizations and spotlight our agricultural heritage.

The event brings over 7,500 people to the Hadley Town Common to enjoy the best of western Massachusetts flavors, agriculture, music and, of course, Hadley grass. The festival is free and open to all with a suggested donation of \$5 per person or \$20 per family at the gates.

This year the Farmers and Makers Market will be open for the full day 10 a.m.-7 p.m. so attendees can have more opportunities to explore and connect with more than 100 local vendors and

artisans featuring crafts, cultural items, nonprofit initiatives, agricultural products, and more. In addition, the festival will offer a wide selection of food trucks serving up delicious food from asparagus fries to asparagus flavored ice cream.

Musical guests taking the Fabulous 413 Stage throughout the day include singer-songwriter duo Lexi Weege & JJ Slater, world music ensemble TapRoots, New Orleans native Glen David Andrews and young Berkshire-based blues favorite The Diego Mongue Band.. Plus, there’s no shortage of children’s fun, including a chance to meet PBS Kids characters Curious George and Malik from “Work It Out Wombats” and a live science quiz from the Tumble Podcast. Families can find out how fast they can pick asparagus with the Asparagus Valley Pick game or join Wild Garden of Childhood Nursery for arts and crafts.

For all event details and activities, people may visit nepm.org/asparagus, NEPM Facebook, or NEPM Instagram.

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OPINION



I'm working after age 65; Why aren't I exempt from Medicare Part B Premium?

Dear Rusty:

Why, as I continue to work after age 65 and have FICA taxes taken from my check, am I or anyone also compelled under the threat of penalties, rate increases, etc. to immediately take Medicare Part B?

Am I not then effectively paying into the system twice? As more and more people over 65 continue to work, isn't that a consideration that should be evaluated by Congress, if one is working past 65, above a specific level of income and paying FICA taxes, the Medicare Part B premium is waived?

Signed: Working Senior

Dear Working Senior:

FYI, 6.2% of the FICA payroll taxes you pay while working goes to Social Security and another 1.45% goes to fund Medicare Part A (hospitalization coverage, which is free to you). None of the FICA payroll tax you pay from your work earnings goes to fund Medicare Part B, coverage for outpatient services, which is the part of Medicare for which you must pay a premium.

Said another way, your FICA payroll taxes do fund Medicare Part A, which is free to you, but do not provide any funding for Medicare Part B. Part B is funded from two primary sources: the premiums paid by beneficiaries and the federal government from the general Treasury. Premiums from enrollees pay for about 25% of Part B healthcare expenses and the remaining 75% of Part B operating expenses are paid from the general U.S. Treasury, not from Social Security money.

So, it's necessary to separate Part B from your thinking about the payroll taxes you pay while working you're not paying anything to fund Part B through your FICA taxes. You aren't compelled to enroll in Part B (it's optional), but if you don't enroll during your initial enrollment period (3 months on either side of the month you turn 65) and don't have other equivalent "creditable" coverage from an employer, and you enroll in Part B later, a late enrollment penalty will apply (10% additional premium for each full year after age 65 you go without creditable healthcare coverage).

So, your premise in suggesting that Part B be free (the premium waived) if you're working over a certain age or after an amount of time contributing to the program isn't valid, because no one contributes to Medicare Part

SOCIAL SECURITY, page 5

Corrections policy

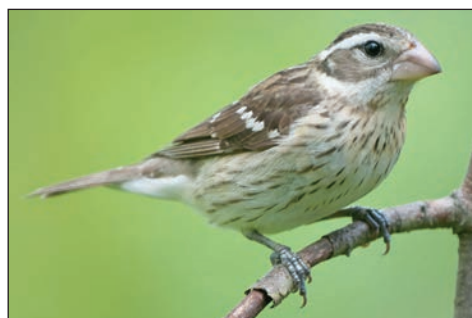
If you notice a factual error in our pages, please let us know, so that we can set the record straight. Email information to countryjournal@turley.com, or call us at 413-283-8393.

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



By Ellenor Downer

I received an email from a Brimfield couple, who spotted a male and female rose-breasted grosbeak a their feeder. They also had an indigo bunting and reported their hummingbirds were back.



Female rose-breasted grosbeak

The female rose-breasted grosbeak like many female bird species lacks the brilliant colors of the male. The female has a white eyebrow, brown in color with heavy streaking and two white wing bars. She shows yellow "armpits" in flight.

The male has a black head and back with a red triangle on its white breast. In flight it shows white patches and rose-red "armpits." Grosbeaks are eight inches long. Their song is a rapid series of whistles often called a "robin in a hurry." Their call is a distinct squeak like a "sneaker on a gym floor."

The female lays three to six pale blue eggs with irregular brown spots in a nest of coarse and fine twigs lined with horsehair, rootlets and grasses placed in the branch of a tree 5 to 25 feet above the ground.

Belchertown birds

A Belchertown resident sent this email, "We saw our first Northern oriole this year on Thursday, May 9. He was scolding my husband as he changed the bird bath water. We usually have a pair nesting in the shagbark hickory in front of our house. Hopefully, they will do so again this year."

She also said she had not seen any

chickadees and usually has many in her yard. She wonders why. She also has red-wings, goldfinches, house finches, mockingbirds, cat birds, robins, bluebirds, swallows and house wrens.

Birds at Warren ponds

A Brimfield resident often reports on the birds he sees. He visited a pond on South Street in Warren on May 9 and saw an osprey and six great blue heron. There were two new nests at the pond making a total of four nest there. Other birds were a red-tailed hawk, turkey vulture, two mourning doves, one crow, three three swallows, one barn swallow, six common grackles and six red-winged blackbirds.

On the same day, he visited a pond on New Reed Street in Warren and saw two spotted sandpipers, two double-crested cormorants, two turkey vultures, three Eastern kingbirds, five tree swallows, four red-winged blackbirds, six common grackles and on yellow warbler.

He said, "This week in the yard we have 4 catbirds, and a pair has started a nest in the quince bush near the house. I've see two female ruby-throated hummingbirds and one male. A male was seen April 29t a little earlier that usual."

More birds

The same Brimfield resident saw two female Baltimore orioles and one male at the orange and jelly feeder. A common yellowthroat and an American redstart, both males, were in the yard recently as was a house wren. The wrens have nested in nesting boxes the last several years. He also said a Cooper's hawk has been patrolling the area the past week or so, but hasn't seen any piles of feather.

Another visit to Warren ponds

At the South Street pond in Warren, he said, "The ospreys are continuing to tend their nest and there are now four for sure, maybe five great blue heron nests. One of the heron nests has three chicks as of a few days ago."

On New Reed Street in Warren, there were two double-crested cormorants for about a week until yesterday and I saw a blue-headed vireo there.

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.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the news-

paper 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.

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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Election letters to the editor welcome

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 Monday to be considered for that

Friday'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.

CHESTER

Chester Hill Association announces Citizen of the Year: Littleville Fair

CHESTER – The Chester Hill Association has been fortunate to co-sponsor several events these past few years with Littleville Fair.

They are proud to present this year's Citizen of the Year Award to the Littleville Fair. It is hats off to the Littleville Fair Directors and Staff: President Moe Boisseau Sr.; Vice President Mike Carpenter; Treasurer Jim Burke; Assistant Treasurer Irv Williams; Secretary Corky Carpenter; Assistant Secretary Betsy LaPointe; Grounds Moe Boisseau, Jr; Directors Sonny Lafond, Bob Henrichon, Nancy Boisseau, Ted LaPointe and Mike LaFleur and Auditors John Steins, Ted Boisseau.

Although many fairs are having challenges in maintaining interest and attendance in fairs, something remarkable is happening at the Littleville Fairgrounds. In the last few years new energy and enthusiasm has emerged. The dining hall has had a facelift: new foundation, new flooring, new doors and windows and new siding. An office has been added to the second floor of the Exhibit Hall. A new post and beam Craft Barn has been built.

The Concession Stand has been completely remodeled. The area around

the Concession Stand has been black topped. People will be amazed to see the new Bath House that has been constructed in the past few months.

The current directors and staff of the Littleville Fair have "moved mountains." The mountain behind the Craft Barn has been blasted and bulldozed and boulders have been moved and crushed to make way for future parking and perhaps camping.



Littleville Fair Directors and staff accept the Citizen of the Year award from the Chester Hill Association. *Submitted photos*

Hamilton Memorial Library lists event

CHESTER – The Hamilton Memorial Library hours of operation are Tuesdays 1-6 p.m. and the second, third and fourth Wednesday from 4-6 p.m. in the Council on Aging room at the Town Hall on the bottom level and Thursdays from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Chester Railway Station & Museum.

The library thanks the Massachusetts Cultural Council for sponsoring the following three special events, which will be located off site. On Thursday, June 6 at 11 a.m. there will be a special train themed music and movement event with Laurel Lenski at the Chester Train Station and Museum located at 10 Prospect St. located during the regular scheduled story time. This event will provide children the opportunity to learn through play.

On Thursday, June 13 from 6-8 p.m. participants will create a deck of cards, one card at a time using images from magazines for personal empowerment and healing at Blue Skye Wellness 26B Main St. in Chester for ages 16 and up. There is limited seating and people must must RSVP by emailing chesterlibrary@gmail.com.

Introduction to Aromatherapy with Certified Aromatherapist Kay Judge will take place Thursday, June 27 from

6-8 p.m. Participants will learn how the use of essential oils can help support one's emotional, spiritual, mental and physical well-being as well as their safe usage. Participants will make their own personal inhaler to take home. People must RSVP by emailing chesterlibrary@gmail.com; seating is limited.

On going events are story and fun time every Thursday at 11 a.m. through June at the Chester Railway Station and Museum. located at 10 Prospect Street. They will be reading stories and taking part in group craft or play activities. (perfect for toddlers and preschoolers.)

Cookbook Club will hold a potluck gathering from on Tuesday, June 11 from 4-6 p.m. in the Council on Aging room in the town hall. They will be sharing recipes this month from the book, "Baking Yesteryear: the best recipes from the 1900s to the 1980s" by B. Dylan Hollis. People should stop in for a copy of the book or to print off a recipe to create and share.

Writers Club meets twice a month on the second and fourth Wednesdays, June 12 and 25 at 4:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Book Club meets Wednesday, June 19 at 4:30pm. They will be discussing: "Verity" by Colleen Hoover. Extra copies are available for a limited time.

BECKET

Becket Arts Center hosts open reception

BECKET – The Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, will host a free opening reception for the exhibition "Wood Art" on Friday, May 31 from 5-7 p.m.

Featured artists include Paul Chojnowski, Sam Craig, Bryan Powers

and Lou Wallach.

This juried show, which is supported by a Massachusetts Cultural Council grant, will be on display through Sunday, June 23. For more information, people may visit www.becketartscenter.org.

Douglas Williams presents 'Another Show' on June 1

BECKET – The Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, presents Douglas Williams in "Another Show" on Sunday, June 1 from 7-9 p.m.

This is a sequel to "The Show," his outrageous one-man variety show, which was created exclusively for the Becket Arts Center last year. The multi-talented Williams will showcase his panoply of hilarious oddball characters, his musical skills, and his delight for the absurd. The suggested \$20 donation can be paid online by credit card or at the door in cash. For more information and reservations, people may visit www.becketartscenter.org.



Douglas Williams

Alice Nash to speak on indigenous history

MONTEREY – Bidwell House Museum, 100 Art School Road, will hold a summer history in person talk on Saturday, June 8 at 11 a.m. entitled "Unlearning in Order to Learn: A Conversation about Local Indigenous Histories" with Professor Alice Nash Tyringham Union Church, 128 North Main Road, Tyringham.

The lecture will also be held via Zoom. Cost for members is \$15 and non-members, \$25 or the in person lecture and members free and non-members \$15 for the Zoom lecture.

Most people have information in their heads about Indigenous peoples, learned in school or from popular culture. Much of this information is wrong or based on biased assumptions. This lecture with discussion will present the concept of unlearning what they already "know" as the starting point for learning about Indigenous people

Alice Nash is Associate Professor of History at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She holds a PhD in History from Columbia University (1997) and an MA in American and New England Studies from Boston University (1989).

All Zoom participants will receive a link to access the lecture 1-2 days in advance. Tickets for Zoom attendance must be purchased in advance, but in-person tickets can be purchased at the door. Attendees can register by visiting <https://www.bidwellhouse-museum.org/event/unlearning-in-order-to-learn-a-conversation-about-indigenous-histories/>.

This program is supported in part by grants from the Otis and Sheffield Cultural Councils, local agencies which are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

The Bidwell House Museum is open for guided tours from Memorial Day to October. Tours are by appointment only on Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 11 a.m., 1p.m. or 3 p.m. Tours can be booked by calling 413-528-6888 or emailing bidwellhm2@gmail.com. The Museum grounds-194 acres of woods, fields, historic stonewalls, self-guided trails and picnic sites-are open every day, dawn until dusk, free of charge. The program of events can be found on the museum's website by visiting www.bidwellhouse-museum.org.

SOCIAL SECURITY

from page 4

B through FICA payroll taxes. Part B beneficiary contributions are only made through premiums paid by those enrolled in it. And you don't need to enroll in Part B if you have "creditable" healthcare coverage from an employer. The Part B non-enrollment penalty only applies if you enroll after your initial enrollment period has expired and didn't have "creditable" healthcare coverage after you turned 65. "Creditable" is a group plan with more than 20 participants.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affil-

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

LENOX

Non-profits to convene June 14

LENOX --Berkshire nonprofits desire more shared services as a matter of practicality.

Whether to save money, find new resources, or build capacity, nonprofits want cost efficiencies so they can spend more on their missions. The Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires and Rep. William "Smitty" Pignatelli will host a convening on the topic of sharing resources at Lenox Town Hall auditorium on Friday, June 14 from 10 a.m.-noon.

Nonprofit leaders are invited to

advance the conversation about the opportunities and challenges in realizing a structure for sharing services in Berkshire County. NPC Executive Director Liana Toscanini will share recent survey results and research before the audience breaks out into smaller groups to discuss infrastructure models and steps to achieving a pilot program before year-end. The convening will be facilitated by Jim Ayres of Strategies for Collaborative Impact and Justice.

Non profits may register for this free event at npcberkshires.org.

PITTSFIELD

Berkshire Green Drinks features Daniel Hansche, wildlife tracker

PITTSFIELD – Daniel Hansche, founder of Spur Wander and an evaluator with Tracker Certification, will present at the June Berkshire Green Drinks on Wednesday, June 12.

This free hybrid event will take place in person at Dorothy's Estaminet (Dottie's Coffee), 438 North St. and online via Zoom. The in-person social gathering will begin around 5:15 p.m.; the presentation and Zoom meeting will start at 6 p.m..

Wildlife tracking contributed significantly to the awareness of the species cohabitating in the Berkshires alongside the human population. Especially valuable to the conservation and management of the more nocturnal and crepuscular mammals, tracking allows people to identify or verify those species present on the landscape when they would otherwise be imperceptible. Behaviors and habits that would be virtually impossible to see become part of

everyday awareness.

People may learn more and RSVP by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/June2024-Berks-Green-Drinks>. Berkshire Green Drinks, formerly Pittsfield Green Drinks, is an informal gathering on the second Wednesday of the month that is free and open to everyone with any environmental interest. A guest speaker talks about an environmentally related topic for approximately 30 minutes beginning at 6 p.m.; the presentation is followed by a discussion and question and answer.

The drinks aren't green but the conversations are. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join and bring along questions. Berkshire Green Drinks is sponsored and organized by the Berkshire Environmental Action Team. For more information regarding Berkshire Green Drinks, people may email Chelsey Simmons at chelsey@thebeatnews.org or call 413-464-9402.

GATEWAY

from page 1

as we understand that family scheduling can be complicated."

Superintendent Smidy further explained that the building principals are "looking to add more engaging learning activities aligned to the standards during some of the extended learning time. Currently, the state-approved curriculum that Gateway is implementing requires specific lengths of time for English Language Arts and mathematics at the elementary level, which does not leave a lot of time for other opportunities in science, social studies and cross-curricular programs." Smidy said that the principals will share more specifics as the schedule is formalized this summer.

Massachusetts requires elementary schools to have a total of 900 hours of instructional time, which does not include passing/transition time between subjects, recess or lunch. It requires 990 hours for secondary students and a total of 180 school days. While it hasn't yet passed, the legislature has proposed legislation around a specified length of time required for recess at the elementary level, which does not count toward the required 900 hours.

To make this work, teachers received a 3.5% salary increase for next year, which reflects 3% for a cost of living adjustment and the 5% to support the longer school day. "Given that the contractual teacher salaries are on the lower side compared to other contracts in the area, I am grateful that this increase was approved," Smidy said.

Smidy reports that the district is working on a vision around how to

strengthen instructional practices, which will be tied to, and supported by, a professional development calendar. This academic vision will include more choice and movement in lessons, especially at the elementary level but also impacting the middle and high school level.

Gateway has a grant from the Barr Foundation that involved a number of surveys and focus groups from students, staff and parents last year. While the longer day isn't directly connected to that work, the surveys did reveal that students wanted more time with friends as well as a need for hands-on learning opportunities, two trends that the longer school day will support.

"Even before the Barr survey, there was a call for a longer lunch period at the high school and more time for students at the elementary level to have 'out of their seat' time with active learning activities and play, so I am expecting that this additional 20 minutes (high school) or 30 minutes (elementary) in the school day will allow for this," Smidy said.

Smidy reported that surrounding school districts have days ranging from six to seven hours for students and the length of preparation time for teachers ranges from 120 minutes to 300 minutes. Gateway's contract includes 300 minutes of preparation for teachers. "The longer school day protects the teacher prep time while also supporting instructional time for students and thus, better and stronger academic outcomes," Superintendent Smidy said.

EASTHAMPTON

Easthampton Theater presents 'The Man Who Came to Dinner'

EASTHAMPTON – The Easthampton Theater Company announces its upcoming production of "The Man Who Came to Dinner" on Thursday, June 20; Friday, June 21 and Saturday, June 22 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, June 23 at 2 p.m. at Williston Theater, 18 Payson Avenue.

Reserved tickets are available for purchase by visiting easthamptontheater.com. Walk-in tickets are sold at the door subject to availability.

It is a classic comedy by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman, directed by Eva Husson-Stockhamer and produced by Michael O. Budnick. Set in small-town America during the late 1930s, "The Man Who Came to Dinner" follows the uproarious misad-

ventures that unfold when the irascible and opinionated radio personality, Sheridan Whiteside, slips on a patch of ice outside a prominent family's home, and is forced to convalesce in their household.

Featuring a talented ensemble cast and expansive staging at Williston Theater, Easthampton Theater Company's production of The Man Who Came to Dinner promises to deliver an evening of laughter, insight, and entertainment for audiences of all ages. Easthampton Theater Company is a production group created by Easthampton and nearby residents to bring quality theater productions and related cultural/educational programming to the city. I

CONCERT

from page 1

and surprises for families at this fun event.

Terry a La Berry has been singing and writing fun and happy music for children for over 40 years and has performed for children and families throughout Western Massachusetts, but also at the White House, the Museum of Natural History, the Today Show and as part of several PBS Specials. He not only performed with Arlo Guthrie over many years, he has also performed with Carly Simon, Bonnie Raitt, David Bronberg, Willie Nelson and at both the New Orleans Jazz Festival and at Carnegie Hall.

ParentChild+ is actively looking for new families. This home-based program supports parents of toddlers in their work as their children's first, best teachers. They presently work with 16 families of children aged 16 to 48 months, who live in the Gateway hilltowns of Blandford, Chester, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Russell and Worthington.

Families meet twice a week with a trained Early Learning Specialist, who brings a brand-new book or toy and guides the parent in activities that promote literacy, social emotional growth and school readiness. For more information about this program, people may call Chris Bresnahan at 413-303-6071 or by emailing cbresnahan@hchcweb.org.

ParentChild+ is a national program that works with 142 partner agencies across 15 states and in six countries throughout the world-including Ireland,

Canada and the United Kingdom. Locally, ParentChild+ is run out of the Hilltown Family Center, located at 9 Russell Road in Huntington, which houses many of HCHC's community programs and services.

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.

In addition to ParentChild+, the Hilltown Family Center's many free programs include weekly play to learn groups, the ASQ developmental screening program, Hilltown Holiday Help, Parent Powered learning messages, Rise and Read Book bag program, StoryWalk program, parent education, as well as services and referrals through Hilltown Community Health Center. For more information, people may visit their Facebook page at Hilltown Family Center, or the Parent & Family Supports section of the HCHC website at hchcweb.org.

This program is made possible through the Hilltown Family Center and the Hilltown Community Health Center through a Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant through the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

News, photo publication policy

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

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

Deadline is Monday at NOON, on holidays it is Friday at 2 p.m.



BLANDFORD

Blandford to hold Annual Town Meeting June 3, election June 8

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – The Annual Town Meeting will be Monday, June 3 at 7 p.m. at Town Hall. There are 19 articles on the warrant. Four articles ask to move \$100,000 from Free Cash to the following stabilization funds: general purpose, building project, library building and education.

An additional \$25,000 is requested to be transferred from Municipal Light Plant Broadband Retained Earnings to

the Municipal Light Plant stabilization fund.

Voters will decide whether or not to transfer \$50,000 from Free Cash for the “purpose of undertaking town building condition assessments,” according to Select Board Chair Cara Letendre, an assessment firm has not been determined.

The Water Department asks that the town vote to transfer \$30,000 from retained earnings to their stabilization account.

The big-ticket items on the warrant are for the Gateway Regional School

District assessment at just over \$1.5 million, \$275,000 for vocational education and \$31,787 for vocational education transportation. The total town operating expenses amounts to \$2,485,471 for voter approval.

The Annual Town Election is the following Saturday, June 8 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. There is one contest on the ballot for Tree Warden, incumbent Mark Boomsma will go up against Gordon Avery IV for the position. All other offices are uncontested.

On the ballot will be Assessor, Paul

Martin; Board of Health, Bret Hartley; Cemetery

Commissioner, Stephen Jemiolo; Library Trustee, Mary Kronholm; Moderator, David Hopson;

Municipal Light Board, Kim Bergland; Planning Board, Edna Wilander and Paul Martin; School

Committee, Keri Morawiec; Select Board, Theodore Cousineau and Water Commissioner, Brad

Curry All positions are for three-year terms except both Planning Board positions are for five-year terms.

WORTHINGTON

Bike rodeo happens June 1

WORTHINGTON – R.H. Conwell Elementary School and partners are holding a Bike Rodeo on Saturday June 1 from 9:30 a.m.-noon.

School age children preschool to sixth grade are welcome with their bikes and helmets for a morning of fun and games centered around the school parking lot and fields. Children must be accompanied by an adult. To register a child, people should visit the Bike Rodeo link on the Worthington town website, at worthington-ma.us then press Bike Rodeo link.

The R.H. Conwell Wellness Committee has partnered with Safe Routes to School, Hampshire Regional Mountain Biking Club, Northampton Cycling Club and the Worthington Parks and Recreation Committee to offer this fun event to the community.

They will have games, a skills course, safety information, bike and helmet decorating, snack and more. People

may drop by at anytime. Students preschool through sixth grade are welcome, and must be accompanied by a responsible adult. The organizers kindly ask that middle and high school-aged siblings do not attend or come as peer support.

The games and skills courses will be targeted for the elementary school level to foster a love for being physically active on a bicycle while also promoting road safety and etiquette. Students must have a helmet to participate and bring their bicycle to ride.

If the student does not have a bicycle or a helmet and their family is unable to provide one for them, they may email Nurse Steph (sfaas@hr-k12.org). Organizers are also accepting any donations of outgrown bicycles in good working condition or helmets that are not expired. People who have a donation should also email Nurse Steph at sfaas@hr-k12.org.

WESTHAMPTON

Westhampton Public Library lists June programs

WESTHAMPTON – The Westhampton Public Library will be closed Wednesday, June 19.

Library hours are Monday and Thursdays 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.

People may check the town website or Facebook or Instagram @ WesthamptonPublicLibrary for library updates.

Council on Aging Computer Class with Bob Miller are held the second and fourth Mondays from 10 a.m.-noon. The last class before break for the summer is Monday, June 10. Walk-in Wellness Clinics with the Westhampton's Public Health Nurse are the first and third Wednesdays from 10-11:30 a.m.

Coffee and Chat meets Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-noon.

On Saturday, June 8 from 10:30 a.m.-noon their will be a special art playgroup.; Rain date is Saturday, June 15. Every rising kindergartener leaves with a book. Snacks will be provided. Children should bring their own water bottles. Registration is required. by emailing Jessica at jloud@collaborative.org.

Summer Reading is almost here. This year's theme is “Read, Renew, Repeat” and will focus on conservation and the environment. Participants will compete in a land animals vs. sea animals reading challenge. Summer reading kickoff is Saturday, June 29 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, June 25 at 7 p.m., the

book group will will celebrate Pride month by reading “Welcome to St. Hell: My Trans Teen Adventure” by Lewis Hancox, a young adult graphic novel. Both teens and adults are welcome to attend. Copies will be available to pick up at the library.

Slow Yoga with Teri Anderson will be held Mondays, June 3, 10 and 17 at 6 p.m. Registration for June classes opens on Saturday, June 1 at 10am. Due to space limitations, registration is required. People should call the library at 413-527-5386 or email westhampton@cwmar.org to register.

Classes will be led by Westhampton resident, Teri Anderson. Teri is a certified interdisciplinary yoga instructor and Body-Mind Centering® somatic movement educator. She has been teaching yoga and movement for 20+ years. Her approach to yoga is slow, gentle and meditative with attention to body-mind awareness, comfort, and ease of movement.

Yoga with Brian is back on Monday, June 24 at 6 p.m. Yoga instructor Brian Mulligan will be teaching on the fourth Monday of each month and Teri Anderson will continue to teach on all other Mondays. In order to be consistent with Teri's yoga classes, registration for Brian's classes are required. This gentle yoga class emphasizes breathing, balance, strength building and relaxation. Brian Mulligan is a certified yoga instructor who has taught for over three years.

WILLIAMSBURG

Meekins Library announces upcoming news and events

WILLIAMSBURG – On Wednesday, June 5 at 6:30 p.m., local author, Riche Davis, will present his final book in the trilogy of collected feature stories in the Hawks-Hayden Community Room at the Meekins Library, 2 Williams St.

“Flight of Fancy, Souls of Grace” includes tales of extraordinary lives from around the region; they are stories, which are compelling and local. On Saturday, June 8 at 10 a.m. Jan Lamberg, children's emotional health advocate, of the Support Network fund-

ed by the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health will lead participants in a morning of bilingual fun.

This event will include Spanish-immersive conversation via song, games and a story stroll featuring the picture book “Call Me Tree” by Maya Christina Gonzalez.

From Tuesday, June 4 to Saturday, June 29 Wynne Llewellyn will exhibit art work in the Neil Hammer Gallery at the library. Llewellyn works with print-making, decorative papers, collage and assemblage.

Meekins Library hosts Wynne Llewellyn collages

WILLIAMSBURG – Wynne Llewellyn of Cummington will be showing recent art work at Meekins Library, 2 Williams St., Tuesday, June 4 through Friday, June 28.

The show includes collages and other works on paper. People may email wynnellewellyn@gmail.com for more information.



Wynne Llewellyn of Cummington will be showing recent work at the Meekins Library June 4 to June 28.

Drawing by Wynne Llewellyn

HRMC to hold shredding day

WILLIAMSBURG – Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative will hold a community paper shredding event on Saturday, June 8 from 9 a.m. -noon at the Williamsburg Town Highway Garage 24 Main St.

It is open to all and there is a five box limit for paper shredding. Suggested donation is \$5 per box.

This helps conserve the environment as 100% of all shredded docu-

ments are recycled. PROSHRED®'s mobile shredding trucks will be onsite to securely shred confidential documents. There is no need to remove paper clips, staples or hanging file folders.

HRMC was awarded a small scales grant from MassDEP. The award will be used to help offset some of the costs for this event and outreach efforts.

Grange #225 hosts free event

WILLIAMSBURG – The Williamsburg Grange #225 will host a free event on Saturday, June 1 at 7 p.m. with a talk by Paulina Borrego from the Mass Aggie Seed Library located at UMass Amherst.

People will learn about seed saving

methods, donating or using seeds from the seed library and about other gardening resources available.

People should use the side door entrance at 10 Main St. A Community potluck dinner at 6 p.m. All are welcome.

CHESTERFIELD

COUNCIL ON AGING HONORS OLDER AMERICANS MONTH



In attendance at the head table photo are from left, Lillian Bisbee Chair COA; Allan Ouimet Executive Director Highland Valley Elder Services; Roger Fuller Select board; Dr. Elizabeth Chen Secretary of Elder Affairs; Trish Colson Montgomery Select board; Betsy Connelly Executive Director MA Councils On Aging; Don Willard Select board, and Jan Gibeau Director Chesterfield COA.

Submitted photos



Allan Ouimet and Priscilla Ross RN, MA POLST Director participated in the Chesterfield Council on Aging sponsored luncheon in honor of Older Americans Month on May 23 in the Community Center.

BLANDFORD

TA Search Committee forwards candidates to Select Board

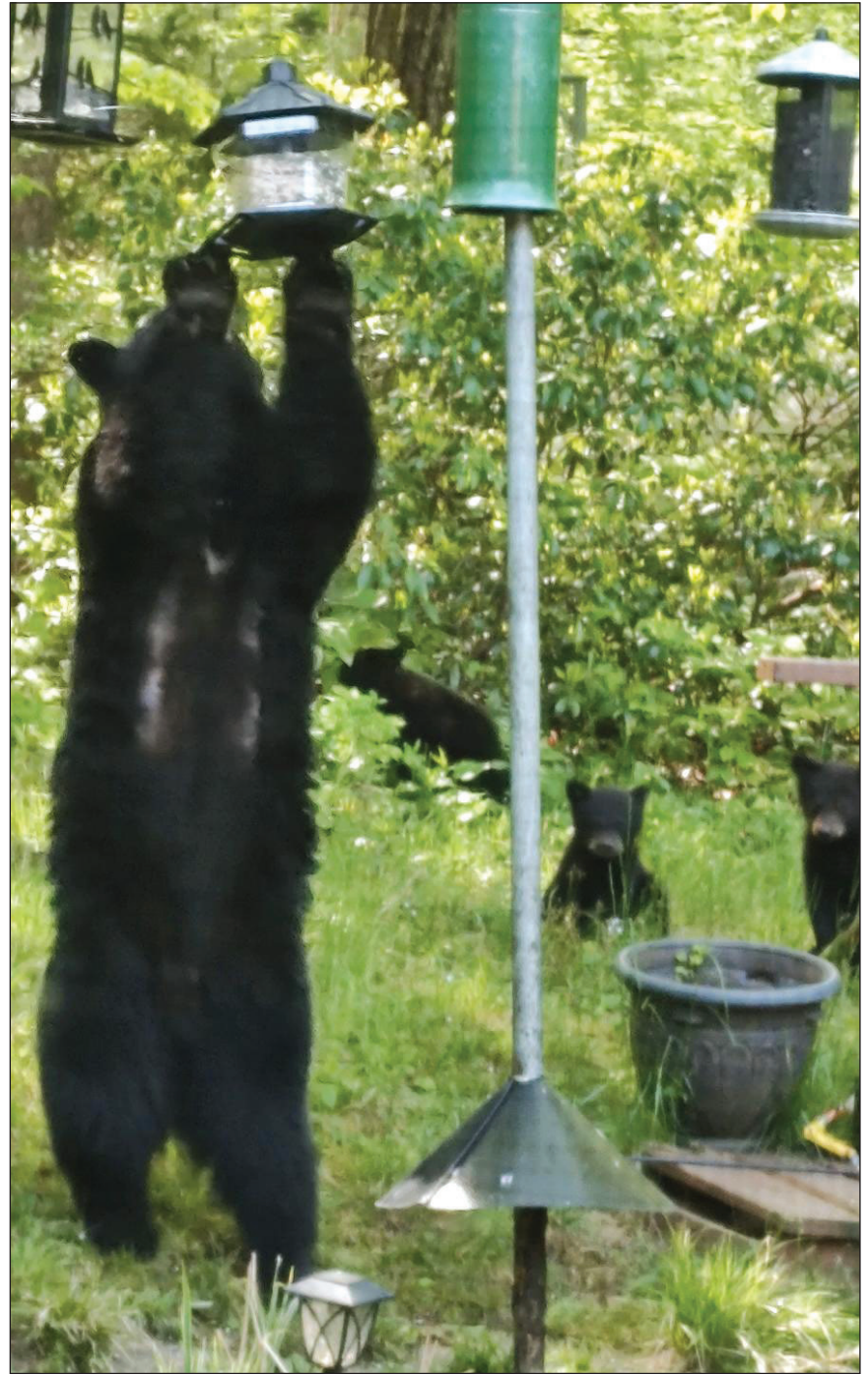
BLANDFORD – The Selection Committee for a new Town Administrator Chair, Dr. David Hopson said that the group has forwarded the names of two potential candidates to the Select Board.

The closing date for initial applications for the position is Monday, June 3

and the committee is presently reviewing additional applications that were received after the first interview round.

In addition to Dr. Hopson, members of the committee are: Jackie Coury, Nicole Daviau, Police Chief Jennifer Dubiel, Richard Hamel, Peter Langmore and Paul Martin.

HERE COMES MOMMA BEAR AND THREE BABY BEARS



Momma Bear finds feeder food for her family. Three cubs await treats in the Mikuski's yard just off Route 23 in Blandford.

Turley photo by Margit Mikuski

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GREAT ON THE GRILL	USDA INSP. STOREMADE BONELESS KOREAN BBQ MARINATED PORK BUTT STRIPS \$3.35 lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP 41/50 COUNT 2 LB BAG..... \$9.99 ea
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SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Rolland Scholarship deadline is 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.

To qualify, 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 Sunday, June 30. All appli-

cation 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 Sunday, Sept. 1, payable to the appropriate institution.

To apply, applicants must complete a form and mail to: Rolland Scholarship Committee,

c/o Town Hall, P.O. Box 247, Worthington, MA 01098-0247.

If people have any questions they may call a Scholarship Committee member: Stephen Smith, Select Board; Katrin Kaminsky, Town Clerk or Deborah Clapp, Worthington School Committee.

HCC recognizes faculty and staff awards ceremony

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College Anthropology Professor Vanessa Martínez of Holyoke is the recipient of the inaugural Dr. Christina Royal Equity and Action Award, named in honor of HCC's former president.

The college also presented the Elaine Marieb Faculty Chair for Teaching Excellence award to English Professor Fred Cooksey of Easthampton; the Idelia Smith Adjunct Faculty Award

to Jessica Strano-Rex, clinical nursing instructor from Suffield, Conn.; the Outstanding Professional Staff Award to Mayra Diaz, senior executive assistant for student and academic affairs from Springfield; the Outstanding Classified Staff Award to Derek Swist, chemistry lab technician from Granby, Mass.; and the Outstanding Part-Time Staff Award to Susan Reade, literacy specialist and ESOL instructor from Northampton.

Parker Stockseth drafter into U.S. Hockey League



Parker Stockseth of Blandford plays goalie for Seacoast Performance Academy in Exeter, New Hampshire was drafted into the United State Hockey League on Monday, May 6.

Submitted photo

BLANDFORD – The United States Hockey League drafted Parker Stockseth into the league on May 6 during the Phase 1, Round 8, Pick 115 to the Sioux City (Iowa) Musketeers.

He is a 2008 Goalie, the year designated is for birth year. Announcers for the draft said of Stockseth, "He is well coached and a very competitive player... he is always there for breakdowns and is seldom caught off guard. He is one of the best goalies of the draft." General Manager Sean Clark was interviewed during the draft and spoke highly of Stockseth and his abilities. "He's consistent and he plays very well."

Stockseth just completed a successful season with the Seacoast Spartans which included multiple tournament championships including New Jersey and Detroit, as well as the Elite 9 League Championship, the New England Regional Championship and a run at a National Championship in Fargo, North Dakota, which earned the team a place in the Elite 8.

He is a student at Seacoast Performance Academy, Exeter, New Hampshire and will return to Seacoast for his U16 season. He is the son of Jim and Kathy Stockseth and grandson of Bud and Sharon Barnard, all of Blandford.

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Groom's Name: _____

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SCHOOLS & YOUTH

HCC celebrates students for 2023-2024 achievements

HOLYOKE –Holyoke Community College iannounces the students, who earned honors and awards for their outstanding achievements during the 2023-2024 academic year.

Awardees were honored Wednesday, May 15, during a ceremony in the Leslie Phillips Theater. Some students received multiple awards

Local students receiving HCC honorees and award recipients for the 2023-2024 academic year are: Carissa Batura of Easthampton, Gabrielle Carey of Easthampton, Nelson Murphy of Easthampton, Mary Alice Jester of Easthampton (two awards), Arlana Aquilino of Florence, Geneva Mollins of Florence, Karissa Robinson of Florence, Caleb Labonet

of Huntington (three awards), Alex Casavant of Northampton, Dylan Cowart of Northampton, Effie Fields of Northampton, Barney Garcia of Northampton (two awards), Kerri Hammersley of Northampton, Gabrielle St. John of Southampton (two awards), Julie Barsalou of Southwick, Olha Borova of Westfield, Lindsey Dion of Westfield, Leah Gara of Westfield, Quinn Hamilton of Westfield, Envii Luciano of Westfield, Rhys Maryn of Westfield, Michael Navarro of Westfield and Ethan Romero of Westfield.

The full list of students along with their specific honors and awards can be found by visiting hcc.edu/awards2024.

HCC Foundation awards \$335,000 in scholarships

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Community College Foundation has awarded more than \$335,000 in scholarships to students for the 2024-2025 academic year.

This year, the HCC Foundation awarded 388 scholarships to 323 incoming, current, and transferring HCC students. Some students received multiple scholarship awards. The average scholarship award is about \$900. HCC celebrated this year's recipients at a scholarship reception on May 9.

Local students receiving scholarships were: Erin McCormick of Chesterfield, Alexandra Adams of Easthampton, Sarah Akin of Easthampton, Alex Biddulph of Easthampton (two awards), Hind Bourhim of Easthampton, Gabrielle Carey of Easthampton (two awards), Casey Clapp of Easthampton, Gabrielle D'Amour of Easthampton, Ashleigh Fox of Easthampton, Jessica Grygorcewicz of Easthampton, Renee Hill of Eastampton(two awards), Nikaia Jimenez of Easthampton(two awards), Lincoln KaneLong of Easthampton, Lisa Miwa of Easthampton, Amber Slawski of Easthampton, Oliver King of Florence, Isabella Komlev of Florence, Karissa Robinson of Florence (two awards), Bunnary Teng of Florence, Lauren Williams of Goshen, Staci Barrett of Lee (two awards), Azades Habmlin of Montgomery, Sarah Belote of Northampton, Sophie Bennett, of Northampton,

Alexandria Casavant of Northampton, Jesse Conner, of Northampton, Cheryl Freier of Northampton, Barney Garcia of Northampton, Nico Howard of Northampton, Orlando Morales of Northampton, Erika Pizha of Northampton, Hans Valdes of Northampton, Dan Winter of Northampton, Kai Ramos of Southampton, Shannyn SamJulie Barsalou of Southwick, Grace S. Hanna of Southwick, Ella Kinchak of Southwick, Alyshah Perez of Southwick, Reiley Young of Southwick, Eve Bartlett of Westfield, Raven Carrasquillo of Westfield (two awards), Paige Cortis of Westfield, Nicholas Couchon of Westfield, Diana Dovganyuk of Westfield, Angelica Gavrillov of Westfield (two awards), Christina Gelmudinov of Westfield, Wandeliz Gonzalez Marrero of Westfield (two awards), Mary Goretskiy of Westfield, Travis Guin of Westfield, Elizabeth Hancharonak of Westfield, Lindsay Hughes of Westfield, Amanda McGuire of Westfield, Kit McKenzie of Westfield, Moriah Morris of Westfield, Liana Parrilla of Westfield, Leniel Ramos of Westfield, Ethan Romero of Westfield, Nelly Salgado of Westfield, Sarah Shoemaker, of Westfield, Valentina Vines of Westfield, Jessica Liimatainen of Williamsburg, Kaylee Rooney of Williamsburg and Johnathan Santiago of Williamsburg.

Assumption University announces Dean's list

WORCESTER – Assumption University announce the university's Dean's list for the spring 2024 semester.

Local students making the spring Dean's list are Rebecca Monti of Westfield, class of 2024; Joshua Nixdorf of Westfield, class of 2024 and

Cameron Theriault of Westfield, class of 2025. Students named to the Dean's List must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on the prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters.

College of the Holy Cross lists graduates

WORCESTER – College of the Holy Cross celebrated 751 bachelor of arts degree recipients at its 178th Commencement held in person on Friday, May 24 at the DCU Center. in Worcester.

Local graduates earning degrees are Timothy Cordes of Westfield, Sophia Fiordalice of Easthampton and Colin Scanlon of Westfield Cum Laude

ASSE seeks host families

ASSE International Student Exchange Programs seeks families to host boys and girls ages 15-18 arriving in the fall to attend community high schools, as participants in U.S. Department of State cultural exchange programs.

Americans are among the most generous people in the world and a popular way of making positive impacts is to host a foreign high school exchange student. ASSE invites families to be a part of history by helping to shape the future leaders of countries such as Germany, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Morocco and many more.

These scholarship students are selected through rigorous competition, proving their drive to succeed. Trained evaluators carefully choose students based on their ability to adapt and thrive in a new culture for a year. Each year, tens of thousands of top students compete for one of approximately 2,000 spots in the CBYX, FLEX and YES programs.

Whether people are a young family, retired, a single parent or empty nesters and interested in bringing a part of the world into their home, hosting one of these youngsters is an extraordinary opportunity to learn firsthand about their countries. Simultaneously, the hosts can teach them about the United States and

their community's values.

Department of State Scholarship Students have pocket money from personal or scholarship funds and they are covered by accident and illness insurance. They also give back to their American communities through volunteering and community service.

The students are grateful to you and the USA for giving them the opportunity to live with your family and in your community for a school year. ASSE is honored to have been awarded these prestigious grants and our goal is to help each student's dream come true.

To become a host family for one of these extraordinary young scholarship recipients, people may call Amy at 800-736-1760, email host@asse.com / eca-press@stage.org or visit www.host.asse.com to begin the process of welcoming a new son or daughter into the family today.

ASSE International is a non-profit, tax-exempt, public benefit organization, ID # 95-3034133. ASSE is officially designated as an exchange visitor program by the United States Department of State, was founded by the Swedish National Department of Education, and the programs are conducted in accordance with the high standards established by the U.S. Council on Standards for International Educational Travel.

WPI announces graduates

WORCESTER – On Friday, May 10, Worcester Polytechnic Institute held its 155th Commencement.

Nearly 1,100 undergraduate degrees were awarded during the ceremony.

The following local students

received Bachelor's Degrees from WPI Benjamin Gelinias of Westfield, a computer science and interactive media and game Development technology and Caroline Major of Easthampton, a biomedical engineering and humanities and arts major.

Fitchburg State University announces graduates

FITCHBURG – Fitchburg State University announces their graduates for the spring 2024 graduation.

Local graduates are: Jordyn Taylor Gagliardi of Dalton, Bachelor of Science in criminal justice; Makayla Ryley Guertin of Easthampton, Masters in Business Administration; Lisa Cheri Quinones of Easthampton, Master of Education in curriculum and teaching; Abby E. Getman Skillicom of Florence,

Master in Business Administration; Lynne Claire Gidaracos of Great Barrington, Bachelor of Science in nursing; Ariana Marie Kimball of Southwick, Bachelor of Science in nursing; Aubrey Console of Stockbridge, Graduate Sustainability Certificate post Masters in teaching English Second Language and Emily Kathryn Gelinias of Westfield, Bachelor of Science in communications media.

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GOSHEN

Council on Aging announces upcoming news, events

GOSHEN – The Goshen Council on Aging will hold an Ice Cream social on Saturday, June 15 from noon-2 p.m. at the Tilton Town Field on Wing Hill Road.

Rain location will be the Goshen town hall. The ice cream sundae bar will have all the usual toppings and some Elvis favorites of peanut butter, bananas, and bacon because an Elvis impersonator, Ray of Elvis, will be joining the event. This is free to all ages and is sponsored in part by the Goshen Cultural Council, the Massachusetts Cultural Council and a Highland Valley Elder Services Grant. Picnic tables will be set up, but people may also bring their own chairs.

The monthly local lunch will be another outing to the fabulous Williamsburg Snack Bar on Tuesday, June 11 at 11:30 a.m. Lunch of choice is from their lunch menu with a \$15 maximum. People should call Kerry Normandin at 413-268-9354 by Tuesday, June 4 so they can let the restaurant know how many people to expect. Suggested five dollar donation is appreciated.

For the last several years, the COA had grant funding for creating, printing, and mailing the beloved COA newsletter

to residents. This funding has ended, and despite best efforts, the COA was unable to secure further money for the printing and mailing of the newsletter. The good news is that they will continue to create the monthly letter, but it will only be available online or via email starting with the August 2024 issue. People may stay connected by emailing newsletter designer, Kristen Estelle, so she can put them on the email list: regionalcoanews@gmail.com

For those who do not have access to a computer, people may call Kerry at 413-268-9354 to come up with a solution together. The COA will make a few copies available in the Library and on the COA shelf of the bookcase inside the front door of the Town Offices.

On Tuesdays, June 4 and June 18 Tilton Treks return. People will meet at Tilton Field from 9-10 a.m. and walk the back field and/or the paths that surround it, depending on participant wishes. It is such a beautiful area in Goshen; a lovely place to get some fresh air and exercise. People should bring their own water bottle. They will not meet if it is raining.

On Wednesday, June 5 Crafts Group will meet in the upstairs Dining Room or the Library at the Goshen

Town Hall from 1-3 p.m. People may bring whatever craft or needlework project they are working on. They have some very talented people in the group who are willing to answer questions and give helpful advice and tips.

On Friday, June 7 Community Connections Group meets from 10-11 a.m. on the first floor of the Town Hall. This month we will have Hunt Chase from the Hilltown Mobile Market to explain all the great benefits of this program and how people can access fresh and local fruit and vegetables. On Wednesday, June 12 Games Group will meet the second Wednesday, June 12 just for this month and a permanent change in time from 2-4 p.m. at players' request. They meet in the library or the upstairs dining room.

Joan Griswold teaches a great exercise class in person on Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. in the Goshen Town Hall. She also puts this and other classes on Zoom on the other days of the week. People may email Joan with questions and/or for the zoom links at joan@byb-health.com.

On Tuesdays, June 18 and 25 the Highland Valley Elder Services lunch is on the third and fourth Tuesdays of the month with pick up from the Goshen

Town Hall from 12:30-1 p.m. (please note change in pick up time). The meal choices on June 18 are ham and pickle salad or egg salad and on June 25 the meal choices are Shepard's pie or chicken Kiev. The meals also include milk, vegetables, and a dessert. If people have not signed up and would like to for July, they should call Kerry Normandin at 413-268-9354 to fill out a brief intake form. There is a suggested \$3 donation that is given to Highland Valley Elder Services to offset the cost of the meal.

On Wednesday, June 19 through the TechConnect Grant a skilled volunteer will help with any type of assistance people may with their phone, tablet or computer. People may call or email Kerry to sign up for a time slot between 1 and 3 p.m., but also feel free to drop by with any questions that day. They will meet in the Town Hall with back up location in back room of the Town Offices.

On Saturday, June 8 (rain date June 9) from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. there will be a Plant and Tree Walk at the D.A.R. State Forest with Naturalist and Director of the Tamarack Hollow Nature and Cultural Center in Windsor

COA, page 13

NORTHAMPTON

Freedom Credit Union host 'Month of Giving' campaigns

SPRINGFIELD– Committed to supporting local nonprofits that help its members and community, Freedom Credit Union raised \$2,925 during its "Month of Giving" campaigns during the first three months of 2024.

Funds were split between four organizations: January – Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless;

February – Foundation for TJO Animals and Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter and March –Griffin's Friends.

"All of these organizations have been included in our monthly giving campaigns for years, because they are causes that are important to our members, staff and community," said Freedom Credit Union President Glenn Welch. "They each provide essential services that make our region a better place for all." The mission of the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless is "to create lasting solutions to housing, income, health, education, and racial inequalities in all parts of the Commonwealth."

The Foundation for TJO Animals supports the Thomas J. O'Connor Adoption Center, which provides ani-

mal shelter and adoption services for the cities of Springfield, Chicopee and Holyoke.

The Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter is a volunteer-led group serving the communities of Franklin County. Its mission is to protect and improve the lives of stray, lost and unwanted dogs. Griffin's Friends is committed to helping ease the hardships of children in treatment for cancer, and the families who love and support them.

Freedom's May "Month of Giving" campaign supports A Bed for Every Child. The community is invited to stop by any Freedom branch throughout the month to support this worthy endeavor with cash donations. Over the summer, in June, July and August, Freedom will again collect funds and non-perishable food items in support of the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts.

Freedom Credit Union has conveniently located Massachusetts branches in Chicopee, Feeding Hills, Greenfield, Ludlow, Northampton, Turners Falls, West Springfield and two in Springfield, as well as a Loan Production Office in Enfield, Connecticut. For more information, visit freedom.coop.

Cooley Dickinson Hospital has new Emergency Department entrance

NORTHAMPTON– In order to begin construction in a new section of the Mass General Brigham Cooley Dickinson Hospital Emergency Department, the ED entrance moved to the northeast side of the Emergency Department.

This is a temporary entrance that will be used for the duration of the project. A new entrance will be opened once the project is completed.

To help direct patients to the temporary entrance, large signs on sandwich boards have been placed in the parking lots and arrows and lettering painted on sidewalks assist with guiding those seek-

ing care.

Cooley Dickinson Hospital is reminding the community that the Emergency Department remains fully open and operational throughout the duration of the ED construction project. Ambassadors are stationed near the ED and North entrances to help direct patients and visitors and assist when available.

The hospital's Emergency Department is currently undergoing a \$26 million upgrade that will increase its size by 40%. It is expected to be completed in the fall of 2025.

Forbes Library lists upcoming events

NORTHAMPTON – Forbes Library, 20 West St., will hold a ukulele workshop on Thursday, May 30 from 6:30-7:50 p.m. with Don Rovero.

This workshop is aimed at the player, who knows at least a few chords and has started learning songs. They will explore different strumming and finger-picking approaches, and learn about the popular chord progressions that make up many of the favorite songs.

Gentle Yoga on the Lawn will take place Saturday, June 1 from 10:15-11:15 a.m. Sanctuary yoga instructor Fran Astino offers this free gentle flow class on first Saturdays June through August. She will explore a variety of yoga postures and breathing techniques, while also having the freedom to practice in a way that feels authentic. All experience levels and bodies welcome. Space is limited. Registration and waiver is required.

The Butterfly Swing Band will perform on Saturday, June 1 from 2-4 p.m. People are invited to a 1920s-inspired concert by the Butterfly Swing Band as they commemorate the 100th anniversary of Calvin Coolidge's 1924 nomination for President. 1920s-style cocktails and Coolidge-inspired refreshments will be served. Funding is provided by Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Coolidge Museum's Rosamond Chester Fund, and Pris Pike Fund.

For the "Love of Mars: A Human History of the Red Planet" with Smithsonian Curator Matt Shindell

will be a virtual author talk on Monday, June 3 from 2-3 p.m. People

should register at the library for this virtual talk. This program is presented by the Library Speakers Consortium. Participants will make a sparkling ornamental ball. Ribbon will be provided, and people can design the ball by choosing contrasting colors of ribbon. No prior experience needed and no glue used. They play the library's Nintendo Switch.

Toddler story time: is Friday, May 31 from 10:30-11 a.m. They will sing songs, read stories and have fun. This event is best suited for 1.5-3-year-olds and their caregivers.

The 30th Northampton Garden Tour takes place Saturday, June 8 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., rain or shine.

People may purchase by June 7 for \$20 at Bay State Perennial Farm (Whately), Cooper's Corner, State Street Fruit Store, Gardener's Supply Company (Hadley), Sugarloaf Gardens (Sunderland) or Forbes Library. They may also purchase on the day of the tour for \$25, only at Forbes Library from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. All proceeds go to Forbes Library for books, equipment, and programs.

MassHire Job Seeker Services weekly drop-in times will be shifting to Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on the Mezzanine, beginning on Wednesday, June 5. There will be no services on Monday, June 3. The weekly Job Readiness Workshops will continue on Wednesdays from 1-2:15pm as scheduled. People should call MassHire's Greenfield office at 413-774-4361 with questions.

bankESB to host free shred days

EASTHAMPTON, – bankESB invites customers and members of the community to two free Shred Days at local offices.

Dates are Saturday, June 8 from 9-11 a.m. or until the trucks are full at the Agawam office, 770 Main St., Agawam and Saturday, June 22 at the Easthampton office, 241 Northampton St. from 9-11 a.m. There will be two trucks at the Easthampton shred day. No appointment is necessary. Local

residents can reduce their risk of identity theft by bringing old mail, receipts, statements or bills, cancelled checks, pay stubs, medical records or any other unwanted paper documents containing personal or confidential information and shredding them safely and securely for free.

A professional document destruction company will be on site in the bank's parking lot and can accept up to two boxes of documents per person.

OBITUARIES

Lucy Eva (Hrybiniak) Garlo, 95

RUSSELL – Lucy Eva (Hrybiniak) Garlo, 95, left this world on Dec. 5, 2023.

Born October 1928 in the city of Slovyansk in Soviet Ukraine, she was the eldest daughter of Maria and Andrey Hrybiniak; her younger sisters Valerie and Emilie (“Emma”), five and eleven years her junior, respectively. Lucy’s young childhood was a happy one, with a loving family and dreams of becoming a ballerina.

Lucy endured a horrific youth, stolen by the atrocities of war. In the wake of World War II, Lucy’s father was disappeared by Stalin’s forces. When the Nazis invaded Ukraine in 1941, their family home was billeted to a German officer and the Nazi-occupied city of Slovyansk became a place of starvation and near-constant bombing. Lucy, her mother and younger sisters were forced to flee to occupied-Poland as Prisoners of War. They were moved to a farm outside of Nordhausen, Germany, where the four family members were bought and held to work as hard laborers for nearly two years. As the Allied Forces advanced, the Hrybiniaks joined other POWs and walked to Nordhausen, the site of a recently liberated concentration camp turned displaced persons camp, before they were moved to a second camp in southern Germany as the Americans progressed.

There, Lucy met the love of her life, Sergeant Louis Garlo, when he offered chocolate to her youngest sister, Emma, still a child at the time. As the oldest sibling, Lucy was sent by her mother to go investigate this American soldier, who spoke Polish to communicate with them. From then on, Louis repeatedly brought Emma and other young kids in the camp candies, pining for the chance to talk to Lucy again. So much so, she went as far as telling him “You’re going to give all these kids cavities.” Her blunt, no-nonsense humor stemming only from kindness echoes in the memory.

Despite the circumstances, Lucy had fond recollections of this final camp, on the outskirts of which she and Louis would go for walks from spring to fall, building their friendship and love alongside the fields of red poppy flowers and wild grapes growing beyond the barricades.

Louis and Lucy were married in Germany in 1945, before ultimately making the journey across the Atlantic by boat. Lucy arrived in New York City in 1946 on the S.S. Goethals with nearly 250 other war brides, with her mother and sisters to follow within a year, under Louis’ sponsorship. The couple settled in Russell, Massachusetts, to where the Garlo family had immigrated from Poland in the late 1800s, working in the paper mills among a small Polish community. The young couple built their home in Russell, from the bricks of the old torn-down school, where they raised six children over 16 years and lived together until Louis passed in 1985 and then Lucy independently for an additional 38 years until she passed.

As a young woman, Lucy took sewing and tailoring courses from Hampden County Extension; she worked as a community seamstress for income as the family grew, altering and creating anything from blue jeans to custom wedding gowns. She taught sewing classes in the community as well as teaching her own daughters the craft and could often be found in her sewing room late into the evenings, taking in, hemming and repairing the clothing of her family and friends for years to come.

As grandchildren started to arrive, she was the main caregiver for their early years and during school breaks. They learned to read, play and explore in her home and in the freedom of the outdoors she provided them.

Her Catholic faith was transcendent; she commit-



ted herself as a volunteer at Holy Family Parish (formerly Our Lady of the Rosary) in Russell where she arranged the flowers that she collected from her own gardens and the surrounding neighborhoods for the altar, washed and prepared all altar linens and Priest’s Vestments for nearly every Mass and celebration for decades, and attended Mass every Sunday until she began to receive Communion at home.

She began every day by praying the Rosary as soon as her feet hit the floor and thanked God for the gifts of the day before sleeping at night. Lucy read, wrote and spoke Russian and Polish fluently and German and Ukrainian conversationally; having come to the U.S. with little-to-no English, though, she had to teach herself and empathized with others in the same position. She volunteered at Russell Elementary school regularly, interpreting for Russian and Ukrainian children struggling to learn English and for the families during Parent/Teacher Conferences in her daughter Anne’s classroom. She continued to use her multilingual abilities in the community to help families adjust to a new life in America in any way possible.

There was always something cooking on her stove or baking in her oven, the kitchen perpetually thick with warmth and aromas of delicious homemade specialties, including her fresh strawberry jam, traditional Easter bread, pies, soups and Thanksgiving gravy.

She welcomed guests for coveted visits with a smile and laughs; her kitchen table covered with photos and greeting cards a sign of her deep connections and the impression she had on so many. She’d always leave you with a cheerful goodbye, looking out, waving, from her living room’s wide picture window.

Lucy was a lover of all living things and had a symbiotic relationship with the natural world that she passed onto her children and grandchildren. She intuitively foraged for wild berries, native fiddleheads, pokeweed and mushrooms; she was a prolific gardener and steward of the land, with a large, fruitful vegetable garden and beautifully-maintained beds of bold, colorful flowers, notably red poppies, from spring to fall. She loved wildflowers the most.

In her later years, she was most content sitting quietly in a room tightly packed with her large family, immersed in the sights and sounds of the joy and love she had such a hand in cultivating; Lucy passed peacefully as such with her children, grandchildren, and extended family surrounding her in recompense, close by her side. She is loved beyond measure, she is missed beyond words.

Lucy is survived by her children: John Garlo of Holyoke; Louis (and Mary) Garlo of Russell; Laura (and Carl) Lafreniere of Middlefield; Lynn (and Dana) Huff, of Alton, New Hampshire; Anne Fisk of Westfield and, Mary (and Rick) Brush of Tyngsboro; her eight grandchildren: Amanda (Fisk) Goshea, Evan Huff, Elizabeth Garlo, Maura Huff, Kimberly Fisk, Laura (Garlo) Nilsson, Kirsten Huff, Emilie Brush and Chloe Brush, and their partners and spouses. She has one great-grandson, Logan Huff.

She is predeceased by her two sisters, Valerie Spagnuolo and Emilie DeMattia, and is survived by her brother-in-law, Carmen Spagnuolo, of Sebastian, Florida, as well as numerous nephews and nieces.

The Liturgy of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, June 8, 2024 at 11 a.m. at Holy Family Parish, Route 20, Russell, with burial to follow in St. Thomas Cemetery, Route 20, Huntington. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to Our Community Table (Westfield Soup Kitchen) P.O. Box 2017, Westfield MA 01086 or Holy Family Parish, 5 Main St., Russell, MA 01071.

DEATH NOTICES

GARLO, LUCY (HYRBINIAK)

Date of Death Dec. 5, 2023
Liturgy of Christian Burial June 8, 2024
Holy Family Parish, Rte. 20, Russell

GRANGER, KENNETH MARTIN

Died May 11, 2024
No wake or funeral
Burial at convenience of family

Kenneth Martin Granger, 89

Kenneth Martin Granger, 89, a lifelong resident of Worthington, passed away on May 11, 2024, at the Springside Rehabilitation and Care Center located in Pittsfield.

Ken was born on Oct. 5, 1934. He was the youngest of the late Charles and Daisy(Pratt) Granger.

On Aug. 20, 1955, Ken married Catherine Louise Downes. Together they built a house and raised a family of five in their home.

Ken worked his early years in construction, then he began his career at General Electric in Pittsfield. After retiring from G.E., Ken kept busy with lawn mowing and maintenance for the townspeople and driving a school bus.

Ken, above all, was an expert potato and agriculture farmer. He had beautiful vegetable gardens, high blueberry bushes and multiple fruit trees. In addition to gardening he loved woodworking, raising chickens and livestock and working the land. Ken was without a doubt the consummate “dubber”, always busy. Over the years Ken could be seen selling bagged potatoes from his garage next to Route 143. Ken was also very generous with his harvest. Many of his crops were given freely to friends and family.

Ken was predeceased by his wife Catherine and his own siblings Charles, Paul, Irving, Marie, Elizabeth and Frieda.

Survivors include his four daughters: Deborah Wolfram, Charlene Granger, Diane Rushford (Ronald) and Melissa Porter (Michael). He also leaves his only son Eugene Granger (Darlene).

He also leaves behind seven grandchildren, Jeremy Wolfram, Heather Gagnon, Rebecca Gagnon (Scott), Vanessa Farrell (Jason), Annette Cunningham (Tim), Alex Porter and Blake Porter (Korrin). Also eight great grandchildren, Jeremy Wolfram Jr., Ben Wolfram, Caleb Gagnon, Aidan Jones, Kylie Jones, Keegan Farrell, Althea Farrell and Charlie Rose Porter. He also leaves behind numerous nieces and nephews.

There will be no wake or funeral services. Burial or committal of ashes will be at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, suggested donations are for the Hilltown Elder Network, 387 Main Road, Chesterfield, MA 01012 or to the Worthington Police or Fire Departments.



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for an easy plant and tree ID walk on a 1 mile round trip walk on the accessible nature trail. The program is free, donations are accepted. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Goshen, Cummington and Massachusetts Cultural Councils. To register (required), people should email:

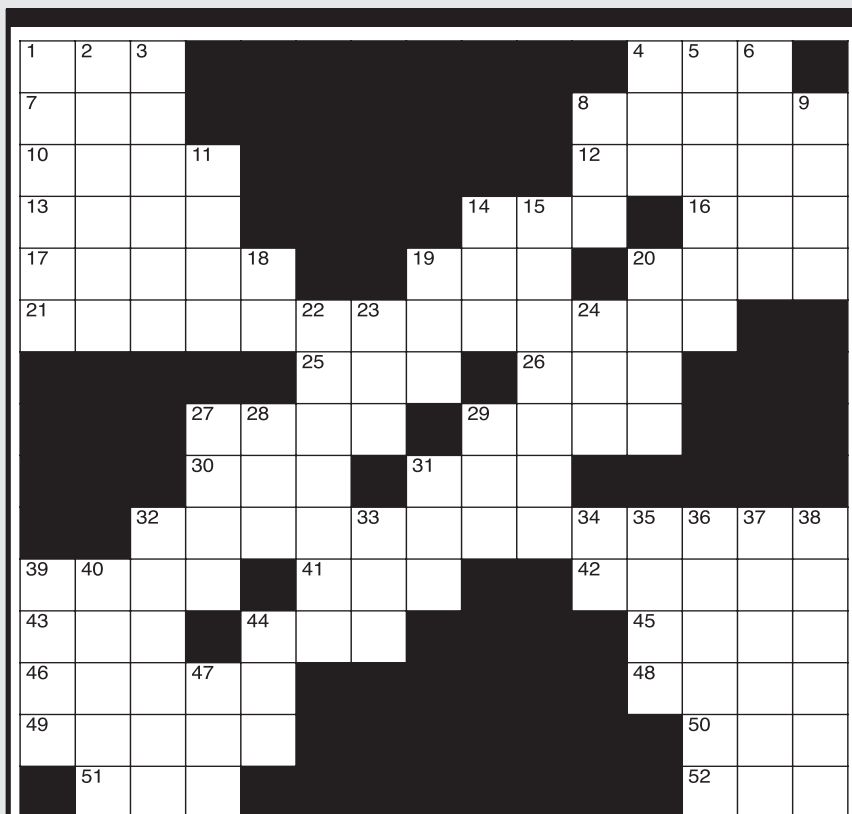
full_circle_o@yahoo.com. They may visit www.tamarackhollow.org for more information.

There will be a Car Fit event on Wednesday, July 24 from 9-11 a.m. The COA will partner with Springfield College Occupational Therapy program to aid older adults in adjusting their

car features to make the fit safer and more comfortable for the driver. This is a national program created by AARP, AAA, and AOTA. It will be held at the Goshen Fire station parking lot. All towns welcome- please spread the word.

Foot Clinics with Piper Sagan Goshen residents are able to sign up

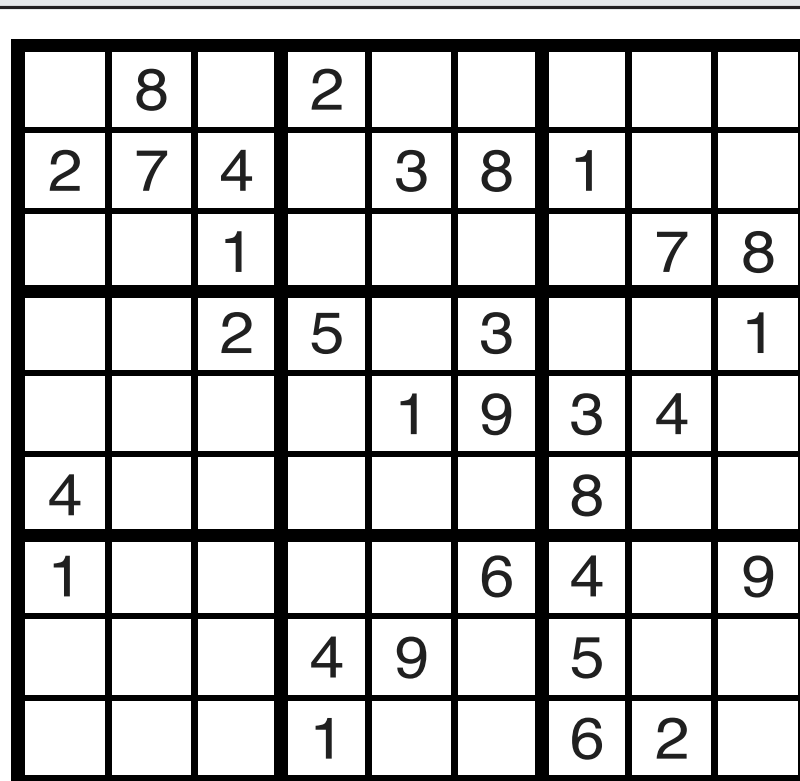
for this service through the Council on Aging in Cummington at 413-634-2262 or Williamsburg at 413-268-8407. Recognizing the importance of this service, the Goshen COA will pay \$10 towards the \$50 fee. Piper also does in home visits for \$80, please contact her directly at 413-522-8432.



- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| CLUES ACROSS | 26. Licensed for Wall Street | CLUES DOWN | material |
| 1. Fashion accessory | 27. Perfect | 1. Occur | 24. Luke's mentor |
| 4. Engine additive | 29. It's on many people's heads | 2. Show up | ___-Wan |
| 7. Small, faint constellation | 30. Boxing's GOAT | 3. Capital of Taiwan | 27. Postmodernist Austrian "House" |
| 8. Gives a job | 31. Photo | 4. Brother or sister | 28. Aquatic salamander |
| 10. Self-righteous person | 32. Popular HBO show | 5. Secret get-togethers | 29. Baseball stat |
| 12. Caucasian language | 39. Popular music awards show | 6. Type of tea | 31. Beginning military rank |
| 13. Surinam toad | 41. Pouch | 8. Where the action is | 32. Talk rapidly and unintelligibly |
| 14. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.) | 42. Lake in Botswana | 9. Cast out | 33. Paddle |
| 16. Former French coin | 43. Unruly group | 11. Crime group | 34. Caregiver (abbr.) |
| 17. Levels the score | 44. One-fourth | 14. Type of vessel (abbr.) | 35. Old Irish alphabet |
| 19. What stage performers do | 45. Very eager | 15. Accept and handle | 36. Japanese city |
| 20. Egyptian Sun god | 46. Edward ___, author and writer | 18. Sacrifice hit | 37. In a way, acted |
| 21. Localities | 48. Flying insect | 19. One who buys and sells securities simultaneously | 38. Things to see |
| 25. Spherical body | 49. Dragged forcibly | 20. Month | 39. Nursemaid |
| | 50. Thus far | 22. Most thin | 40. Type of tooth |
| | 51. Not just "play" | 23. Naturally occurring | 44. To be demonstrated |
| | 52. Commercials | | 47. Defunct European group |

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

- ARIES**
Mar 21/Apr 20
You may have a chance to get to know someone better this week, Aries. Trust your instincts rather than listening to what is running through the rumor mill.
- CANCER**
Jun 22/Jul 22
An intellectual debate could grow somewhat tiresome this week, Cancer. You need to know when to pull out of the conversation to help maintain your mental well-being.
- LIBRA**
Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, have a good time over the next couple of weeks. You deserve it. Recognize that fun interactions do not necessarily have to be shallow experiences. You can learn something new even while being entertained.
- CAPRICORN**
Dec 22/Jan 20
Proactive changes you make this week may improve your love life, Capricorn. That can be a good thing if you have encountered relationship issues lately.
- AQUARIUS**
Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, setting out on an impulsive adventure could be worth the effort right now. It can be refreshing to spend time outside your usual surroundings.
- PISCES**
Feb 19/Mar 20
Putting up a tough front may be a protection strategy right now, Pisces. Over time, you may need to let your guard down and ask for some help if the situation is chronic.
- TAURUS**
Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, you may be ready to shake things up in regard to your social life or even with a professional pursuit. Work out the path you want to take.
- LEO**
Jul 23/Aug 23
Have an important conversation with a loved one. You need to clear up a misunderstanding that has been growing more significant. Once you take care of this, smooth sailing awaits.
- SCORPIO**
Oct 24/Nov 22
It might feel like your peer group has shifted in a way that no longer gels with you. It may be time to find some new friends who share your current interests.
- SAGITTARIUS**
Nov 23/Dec 21
You may seek validation from peers or even people on social media if you feel like you are being inhibited by current insecurities. Others can corroborate your value.
- GEMINI**
May 22/Jun 21
Following your curiosity may lead you down some interesting paths, Gemini. Things can change on a moment's notice, so be prepared to respond.
- VIRGO**
Aug 24/Sept 22
You may want to rely on someone else to bring some stability and comfort to your life, Virgo. Now may be the time to seek out a new relationship.



SUDOKU

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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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5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

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BOARD

from page 1

and invoices for Water Department.

Feedback from Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency had concerns about what was done and what was not done and an additional meeting with MEMA is anticipated.

The water break in question was determined to be a Level 1 and is based on the length of time water is out. The Water Department's emergency plan had been reviewed Feb. 1.

Bringing in water from outside contractors appeared to be a concern especially for 20 residents without water.

Superintendent Gordon Avery told the board that they would have empty jugs available for residents to fill as long as there is water available from other parts of town. The break had been contained and water was restored to town.

"During the incident," said Letendre, "I don't think it was clear," who was in charge. That individual was Avery, in accordance with the Water Department's emergency plan. Avery followed the plan for notification.

Letendre said she was asking for "clearer and more communication going forward" so that when there is a major break that may mean there is no water for more than 24 hours, "engage the entire emergency management team." According to Letendre, this was not done by the Water Department and going forward, "What can we do better?" She added, "Next time, notify everyone."

Board member Jeff Allen asked Avery why the Fire Department was not immediately notified.

Fire Chief Adam Dolby said there were residents with no potable water and no water to flush toilets.

Water Commissioner Brad Curry asked if the Fire

Department could put the Water Commissioners on the emergency notifications from them.

MEMA was on site but found no one available either the evening of the break or the next morning. "There will be some issue from MEMA when we meet with them," said Letendre.

She also said the town needs to have some supply of drinking water available. Access to a water source needs to be clear, according to Letendre.

From Dolby's perspective, "What cannot happen, right or wrong, there's always been this perception that the Water Department is its own little fiefdom and anyone who tries to tell them there're doing something wrong, everybody gets pissed off," telling the Water Department that that was how they walked into the meeting.

"It's easy to get in touch with the Fire Department. Going 24 hours without water is "a long...time" said Dolby. "There has to be better cooperation," he said. The service plazas needed more information.

"The big thing for all of us to take away is to move resources early, and they can be called off," said Dolby. "We have to refocus the plan...make sure the residents are provided for...that aspect is missing," he said.

Allen said, "This has to be a working team."

As a result of the discussion, the Select Board asked that the Water Department meet with them monthly; the entire Emergency Management Team will be brought together with all involved when Dolby has organized a meeting with MEMA. This, according to Letendre and Dolby, will help clear up any confusion going forward.

Letendre added that they hope to build a better relationship with the departments going forward.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Town of Middlefield
Notice of Special Town Meeting
Special Town Meeting,
June 4, 2024 at 6:30 pm
- public hearing at the Middlefield Town Hall, 188 Skyline Trail, Middlefield MA to present proposed standards and condition bylaw changes:

Article 1: Bylaw Section 3: General Use Regulations Table 3.0 Use Regulations, Town of Middlefield, Types of Land Use Standards and Conditions for 3.05,3.052,3.053,3.054,3.055 to add 3.056

Article 2: Bylaw Section 3 General Use Regulations: 3.2 Non-Conforming Uses, Discontinuance, Alteration Extension, Reconstruction

Article 3: Bylaw Section 7 Definitions: Adding definition for Accessory Building, Temporary Structure and Conforming Residence.
05/23, 05/30/2024

LEGAL NOTICE of PUBLIC MEETING WILLIAMSBURG CONSERVATION COMMISSION,
Williamsburg, MA 0109

The Williamsburg Conservation Commission, in accordance with MGL Chapter 131, Section 40, the Wetlands Protection Act, will hold a public meeting on: **Thursday, June 13, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Williamsburg town offices, 141 Main St, Haydenville, MA to review a Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by: The Town of Whately. The subject area or activity is located at the Town of Whately/Town of Williamsburg Town Line on Haydenville Road and consists of stormwater improvements that will occur within the 100-foot buffer zone to a Bordering Vegetated Wetland.
05/30/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Wetlands and Waterways
MassDEP Boston Office 100 Cambridge Street Suite 900 Boston, MA 02114

Pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1341 and M.G.L. c. 21 §§ 26 - 53, notice is given of a 401 Water Quality Certification application for the preservation of Bridge #C-21-002, Route 9 over the Westfield River in the Town of Cummington, Massachusetts by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation - Highway Division, Ten Park Plaza, Room 7360, Boston, MA 02116. The proposed project is a bridge preservation project. The work consists of structural repairs. The bridge deck and pedestrian sidewalk will be replaced and crash tested curb rails will be installed to protect the bridge structure. Additional information may be obtained from the

Massachusetts Department of Transportation - Highway Division at the above address, attention Courtney Walker or by emailing courtney.l.walker@dot.state.ma.us. Written comments should be sent to Heidi Davis, MassDEP Wetlands Program, 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114 or heidi.davis@mass.gov within twenty-one days of this notice.

Any group of ten persons, any aggrieved person, or any governmental body or private organization with a mandate to protect the environment who submits written comments may appeal the Department's Certification. Failure to submit written comments before the end of the public comment period may result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing.
05/30/2024

LEGAL NOTICE of PUBLIC MEETING WILLIAMSBURG CONSERVATION COMMISSION,
Williamsburg MA 01096

The Williamsburg Conservation Commission, in accordance with MGL Chapter 131, Section 40, the Wetlands Protection Act, will hold a public meeting on

Thursday, June 13, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Williamsburg town offices, 141 Main St, Haydenville, MA to review a **Request for Determination of Applicability** submitted by: Beverly Bullock. The subject area or activity is located at Meekins Library, 2 Williams St, Williamsburg, MA
05/30/2024

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HELP WANTED

CLEANING SERVICE WANTED - Town of Huntington is seeking quotations to clean 3 town buildings. Interested parties may submit quotations for the individual buildings, or as a group. Quotations are due by 3:00 p.m. on June 13. Specifications are available at www.huntingtonma.us or by emailing admin@huntingtonma.us. Mail proposals to **Selectboard Office, PO Box 430, Huntington, MA 01050** or email to admin@huntingtonma.us.

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Find archives of this local newspaper at www.newspapers.turley.com

HELP WANTED

The Town of Huntington is seeking a **TOWN CLERK.**

This is a salaried position for approximately 18 hours per week. Application and complete job description are available online at www.huntingtonma.us or by emailing admin@huntingtonma.us. Applications are due by June 13, 2024.

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

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

HUNTINGTON

★ Huntington celebrates MEMORIAL DAY ★



Gateway High School marching band stand on the Huntington town green.

Turley photos by Deborah Daniels



A veteran holds an American flag at the Memorial Day activities in Huntington.



A 21 gun salute and the playing of taps by two trumpeters followed the raising of the flag at the Memorial Day ceremony in Huntington.

STM and ATM set for June 3

HUNTINGTON – The Town of Huntington's Special Town Meeting and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Monday, June 3 at Stanton Hall located at 26 Russell Road.

The Special Town Meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will be followed by the Annual Town Meeting at 7 p.m. If all business is not completed on June 3, the Annual Town Meeting will continue on Tuesday, June 4 at 7 p.m. People may call the Select Board office at 413-512-5200 or email admin@huntingtonma.us with any questions.

Town seeks input in open space and recreation plan

HUNTINGTON – The town of Huntington is updating their Open Space and Recreation Plan.

They are seeking input from residents on how open space and recreation areas are used and what the town's long-term priorities and investments should be. A survey is available by visiting <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HuntingtonOSRP>.

Paper copies are also available at Town Hall and the Huntington Library. The survey will be open through Monday, July 15. For more information, people may email admin@huntingtonma.us or call 413-512-5200.

HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES

Western Mass. Hilltown Hikers to walk Knox Trail on June 1

OTIS – The Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers plan a hike on Knox Trail on Saturday, June 1 at 10 a.m.

Parking at Upper Spectacle Pond GPS 42.177071, -73.118079 from Route 23, turn onto Upper Spectacle Pond Road (Otis State Forest), turn left onto Webb Road Park by the pond before the bridge. Carpool is required. The group will leave a few vehicles on Route 8 at the snowmobile bridge where they will end the hike GPS 42.178701, -73.080937.

Hike Rating is moderate due to length, approximately 4.5 miles one way on a mix of forest roads, side roads and open woods with no trail. The route is not blazed, they will hike together as a group. Expect uneven ground, roots, mud and ups and downs.

Narrated by Tom Ragusa, local his-

torian, he is an Otis resident and Knox Trail expert, who has spent 12 years mapping the part of the 300-mile trail through Otis and Sandisfield. He spent 42 years working for the Department of Conservation and Recreation before retiring.

During the winter of 1775-1776 General George Washington held the high ground around Boston while the British were firmly in control of the city. If Washington had artillery, he could dislodge the British and retake Boston. The nearest available artillery was at Fort Ticonderoga, which was under Continental Army control, in up-state New York. General Henry Knox then was commissioned, in December 1775, by General Washington to secure these artillery pieces and transport them from New York, through

Massachusetts, to Dorchester Heights outside Boston. To do this General Knox successfully crossed the Berkshire Mountains and several large rivers, in winter, with fifty-nine pieces of artillery.

When the artillery arrived in Boston, in early March 1776, General Howe realized the hopelessness of his position and evacuated the city. The group will visit historic sites including: The West Gate, Webb cellar hole, 4th division line, Webb Sawmill, Knox Trail CCC roadway, Cleft in Twain Boulder, Whaples Tavern, Horse Paddock, 200+yr old Yellow Birch, The Gateway, Mysterious Stone Piles, The Monument of Stones, Many cellar holes, Abiel's Rock and more.

They will go back in time with Ragusa in Otis to hike those same

steps. He has spent 30 years working on achieving National Historic Designation for the Knox Trail. This event is in collaboration with the National Parks Service, Springfield Armory National Historic Site. People can learn more at Massachusetts (U.S. National Park Service) ([nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov)) and Springfield Armory National Historic Site (U.S. National Park Service) ([nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov))

People should register per car on <https://westernmasshilltownhikers.ticketleap.com>. Maps and bottled water are provided. They will hike rain or shine. Friendly dogs are welcome. Suggested donation is \$10, hike is volunteer lead. More details are available by visiting www.hilltownhikers.com. People may email westernmasshilltownhikers@aol.com or call/text 413-302-0312 if they have any questions.