

Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

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

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

June 5, 2025 | Vol. 47, No. 6 | 75¢

www.countryjournal.turley.com

HUNTINGTON

Gateway graduates



Senior Jesse Balboni received his diploma from his mother, school committee member Tara Balboni.

Turley photo by Wendy Long

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

Despite threatening cloud cover, Gateway Regional School graduated 34 seniors outdoors in ceremonies held Friday, May 30.

Precisely at 6 p.m., the Class of 2025 walked onto Booster Field as the Concert Band played "Pomp and Circumstance," led by Marshalls Theodore DeAngelis-Page and Lucas Gilbert.

Dr. William Sullivan welcomed everyone and announced the dignitaries on the dais, before leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Present on the stage were Assistant Principal Val Zeh, Superintendent Kristen Smidy, and School Committee Chair Jason Forgue (Chester) along with School Committee members Brian Forgue and Jeana Briggs of Chester; Tasha Strong of Middlefield; Peg Dragon of Huntington; Tara Balboni and Lyndsey Papillon of Russell and Peter DeGregorio of Montgomery. Following the pledge, the Concert Band performed the

National Anthem.

Welcoming remarks were offered by Class President Cynthea Papillon. "After today, our paths will diverge, with some going to college and others joining the work force or military," Papillon said. "But this day and this moment is one we will remember forever."

Senior band members joined the Concert Band for their final Gateway performance of music from "Mamma Mia."

Sullivan shared his remarks with the class. Based on interviews with each graduating senior, Sullivan chose to frame their four years of high school in terms of Disney and Pixar movies. Monsters Inc. in response to a student recalling, "You think it is going to be scary, but then you realize that it is more powerful to laugh than be scared." Tangled " ("I am trapped here, but it ended up working out in the end."), "Inside Out" ("It's an emotional roller coaster.") and "Toy Story," ("Whenever people come around everyone freezes.")

GRADUATES, page 8

HILLTOWNS HONOR MEMORIAL DAY



A veteran stands beside the wreath placed on the war memorial in Huntington. Throughout the Hilltowns Memorial Day observances took place on Monday, May 26. They remembered the fallen of all wars with the placing of American Flags on veterans graves, the laying of wreaths on war memorials and parades. See more photos on page 2.

Courtesy photo

BLANDFORD

Blandford honors their fallen soldiers

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

Weather cooperated to a degree, that is.

It did not rain, but it was a tad on the cool side, sunshine notwithstanding, with a breeze from the northwest which brought the Canadian air.

The parade stepped out at 11:30 a.m. precisely. All units filled Main Street from the corner of Russell Stage Road up to Veterans' Park at Town Common. Police Chief Jen Dubiel was the official escort and then the Civil Air Patrol youth group from Westover Base in Westfield. Lt. Col. Stephen Edelman, Squadron Commander, marched with the group.

Veterans next followed by Jessica Osden, the Town's banner and the Gateway Regional School Marching Band. Firefighting units came next; Maureen Boomsma drove the Fire and Rescue squad vehicle and a Firefighters unit from Russell joined the line, bringing up the parade end.

Technical Sgt. Of the U.S. Air Force Douglas Emo served to emcee the program at Veterans' Park, reminding everyone there that "We're all thankful for something in this world." He led a prayer of thanks and contin-

ued with elementary students first reciting their essays on the meaning of Memorial Day and leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Then veterans Marine Sgt. Michael Wojcik and U.S. Army Sgt. Tom Huntoon placed the memorial wreath at the center marker commemorating Gen. Henry Knox's trip to Boston with cannons for Gen. George Washington.

The cannons came

through Blandford during the winter months on what is now referred to at the Knox Trail over which Gen. Henry brought a cannons captured at Ticonderoga and Crown Point on Lake Champlain.

Concluding the placement of the wreath, Charlotte Hansen played taps followed by Josh Daningburg who performed the echo.

The Blandford

SOLDIERS, page 6



Jess Osden with her ponies and cart are all decked out in red, white and blue. Tommy is in the front while Lexi and Sky are in the back. Note the red hooves on the ponies.

Turley photo by Mary Kronholm

BLANDFORD



Sarah Malanson of Blandford, left, is shown with Pathfinder Superintendent Eric Duda. Malanson teaches Information Technology at Pathfinder Regional Vocational High School and was a Harold Grinspoon Excellence in Teaching Award recipient.

Photo by Aleksandr Verbetsky

Sarah Malanson receives teaching excellence award

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

Sarah Malanson received the Harold Grinspoon Excellence in Teaching Award this year at a ceremony at the Log Cabin in Holyoke on May 13.

This is awarded to one teacher once every three years at her school, Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School in Palmer where she teaches Information Technology.

She spent most of her career working in Information Technology management and moved into full time teaching seven years ago.

"She wanted to encourage students to learn more about technology and to pursue careers in technology," according to her father, Jim Webster. Speaking about her achievement, Malanson said, "I was incredibly honored and humbled to receive this

TEACHING, page 6

Hampshire Regional High School



Meet the CLASS of 2025

PAGE 10, 11

Becket.....5	Great Barrington.....7	Montgomery.....15	Public Notices.....12	Worthington.....7
Blandford.....6, 7	Haydenville.....5	Northampton.....5	Schools & Youth.....8	
Chester.....3	Hilltowns.....2	Obituaries.....12	Stockbridge.....7	
Classifieds.....14	Huntington.....2	Opinion.....4, 5	Westfield.....13	
Goshen.....5	Middlefield.....7	Plainfield.....13	Williamsburg.....7	



HILLTOWNS

HILLTOWNS REMEMBER THE FALLEN ON MEMORIAL DAY



Bobby Garriepy, Chief of Police, received the town flag that was taken down. His mother Jean stands beside him.



An American flag is placed by the Honor Roll for World War I in Middlefield.



Tommy Suoles participates in the Memorial Day observances in Otis. *Courtesy photos*



Middlefield residents honor veterans with the placing of American flags on Memorial Day.



Military branches were represented at the Memorial Day observances in Otis.

HUNTINGTON

Council on Aging list upcoming events

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Council on Aging will be hosting events at Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road.

Games and Goodies will be held on Tuesday, June 10 at 1 p.m. On Wednesday, June 11 at 2 p.m., the Pioneer Valley Fiddlers will perform.

A presentation on Health Impacts of Heat and Hydration and blood pressure checks will be provided by the Hampshire Public Health Preparedness Coalition's nursing team on Wednesday, June 18 at 1 p.m.

The Hilltown Memory Café is held weekly at 2

p.m. The weekly café provides seniors with activities while their caregivers participate in a support group. The café is open to all with and without memory issues. The Café is made possible by a grant from Highland Valley Elder Services through funding under the Federal Older Americans Act and by a

grant from the Huntington Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

All events are free and open to residents of any community. For more information, people may call Crystal Wright-Partyka at 413-685-5283.

Task Force meets June 11

HUNTINGTON – Road I the Career Services on the second floor.

Southern Hilltown Domestic Violence Task Force will meet on Wednesday, June 11 from 3-4:30 p.m. at Gateway High School, 12 Littleville

People may email SouthernHillsDVTaskForce@gmail.com for more information.

Our own strawberries

OUR OWN HOthouse
TOMATOES, CUKES & PICKLES

Asparagus season ending soon!

Coming Soon: Squash From Our Fields

E. Cecchi Farms

1131 SPRINGFIELD STREET
FEEDING HILLS, MASS. *"Everything you'd grow if you had forty acres."*



NOTICE

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

Find it in the Classifieds



413.283.8393 • classifieds@turley.com
24 Water St., Palmer • 80 Main St., Ware

ADVERTISING SALES HELP WANTED

- Do you want to work in your community helping local businesses connect with their customers?
- Do you want a career supporting local journalism, which tells the unique stories of our communities?
- If so, then join our team! Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers. The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills. Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

Turley Publications, a locally owned family business, offers a competitive commission structure, 401k, and health plan.

Send resume & cover letter to:

Jamie Joslyn
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
Email:jamie@turley.com



LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET!

INFLATION

PRICE BUSTERS

PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!

USDA INSP. FROZEN BONE-IN CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS..... \$2.49 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF RIB EYE STEAKS \$9.59 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST CUTLETS CUBED..... \$3.99 lb
USDA INSP. FROZEN ST LOUIS PORK RIBS..... \$2.59 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF EYE ROUND WHOLE \$4.44 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN WINGS 10 LB BAG..... \$1.66 lb
USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS..... \$2.64 lb	USDA INSP. SLICED IN OUR DELI DOMESTIC HAM..... \$3.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN SUPERIOR ON MAIN JUMBO PAK ECLAIRS CREAM FILLED 30.75 OZ \$9.99 ea
USDA INSP. SLICED IN OUR DELI MUIENSTER CHEESE..... \$4.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN FULLY COOKED FRIED CHICKEN CUT UP..... \$2.49 lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN 1 LB BAG COOKED SHRIMP 51/60 CT..... \$4.99 lb

GREAT ON THE GRILL

90 Meat Outlet

90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com

USDA INSP. STOREMADE CAROLINA GOLD MARINATED BONELESS CHICKEN THIGHS..... **\$3.69** lb

USDA INSP. MACKENZIE 12 OZ. NATURAL CASING HOT DOGS..... **\$2.99** lb

SALE DATES: 6/5/25-6/11/25

BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4 Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3

We reserve the right to limit quantities.

CHESTER

Southern Hilltowns Adult Education Center announces programs

CHESTER – The Southern Hilltowns Adult Education Center, located on 26 Main St., started in the summer of 1999 and is a program of The Partnership for Worker Education at UMass Amherst.

They offer computer and tech support monthly at senior center in the towns they serve. SHAEC is funded by a Community Development Block Grant from the Mass Dept. of Housing and Community Development through the lead towns of Chester and Russell, in partnership with the towns of Huntington and Middlefield.

SHAEC is a community resource for the Southern Hilltowns of Chester, Huntington, Russell and Middlefield, providing free Adult Education, GED prep, computer literacy, small business support and job readiness skills in their classroom at 26 Main St. Chester has also often hosted sustainability classes,

as well as a Friends of SHAEC annual Plant Sale at Chester on Track.

Preregistration for their classes by visiting the SHAEC website at www.shaec.org, by calling 413-354-1055 or emailing SouthernHilltownsAEC@gmail.com.

In the Month of June, SHAEC is offering a series on Growing and Using Herbs from yard or garden. This is a SHAEC Sustainability series on Friday evenings throughout June 2025.

Growing Herbs: Medicinal, Culinary and Ornamental will take place Friday, June 6 at 5 p.m. Participants will learn from Master Gardener Ed Sourdiffe, the Green Thumb Guru, head of the Historic Gardens at Hancock Shaker Village and Mass. Appeal plant and garden expert. He will share simple growing techniques for growing your own vibrant, robust herbs. They will feature a variety of wild and cultivated herbs, with some plants available to purchase at the class to get people started on their own herb garden. Donations are graciously accepted. People must pre-register.

Introduction to Using Herbs from Your Backyard on Friday, June 13 at 5 p.m. will take place at the SHAEC Classroom. Taught by aromatherapist and self-taught herbalist Kay Judge from Middlefield she will teach you how to identify what people have growing in their gardens and edges of their yard. If the weather permits, they will do a quick herb walk to see what they can find. Pre-registration is required. Handouts of herb profiles will be provided. A small donation will be gladly received.

Making Salve on Friday, June 20 at 5 p.m. will take place at Blue Skye Wellness, 26B Main St., next to the SHAEC classroom. There is a \$10 material fee. This is taught by aromatherapist and self-taught herbalist Kay Judge from Middlefield. In this class participants will talk about the process of creating a salve. A salve is basically an infused oil that is combined with a wax such as beeswax to create a creamy substance that is applied to the skin. She will share ideas for different applications and herbs that would be helpful. They will work through the process of making a salve and participants will take home a jar of salve and a recipe to follow to make their own. Class size is limited; pre-registration is required.

Herbal Recipes will take place Friday June 27 at 5 p.m. at Blue Skye Wellness, 26B Main Street, Chester, next to the SHAEC classroom. There is a \$10 material fee. Taught by aromatherapist and self-taught herbalist Kay Judge from Middlefield. Participants will learn how to use herbs

in recipes for culinary and therapeutic uses. We'll discuss teas, tinctures and infused oils and vinegars and using herbs for flavoring in different recipes. Participants will have the opportunity to complete a recipe to take home a finished product. Class is limited; pre-registration is required.

On Tuesday, June 10 at 6 p.m. Explore the Wonders of the Universe – Astronomy in the Hilltowns will be taught by Rick Breen, a retired software engineer, amateur astronomer, and local musician. People will learn how to identify constellations, understand the changing sky through the seasons, and use simple tools like binoculars, star charts and smartphone apps to discover what's overhead.

In addition to these classes, SHAEC offers free tutoring and classes for The GED in all subject areas. Please reach out to SHAEC for an appointment to

develop an individualized plan that will help them achieve their GED.

They offer monthly free computer, phone and tech help at local senior centers with Heather Morgan, SHAEC's technology teacher. Locations include Huntington COA Drop in Computer Help the first Wednesday of the month at Stanton Hall, Huntington from 1-2 p.m.; Chester COA Drop in Computer Help second Wednesday of the month at the Chester COA, located in the Chester Town Hall basement, from 10:30 a.m.-noon; Russell COA Drop in Computer Help is offered the Third Wednesday of the month at the Russell Senior Center, located on the second floor of the Russell Town Hall from 11a.m.- 12:30 p.m. and Middlefield COA Computer Help fourth Wednesday of the month at the Middlefield Senior Center from 12:45-1:30 p.m.

Light refreshments will be served and extra copies are available.

"Level Up At Your Library" summer reading program begins Thursday, July 3. Children may stop in now to sign-up for all the fun. They may visit <https://chester.cwmars.org> or call 413-354-7808 for more details.

CHS alumni to hold reunion June 28

CHESTER – The Chester High School Alumni will be coming home to Chester this year for their 122nd annual reunion and meeting on Saturday, June 28.

The meeting draws a large group associated with the former Chester High School including Chester Rresidents, who graduated from Gateway after Chester High School closed in the late 1960s. This year's festivities begin with a social hour at 1 p.m. at the Chester Railroad Depot and continue informally throughout the entire weekend as "Blue Devils" and "Quarriers" wander around town visiting old friends and relatives. The Association's annual business meeting will be held Saturday, June 28 at 2 p.m. and Officers and Board Members will meet at noon.

Chester High has traditions dating back well over one hundred years. Among the many mysteries every year are questions like, "Who will be the oldest member?" and "Who will come from the farthest away?" There is never a lack of laughter, perhaps because the threat of detention is long gone even though former teachers sometimes attend. All classes will be honored, especially the fifty-year class of 1975 and twenty-five-year class of 2000.

Association President Walter Boomsma said, "It really is like a homecoming. Some can't resist sitting on the church corner for a while and many tour the area to visit the places that were an important part of their lives." Boomsma also reports that the asso-

ciation enjoys the support of organizations like the Chester Foundation and Chester Historical Society. The Historical Society will be open just prior to the reunion and former scholars are encouraged to stop by.

Reunion invitations have been mailed to Association Members. "The reunion is not limited to graduates of Chester High or Gateway Regional. Anyone with a connection to Chester is certainly welcome to join us for socializing and reminiscing. This is a town event," Boomsma added.

The Association maintains a blog at <http://chesterhigh.wordpress.com> and a Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Chester-High-School/where> alumni can gather information and post comments.

Library lists upcoming events

CHESTER – The Hamilton Memorial Library annual book and bake sale was a success.

Story and Fun Time meets very Thursday at 11 a.m. This is a great opportunity to foster a love of reading in young patrons while providing an opportunity for socialization and learning new

skills through crafts and play. The Book Club meets every third Wednesday of the month at 4:30 p.m. This month it meets on Wednesday, June 18. The club will be discussing the novel, "Tom Lake" by Ann Patchett. This is a story about young love, married love and the lives parents live before their children are born.

Light refreshments will be served and extra copies are available.

"Level Up At Your Library" summer reading program begins Thursday, July 3. Children may stop in now to sign-up for all the fun. They may visit <https://chester.cwmars.org> or call 413-354-7808 for more details.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

think OUTSIDE of the BIG BOX SUPPORT COMMUNITY BUSINESSES

Worthington Historical Society Presents
MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE 200TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

LAFAYETTE HISTORIC TALK Thursday, June 5 7:00	REVOLUTIONARY WAR CEMETERY TOUR Sunday, June 8 Center Cem. 1:00
HISTORIC DANCE WORKSHOP Tuesday, June 10 7:00	TRAIL MARKER DEDICATION Friday, June 13 Library, 1:00
LAFAYETTE GRAND BALL Friday, June 13 7:00 Tent by Town Hall Tickets 20.00 each	WORTHINGTON FOUNDERS DAY Saturday, June 14, 5:00 Tent by Town Hall

All events free & at the Worthington Historical Society unless otherwise noted
for Ball Tickets visit worthingtonhistoricalsociety.org

George PROPANE INC.
PROPANE GAS PLUMBING • HEATING
(413) 268-8360
TOLL FREE 1-800-464-2053
Family Owned & Operated
3 Berkshire Trail West (Route 9), P.O. Box 102, Goshen, MA 01032
www.georgepropane.com

Paul's Plumbing & Heating
238-0303
PAUL GRAHAM
Mass. License 23299

AQUA PUMPS WATER SYSTEMS
Water Pumps • Sewer Pumps
Water Conditioners
46 Pitcher Street
Montgomery, MA 01085
Donald Washburn
862-3301

Kirke R. Henshaw, Inc.
Water Well Drilling, Water Pump Sales & Service
Water Testing
System Evaluations
Water System Repairs
HENSHAW
Hydrofracture to Increase Flow
800-232-4725 • Fax 413-296-4565
Charles R. Henshaw
130 Cummington Rd., W. Chesterfield, MA • 413-296-4725

FEED • PET SUPPLIES • CLOTHING • COAL
WOOD PELLETS • WILD & CAGED BIRDSEED
POOL SUPPLIES • MOTOR OILS • FENCING
LAWN & GARDEN SUPPLIES • FERTILIZER
GATEWAY FARM & PET
Polin Grain • RED WING SHOES • Carhartt
59 RUSSELL ROAD, HUNTINGTON, MA 01050
1-413-667-2279 M-F 8am-5pm
Sat. 8am-4pm
TARA GRENIER • PAUL GRENIER

DOWN TO EARTH EXCAVATING INC
Highly Regarded Professionals: Complete Site Work, Septic Development and Repairs. Fully Insured.
413-667-5269
Paul & Randy LaPointe, Owners Huntington, Mass.

OrthoMA
ORTHOPEDIC URGENT CARE
Ortho MA treats:
• FRACTURES • SPRAINS • DISLOCATIONS
• JOINT PAIN • SPORTS OR WORK INJURIES & MORE!
Walk-Ins Welcome No Appointment Needed
Monday-Friday: 4pm-8pm • Saturday & Sunday 8am-12pm
www.OrthoMA.org • info@orthoma.org
53 Southampton Road, Westfield, MA 01085 • (413)83-ORTHO

Dale's Structural & Carpentry
Home Improvement • Additions • Restorations • Repairs
Post & Beam Repairs
Sagging Floors • Beams • Columns
Sill Timbers • Termite Damage
Foundation Repairs • Piers & Footings
Chimney Rebuilds
FULLY LICENSED & INSURED
Huntington, MA • 413-667-3149
dalesstructuralandcarpentry.com

ARCHITECT JEFFREY SCOTT PENN
77 Worthington Road, Huntington, MA 01050
Tel. 413-531-1868
Fax. 413-667-3082
Email: jpsped@verizon.net
new construction, renovation,
historic preservation

Contact Wendy Delcamp TO ADVERTISE AT
413-283-8393
or email:
wdelcamp@turley.com

Jeff's Oil Burner Service
• Tune Ups
• Installations
• Oil Tanks
Huntington, Massachusetts
Office **413.667.0245**
Cell **413.530.7037**
jeffsoilburnerservice@hotmail.com

OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



I'm a retired veteran; why must I pay for Medicare?

Dear Rusty:

I'm a retired Navy veteran, who is going to be turning 65 years old this year.

My question is concerning mandatory Medicare sign-up requirements. Why do I have to sign up for Medicare coverage at 65 when I can't start collecting full Social Security benefits until I turn 67? My Social Security benefits will not pay for my mandatory Medicare because I can't start collecting full Social Security benefits until I'm 67.

I currently pay for Tricare and utilize my local Veterans Administration medical facilities and referrals for my healthcare. With me turning 65 and having to wait until I'm 67 for my full Social Security benefits, it just seems unfair that I'll have to pay out of pocket Medicare monthly expenses for two years. Is there any way to avoid this unfair penalty?

Signed: Retired Navy Vet

Dear Retired Navy Vet:

First, I want to thank you for your military service to our country. Please know that here at the AMAC Foundation we care a lot about our veterans and you may find the "For Veterans" section of our Foundation website interesting – visit www.amacfoundation.org.

Regarding your question, you should be aware that enrolling in Medicare is not mandatory, but there are consequences if you do not enroll when you become eligible, normally at age 65). For one thing, if you are a retired veteran on military Tricare, you will lose your Tricare benefits if you don't enroll in Medicare when you are eligible.

Tricare requires that you enroll in Medicare when eligible. And, since you are not yet collecting Social Security, you will be required to separately pay the Medicare Part B premium directly to Medicare; they will bill you when you enroll in Medicare. Another potential consequence is that if you do not enroll in Medicare Part B when you are first eligible, you may incur a lifetime late enrollment penalty for enrolling in Part B later.

Something else to keep in mind is that there are

two "parts" to Medicare - Part A, which is coverage for inpatient hospitalization services and Part B, which is coverage for outpatient healthcare services - doctors, medical tests, etc. Medicare Part A is free to you, but there is a premium for Medicare Part B (\$185/month for 2025).

Note that you will need to pay a Part B premium as long as you are enrolled in Medicare Part B (it doesn't go away after you are collecting Social Security, but it is taken from your Social Security payment). And there is no way for you to avoid the Part B premium after enrolling and enrolling in Part B is necessary for you to continue your military Tricare-for-life benefits. Note that Medicare Part A and Part B do not include prescription drug coverage, but your Tricare coverage usually does.

It's important to note that Medicare and Social Security are two independent senior programs with different eligibility rules. As you may know, you can collect early (reduced) Social Security at age 65 (and have your Medicare Part B premium deducted from your SS payment). But you would be collecting Social Security early and, in addition to a reduced benefit, you would also be subject to Social Security's annual earnings test if you are still working. The SS earnings test limits how much you can earn before some of your SS benefits are taken away if you exceed the earning limit prior to your full retirement age.

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

Pothole cheerleaders...



GUEST COLUMN



By Ellenor Downer

A Brimfield resident reported a yellow bellied sapsucker pair in his yard.

He said in an email, "I began seeing a male yellow-bellied sapsucker at a dogwood tree in front of the house. The bird was there every day last week. On Saturday, I saw a female on the same tree. I'll try to find a nest, I did find a sapsucker nest in the Brimfield State Forest a few years ago." He also has a mountain ash in his yard with lots of sapsucker holes.

Yellow-bellied sapsuckers lap up the leaking sap and any trapped insects with its specialized, brush-tipped tongue from holes they makes in a variety of trees especially birch and maples

Like many of the woodpecker family, it has barred black and white feathers with a red cap. The male also has a red throat. They sit still on tree trunks for long intervals while feeding. To find one, listen for their loud mewing calls or stuttered drumming.

Sapsuckers inhabit young deciduous forests. To find a sapsucker's territory, people should keep an eye out for their distinctive, neatly organized rows of sap wells. They cling motionless to trees while calling, birds should look closely at the trees around the for their sharply contrasting black-and-white face stripes and the bright-red patches on their heads.

The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker makes two kinds of holes in trees to harvest sap. Round holes extend deep in the tree and are not enlarged. The sapsucker inserts its bill into the hole to probe for sap. Rectangular holes are shallower and must be maintained continually for the sap to flow. The sapsucker licks the sap from these holes, and eats the cambium of the tree too. New holes usually are made in a line with old holes, or in a new line above the old.

The sap wells made

by yellow-bellied sapsuckers attract hummingbirds, which also feed off the sap flowing from the tree. Other birds as well as bats and porcupines also visit sapsucker sap wells. Although a few individuals remain throughout much of the winter in the southern part of the breeding range, most head farther south, going as far south as Panama. Females tend to migrate farther south than do males.



Rose-breasted grosbeak

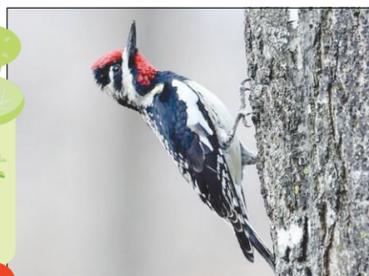
Other birds

The Brimfield resident reports the return of the rose-breasted grosbeak, catbird and great crested flycatcher. His wife saw two great crested flycatcher near the nest box a pair used last year.

Eagle nests

The Brimfield resident also reported a tree with a bald eagle nest at the Stebbins Wildlife Refuge in Longmeadow fell down and the fire department rescued two chicks. They have been placed in the care of a local raptor rehabilitator. The chicks look to be fully grown, but unable to fly. He will care for the birds until they are old enough to release.

In Ludlow there is another eagle nest and there are two chicks in that nest also but they are still very young, their heads are just visible above the rim of the nest.



Yellow bellied sapsucker



Sandpiper

Solitary sandpiper

The Brimfield resident reported seeing a solitary sandpiper at one of the ponds in Warren. He said he has seen spotted sandpipers there, but this was the first time he saw a solitary sandpiper at that location.



Black bear

Black bear

Saturday, May 24 I saw a black bear walking down the side of my road about 4:30 p.m. I slowly followed him in my car. He left the road and went up a steep path leading into some woods. At the top of the hill, he turned and looked toward the road. He had a healthy, dark black coat of fur.

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.

Country Journal TEAM



EDITOR
Ellenor Downer
countryjournal@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

The Country Journal (USPS 483-550) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.



@ Country Journal



countryjournal.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager

Turley
Publications, Inc.

www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

ISSN NO. 0747-2471

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.

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



PHONE

413.283.8393
Fax: 413.283.7017
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL

Advertising Sales
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

Editor

Ellenor Downer
countryjournal@turley.com

Subscriptions
www.turley.com

\$31 per year pre-paid (\$36 out of state)
Newsstand: \$.75 per copy

WEB

www.countryjournal.turley.com

@ Country Journal

The Country Journal is published by Turley Publications, Inc. • www.turley.com

Corrections policy

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

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

Country Journal welcomes Election letters to the editor

The Country Journal welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Country Journal, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to countryjournal@turley.com.

Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by **noon Friday** to be considered for the following Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the

newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election. For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

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

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

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

OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Task Force: parents talk to their teens

As students head into the summer months, we encourage you to find time to talk with your teens and pre-teens about boundaries.

Our pre-teens and teens fall within the age range of the second highest intimate partner violence group (11-17 yrs old) and we hope the information below will help you have these conversations.

Boundaries help determine the differences between healthy and unhealthy relationships:

Healthy Relationship: There is a balance of power where healthy boundaries are protected; the relationship is positive, and supportive.

Balance of Power: Equal and shared power by people in a relationship.

Unhealthy Relationship: There is an imbalance of power that results in one person being controlled and manipulated by another person; boundaries are

not respected, resulting in a destructive and negative relationship.

Personal Boundaries: These are guidelines or limits created to help protect a person and keep them safe. Boundaries can be physical, emotional, sexual, or financial, and they help foster healthy relationships by promoting respect, communication and understanding.

Maintaining personal boundaries helps your teens understand how to preserve the balance of power. When there is a shift in the balance of power, one person in the relationship can be manipulated and controlled by the other person.

Teenagers are in the process of developing their personal boundaries. Ask your teens, which activities they think cross personal boundaries: If someone asked you to do something you didn't want to do, how would you handle it? How

do you say "no" to someone you care about?

Try to listen to their answers in an open and non-judgmental manner, being the safe person whom your teen can come to if a boundary is crossed. If you feel as though your teen is not comfortable talking to you, here are some resources you might share with this website <https://www.LoveIsRespect.org/> or phone number Hilltown Safety at Home at 413-693-9977.

**Sheela Haque
Mary Krol
Heather Roy
Phil Barry
Melissa Reid
Kim Savery
Tara Balboni
Jon Gould
Lindsey Maxwell
Monica Moran
Donna Larocque**
Members, Southern Hilltown DV Task Force

Blandford Memorial Day was special

I want to thank each of you for all your work and dedication in putting on the Memorial Day celebration. It was a fantastic day, and we enjoyed it thoroughly!

The parade was awesome with the school band, fire fighters/trucks, past and current military and ponies. And the Veteran's celebration at the common was very heartwarming. All veterans were honored through children's poems,

wreaths, Taps and the Pledge of Allegiance. It was a very respectful presentation and Doug always does a fantastic job as moderator. We truly appreciate him and all the veterans who were present.

And if that wasn't enough, the picnic was wonderful. The food was awesome and plentiful and we even had free ice cream. It was a beautiful sunny day, kids were

running around having a ball, and folks were visiting together everywhere. The entire day was such a tribute to the friendly, caring town of Blandford. It is a wonderful slice of Americana that is so lacking in our society.

Thank you for all your hard work in keeping the spirit of Blandford alive and well.

Paula Bilodeau
Blandford

Reader replies to neighbor's letter

A recent letter by my friend and neighbor criticizing what he felt were excessive concerns about President Trump and his policies, has inspired this reply.

There are many otherwise good citizens across our nation that have allowed themselves to become brainwashed by the agenda of right wing media. Apparently these individuals believe they are being robbed of their share of the American dream, by foreign nations, immigrants, minorities or being passed over for consideration because of Diversity Equity Inclusion policies designed to insure the most qualified people fill roles regardless of any other

factors.

Reviewing the founding principles of our Constitution and the Declaration of Independence that the Constitution is based on, represent solutions to the unfairness that brought Americans to war with the King of England. The founders pledged their lives and fortunes to one another, immortalized in the words "hang together or hang separately." The magic sauce or glue that holds our nation apart from others is the faith we have in each other to support one and all, to fulfill the promise of our constitution. None more than the immigrant is motivated by the opportunities that document

presents and he helps bring those freedoms to reality.

Since the Revolution many Americans have stood up to protect and insure the freedoms established in our Constitution are respected and expanded to more of our population. Boston College professor and historian Heather Cox-Richardson authors Letters from an American at <https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/> is one. Some of the letters reveal why a patriotic American might have cause to hate the actions of President Donald J. Trump more than any president that preceded him.

Paul Dirschka
Blandford

President scrutinized more than Predecessors

I too have lived through the same Presidential administrations listed by Mr. Cousineau.

I never encountered a president who is less interested in working for the betterment of our country and more interested in advancing his personal agenda until Donald J. Trump entered the picture.

I don't understand how anyone supports and defends an individual who has the personality of a bullying child, has based his life on cheating and lying, selfishly taking advantage, ignoring the rule of law, and demeaning women; a convicted felon who enabled the Jan. 6 insurrection and who makes fun of people, calling them ridiculous names.

The behaviors that Cousineau deems shameful are behaviors that Trump initiated. He lied about Barack Obama, about his birthplace and made fun of his name. He called Joe Biden petty names ad nauseum, made baseless criticisms, concocted outlandish lies.

If anyone disagrees with him or refuses to kowtow to him, he categorizes them as a "bad person." He weaves extraordinary lies that are believed by so many. His destructive antics are heart-breaking and terrifying.

Is this the role model we want leading our nation? Someone who has set the stage for lying, cheating, hating and disgracing the less fortunate. Someone who befriends dangerous dictators

and alienates allies. Someone who lies pathologically and gets away with it.

If we allow ourselves to view the state of our nation realistically and objectively, we will see that Trump is not doing his job, he has not fulfilled important campaign promises, he is not mentally competent, as he cannot string two coherent thoughts together, and he is destroying our country, irreparably harming the struggling, hardworking average American citizen. "Enough is enough" is a practice that Trump should have embraced before he pulled the plug on America, and caused us to be a laughing stock on the world stage.

Wanda A. Deitner
Blandford

GOSHEN

Goshen Library announces upcoming news and events

GOSHEN – The Goshen Free Library, 42 Main St., has a full summer schedule with a variety of things planned for all ages.

The summer programming begins on Wednesday, June 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hill with a free performance by The Farley Sting Band that consists of ten local musicians.

The theme is "What's Your Tale to Tell?" Library staff hopes their activities will create more stories and give more chances for people to connect right here in Goshen. All are invited to visit the library and tell us a little tale, boring truths count. They will be handing out Cow Tails.

Every Wednesday at 2 p.m. Meekins Library offers

activities including crafts, book discussions, games, and a conversation group called Tea and Telling Tales.

Library staff will serve pancakes, fruit and coffee on three Saturdays, June 14, July 12 and Aug. 2 at 9 a.m.

The library offers Improv Games two times on Wednesdays, July 2 at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday, Aug. 7

at 1 p.m. Silly mistakes are guaranteed along with fun..

Salt Painting is a delightful experiment leaning toward science.

The finished pieces will have a surprise element that leaves people wanting to do more. Salt painting dates include Thursday, June 12 at 1 pm, Saturday, June 28 at 1 p.m., Thursday, July 17 at 1

p.m. and Wednesday, July 30 at 2 p.m.

They're hosting three Trivia Nights. All are on Wednesdays June 25, July 16 and Aug. 20 at 6:30 p.m.

The library expanded their children's toys and activities shelf and invite children to come in and have some fun with an option to check some out to take home.

People may email goshenfreelibrary@gamil.com if they would like a copy of the calendar sent to them.

The library is open on Wednesday from 2-6 p.m., Thursday and Saturday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.. They will be closed for Thursday Juneteenth (June 19). Some services will be available during events.

NORTHAMPTON

Hosmer Gallery exhibits Amherst Plein Air Society art

NORTHAMPTON – Amherst Plein Air Society Art will exhibit at the Hosmer Gallery located in the Forbes Library, 40 West St. now through Saturday, June 28.

An artists reception will be held Saturday, June 7 from 3-5 p.m. An informal reception will be held at Northampton Arts Night Out on Friday, June 13 from 5-6 p.m.

The exhibit features over 100 painting by 34 local artist. Amherst Plein Air Society was founded in 2015 to provide encourage-

ment and creative camaraderie for artists to paint en plein air together outdoors in the beautiful regional landscape. Some of the members have been painting for decades, while others are new to painting and everything in between. All media, ages and levels of experience are welcome. APAS has over 60 member artists, representing a wide diversity of styles and approaches to landscape painting.

Western Massachusetts has many beautiful spaces for an artist to discover

and plein air painting is an exhilarating way to experience them. "It's more than putting paint on a canvas," said Susanne Personette, the group's founding director. "All of your senses react to the colors you see, how they shift and change with the light."

Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. The Hosmer Gallery is located on the second floor of Forbes Library. It is accessible by stairs or elevator.

BECKET

Elections elicit good voter turnouts

BECKET – The Town of Becket had a great turnout in the Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election.

One hundred seventy three or 10:13% of registered voters participated in the Annual Town Meeting.

Two hundred thirty three or 13.6% voted in the Annual Town Election.

The Select Board commends all who participated in the Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election. Civic engagement is the heart

of a strong community, and it is impressive that so many were involved in the Annual Town Meeting and the Annual Town Election. Participation like this helps shape the future of Becket in meaningful ways.

HAYDENVILLE



This was a photo of last year's Artisan Show and Collectibles Sale. This year it will be held Saturday, June 7 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Haydenville Congregational Church. *Submitted photograph*

Church to hold artisan show and collectibles sale

HAYDENVILLE -- The annual Haydenville Artisan Show and Collectibles Sale will be Saturday, June 7 at Haydenville Congregational Church, 143 Main St., from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Local artisans will set up

tables and tents on the church grounds. Collectible items will be for sale in the church. According to event organizer Megan Jewett, collectibles range from art work and jewelry to furniture, musical instruments and sports equip-

ment. Jewett said there will also be discounted gift certificates to local businesses on sale.

Lunch will be served in the church dining hall.

The show and sale will be held rain or shine.

BLANDFORD

Listening session on dirt roads set for June 14

BLANDFORD – All 79 households living on Blandford's dirt roads have been sent an invitation to attend a meeting to discuss concerns and issues about their roads on Saturday, June 14 at 1 p.m. at the Town Hall.

This is billed as a town-wide listening session, open to all who want to “discuss and present ideas for the future care and resilience of dirt roads.” Chester, Middlefield and Blandford are all participants in a grant to conduct a regional assessment of the vulnerability of dirt roads within the context of climate change.

The work is in collaboration with Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. All the dirt road households have been asked to complete a questionnaire about multiple aspects of life on a dirt road and return it in a prepaid self-addressed envelope. The meeting is the same day as the local town election.



Noel and Jonathan Marra look at the Historical Society Memorial Day display.



Civil Air Patrol Youth Unit from Westover Air Force Base in Westfield led the parade up Main Street.

SOLDIERS

from page 1

cobbler and all kinds of cookies along with gallons of lemonade, iced

tea and water. Then there was the ice cream truck “Mr. Whippy” from West

Springfield.

It was a good time was for all.



Veterans marched in the parade.

Turley photos by Mary Kronholm



The Gateway Regional School Band directed by Beth Guertin. Two students from Blandford are in the band, Jeffrey Antonellis, trombone and Parker McLaughlin, alto saxophone.

TEACHING

from page 1

award.”

What made her move into teaching was, “to pass on what I have learned and help students get into the world of information technology. Vocational technical education is a wonderful environment where students can learn both academically and hands on which prepares them for the future.”

She continued, “I really enjoy transferring my knowledge and experience to students regarding technology and careers in information technology. I am inspired everyday by their hard-work, success and passion. It is the most rewarding job I have experienced in my career.”

Grinspoon Foundation Program and Event Coordinator Michelle Roberts shared some of Sarah's nominators comments. “Sarah Malanson exemplifies the very best of what it means to be an educator. In addition to teaching Programming and Web Development and AP Computer Science, Sarah's classroom reflects her caring and inclusive nature. She challenges her students to excel both academically and personally, ensuring each student feels valued, respected, and empowered. Sarah has created an environment where kindness is at the heart of every interaction.

Her students have

thrived after graduating, advancing directly into careers, college, and the military. This past year, one of Sarah's students was admitted to the U.S. Space Force, demonstrating the real-world impact of her teaching, extending beyond the classroom.” For instance, an example is her role in leading the electronics recycling drive and developing a student-run help desk.

Recently, Sarah chaired Pathfinder Tech's New England Association of Schools and Colleges accreditation committee and helped ensure that the process was done with fidelity.

Another nomination

credited her dedication to Scout, Pathfinder Tech's comfort dog Scout, assuring his role continues to grow, bringing joy, comfort and connection to both students and staff.

She consistently upholds the school's core values, emphasizing perseverance, achievement, teamwork and honor for both herself and her students.

Roberts continued, concluding with, “Sarah's unwavering commitment to students and the school community make her a true standout and clearly deserving of this prestigious recognition.”

According to the foundation's website, philanthro-

pist Harold Grinspoon “has always felt strongly about the need to acknowledge and reward those unseen heroes who quietly make a difference in our lives and our communities.”

With that goal in mind, in 2003 the Harold Grinspoon Foundation launched the Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Awards and continues to this day.

This year 108 teachers were honored and received an engraved plaque, a \$250 check and a variety of educational incentives. The opportunities in the award package include tuition scholarships and mores from eight area colleges and univer-

sities and a complimentary three-month membership to either the Springfield Jewish Community Center or one of the six regional YMCAs.

Now in its 22nd year, the program is an initiative of the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation in partnership with the Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation. The program is also supported by American International College, Arrha Credit Union Country Bank, and Meyers Brothers Kalicka.

Malanson is the daughter of Jim and Sue Webster of Herrick Road. She and her husband John live on Main Street.



Blandford's Porter Memorial Library Director Nicole Daviau recently retrieved the restored Porter Inn sign from the Clark Museum in Williamstown where it was restored.



This photo shows the other side of the Porter Inn sign.

Photos courtesy of the Clark Institute

Sign returns to town after restoration

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – Library Director Nicole Daviau retrieved the recently restored Porter Inn sign from the Clark Museum in Williamstown last week.

The 1795 and probably older sign has been on display in the library. The story of the sign, according to Sumner Gilbert Wood in “Taverns and Turnpikes of Blandford, 1733 – 1873” dates to the 1790s, A tav-

ern license belonging to Rufus Blair lapsed and was acquired by Samuel Porter. His description of the sign, as he saw it in the early 1900s (his book was published in 1908) reads, “Yet in good preservation, with date, 1795, upon the top, and bearing the legend, “Porters Inn.” Behind these words can be read in fainter lettering, ‘Rufus Blair.’ Porter was evidently Blair's successor in the business and bought the same. The sign is a precious relic, the only one of the kind out of scores

that first and last must have swung over the turnpikes and thoroughfares of Blandford. It is interesting as illustrating the attempt at artistic and patriotic appeal to the wayfarer in its decoration. On either side of the swinging sign, in the centre, is an American flag, but devoid of the field of stars, the flag being overlaid, on one face of the sign, with a representation of an anchor and cable”

Efforts to restore the sign included securing the split spindle and loose

parts; flaking paint was restored and dirt removed and the cleaned surface had a final coating of preservative to protect it.

The Clark's report concludes with, “Treatment has resulted in an object that is now structurally secure, with a stable surface. It is visually complete yet retains its historical appearance of age and use.”

The Porter Tavern sign will be on display in the library when the expansion has been completed according to Daviau.

STORE DISPLAYS BICENTENNIAL TIMES



Barbara Langmore, left, and Rosa Benson check out the edition of the Blandford Bicentennial Times on display at the Blandford Country Store. The Times was published monthly in 1975. For the next several months editions will be on display at the store as part of a 250th anniversary celebration.

Turley photo by Mary Kronholm

STOCKBRIDGE

Community dinner on June 8

STOCKBRIDGE – The Stockbridge Grange is having a community dinner Sunday, June 8, take out only with noon-1:30 p.m. pick up at the Stockbridge Grange Hall,

51 Church St.

The menu includes ham, baked beans and coleslaw with dessert choices of chocolate cream or lemon meringue pie. Dinner is \$15 per person.

Orders may be made by calling 413-243-1298 or 413-443-4352.

Grange dinners are held to raise money for non-profit projects and building maintenance.

GREAT BARRINGTON

BEAT sponsors wild edible plant hike set for June 8

GREAT BARRINGTON – Berkshire County is home to over 80 species of edible wild plants, some of which are more nutritious and/or flavorful than their cultivated counterparts.

These include native species, like Hazelnut and Yellow Birch; non-native weeds like Ox-eye Daisy and Plantain and invasive species like Garlic Mustard and Multiflora Rose.

Russ Cohen, author of the book “Wild Plants I Have Known...and Eaten”

and Berkshire Environmental Action Team will host a three-hour hike in the Berkshire Natural Resource Council’s Alford Springs Reserve, Old Village Road, on Sunday, June 8 from 3-6 p.m. Participants will learn about at least two dozen species of edible wild plants.

Keys to the identification of each species will be provided, along with info on edible portion(s), season(s) of availability and preparation methods, as well as general guidelines for safe,

ethical and environmentally-responsible foraging. This walk has a participant limit. Registration is required. People may register by visiting <https://BEAT-wild-edible-plant-hike.eventbrite.com>.

The planned loop for the hike is somewhat strenuous, with substantial elevation gain and loss, so this walk is recommended only for fit participants with the proper hiking gear. For questions, people may email chelsey@thebeat-news.org.

MIDDLEFIELD

Congregational Church to host service and dinner

MIDDLEFIELD – The Middlefield Congregational Church will be holding their monthly church service on

Saturday, June 7 at 5 p.m. in the church parlor.

Following the service, which is led by Pastor

Susan Borsella, a lasagna dinner will be held. All are welcome to attend.

Middlefield to hold Special Town Election July 14

MIDDLEFIELD – The Select Board voted on May 23 to hold a Special Town Election to fill the vacant seat on the Finance Committee for a three year term.

There was a failure to elect at the May 03, 2025 annual town election as a result of a tie vote. Candidates applying for a three year position on the Finance Committee need to give the Town Clerk a

notice of intent by Monday, June 9 to have their name put on the ballot either by email middlefield.clerk@gmail.com, in writing to P.O. Box 265, Middlefield 01243 or in office from 1-6 p.m. Telephone 413-623-2079

A Special Town Caucus will be held on Tuesday June 10 from 4-8 p.m. Last day to register to vote for Special Town Election is Wednesday July 9 from 9:00-11 a.m. and 3-5 p.m.

Ballots will be available for mail-in by July 10. The Town Clerk needs a written request by email, regular mail or dropped at the municipal drop box at the entrance to Town Hall. Addresses is listed above.

Early Voting will be held on Monday July 14 from 1-6 p.m. in the Town Clerk’s office. Special Town Election will be held on Saturday July 19 from 8 a.m.-noon.

BLANDFORD



At the ready with the super shears, Board of Health Chair Bret Hartley waits for the ‘go’ signal. Shown from left are Transfer Station attendant Glen Bessette, Select Board member Ted Cousineau, Bret Hartley, Board of Health member Jennifer Girard, and Transfer Station attendants Chris Cappa and Nate Suares.

Turley photos by Mary Kronholm

Swap Shack opens for business

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – Saturday morning, 9 a.m. at the Transfer Station, Board of Health Chair and Transfer Station Supervisor cut the ribbon signifying that the Swap Shack is official and officially open.

Residents with the requisite transfer station sticker may drop acceptable items off once reviewed by the attendants and are welcome to take items home.

at no cost.

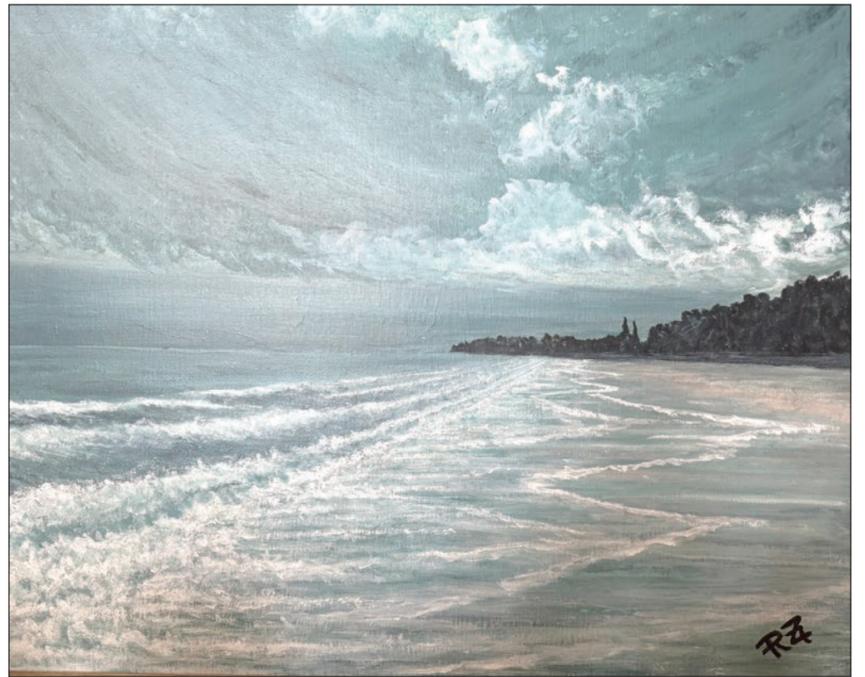
This will help keep items out of landfills and keep the recycle stream moving along. Select Board member Ted Cousineau was on hand for the event and said, “It’s about time we had something like this in the community.” Board of Health member and grant writer for the Swap Shack construction project, Jennifer Girard agreed with Cousineau saying, “It’s been a long time coming.” The process took about

three years from start to opening. Electricity still has to be installed for lighting.

“The guys did a great job. The grant funded most of the construction with no extra cost to the town,” said Girard.

One observant resident already took home a wrought iron table and chair set. There are cards available at the Town Hall as well as at the Transfer station listing what is and is not an acceptable item.

WILLIAMSBURG



This painting by Dick Zimmer will be exhibited at the Meekins Library during the month of June. Courtesy photo by Dick Zimmer

Meekins Library exhibits Dick Zimmer artwork

WILLIAMSBURG – The Meekins Library, 2 Williams St., will show paintings by Dick Zimmer, resident of Haydenville’s former Pennrose Inn B & B through the month of June.

An artist’s reception will be held on Saturday,

June 21 from 1-4 p.m. Zimmer, who retired in 2005 as President of Stevens Polyurethane for JPS Elastomerics, has traveled to all seven continents, all 50 states and 70 countries.

Zimmer started sketching animals during early

childhood, moved on to watercolor scenery, then found acrylics the best medium for his work. Dick’s arthritic hands make writing difficult, yet he’s still painting, and says, “It’s never too late to get started!”

Planning Board seeks resident input

WILLIAMSBURG – The Planning Board wants to hear from residents.

As part of their continuing efforts to develop a comprehensive plan for the future of the town they invite

people to a drop-in and open house on Thursday, June 26 between 3-7 p.m. at the Dunphy School, 1 Petticoat Hill Road. The goal is to build upon the work that’s been done to date and hear

from as many residents as possible in moving forward. State grant monies have provided for the consulting firm of J.M. Goldson to aid the Williamsburg Planning Board in this endeavor.

WORTHINGTON

Cemetery tour postponed to June 8

WORTHINGTON – Due to expected rain on May 31, the Worthington Historical Society postponed the Revolutionary War Patriots Cemetery Tour on Sunday, June 8 from 1-3 p.m.

This tour is part of the Marquis de Lafayette 200th anniversary celebration. People should meet at Center Cemetery, Sam Hill Road. This event is open to the public. Participants should wear sturdy shoes and bring

water. The Worthington Historical Society team with the Daughters of the American Revolution to identify the graves of Worthington citizens affected by the Revolutionary War.

R.H. Conwell bake sale on June 7

WORTHINGTON – R.H. Conwell Elementary School will hold a bake sale fundraiser at the Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, June 7, which begins at 9:30 a.m.

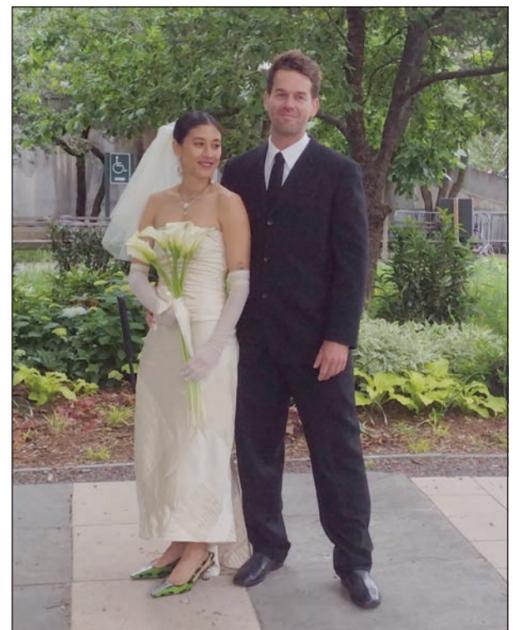
Donations of baked goods are needed. Donors may drop off baked items at the school by Friday, June 6 during school hours. All donations must include a label of all ingredients. Baked goods can’t be sold with a list of all ingredients. The fundraiser benefits the fifth and sixth grade trip to Nature’s Classroom.

Transfer Station posts new hours

WORTHINGTON – Summer hours are now in effect at the Transfer Station.

The transfer station is open Wednesdays from 3-7 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

NEWMAN AND SCHAFF WED



Milo Newman, son of Elizabeth Schaff and Gregory Newman of Worthington and Melissa Kenny, daughter of Michael and Rabi Kenny of Lake Haven, New South Wales, Australia, are married. The wedding took place May 23, 2025 in New York City. The groom is a woodworker. He received a degree in civil engineering from UMass Amherst. The bride is a marketing consultant. She received a degree in journalism from University of New South Wales. The married couple will reside in Brooklyn, New York.

Submitted photo

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

McIver, Balboni and Papillon take Gateway top senior honors

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON — McIver, Balboni and Papillon take top senior honors

Academic and scholarship awards were handed out at the Gateway Regional School Awards Ceremony, held Wednesday, May 28. Dr. William Sullivan, principal, announced that Olivia MacIver held the top grade point average and would be Valedictorian for the Class of 2025. Sullivan named Jesse Balboni as Salutatorian, coming in with the second highest GPA.

In addition to being named Valedictorian, MacIver served as the Vice President of the Class of 2025, was Co-President of the Dana O. Webber Chapter of National Honor Society, served on Student Council and earned numerous other awards and scholarships, including the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents' award, the Excellence in AP Calculus award, the John Phillips Sousa Award and the Robert Shipman Social Studies Award. MacIver also won the Massachusetts Elks Scholarship, Richard D. and Claire A. Carmel Scholarship, John and Abigail Adams Scholarship and the Band Booster Scholarship. She performed on flute at the Western Massachusetts Music Educators Senior District Festival in January.

Gateway's Golden Achievement Award is also considered one of the school's highest honors and is awarded for outstanding academic achievement, leadership and service to the school and community. Members of the senior class nominate candidates for the award. The top five finalists submit an essay, which is kept anonymous as it goes before the faculty for their vote. Finalists were Jesse Balboni, Madilyn Beneway, Evan Forgue, Cynthea Papillon and Benjamin Pritchard. Assistant Principal Val Zeh announced that Cynthea Papillon was this year's Golden Achievement winner.

Jesse Balboni is from Russell and Captained the Varsity Boys Basketball Team for three seasons and the Varsity Cross Country Team for two seasons. He volunteered with the local social services agency "It Takes a Village" and has been a camp counselor and lifeguard at Westfield YMCA's Camp Shepard. Balboni will attend Union College this fall and major in mechanical engineering.

Madilyn Beneway from Huntington is the Co-President of the National Honor Society and Secretary of the Class of 2025. She took part in the Annual Hilltown Holiday Help Boot Drive, read to second graders on Dr. Seuss Day, and helped with the Sr. Citizen Breakfast. She will attend



Nominees for Gateway Regional School's "Golden Achievement Award" were (left to right) Jesse Balboni, Madilyn Beneway, Benjamin Pritchard, Cynthea Papillon and Evan Forgue. Papillon took the award, announced at the school's awards ceremony held May 28. Turley photos by Wendy Long

Holyoke Community College this fall and major in radiology.

Evan Forgue of Chester was a member of the Trivia Club and Theater Club at Gateway, attended Massachusetts Boys State, and volunteered with the Gateway Youth Athletic Association. An accomplished bassoonist, he performed with the Western Massachusetts District Music Festival Band from 2022 through 2025, played for the past two years with the Smith College Wind Ensemble, and performed with the Lions All State Band in 2024 and 2025. Forgue will attend Amherst College this fall and major in mathematics.

Cynthea Papillon is from Russell and served as

both Class President and Student Council President. As such, she led the organizing of numerous events at the school including Reindeer Games and other spirit point activities. She captained the Varsity Softball Team, was selected for Massachusetts Girls State, and represented Gateway on a trip to Kentucky with faculty, staff and parents to look at innovative high schools, funded by the Barr Foundation. She will attend Towson University this fall and major in speech and language pathology.

Benjamin Pritchard is also from Russell and served as the fundraising coordinator for the senior class. He volunteered at numerous events including the Gateway Education Foundation's Trivia Night and Granville's Harvest Fair. He served on the School Council and has mountain biked with the Gateway Gear Grinders for the last 7 years. He is employed at Moltenbrey's Market in Huntington. Pritchard will attend UMASS Amherst this fall and major in biomedical engineering, with a goal of prosthetics design and creation.

Academic, scholarship and other awards were announced for all grades at the assembly. The Class of 2026 won this year's Spirit Trophy, for gaining the highest number of spirit points from a year-long series of contests and events.



And the winners are Valedictorian Olivia MacIver, Salutatorian Jesse Balboni and Golden Achievement Award winner Cynthea Papillon. They were recognized at the annual awards assembly.

GRADUATES

rounded out the high school metaphor.

Valedictorian Olivia MacIver and Salutatorian Jesse Balboni then offered their reflections. "I am sure by now we have all heard the saying, 'Success is not a number.' A cautionary phrase heeding that such a grand notion cannot be measured by GPAs, points scored or bank account balances, but rather something more complex," MacIver said. "As the titles fade, the money dwindles and the years pass by, it is not these numbers that will be remembered, but rather something more distinct."

Balboni opened his speech by graciously acknowledging classmate, Evan Forgue, as the two had been in a head-to-head race for the Salutatorian award all year. "He deserves to be up here as much as I do," Balboni said. "Now, as

we stumble blindly into the world I would like everyone to remember a quote from human rights activist Malcolm X, 'Stumbling is not failing.' This is to remind you that although you might falter or mess up, you can't give up or quit."

Senior choir members joined choral students in a performance of "Sing" by F. Iero, R. Toro, G. Way and M. Way. The commencement guest speaker was Superintendent Kristen Smidy, who started her job at Gateway when the Class of 2025 started high school. "As you step into a world that moves fast and sometimes feels disconnected, it will

try to measure your worth in ways that don't always make sense. This can be through titles, thought comparisons or whatever happens to be trending at the moment," Smidy said. "But here's what I hope you'll remember: you don't have to prove your value. You already carry it with you."

Smidy had a surprise gift for the seniors, who found a 2025 penny taped to the bottom of their chairs. She asked them to keep the penny as a symbol. "You've probably heard the phrase, 'a penny for your thoughts.' So let this penny be just that—an invitation to speak and to be heard," she said.

"It's your prepayment or a reminder that what you have to say carries weight. You don't need permission to take up space, to ask thoughtful questions, or to lead in ways that reflect your values."

MacIver was the first graduate to come to the stage for her diploma. Upon arrival, she handed Sullivan a glass container with "Class of 2025" painted on it. In turn, each graduate brought a golf ball to the stage and placed it in the container.

Poignant moments were when Balboni, Papillon and Forgue received their diplomas and a heartfelt hug—from their parents Tara Balboni, Lyndsey Papillon and Jason

Forgue. Evan Forgue also received a bonus hug from older brother, Brian Forgue. All of these family members serve on the Gateway Regional School Committee.

Once the diplomas were handed out, Papillon returned to the stage as Smidy declared the Class of 2025 to be graduated and students moved their tassels from the right to left sides of their caps.

Graduating were Jesse Balboni, Ryen Baudin, Madilyn Beneway, Kyleigh Benson, Aden Carroll, Ivan Chepurenko, Aidan Cote, Rodrick Cote, Addelyn Douglas, Amy Fisk, Ashley Fisk, Evan Forgue, Haven

Gates, Isabelle Graveline, Dawson Jackman, Gabriel Kellam, Edward Kempisty, Jr., Adam Krassler, Mason LaBranche, Olivia MacIver, Gia Marchese, Aubree Noe, Cynthea Papillon, Briana Pelouquin, Jaidon Plant, Joel Precanico, Benjamin Pritchard, Skyler Radwisch, Rosangela Resto-Ruiz, Abigail Robbins, Nevaeh Rodriguez Suloff, Aubrey Smith, Andre Tsosie and Jayden Varley.

Sullivan closed the ceremony with final remarks and the recessional to "Stand By Me," as the graduates walked out to be greeted by family and friends.



Marshall Lucas Gilbert and Theodore DeAngelis-Page led the graduates onto the field.



School Committee member Lyndsey Papillon and her daughter Cynthea embrace before Cynthea receives her diploma.



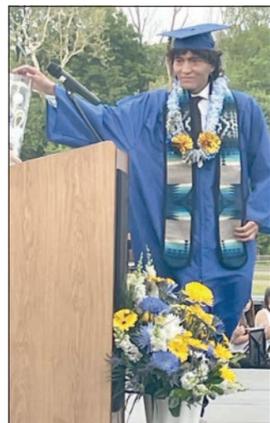
Senior Evan Forgue played bassoon in his final performance with the Gateway Concert Band.



Gateway Senior Abby Robbins decorated her graduation cap with photos of favorite family memories.



Principal Sullivan with his prized golf ball collection, given to him one-by-one by the Gateway Class of 2025.



Andre Tsosie adds a golf ball to the collection given by the class to Dr. William Sullivan, principal.



Superintendent Kristen Smidy was the guest speaker. Turley photo by Wendy Long



Students reach under their seats to retrieve a surprise gift from Smidy.

from page 1



GATEWAY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2025



Jesse Balboni



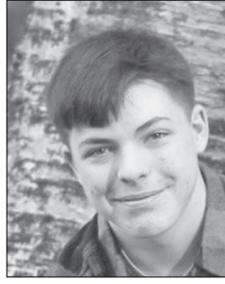
Ryen Baudin



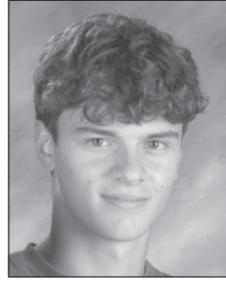
Madilyn Beneway



Kyleigh Benson



Aden Carroll



Ivan Chepurenko



Amy Fisk



Ashley Fisk



Evan Fogue



Haven Gates



Isabelle Graveline



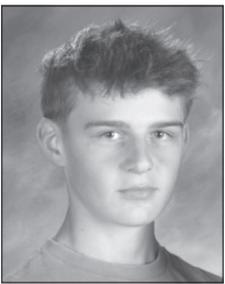
Dawson Jackman



Gabriel Kellam



Adam Krassler



Mason LaBranche



Olivia MacIver



Gia Marchese



Aubree Noe



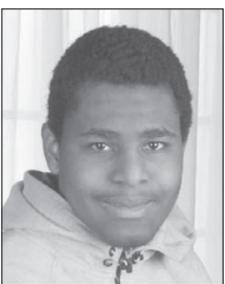
Cynthea Papillon



Briana Peloquin



Jaidon Plant



Joel Precanico



Benjamin Pritchard



Skyler Radwich



Rosangela Resto



Abigail Robbins



Nevaeh RodriguezSuloff



Aubrey Smith



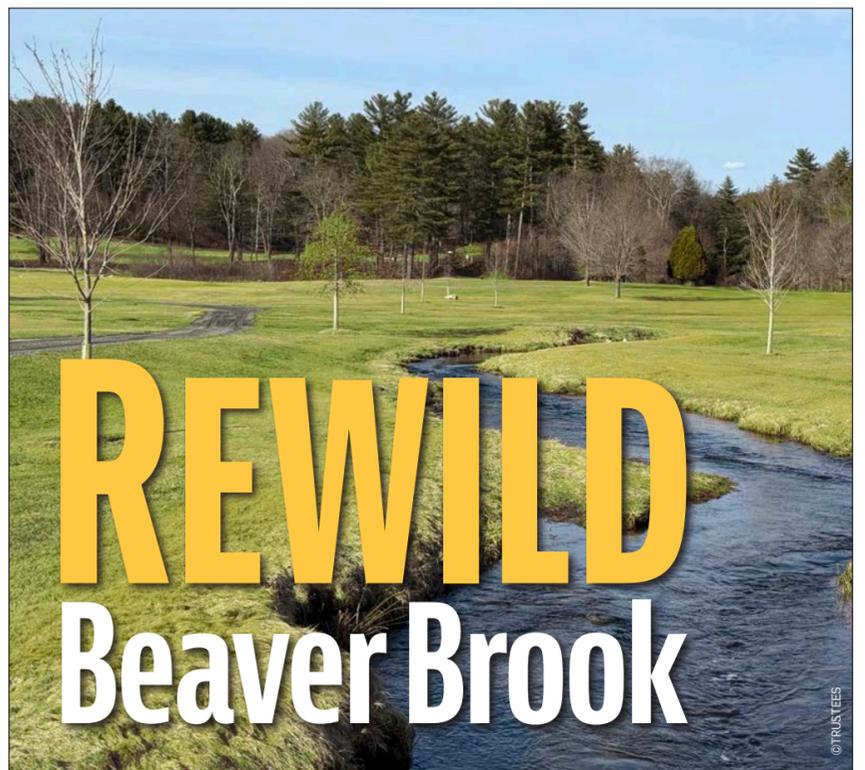
Jayden Varley

Celebrating Our Graduates
Congratulations & best wishes!

Your Success is BIG NEWS!
We are very proud of you!

From your friends at
Country Journal
 YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

think OUTSIDE of the BIG BOX
 SUPPORT COMMUNITY BUSINESSES



REWILD Beaver Brook

Together we can restore nature and connect community

Give or learn more at thetrustees.org/beaverbrook

FIVE ISLANDS
 Georgetown, Maine
 2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom
 Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped

- Walk to Five Islands Wharf and LedgeWood Preserve Beach
- Close to Reid State Park

\$1200/week
207-607-9333



HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 2025



Robinson Agresto



Fadhil Al Baghdadli



Brooke Alexander



Sabah Alshmlh



Jayden Barry



Logan Bean



Sophia Bernier



Jaydin Biladeau



Brooke Bishop



Hope Brodeur



Ryan Brooks



Grace Brouillard



Delaney Cantwell



Dara Cassidy



Matthew Cesare



Teagan Charles



Cassidy Clark



Adin Clifford



Alyssa Colon-Garcia



Liena Constantine-Massey



Clairissa Cranston



Breanna Dale



Miguel Delgado



Isabella DeMar



Harman Dhaliwal



Delsin Diaz



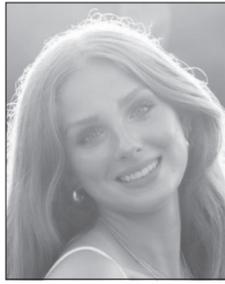
Eleanor Donohue



Hayden Durazo



Emma Erickson



Ryleigh Fennessy



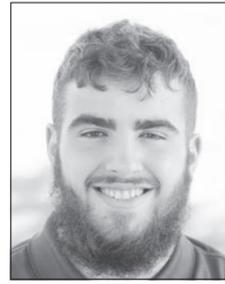
Georgiana Frazier



Bella Gallo



Layla Gauger



Cooper Goudreau



Ava Gougeon



Julia Hamel



Beatrice Hamilton



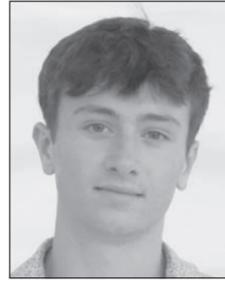
Robert Herman



Bowen Hocking



Madelynn Hollister



Colin Holt



Addison Hufnagle



Camden Jarosz



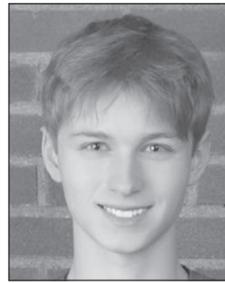
Cristien Jimenez



Emma Kelly



Robin Ketcherside



Koleton Kolodziej



Jack Laliberte



Ashton Lashway

Congratulations
2025 GRADS

*from your
 friends at the*

Turley
 Publications, Inc.





HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2025



Isabella LeBarron



Kayla LeBeau



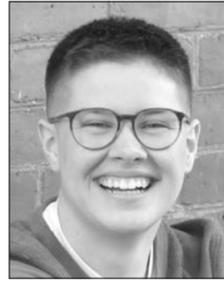
Sadie Mahon-Moore



Tricia Malanson



Olivia Manganelli



Benji Marconi



Riley Marney



Alexander Materday



Dassiah Mize



Isabelle Mondschein



Philip Morin



Julianne Moro



Evan Moulton



Chloe Moynihan



Payton Norris



Emily O'Connell



Thomas O'Connor



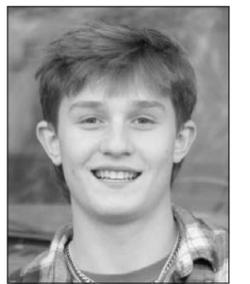
Madeline Oravec



Isaias Ortiz-Colon



Angelena Osiecki



Joey Osiecki



Zachary Phakos



Elijah Picard



Emmett Quinn



Colman Radowicz



Emily Reyor



Kailee Roncone



Destiny Saltis



Ava Senecal



Caley Shade



Anna Shadrick



Kayleigh Shea



Jacob Sicard



Julia Sicard



Katherine Simmons



Zola Simonelli



Ash Skow



Molly Smith



Caelyn Thayer



Mary Thibault



David Thibodeau



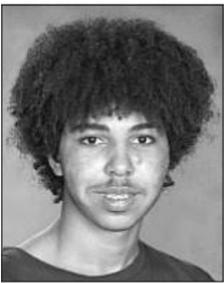
Nathan Utrera



Kayla Velez



Dana Warren



Frederick Williams



Jack Wresiens

\$12.50 Each



Digital Photos
TURLEY PUBLICATIONS, INC.
Purchase a photo that recently ran in one of our publications. Go to newspapers.turley.com/photo-request

CHESTERFIELD
78th Annual **4th of July** Fest!!

Red, White & Moooa

Pancake Breakfast (Firehouse)	7:00 - 10:00
Food & Vendor Booths	9:00 - 1:30
Historical Exhibits (Edwards Museum)	9:00 - 1:30
Heritage Pops Orchestra (Town Center)	9:30 & 11:30
Hilltown Art Display (Town Hall)	9:30 - 1:30
Historical Exhibits (Town Hall)	9:30 - 1:30
	10:30 - 11:30

PARADE
MARCHING BANDS!
ANIMALS

Chicken Barbecue (Church)	11:30 - 1:30
Magic Show (Russell Park)	11:30 - 1:30

Sponsored in part by the Arts Council of:
Chesterfield, Goshen, Williamsburg & Worthington

Massachusetts Cultural Council

OBITUARIES

Joanne T. Hebert

MONTGOMERY – Joanne T. Hebert passed away May 21, 2025, after a brief illness.

Born in Westfield to Rita (Dillon) and Joseph Tobias, she attended Westfield Schools through graduation.

After high-school she attended STCC, earning a Dental Assistant certificate. She worked in the field until having her first child.

At the age of 12, she met a boy named Paul, who would go on to be the love of

her life. They had a beautiful life together until his passing.

She drove school buses in the hilltowns for many years, worked for Lecrenski Brothers, Inc. in Westfield and retired from the Westfield Public Schools Transportation Department. She enjoyed gardening, going to Ogunquit, going to craft fairs and attending events her grandchildren participated in.

She leaves her four daughters: Holly (Robert) Kidrick, Theresa (David)

Burek, Paula (Tony) Hebert-Pike and Michelle Hebert. Her beloved, grandchildren Matthew (Liz) and Lauren Kidrick, Cullen, Aidan and Rielyn Pike and Jacob Voudren cherish the many joy-filled memories she made with each of them.

She also leaves her brother, William (Jennifer) Tobias; sister-in-law, Nancy (David) Brill; brother-in-law, Peter Hebert; former son-in-law, Don Voudren Jr.; her best friend and cousin Janet

Turcotte and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband of 44 years, Paul Hebert; her mother, Rita Tobias and sister, Nancy Tobias.

Joanne was kind and generous and would do anything for anyone. She will be deeply missed.

A private service will be held at the family's convenience. Arrangements made by Graham Hilltown Community Funeral Home.

Waino Tuominen, 82

HUNTINGTON – Waino Tuominen, in the words of his son, was a lifelong conservationist and do-gooder. He died from complications related to cancer on May 11, 2025, after a full and colorful life. He was 82.

Born in Fall River, Waino spent his young adult years roaming places like California and Mexico. But when he settled in Huntington in the early 1970s, it was clear that he'd found home.

He embarked on a life of stewarding land, caring for animals, and serving his community. Waino was drawn to labor; his varied jobs included work as a trail builder, farrier, stone wall builder and dairy farm laborer. He called himself a large animal man and, besides milking the cows, he enjoyed

tending horses for neighbors and friends. He also helped with seasonal work, preferably outdoors, close to home and for people he liked to visit with.

Waino had a strong moral code that was deeply rooted in the environment. He lived by the tenets of "voluntary simplicity," "small is beautiful," and "think globally, act locally." And he put these ideas into practice daily by encouraging recycling everywhere he went even, to the amusement of his friends, by separating out the component parts of used tea bags (compost, metal, paper, string) so that each element could be returned to the earth or reused.



At the family camp in Maine, Waino could live off the grid and enjoy being in nature with his partner Linda and their extended family and friends. Here, and everywhere, Waino walked gently on the earth. Younger people were drawn to his principled practices and deep knowledge, joining a large community of local friends who regularly stopped by the Huntington house or gathered for seasonal bonfires.

In the community, Waino served for many years on the Huntington Conservation Commission, the Hilltown Land Trust Board of Directors, and the Goshen Food Pantry. He supported

more conservation groups than there is room to name.

In addition to Linda Siska, his life partner of 48 years, Waino leaves his son Waino Tuominen III, his sister Linda Harris and family, sister-in-law Lois Siska, brother-in-law Bill Yamartino and his beloved nieces and nephews, Sheila, Jillian, Daniel and Gabriel Yamartino, their families and many good friends. If happiness is defined by the relationships one builds in one's life, it is why Waino was a deeply contented man.

A small family service to honor him will be held soon. A larger celebration of life will follow at a later date. For those who would like to honor him, please plant a tree or make a contribution to an environmental organization of choice.

DEATH NOTICES

HEBERT, JOANNE T.

Died May 21, 2025

A private service will be held at the family's convenience.

JAMES, JON FELIX

Died Oct. 4, 2024

Recorded live service available on FaceBook
www.facebook.com/NorthHillsSC/videos/
jon-james-homegoing-service/506662728856582/
Private burial at later date
in Norwich Bridge Cemetery, Huntington

WAINO TUOMINEN

Died May 11, 2025

Small Family Service to honor him
Larger Celebration of Life at a later date

Country Journal OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

REGION

Gas prices remain unchanged

WESTWOOD – Gasoline prices are idling to start the summer driving season.

The lead up to Memorial Day, the unofficial start of summer, is typically met with a rising demand for gasoline and rising pump prices. While demand data for the holiday weekend is not yet available, prices remained flat across the Northeast thanks to lackluster demand in the weeks leading up to the holiday and growing inventories as supply continues to outpace domestic demand.

The build in gasoline inventories came last week even as domestic refiners dialed back production from 9.7 million to 9.5 million barrels a day, according to the Energy Information Administration. Total supplies of gasoline increased by 800,000 barrels. On the other side of the equation, demand for gasoline during the week ending May 16, the latest available data, fell to 8.64 million barrels a day, down from 8.79 million barrels a day a week earlier.

Another factor keeping a lid on pump prices is the cost of oil, which continues to hover around \$60 a barrel and is unlikely to break out of the current range after OPEC+ indicated last week that its member nations will likely approve yet another production increase in July. That makes three consecutive months that the group would approve increases of 411,000 barrels a day, increasing the odds of global supply outpacing production through the end of 2025.

"It might seem highly unusual for gas prices to stay relatively flat in the early days of the summer driving season, but ultimately, supply and demand are the major driving forces behind pump prices," said Mark Schieldrop, senior spokesperson for AAA Northeast. "Prices could start moving if demand picks up as the summer rolls along, but it will take several consecu-

tive weeks of strong demand before the current dynamic changes."

The average gas price in Massachusetts is unchanged from last week (\$3), averaging \$3 per gallon. Today's price is 4 cents higher than a month ago (\$2.96) and 53 cents lower than this day last year (\$3.53). Massachusetts' average gas price is 17 cents lower than the national average.

AAA Northeast's May 27 survey of fuel prices found the current national average unchanged from last week (\$3.17), averaging \$3.17 per gallon. Today's national average price is 3 cents higher than a month ago (\$3.14) and 42 cents lower than this day last year (\$3.59).

Today, Mississippi and Louisiana have the lowest prices in the nation, at \$2.64 and \$2.70, respectively. California and Hawaii hold the highest prices in the nation this week at \$4.84 and \$4.47, respectively. Massachusetts holds the 22nd place on the list of lowest gas prices in the nation.

AAA Northeast is a not-for-profit auto club with offices in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, New Hampshire and New York, providing nearly 6.8 million local AAA members with travel, insurance, financial and auto-related services.

Huntington

Conservation Commission

The Huntington Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on **Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at 7:30 pm** at Town Hall to review a Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by Mark Liimatainen. The proposed activity is for repair of a retaining wall, drainage swale and culvert replacement at 92-93 Lake Shore Dr. This hearing is in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 131 Section 40 of the Wetlands Protection Act. 06/05/2025

Goshen

Conservation Commission

The Goshen Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting under the provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Chapter 131 Section 40) on, **June 16, 2025 at 6:30 PM** at the Goshen Town Offices to review a Request for Determination filed by Jody Kinner at 103 Aberdeen Road, Goshen, MA. The work to be reviewed is a 10' by 12' shed to be constructed on the north side of the property at least 50 feet from the water. 06/05/2025

TOWN OF CHESTER MASSACHUSETTS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Notice of Public Hearing

Pursuant to Mass General Laws, Chapter 131, Section 40, Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, the Chester Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Monday, June 9th, 2025 at 5:00 P.M.**, in the Town of Chester's Town Hall COA Room on the second floor, for an RDA filed by CSX for a 5-year Vegetation Management Plan. The application is on file and is available for public inspection. To review, please contact the Chester Conserva-

tion Commission Office Monday through Friday from 9 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. 06/05/2025

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION NOTICE OF A DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

Project Description:
Becket – Ledge Removal along Route 8, between Milemarkers 28.002 and 27.998

Project File No. 609506
A Design Public Hearing will be held to present the design for the proposed project in Becket, MA.

WHERE:
**Becket Town Hall,
Lower Level
557 Main Street
Becket, MA 01223**

WHEN:
**Wednesday, June 18, 2025
@ 6:00pm-7:00pm**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: Throughout Berkshire County (including on Route 8 in Becket), ledge outcroppings and exposed rock faces are adjacent to State Highway. Some of these areas were created when the highways were originally built, reconstructed or widened; or when natural events, such as Tropical Storm Irene, exposed natural rock slopes to additional weathering and erosion. Many of these locations pose a potential safety hazard from falling rock or slope failure, which could injure highway users or shut down some sections of State Highway for an extend-

ed time. Highway closures at many of these locations would result in lengthy detours, affecting regional commuting and commerce. This Project will design site-specific improvements to address safety issues related to exposed or falling rock at this location. Pedestrian and bicycle accommodations cannot be provided within the roadway layout, consistent with existing conditions.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 609506. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is hosted on the MassDOT website listed below.

This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g.: interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Di-

versity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the hearing, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing.

In case of inclement weather, a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER
06/05, 06/12/2025

Town of Blandford Conservation Commission Public Notice

At its regularly scheduled meeting on **Monday, June 9, 2025, at 6:00 PM** at the Blandford Town Hall, 1 Russell Stage Road, the Blandford Conservation Commission will consider a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) received from the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (SWSC). The RDA is related to proposed activities at the Borden Brook Reservoir Spillway in the Town of Blandford within the SWSC Watershed. The Commission will make its determination in accordance with the provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. c 131, Sec. 40 (as amended).

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

Richard Gates, Chair
Town of Blandford
Conservation Commission
06/05/2025

News, photo publication policy

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

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

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD
Fresh cut & split \$200.00
Seasoned cut & split \$300.00
All hardwood.
Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products (413)477-0083

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. \$2K Tax Credit. Call (508)882-0178

JUNK REMOVAL

ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL
Full house cleanouts, attics, basements, garages, pools, hot tubs, sheds, decks. Same day service. 8am-9pm. Credit cards accepted. Free estimates on phone. Fully insured. Call Pete 413-433-0356.

A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL
Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts. We load it & take it. 413-531-1936 CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

SERVICES

A B Hauling and Removal Service
2*****A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE*****
Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. (413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868.

DRYWALL, PAINTING AND CEILINGS, plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. (413)563-0487.

ELECTRICIAN

NEED AN ELECTRICIAN?
Look no further!
PJ's Electrical offers fast and reliable electrical services for your home or business. Call now for a FREE estimate! (413) 366-1703 LICENSED & INSURED

SERVICES

LICENSED ELECTRICIAN
I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small. Mini-splits, upgrades, pools, trustworthy & dependable. Luis Arroyo #20773A. Text or call 413-218-3301.

ZEN ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC
Fully licensed and insured; Master Electrician on staff. Call for all your electrical needs. No job too small. Senior citizen and Veteran Discount. A veteran owned company. MA License #8101A1. Call John at (413)206-6509.

EXCAVATING

ELIOT STARBARD EXCAVATION
35+ yrs of happy customers. 508-882-0140

HOME IMPROVEMENT

CHAMELEON PAINTING & REMODELING
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR Remodeling & Deck Specialists
Residential/Commercial
Fully Insured • Free Estimates
413-351-1147

HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. (413)246-2783 Ron.

WALKER HOME IMPROVEMENT
Interior and exterior - Finish carpentry, framing, window & door replacement, dry-wall, painting and decks. Competitive pricing. Insured. Call Brendan at 413-687-5552.

LANDSCAPING

A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE
Excavator Services
Overgrown property?
Extreme Brush Cutting!
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
Lawn/Arbonite Installed
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand
Storm Clean-up
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal
Insured
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

****ALL SEASON**** Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe, insured, Professional. Please call Bob (413)537-5789 (413)538-7954.

SERVICES

MATT GUERTIN LANDSCAPING
Weekly Mowing
Landscape design and installation
Paver Patios, Walkways
For more services visit mattguertinlandscaping.com
Call or text 413-266-9975
Insured - Commercial - Residential

LAWN & GARDEN

COMPOSTED LOAM 3/8" screened, \$40/yd. deliv., 10 yd min.; No additives, fillers or by-products. Local deliv. to Oakham and surrounding towns only. Eliot Starbard 508-882-0140.

MASONRY

STOP WET BASEMENTS
ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call (413)569-1611, (413)374-5377

PAINTING

DUTCH TOUCH PAINTING
Interior only \$199.00 for average 12x16 room. Very neat, references, prompt service call (508)867-2550

PLUMBING

GREG LAFONTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg (413)592-1505

PRESSURE WASHING

HOT WATER PRESSURE WASHING. We use brushes and state of the art equipment. We remove grime and mold from homes, patios, fences, walkways, all decks, concrete & driveways - Senior Discounts. For free estimates call Bill (413)519-9800.

RUBBISH REMOVAL

BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 (413)537-5090

SERVICES

TREE WORK

AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE. Residential removal of trees. Free estimates, Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call 413-283-6374.

AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING
Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack 413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994

DL & G TREE SERVICE - Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate (413)478-4212

STUMP GRINDING

DL & G STUMP GRINDING Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave 413-478-4212

SAW STUMP GRINDING
413-213-5470
SAW Stump Grinding
Call for a Free Estimate, Veteran Owned, Fully Insured
WWW.SAWSTUMPGRINDING.COM
413-213-5470

AUTO

CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS
FREE TOWING
FAST SERVICE
CASH PAID AS IS
CALL OR TEXT
413-219-6839

HELP WANTED

BUS CLEANER WANTED. Part-time mornings and weekends. Warren - local applicants preferred. 413-436-5262.

HAMPDEN POLICE DEPARTMENT is now accepting applications for a **FULL-TIME police officer.** Review of applications begins immediately. Visit www.hampdenpolice.com for more information. EOE

HELP WANTED

PANTRY COORDINATOR for Community Survival Center in Indian Orchard. Application available at www.communitysurvivalcenter.org
Must be able to lift 40 pounds and stand for extended periods of time. Four-day work week; 34-hours/week; Pays \$1750/hour

SALES SUPPORT SPECIALIST
For over 60 years The Holy Rood Guild at St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, Massachusetts, known for the exceptional quality and fine tailoring of liturgical vestments, is seeking a Sales Support Specialist. Excellent communication and computer skills required. Respectful, positive interaction with clergy and religious organizations necessary. Experience in sales, artistic design, and customer service a plus.
For more information and to apply, contact Fr. Stephen Shanahan at (774) 315-3107 or by email: brstephenofstjoe@yahoo.com. holyroodguild.com

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

4 ROOMS, 2 BEDROOMS, 1.5/baths, appliances included. \$1500/mo. No utilities. 1st/last/security. References and proof of income required. Call 413-589-0401.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

Post your job openings in our classifieds.
We get results!
Call 413-283-8393

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

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.

Advertise your **HOME IMPROVEMENT SERVICES** in our classifieds. **WE GET RESULTS!** Call 413-283-8393

CLASSIFIED DEADLINE IS 2 P.M. ON FRIDAY

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: FRIDAY AT NOON
or call: 413-283-8393

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
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

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

TARGETED MARKETING LOCAL RESULTS

Turley Publications, Inc.
www.newspapers.turley.com

AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS
BARRE GAZETTE
COUNTRY JOURNAL
CHICOPEE REGISTER
THE JOURNAL REGISTER
THE LUDLOW REGISTER
QUABOAG CURRENT
THE SENTINEL
THE SUN
WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES
TOWN REMINDER
WARE RIVER NEWS

turleynews
 TurleyPublications

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

MONTGOMERY

June lineup announced for Music in Montgomery

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

MONTGOMERY – The weekly “Music in Montgomery” program for June has been announced.

It runs every Thursday from 3-4:30 p.m. at Montgomery Town Hall, located at 161 Main Road. Organized by Dale Rogers of the Gray Catbird Pottery Studio and Gift Shop, the weekly series is open free of charge to everyone. “You do not need to be a resident of Montgomery,” Rogers said. “It’s a wonderful sense of community.”

The June lineup includes Helen Arbour, Ursula Elmes and Joe Nearney on June 5; Larry Southard on June 12; Kara and Jerry Noble on June 19 and R and D, the duo Rob Adams and Dennis Avery on June 26.

Kicking off this month are Helen Arbour, Ursula Elmes and Joe Nearney on June 5. Arbour and Elmes are mother-daughter singer/songwriters and with Nearney have an impressive roster of area performances in their solo careers. Arbour has performed with the bands Skyline, Sure Shot and Liquid Floyd. Elmes is a member of the Mad Habits and is known for her soulful vocals and honky tonk influence. Nearney plays saxophone, hails from Boston Conservatory and can also be seen performing with Seth Glier, the West Hill Two and his larger band West Hill Groove. He also hosts “Podcast from Joe” on Apple podcasts. Together this trio blends rock, country, folk and blues music.

Singer, guitarist Larry Southard takes the stage on



Rob Adams and Dennis Avery will close out the month of June for the Music in Montgomery weekly concert series. Submitted photo

June 12. Southard is a perpetual favorite throughout the area and can also be seen with Papa and Friends, a rock-country-folk band who include Lesley Friedman

Rosenthal (violin, harmony), Terry AlaBery (Terrance Hall on drums), Mike Patoniac (bass and harmonica) and Andy Gordon (pedal steel and banjo). While a popu-

lar solo act, you never know when a friend or two will stop by for a song. Southard also performs at a range of venues, including the Otis Farmers Market, Daily Grind and Knox Trail Inn.

June 19 will feature Kara and Jerry Noble, who are known for great music and awesome stories. Kara plays bass; Jerry is a pianist, guitarist and composer. They perform throughout Western Massachusetts and have been featured performers at the prestigious “Sevenars Music Festival” held each summer in Worthington.

Closing out June will be R & D: Rob Adams and Dennis Avery on June 26. Adams plays guitar, Avery plays steel guitar and both sing. As a duo, they have performed at the Water St. Barn and Studio in Shelburne Falls. As two

thirds of the Uncles, they’ve been sighted at Floodwater Brewing in Buckland. Adams also performs with Muse 3.1, a folk/old-time/country/gospel trio of composers known for their “signature close-harmony vocals.”

This series is co-hosted by the Montgomery Public Library and by Gray Catbird Pottery Studio. Attendees are invited to bring baked goods to share. Donations are accepted for the refreshments with money split between the Montgomery Volunteer Firemen’s Association and the Town Library. Donations are also accepted to tip and thank the fabulous musicians who perform each week. This event is open to all who are interested. For more information, people may call Dale Rogers at 413- 875-5205.

3 EASY WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE TODAY

Don't miss a week of your Hometown News Source!

PLEASE CONSIDER SUBSCRIBING

Current recipients of our weekly paper, receive town news, updates, local stories and articles of interest throughout the Hilltowns.



Get the Country Journal mailed directly to your home

Each week you will receive:

- TOWN HALL NEWS • BUSINESS HAPPENINGS • AREA EVENTS
- COMMUNITY STORIES • SCHOOL COVERAGE • CLASSIFIEDS & MORE!

1 online
Use our website to securely subscribe at COUNTRYJOURNAL.TURLEY.COM

2 CALL US
1-413-283-8393
THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER!

Yes! I want to subscribe to the Country Journal!

- Enclosed is my payment for:
- \$31 1 year in state
 - \$36 1 year out of state
 - \$46 2 year in state
 - \$56 2 year out of state

CHECK ENCLOSED CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD

3 Please complete this form and mail it in a secure envelope to:
Country Journal
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069

New Renewal Gift **A GIFT CARD WILL BE SENT TO ANNOUNCE YOUR GIFT!**

Name _____
Address _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Credit Card #: _____
Exp. Date: _____ CW2 code: _____
Signature: _____

GIFT TO:
Name _____
Address _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



Hikers cross an old dam for a sawmill.



The Hilltown Hikers climb the ridge from the Massachusetts Turnpike to Upper Goose Pond.



Greg, Debbie, Karen and Jane arrive at the cabin spur trail.

Submitted photos

Hilltown Hikers trek part of Appalachian Trail

In the 1970s, the property around Upper Goose Pond was acquired by the National Park Service via eminent domain.

The Appalachian Trail now passes around the east end of Upper Goose with a diversion trail to the

Goose Pond Cabin camp, offering up to 20 through hikers a chance to spend the night and enjoy a pancake breakfast courtesy of the caretaker.

The cabin sleeps many however it is reserved only for hikers making the long journey to Katahdin, although section hikers are welcome to use the tent platforms. What makes this cabin special is the remote location, not accessible by car.

Of course, it is also remarkably beautiful along the pond, which is completely uninhabited. A mysterious floating island also travels here and a stationary island with a cement pier once used by a group of outdoorsmen, who owned the fourth cabin on the pond for a telescope to look out into the dark sky sheltered by the mountains around it.

This cabin was built by area men who used it for fishing and hunting. The camp burned in the 1970s and a plaque marks the site where the chimney and foundation remain.

The land was previously owned by multiple families, including the Smith family, who had a history of using the area for retreats. Henry Smith inherited the southern portion of the property on Lower Goose, while his sister and William Stevenson owned the northern half, including the area around Upper Goose.

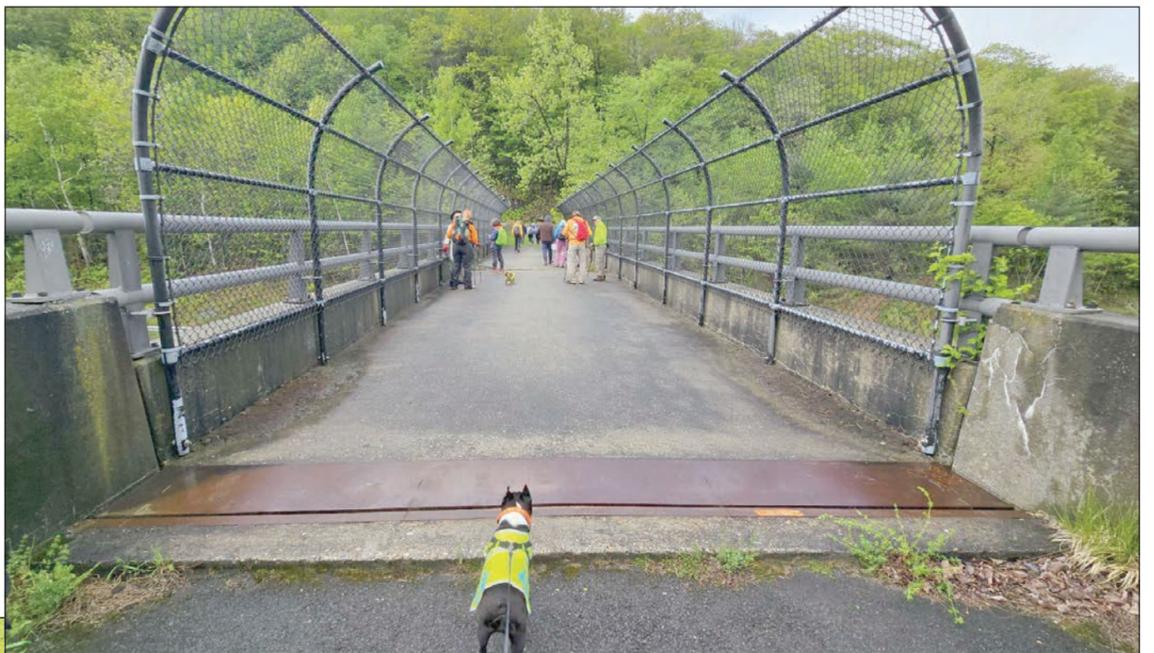
At one time, there were four cottages on Upper Goose. The first cottage, on



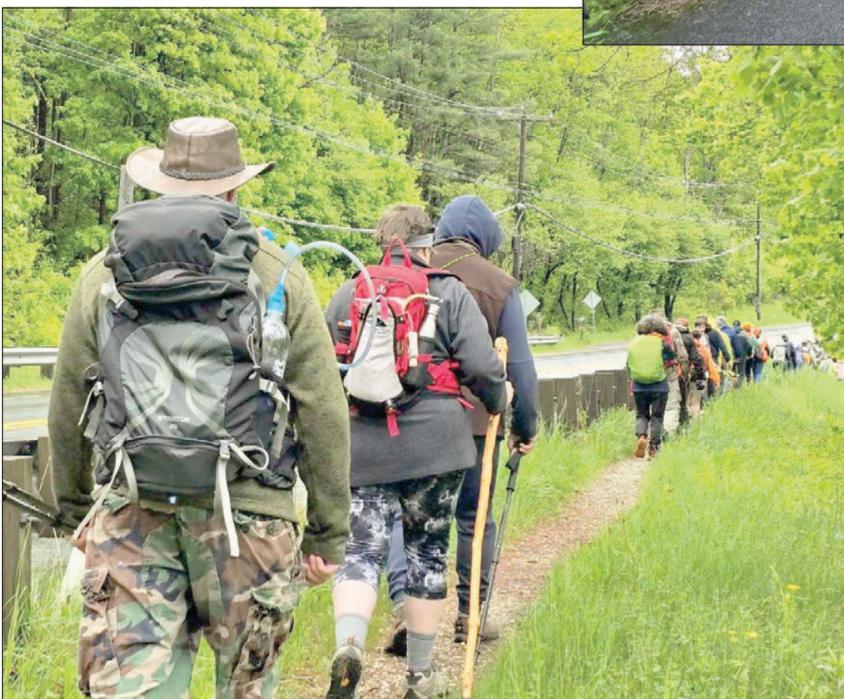
The Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers stand outside Goose Pond Cabin on a recent trek of 4.1 miles of the Appalachian Trail.

the left as people enter from Lower Goose, was owned by the Murphy/Boldock family. There is much history here at the corner of Becket, Lee and Tyringham. A good book to read up on hilltown history is "Goose Tails" by Timothy Puntin. He covers all history of both Upper and Lower Goose Pond and the connections with Lee's industrial history too.

The May guided group hike to SOBO (Southbound) in to the cabin traveling over the Mass Pike infamous foot bridge, over the ridge through mountain laurel, stone steps and the beautiful and remote Upper Goose Pond. The hikers also took in views of Greenwater Pond and passed over the historic Huckleberry Trolley Line.



Angie the Boston Terrier makes her way across the Massachusetts Turnpike foot bridge along with the Hilltown Hikers.



The Appalachian Trail enters the woods to Greenwater Pond after following a trail along Route 20 in Lee.



It is not every day people can hike over the Massachusetts Turnpike.