

"I knew there would be rivers to cross and hills to climb, and I was glad, for this is a fair land and I rejoiced that I would see it."
Laura Ingalls Wilder

Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns



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

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BLANDFORD

STM seeks additional funds for water project and retirement increase

By **Mary Kronholm**
Correspondent

The Select Board met Thursday, June 15 and signed the warrant for a Special Town Meeting for Thursday, June 29 at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall.

There are two articles on the warrant.

The first is to see if the town will appropriate about \$280,000 in addi-

tional funding to cover increased costs to the Water Department's Supervisory and Control Data Acquisition (SCADA) project by borrowing.

The project went out to bid earlier this spring, and according to Town Administrator Christopher Dunne, the bid came in higher than expected.

He indicated that when the town

FUNDS, page 7



Shown from left are Jim Papadimitriou, PE, Wright-Pierce representative; Water Commissioner Brad Curry and Water Department Superintendent Gordon Avery.

Turley photo by Mary Kronholm

HUNTINGTON

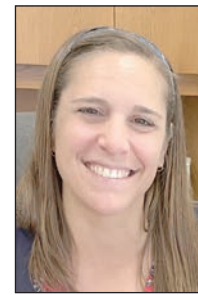
McCaul to take Littleville Elementary helm

By **Wendy Long**
Correspondent

Superintendent Kristen Smidy announce Melissa (Albano) McCaul will become Principal of Littleville Elementary School, effective July 1.

It continues a long legacy for McCaul within the Gateway Regional School District, which started with her high school graduation in 1999. A standout athlete, McCaul attended Westfield State University with a major in movement science. Upon graduation in 2003, she took a job with the Gateway Central Office for a couple of years, while simultaneously coaching Gateway girls basketball with her own high school coach, Stephanie Fisk.

In 2005, she was hired as a physical education teacher at Littleville, a post she held for nine years. While teaching, she acquired a Master's Degree in educational technology and, partway through the 2012-13 school year, she became a second grade teacher. She looped between second and third grade (moving with her second grade class to third grade, then starting with another second grade class the following year) for a couple of cycles. She then became



Melissa McCaul

a fourth grade teacher, where she stayed until March of this year.

Since early March, McCaul has served as the school's Student Support Leader, a role McCaul describes as similar to a Vice Principal's position. In this job, she's been focused on supporting both students and teachers academically.

"It was a good way to transition out of teaching and into an administrative role," McCaul said, adding that it also gave her the opportunity to learn from the school's current interim principal.

McCaul describes herself as "still in the nervous phase," but is very much looking forward to working in education at a different level. Littleville has instituted fairly new curriculums over the past few years in English Language Arts and mathematics, so she will be diving deeply into student performance data to see the impact of these new programs on student performance. "Littleville is also launching a new behavior program, which we've never had," McCaul added, saying she feels it will strongly benefit the school.

MCCAUL, page 5

SANDISFIELD

Sandisfield photographer exhibits at local art center

By **Mary Kronholm**
Correspondent

Josie Miner presents the first solo exhibit of her photography at the Sandisfield Arts Center Gallery.

The exhibition runs now through July 8 with a closing party then from 4-6 p.m. Her photography is a retrospective of the art in black and white, titled "When it Was." The framed photographs are all archival silver gelatin prints and run the gamut from landscape to provocative, creating a totally imaginative display. All of her photographs were "printed in a traditional darkroom," she said and all from film.

Josie Miner grew up in Chicago, studied art history at Reed College and went on to work for photographers, Leo Rubinfien, Walter Rosenblum, and David Armstrong. Her work has appeared in Elle, Harper's Bazaar, Vogue, and W.

Clients include Proenza Schouler, Pamela Love and Ulla Johnson. She has

taught photography at the International Center of Photography and Harlem School of the Arts in New York City. Josie shoots and prints ongoing projects and personal work. Currently, she lives in Sandisfield with her husband, Douglas and their three kids.

Photography has been almost a life-long interest for her. She took a photography class in high school, which was when she first became "enamored of it." Then, after high school, she took time off before college and took a more advanced class at Columbia College in Chicago.

A trip through Central America, taking myriad photographs and then upon her return, she printed all her photos herself. This experience, according to Josie, solidified her interest.

PHOTOGRAPHER, page 5



Josephine Freedman of Sandisfield with the photographer Josie Miner in front of Wild Horse, taken in Bovina in 2010. Freedman's favorite was a landscape, La Selva, taken in Belalcazar in 2012. Right, Josie Miner is shown with Peter Baiamonte, a director of the Art Center.

Turley photos by Mary Kronholm



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HILLTOWNS

HILLTOWN HISTORY

Curtice and Heinz face off in ketchup war

By Deborah Daniels
Correspondent

Is it barbecue time? Have you stocked up on that red sauce Americans paint, make that slab on everything? Yes its ketchup time, everyone enjoys a serving of ketchup with a side of eggs, meatloaf or hotdog, you name it. Why is ketchup the mother of all sauces?

It might have something to do with the fact that there is something in it for every taste bud on your tongue, sweet, salty and spicy ingredients. Heinz ketchup is by far the most popular but it wasn't always that way. Curtice Blue Label Ketchup was the frontrunner in the 1870s.



This shows a Curtice Blue Label Ketchup bottles circa 1890s. Submitted photos



These wide mouthed Cortice Ketchup bottle were later copied by Heinz.

First let's clarify the history of American ketchup. It largely came about to mask or hide the taste of meat that wasn't fresh because we had no refrigeration at that time. Talk about robust digestive systems, we had them then. Condiments such as horseradish, piccalilli, chili and pimento sauces were liberally used to hide the taste of bad meat. Edgar and Simeon Curtice, two brothers in Rochester, New York were greengrocers, who began experimenting with preserving fruit and vegetables by canning them as a way to use surplus vegetables from their market. This was in the 1860s.

They went on to can fruit and vegetables in season, read that plenty of surplus fruit. They claimed a "tree to table" offering of cherries, then lima beans, string beans, green peas, tomatoes, corn, plums, pears and quinces harvested as they came into season. These were con-



Blue Label Ketchup advertisement was directed at allaying the public's concerns about ketchup safety while Wiley casts doubts about sodium benzoate.



Heinz Ketchup bottle advertisement boasting of how Heinz controls every step of ketchup making from vine to ketchup in a matter of hours very similar to Curtice's slogan from tree to table, which preceded the Heinz slogan.

veniently packaged ready to serve.

It must be pointed out that women were canning fruit and vegetables at home from the early 1800s. It was a laborious task many were happy to give up. The Curtice brothers found a winner with ketchup, initially called catsup in 1868. Their formula for ketchup was tomatoes cooked slightly and combined with spices. Their Blue Label Ketchup was a bestseller and they built a factory and went into business.

However at that time there was a lot of chicanery by grocers to sell outdated fruit and vegetables. What to do with all that unsold fruit and vegetables at the end of day that wouldn't keep until tomorrow? Why not can it? As the rotten fruit or vegetables fermented and produced gas they would eventually blow the cork off a bottle or explode the container. Tomatoes were a prime explosive. So sodium of benzoate was found to retard microbial growth in the fruit. It was added as a preservative to canned vegetables and fruit. It was commonly used.

The chemist Harvey Wiley and President Theodore Roosevelt got together to shut down the selling of tainted food and drugs. There were plenty of snake charmers roaming the countryside selling bogus medicine door to door, as well. All this had to be stopped.

The Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906 put a stop to this. It specifically required a label that stated the active ingredients in the food on every container. It outlawed the use of benzoate as a preservative because Wiley believed it was a harmful chemical. No adulterated food or medicine could be sold, nor could food or drugs that were mislabeled be sold to the public.

The Curtice brothers immediately started a legal battle to protect the use of sodium benzoate, which they used in their ketchup. It had been safely used by them for years without harm to the public, they argued. They continued to lobby for its use, but the public's opinion was swayed by a very vocal Harvey Wiley.

Meanwhile Henry John Heinz, known as the pickle king, begun making



The Heinz ketchup labeling machine dated 1901 courtesy of H.J.Heinz History Center.

ketchup in 1876. His ketchup contained tomatoes, vinegar, cloves, allspice, nutmeg and ginger. He claimed it was his mom's recipe. He used sodium benzoate, but he quickly removed it when public sentiment turned on it.

He increased the vinegar content, which helped reduce bacterial growth in his ketchup formula. He also offered a money back guarantee on his ketchup and raised the price of his ketchup.

He was a master at advertising his brand. His pickles were his bestseller, but he aimed to surpass Blue Label Ketchup and he had the perfect opportunity to do so. To give you a sample of his advertising might, consider how he gave away a million pickle pins as souvenirs at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893. Blue Label Ketchup was at this fair with a large centrally located booth. The first electric billboard put up in New York City in 1900 was a six story high pickle with 1,200 new fangled light bulbs flashing notice me. And the public did eat the pickles and bought the sauce, ketchup that is. By 1907 H.J. Heinz's ketchup was king, while the Blue Label Ketchup brand faded away.

H.J. Heinz went on to control every aspect of ketchup making, they produced a hybrid tomato suitable for easy processing and with uniform taste, mandated the farmers have the tomatoes at the processing plant the same day they were picked and only used clear glass bottles so you could see the quality of the tomatoes in the ketchup. They tinkered with every aspect of the ketchup business over the years. They have remained the number one choice of ketchup in polls and in market share. Oh and the 57 on the Heinz ketchup bottle, it is the sweet spot for where you are to smack the bottle to coax the ketchup out. They have timed the exiting ketchup sauce at .028 miles per hour. And the 57, it was an advertising gimmick started by H.J. Heinz, who missed an opportunity to glamorize his product by not having a story to explain its significance.

Sodium benzoate is used in the food industry today as a preservative in small controlled amounts. It is used in ketchup today. We lost the unique flavor of a variety of garden tomatoes when we lost the Curtice Brothers ketchup. They believed in the safety of their ketchup and went to court to prove it. Unfortunately the public saw only the potential risk associated with sodium benzoate's use, while H.J. Heinz rolled out his deep pocketed campaign to dominate the ketchup business. H.J.Heinz has indeed made the best tasting ketchup and brought every permutation there is of ketchup flavors to market.

But wait, is that small batch ketchup rolling out of local growers? Could local flavorful tomatoes be back with their own ketchup magic? A last footnote from history, during the Depression many people survived on tomato soup, the recipe: one cup of hot water with a dollop of ketchup. Go enjoy your tomatoes any way you like.

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- Thank you!

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HILLTOWNS

Massachusetts Department of Transportation lists repair work

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces crews will be conducting overnight and daytime paving operations and bridge guardrail, and drainage repair work on I-90 eastbound and westbound in Montgomery, Russell, Lee, Becket, and West Stockbridge.

The scheduled work will require some lane and shoulder closures.

Bridge repair work in Montgomery and Russell will be conducted nightly on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 36.0 from Thursday, June 22 and Friday, June 23, during overnight hours from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. the following morning. All work is anticipated to conclude on Friday, June 23 by 5 p.m.

Pavement milling operations in Lee and Becket will be conducted nightly

on I-90 eastbound and westbound from mile marker 14.5 to mile marker 20, from Thursday, June 22 to Friday, June 23, during overnight hours from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. the following morning. All work is anticipated to conclude on Friday, June 23 by 5 p.m.

Guardrail repair operations in Lee will be conducted nightly on I-90 eastbound and westbound from mile marker 10.5 to mile marker 14.0, from Thursday, June 22 to Friday, June 23, during overnight hours from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. the following morning. All work is anticipated to conclude on Friday, June 23 by 5 a.m.

Bridge repair operations in Lee will be conducted nightly on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 9.4, from

Thursday, June 2 to Friday, June 23, during overnight hours from 7 p.m.- 5 a.m. the following morning. All work is anticipated to conclude on Friday, June 23 by 5 a.m..

Drainage repair operations in West Stockbridge will be conducted overnight at I-90 westbound from mile marker 0 to mile marker 2.5, from Thursday, June 22, during daytime hours from 6 a.m.-4 p.m. All work is anticipated to conclude on Thursday, June 22 by 4 p.m.

Traffic will be allowed through the work zones.

The work will require temporary lane closures to allow crews to safely conduct the paving, and bridge and guardrail repair operations.

Drivers who are traveling through

the affected areas should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution.

All scheduled work is weather dependent and subject to change without notice.

For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to:

Download the Mass511 mobile app or visit www.mass511.com to view live cameras, travel times, real-time traffic conditions, and project information before setting out on the road. Users can subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions.

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

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

FIREFIIGHTERS AND OFFICERS ATTEND HILLTOWN RIT TRAINING



The cutline for this photo was incorrect in last week's edition. It should read: Fire officers and firefighters from the Chesterfield, Goshen, Plainfield, Savoy and Williamsburg fire departments attended Rapid Intervention Training. Submitted photo

NOTICE

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

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AA/EOE

Clark Art Institute hosts tree walk

WILLIAMSTOWN – On Thursday, July 20 at 5:30 p.m., the Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., hosts a tree walk led by horticulturist and Clark grounds manager Matthew Noyes.

This free event begins on the Fernández Terrace by the Clark's reflecting pool. Noyes will take visitors on a walk through the forested landscape of the Clark's grounds on Stone Hill.

Throughout the 140 acres of expansive lawns, meadows and walking trails, the tour highlights the basics of New England tree identification, ongoing stewardship of the Clark's grounds and the sustainability practices in place to preserve the Clark's natural resources.

Advance registration is required as capacity is limited. For more information, people may visit clarkart.edu/events.

Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary MIKE & JILL BENNETT



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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



In our family we get the privilege of requesting a special dessert to celebrate birthdays or other special occasions.

My husband asked for a strawberry pie for Father's Day. My oldest daughter made the crust while my youngest and I picked the strawberries.

After making a sauce with half the berries we mixed it with the other half of chopped fruit and poured it into the crust. Now to wait two hours while it chills.

We'll whip up some cream and, voila! The taste of summer in my opinion!

I love having a small patch of strawberries in my garden. I think I am in year four or five with this particular planting.

I've thinned and replanted but I am starting to worry that having them in close to the same spot for this length of time has lured a strawberry-specific bug to the garden. Let's learn about this bug and maybe figure out a game plan as to how to combat it.

Many of my riper strawberries have damage consisting of circular holes, some of which go deep into the fruit. Occasionally

It's all about the pie

there will be a beetle inside the strawberry, caught in the act.

Upon closer examination, I've determined them to be the strawberry sap beetle.

It's tiny, measuring less than one eighth of an inch long, brown, and oval shaped. They are drawn to ripe fruit and because of this, we can come up with creative ways as to how to catch them.

Pesticides are shown not to work - nor would we want to use them on fruit we are ready to eat!

Folks have had good luck with traps of stale beer, vinegar, fermenting juice, or a mixture of water, molasses and yeast.

Add a few inches of the liquid of your choice into a bucket or other deep container placed outside, but near the strawberry patch. Typically the insect will get lured in and drown.

This type of trap, albeit shallower, will also catch slugs.

Slug holes on strawberries are irregularly shaped, not circular, and most often they extend into the fruit as if the critter is eating its way through it.

A basin or saucer, even a pie plate buried to soil surface level will catch slugs when they come out of hiding to feed. Empty these types of traps every few days, replacing the liquid.

I'm a bit nostalgic today. Thinking of my own dad, of course!

If he were still alive his pie of choice would have been apple, not a la mode, but topped with a piece of cheese!

One thing I am experiencing in my mini orchard right now is "June drop." While my apple orchard is still too young to bear many apples, there are tiny apples at the base of my best bearing tree.

Some say that June drop is due to pollination problems; others surmise that it is caused by a competition for carbohydrates. Roots and shoots are competing with the newly formed apples and sometimes there isn't enough to go around.

I had always thought that insects were to blame. Regardless, June drop isn't necessarily a bad thing.

We are taught to thin clusters of fruit so that individual fruits get to a respectable size. This is Mother Nature taking care of that for us.

Therefore, if you do plan on thinning, it is best to wait and see what happens between now and the first week of July before you thin down to one or two fruits per cluster.

Well, the strawberry pie was a big hit. I'm already thinking about the leftovers for tomorrow's dessert and what pie I'll have for my next big day.

Blueberry, anyone?

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

Will work earnings affect my Social Security at age 80?



Dear Rusty:

I am 80 years old, and I receive monthly Social Security benefits, but I'm thinking about returning to work. At this age, am I limited in how much income I generate without affecting my benefit? If so, how much can I earn without affecting it?

Signed: Spry Octogenarian

Dear Spry Octogenarian:

Since you have already reached your Full Retirement Age for Social Security's purposes, you can earn as much income from working as you like without your monthly Social Security payment being affected. Social Security's earnings test applies only to those who collect benefits before reaching their full retirement age, which is somewhere between age 66 and 67, depending on year of birth.

However, although the earnings test will not apply to you, it's important to know that Social Security benefits are subject to income tax if the annual combined income from all sources, also known as your "Modified Adjusted Gross Income" exceeds certain thresholds. The income tax filing status is an influencing factor - if filing as a single and

the MAGI is more than \$25,000 or filing as "married/jointly" and the MAGI is more than \$32,000, then 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year becomes part of the overall taxable income. And if your MAGI as a single filer is more than \$34,000 or, as a married filer more than \$44,000, then up to 85% of the SS benefits you receive during the tax year becomes part of your overall taxable income at your standard IRS income tax rate. Thus, returning to work may result in Social Security benefits unexpectedly becoming taxable income.

For complete clarity, the "MAGI" is regular Adjusted Gross Income on income tax return, plus 50% of the Social Security benefits a person received during the tax year, plus any other non-taxable income (except Roth IRA withdrawals) they may have had.

So, while earnings from working at age 80 and beyond will not affect the monthly Social Security benefit payment, you may - depending on the total income or "MAGI" - find that your Social Security benefits will become taxable if the combined income from all sources exceeds the above thresholds. And if your benefits will become taxable, you may wish to consider having income taxes withheld from your monthly Social Security payments, which you can do by submitting IRS form W-4V to your local Social Security field office.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opin-

ions and interpretations of the Association Mature American Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Election policy

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

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

Corrections policy

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

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor should be 500 words or less in length. We require letter writers to include his or her name, town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

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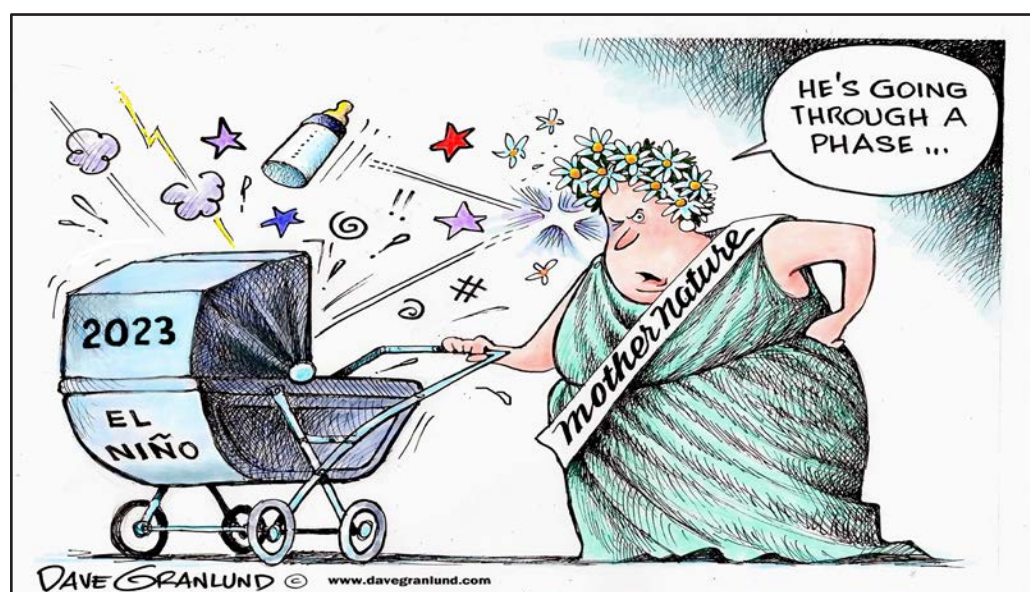
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SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Eden Burke receives 2023 College of Engineering Senior Awards

SPRINGFIELD – Eden Burke of Easthampton received the Biomedical Engineering Department Award for Outstanding Senior at the 2023 College of Engineering Senior Awards Ceremony. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in biomedical engineering.

This award is presented to a senior

biomedical engineering student who has demonstrated academic success with an outstanding grade point average and has demonstrated professionalism in their studies. Per University requirement the student must have a minimum of a 3.30 grade point average and has at least 60 Western New England University credits.

Waverly KaneLong Named to East Stroudsburg University Dean’s List

EAST STROUDSBURG, PA – East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania announces the Dean’s List for the 2023 spring semester.

Local student making the Dean’s List is Waverly KaneLong of Easthampton.

Students eligible for the Dean’s List are those who have attained a 3.50 quality point average or better and are enrolled full-time. The letter grade “B” earns three quality points per credit and the grade “A” earns four quality points per credit.

University of Wisconsin– Madison announces Dean’s List

MADISON, WIS –The University of Wisconsin–Madison announces the Dean’s List for the spring semester of the 2022-2023 academic year.

Lenah Helmke of Great Barrington, School of Human Ecology, earns Dean’s

Honor List and Patrick Yeung of Great Barrington, College of Letters and Science, earns Dean’s List.

Students who achieve at a high level academically are recognized by the dean at the close of each semester. To

be eligible for the Dean’s List, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester. Each university school or college sets its own GPA requirements for students to be eligible to receive the distinction.

Coscia makes Bucknell Dean’s List

LEWISBURG, PA – Bucknell University announces the Dean’s List for outstanding academic achievement during the spring semester of the 2022-23 academic year.

Local student making the Dean’s

List is Kieran Coscia of Pittsfield and member of the Class of 2026.

A student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive dean’s list recognition.

Adianez Colombani receives honor graduate award at WNEU

SPRINGFIELD – Western New England University held its College of Arts and Sciences Senior Awards Ceremony on May 20 in Rivers Memorial Hall.

The University honored 19 graduating seniors, who were selected based on their academic achievement in the major or based on their overall class standing.

Adianez Colombani of Westfield received the Honor Graduate in Psychology Award.

This award is for the graduating senior in psychology, who demonstrates the highest ideals in Psychology by virtue of their academic performance, contribution, service and commitment to the Department and/or field of Psychology.

Clark named to President’s List

LOUDONVILLE, NY – Meghan Clark of Westfield was named to the Siena College President’s List for the spring 2023 semester.

The President’s List requires a 3.9 grade point average or higher.

Send us your news & photos! Email: countryjournal@turley.com

SANDISFIELD

PHOTOGRAPHER

from page 1

After college she entered an intense certificate program at the International Center of Photography in New York where she worked in both black and white and color photography.

The more her experience and ability became known, friends approached her for wedding pictures or friends involved in fashion asked for her work. “They felt more comfortable working with someone they knew,” she said.

She began visiting Sandisfield with friends from New York and got

to know the town and community. The dramatic change from city to country, the “freedom and space” brought her and Douglas back time and again.

Both appreciated the proximity to nature and “cultivating that relationship just felt good,” she said.

The Arts Center Gallery is open before and after all programs. The program schedule is available on the website and appointments to view the gallery display can be made by contacting Jess Cofrin at gallery@sandisfieldartscenter.org.

HUNTINGTON

MCCAUL

from page 1

As Principal, she will be working directly for Smidy, who has also been very supportive of this new role. “All of the administrators have been very supportive. They, along with her fellow teachers, really helped her make the decision to accept the job.”

McCaul also had personal considerations to take into account. She has served on the Board of the Gateway Youth Athletic Association and coached for GYAA for a number of years, which she will be giving up. She also returned to coach-

ing high school girls basketball two years ago and will be giving up her job as JV Coach because she won’t be able to leave work in time for practice. Together with husband and fellow Gateway alumnus Andrew, McCaul has three school-aged children in the Gateway system: daughter Rylan is entering grade 10 in the fall; Landon is moving into grade 7 and Donovan will be a second grader this fall.

Littleville Elementary School serves approximately 300 students in grades PreK – 5.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Huntington Conservation Commission Notice of Public Meeting

The Huntington Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on **Wednesday, June 28 at 7:15 pm** at Stanton Hall in Huntington, MA to review a Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by Mark Liimatainen. The proposed activity is for repair of an existing driveway and drainage swale at 234 Lake Shore Dr. This hearing is in accordance with M.G. L. Chapter 131 Section 40 of the Wetlands Protection Act. 06/22/2023

Legal Notice: NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Middlefield Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Saturday, July 8, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.** at the Middlefield Town Hall, 188 Skyline Trail, Middlefield MA to present bylaw changes.

Article 1: Changes to bylaw 3.2 Discontinuance, Alteration or Extension, Reconstruction.

Article 2: Definition for Accessory Building.

Article 3: Definition

Conforming Residence. 06/22, 06/29/2023

Chester Water Commission Public Hearing

The Chester Water Commission will hold a public hearing on **July 21, 2023 at 5PM** in the Town Hall, COA room, 15 Middlefield Rd., Chester, to discuss the water rate for FY2024 as well as the status of the water enterprise fund and provide an update on current and future projects to improve water plant and distribution system operations. 06/15, 06/22/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD23C0175CA

In the matter of: Ryan Joseph Lister CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Ryan Joseph Lister of Chester, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Ryan Joseph Badillo IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/11/2023.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: June 13, 2023

Rosemary A Saccomani Register of Probate 06/22/2023

Town of Blandford Conservation Commission Public Notice

At its regularly scheduled meeting on **Monday, June 26, 2023 at 6:00 PM** at the Blandford Town Hall, 1 Russell Stage Road, the Blandford Conservation Commission will consider a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) received from the Town of Russell. The RDA is related to the proposed replacement of a culvert at Martin Phelps Road in the Town of

Blandford within the Town of Russell 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. 06/22/2023

EARLY DEADLINES

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RUSSELL



This youngster tries on a tortoise shell as part of Hands on Reptiles with Tom Tynning. Submitted photos



Face painting was another highlight of a recent program, "Habitat, Have it at, Your Library" reading kick off.

Russell Library announcing summer reading events

RUSSELL – The Russell Public Library’s “Habitat, Have it at, Your Library” summer reading program kick off was a success.

Every Tuesday from 3-4 p.m. children will experience different topics. Registration is due by Saturday, June 24. Participants may register for Summer Reading by emailing rpldirector@townofrussell.us, call 413-

862-6221 and leave a message or come in and sign up at the library.

Topics include Tuesday, June 27 habitats; Tuesday, July 11 freshwater; Tuesday, July 18 rainforest; Tuesday, July 25 backyard with bee keeper Bob Broga; Tuesday, Aug. 1 desert; Tuesday, Aug. 8 savanna and Tuesday, Aug. 15 sea. They will enjoy snacks, stories, crafts, experiments and earn

bonus bucks for prizes.

Library hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3-7 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Preschoolers ages 1-5 are invited to “Merry Munchkins in the Summer,” an interactive storytime on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. Tweens and teens are

invited to stop by the Library on Wednesdays from 3-4 p.m. to craft, play games and socialize with their friends.

Tweens, Teens and Adults can earn bonus bucks for every book they take out during the summer.

Bonus bucks are raffle tickets used for a choice of fabulous prizes given out at the end of the summer!

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USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS... \$2²² lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF CHUCK STEAKS \$4⁹⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG \$1⁶⁶ lb
USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SHOULDER PICNIC... \$1⁴⁸ lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN THIGHS TRAY PAK 69¢ lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN BONELESS TUNA PORTIONS \$5⁹⁹ lb
USDA INSP. SLICED IN DELI TURKEY BREAST \$3⁹⁹ lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN EASY PEEL RAW SHRIMP 31/40 CT 2 LB BAG \$7⁹⁹ ea	
USDA INSP. SLICED IN DELI MOZARELLA CHEESE \$3⁹⁹ lb		

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BLANDFORD

BFPA seeks donations for repairs to fair facilities

By **Mary Kronholm**
Correspondent



David Hopson

BLANDFORD – A group of dedicated fair enthusiasts convened to form the Blandford Fair Preservation Association.

According to President David Hopson, the foundation is a 501 (c)3 non-profit, tax-exempt organization. He said, “We are still a work in progress with great hopes and expectations.”

It’s been a two-year long process. According to Hopson, the BFPA applied for the 501(c)3 status last fall and finally received the “official approval this spring, state and federal, so BFPA is sanctioned as non-profit and tax exempt for donations received.

The BFPA has been organized in a well thought out manner. Its purpose, according to its website is to promote the preservation of the Blandford Fairgrounds, educate the public about agricultural exhibitions and provide “appropriate facilities for the Union Agricultural and Horticultural Society annual agricultural fair and related events.”

The BFPA’s first goal is to raise funds for a new roof for the Agricultural Hall. The building dates to 1869 and is “historically important to the Fair and the Town.” While there has been significant



The Agricultural Hall at the Blandford Fairgrounds, a new roof is the Blandford Fair Preservation Association’s first priority.
Turley photos by Mary Kronholm

repair work already accomplished at the hall, the roof needs to be replaced. A new metal roof will last for the next century.

The board will provide funding only for the “physical facilities” of the Fair when BFPA receives written requests from the Fair. No funding will be provided for any operational aspect.

As it stands now, “The fair barely covers operation costs, which leaves little for the improvement of the grounds. Given the age and condition of some of the buildings and their historical relevance to the town,” said Hopson, it was time to plan for making a “positive impact on the facilities.”

Donors will have the opportunity to allocate their financial gift to a specific project if that is a preference.

Donations may be made online at BFPA.net or by mail to Blandford Fair Preservation Association, 55 Woronoco Road, Blandford, MA 01008.

BFPA officers and members of their Board of Directors are President David Hopson, Treasurer Bruce Cooley and Clerk Michele Crane. The five-member Board of Directors include Cameron LaBrecque, Jacob Lemme, Mark Mueller, Russ LaPiere and Krissy Przybyla.

THE BFPA will accept donations and seek grant funding to preserve, enhance, and protect the physical facilities of The Blandford Fair, including the grounds and buildings at the fairgrounds in Blandford, Massachusetts. The BFPA board of directors will allocate said funds based upon written requests of the Blandford Fair’s Board of Directors for the sole purpose of preserving, enhancing, and protecting the physical aspects of the fairgrounds and will not approve funds for the operation of the annual fair on Labor Day Weekend. The BFPA board of directors may elect to accept donations of funds, stocks, bonds, or real property and such donations will be noted as donations to a 501(c)3 organization for tax purposes. The BFPA may also elect to create special restricted funding categories for specific projects based upon a specific need or upon request by a major donor.

Missing man returns home

By **Mary Kronholm**
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – Bill Mikuski is well and home on Route 23. He was reported missing Monday, June 19, shortly after 6 p.m.

He had been gone about an hour and a half when the call went out to the local fire and police departments.

Interim Fire Chief Adam Dolby was on site with seven department members. There were also three Massachusetts State Police, Hilltown Ambulance and Officers Messina and Patry from the Chester/

Blandford Police Department.

Fortunately, at about 6:45 he was dropped off at his driveway, according to Dolby, by someone who must have recognized him and went right into his home and enjoyed a cupcake after his walk.

His family extends a sincere thank you to the Blandford Police and Fire Departments, State Police and Hilltown Ambulance Association for their prompt response and kindness.

“We also thank our neighbors and friends for their concern and help,” said Margit Mikuski, Bill’s wife, adding, “We are so thankful for a wonderful outcome.”

FUNDS

from page 1

appropriates the funds at the STM, the Town can then negotiate costs down with the contractor.

Jim Papadimitriou, PE, the Senior Instrumentation Engineer with Wright-Pierce told the board that there had only been two contractors that bid on the project which began in 2020.

The board heard that construction costs have skyrocketed and the supply chain has created this increase.

According to Water Superintendent Gordon Avery, the SCADA project must be approved by July 30 this year to meet consent orders handed down by the Department of Environmental Protection. He added that the current SCADA system is out of date and cannot handle the current needs nor meet regulations properly.

“The water is still high-quality drinking water and more than meets current regulations,” he said.

The second article asks voters to approve a \$4,224 increase to supplement the Fiscal Year 2024 budget for Hampden County Retirement, which was initially based on a December 2022 invoice, but had since been updated to include this increase.

In other business, Linda Barnard of the Historical Commission brought Chuck Benson’s concerns for necessary repairs and painting the Gazebo in Watson Park. The board will discuss this

next meeting.

Then Highway Superintendent David Waldron told the board that Eversource will tree-trim on Beech Hill Road as far as their lines go, at Julius Hall Road; tree-trimming has been in progress on Shepard and Virgil Lloyd roads. Allstate Paving will begin on Monday, Aug. 14 to rubber chip-seal Beech Hill, Herrick and Wyman roads.

Waldron said the town can request traffic count data for volume, speed or classification of vehicular use. Waldron proposed using this on Beech Hill Road towards the end of the year.

Select Board member Jeffery Allen suggested checking Russell Stage Road as well and asked about clearing the ditches too.

Dunne reported Springfield Water is amenable to provide stone for Julius Hall Road to help with access to the reservoir.

Theodore Cousineau asked about the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission queries about upgrading, South Otis, Pudding Hill and Falls roads, especially for access to the cemetery on South Otis Road.

Dunne said he would ask SWSC about intentions for South Otis Road.

Year-end transfers were tabled until the June 22 meeting.

The Select Board will meet on Thursdays for the next two weeks.

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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
PARADE		10:30 - 11:30
MARCHING BANDS		10:30 - 11:30
ANIMALS		10:30 - 11:30
Magic Show & Face Painting	(Russell Park)	11:30 - 1:30
Chicken Barbecue	(Church)	11:30 - 1:30

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Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Williamsburg & Worthington
Massachusetts Cultural Council

FLORENCE

Florence Bank pledges to Grow Food Northampton

FLORENCE – Florence Bank announces it has made a \$50,000 sponsorship pledge to Grow Food Northampton to help provide healthy, local food to area residents, who are food insecure at a time when federal food benefits are scaling back to pre-pandemic levels.

Helen Kahn, the manager of the Grow Food Northampton Tuesday and Winter Farmers Markets, said the sponsorship will help residents, who receive federally sponsored food support through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program double their purchases of local food through Grow Food's SNAP Match program year-round.

The summer and winter farmers markets are an important source of locally grown, healthy food for low-income families. When SNAP customers purchase tokens at the market, Grow Food Northampton provides an extra \$10 of tokens free through SNAP Match.

Because these tokens can only be spent at the markets, the program directly benefits the farmers as well.

The outdoor Tuesday Markets are held every Tuesday behind Thornes Marketplace from 1:30-6:30 p.m., now through Nov. 7. From November through March, the market moves inside to the Northampton Senior Center and is held biweekly.

Florence Bank's gift, to be offered in increments of \$10,000 per year for five years, comes at a time when additional federal support for SNAP provided during the pandemic has been halted and it also allows Grow Food Northampton to expand its SNAP Match program to serve more families who qualify.

"Many families relied on those extra funds, and even though the pandemic is 'over,' food insecurity continues," Kahn said. "We expect and hope that the number of people in our community on SNAP who come to our farmers mar-

kets to access local food will increase. Local business sponsorships are critical for allowing Grow Food Northampton to meet the increasing demands on the SNAP Match program at our farmers markets."

Matt Garrity, president and CEO of Florence Bank said, "We have a mission to serve the community, and we are pleased to be able to support Grow Food Northampton and those it serves at a time when the need is great. We are proud to help fund a program that provides healthy and nutritious food options for folks in need."

In March 2023, 12,640 households in Hampshire County were eligible. Last year, though, only 912 households took advantage of the program, up from 650 households in 2021.

In 2019, SNAP Match was funded with \$14,800 raised from sponsorships. Last year, \$45,000 was raised and assisted people at both the Tuesday and

Winter Markets. Through local business sponsorships, Grow Food Northampton is prepared to provide \$65,000 in SNAP Match during this year's market seasons.

Florence Bank is one of 24 sponsors this year.

The Tuesday Market was founded in 2008 by Oona Coy and Ben James of Town Farm; it became a program of Grow Food Northampton in 2016, and Northampton's Winter Market became a Grow Food Northampton program in 2021.

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

To learn more about SNAP Match, visit www.growfoodnorthampton.org/snap-match/.

To learn more about Florence Bank, visit www.florencebank.com.

BECKET

Becket Athenaeum 'round of golf' raffle due July 22

BECKET – Trustees and staff are busy organizing 2023 fundraising plans.

The first fundraiser to kick off is a raffle of a Round of Golf for two including cart at Wyndhurst Golf & Club, 55 Lee Road in Lenox. Only

100 tickets will be sold. Tickets are \$20 each. People may stop by the Athenaeum, 3367 Main St. or talk to one of the board trustees to purchase raffle tickets prior to Saturday, July 22. The date listed last week was incorrect.

Becket Athenaeum announces upcoming events

BECKET – The Becket Athenaeum, 3367 Main St., Becket, is the community library for Becket and Washington.

Upcoming events include: story time and craft on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, July 8 at 10:30 a.m. creative movement and story time; Monday, July 10 at 6 p.m. Cookbook Club: The World in a Skillet; Tuesday, July 11 at 1:30 p.m. Book Club "Honor" and Tuesday, July 18 from 6-7:30 p.m. author

Michael Miller reading and presentation.

Other events are Thursday, July 20 from 6-7:30 p.m. origami for beginners with Pilar Bellido-Sharpston,

Saturday, July 22 at 10:30 a.m. story time with Karen Karlberg, Saturday, July 22 from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. New England Birds of Prey with Wingmasters and Wednesday, Aug. 9 at 7 p.m. A conversation on the value of community journalism, with local journalists.

LEE

Chamber awards scholarships

LEE – In an annual show of support for the students of Lee, the Lee Chamber of Commerce named two graduating seniors as recipients for academic grants of \$1,000 each to be applied to the cost of continuing education after high school.

These grants are awarded yearly to student graduates, who live in Lee and plan on attending a college or trade school. The 2023 scholarship recipients are Isabella Lovato and Lindzie Johndrow.

This is the 14th year the Lee Chamber of Commerce has awarded scholarships to Lee residents; the awards are based on scholarship, and scholar/athlete achievements. Revenue generated by the Chamber's annual Golf Tournament provides the funds for the grants. This year's Golf Tournament will be held on Wednesday, June 28 at Greenock Country Club.

To qualify for the Marie Toole Academic Scholar Award a student must have a GPA of 3.5 or greater and the Joe Sorrentino Scholar/Athlete Award is awarded to a student, who

demonstrates athletic and sportsman-ship accomplishments and has maintained a GPA of 3.0 or greater.

"We are very happy to provide this assistance toward the education of our young Lee residents," says Doug Bagnasco, Chamber Board President and owner of the Devonfield Inn. "The purpose is to encourage students to continue their education and enhance their skills."

The 2023 Lee Chamber Golf Open, benefiting the Lee Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Fund includes a day of golf, putting contests, raffle prizes, an awards dinner and presentation of the Academic Grants. For information about the 2023 Lee Chamber of Commerce Golf Open, people may visit Lee Chamber at info@leechamber.org.

The Lee Chamber of Commerce works to support and foster community prosperity; to promote and advance the economic, civic and social welfare of Lee.

For information about membership in the Lee Chamber of Commerce, people may visit www.leechamber.org.

CHESTER

Chester library lists events

CHESTER – The Hamilton Memorial Library, 195 West Main St., hosts summer programs.

Programs for children include the magic show, Abrakidabra on Tuesday, June 27 at 4 p.m., story time on Thursdays at 11:30 a.m., Lego Club on Thursdays at 1 p.m., creative movement on Thursday, June 29, July 13 and Aug.

10 at 11:30 a.m. and Nature Maters Inc. on Saturday, Aug. 12 at 11 a.m.

Adult programs include Book Club every third Wednesday at 4:30 p.m., Song Writers Workshop Tuesday, July 11 at 5 p.m. and Writer's Club every third Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.

People should register for these programs by calling 413-354-7808.

WILLIAMSBURG

State Auditor planning visit

WILLIAMSBURG – On Wednesday, June 28 at 6 p.m. State Auditor Diana DiZoglio will give a short presentation followed by a question and answer period at Anne T. Dunphy School, 1 Petticoat Hill Road.

The Auditor is the state's chief accountability officer. Her role is to make sure our state government runs better while also ensuring that there is transparency and accountability in the decision-making process of how tax dollars are spent, and policies are made. The Auditor's Office performs audits that track the performance of state vendors, agencies and departments that can

streamline work, save taxpayer money, and identify misspending.

Auditor DiZoglio is looking at three major issues that affect us in Western Massachusetts: auditing the state legislature, overseeing regional school transportation requirements and reforming Payments in Lieu of Taxes on state owned lands.

People are invited to attend this presentation to find out just what she can do for western Massachusetts.

This event is sponsored by Indivisible Williamsburg, Indivisible Northampton-Swing Left Western Massachusetts.

CUMMINGTON

Friday cafe to be held June 23

CUMMINGTON – On June 23 from 7-9 p.m. the cafe located at the Village Church will feature "1973 Replayed."

This is a 50 year tribute to music from 1973. Cafe performers have chosen one or two songs, which were released in 1973 and have reinterpreted them in their own styles. People will hear songs from: Steely Dan, Gladys Knight and the Pips, Tom Waits, Steeleye Span, Judy Collins, Little Feat, Three Dog Night, and a bunch more. It will be a fun, supportive, light-hearted evening.

The show will take place in the more intimate Vestry space, with tables, snacks, Bring Your Own drinks like in the "old days" at the cafe before the

Pandemic. The windows will be open, masks are welcomed/ encouraged, hand sanitizer will be available.

Snacks will be provided, but feel free to bring something to contribute to the snack table. There will be coffee, tea, seltzer, maybe lemonade and people may BYO beer/wine. This should bring back the neighborly, community feel that the Vestry space provided, which so many have missed.

This is the final show in Session 1 of the 2023 season. Session 2 kicks off in September. Once again the cafe is sponsored by the friendly folks at the Village Church, who believe music can be a powerful force for building community.

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THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES
Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, sometimes you do not have to take action to fix problems. Certain issues will work themselves out on their own. Don't feel the need to rush in and find a quick solution.

CANCER
Jun 22/Jul 22
Confide in a friend about something that is troubling you, Cancer. Talking about the issue could start you down a path toward a solution. Thank others for lending an ear.

LIBRA
Sept 23/Oct 23
You may want to know what another person is thinking but don't want to come off too pushy. If you phrase the question the right way, it won't seem like an interrogation.

CAPRICORN
Dec 22/Jan 20
Try having some fun outside of your comfort zone, Capricorn. It is good to try new things from time to time and push the boundaries you have set up for yourself.

TAURUS
Apr 21/May 21
Right now the spotlight is on you and your talents, Taurus. You have a large group of admirers who are looking to see what you can produce next.

LEO
Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, on the outside everything may seem to be going along fine with a friend. But things may be different on the inside. Treat others tenderly to avoid piling on.

SCORPIO
Oct 24/Nov 22
Your physical and emotional health may be a focal point. Book some time for reflection, rest and relaxation. Solitude can help you clear your mind.

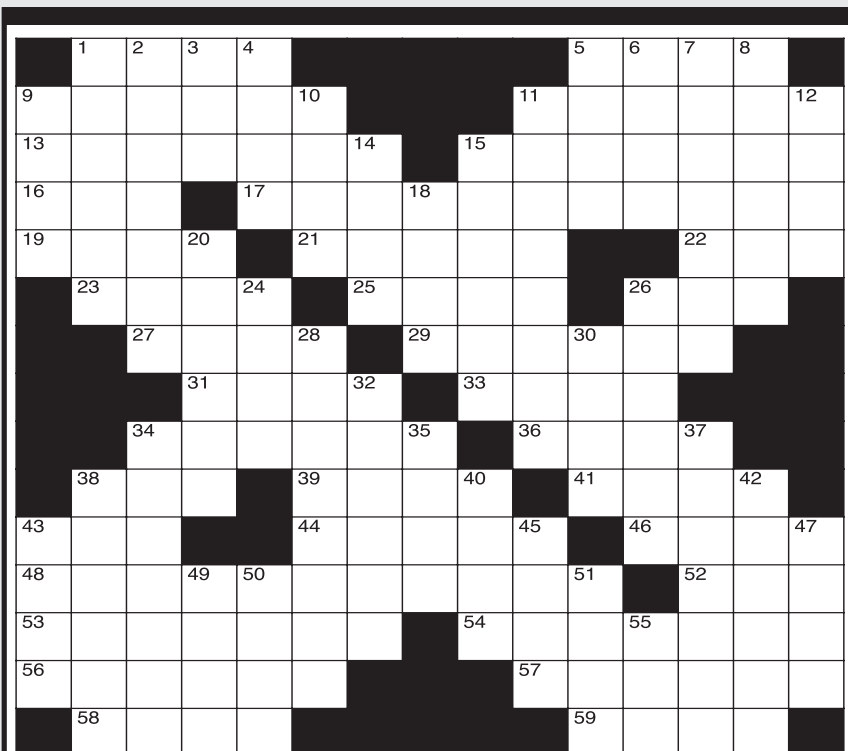
AQUARIUS
Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, this week you may find yourself meeting new people and fitting into groups you had not imagined. Network as much as possible while having fun along the way.

GEMINI
May 22/Jun 21
You will recover quickly from disagreements with others, Gemini. These situations may give you a new perspective and compel you to change a few things for the better.

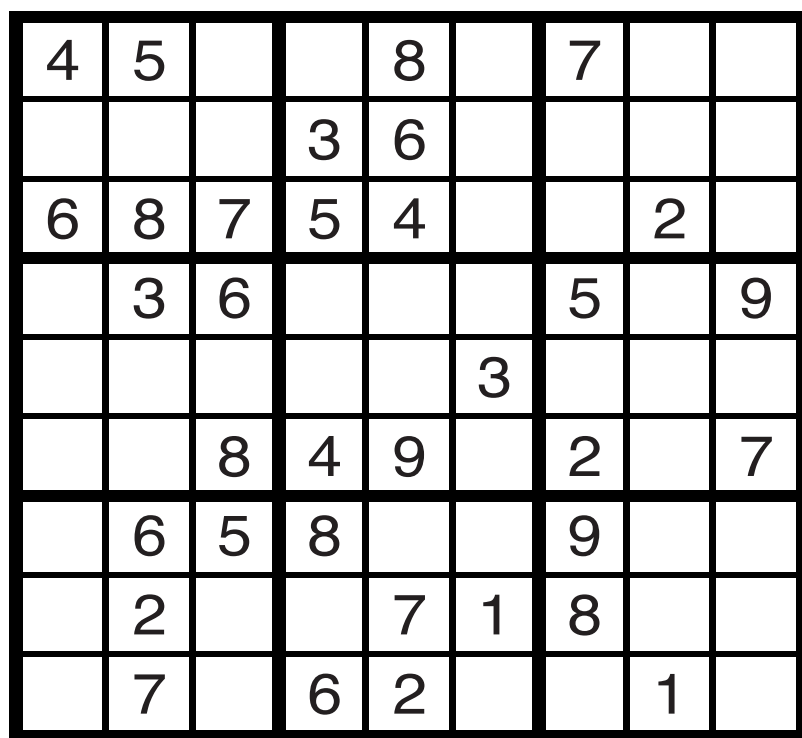
VIRGO
Aug 24/Sept 22
Vacation vibes are high this week, Virgo. You are daydreaming about potential destinations. Narrow down your prospects and zero in on your favorite features.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23/Dec 21
You are staying on top of your responsibilities and have good energy moving through this week. However, by the time the weekend arrives you may be running on empty.

PISCES
Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, finances may have been on your mind and you are eager to pay off some debt. It could take a while, but you will be successful.



- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>CLUES ACROSS</p> <p>1. Understand intuitively</p> <p>5. Two of something</p> <p>9. Not involving computer tech</p> <p>11. Acclaimed</p> <p>13. Undermine</p> <p>15. The condition of being concealed or hidden</p> <p>16. Irritate</p> <p>17. The process of developing a theory</p> <p>19. Ceramic jar</p> <p>21. Not fresh</p> <p>22. Dad's fashion accessory</p> <p>23. Popular review site</p> <p>25. New Mexico county</p> <p>26. '___ death do us part</p> <p>27. Fees</p> <p>29. Takes with force</p> | <p>31. One-time Yankees rookie sensation</p> <p>33. Gordon and Snider are two</p> <p>34. Body parts</p> <p>36. Arranges</p> <p>38. Fiddler crabs</p> <p>39. Mimics</p> <p>41. Witnesses</p> <p>43. They ___</p> <p>44. Lasso</p> <p>46. Runs down</p> <p>48. In response to</p> <p>52. Bird-like dinosaur</p> <p>53. Metamorphic stages</p> <p>54. Conditions of incapacity</p> <p>56. Sodas are sold in these units</p> <p>57. Break away from</p> <p>58. Ethereal</p> <p>59. Boggy</p> | <p>CLUES DOWN</p> <p>1. Mangled</p> <p>2. Ruffled some feathers</p> <p>3. Not young</p> <p>4. Lakers legend</p> <p>5. Nocturnal S. American rodent</p> <p>6. Direction (Scottish)</p> <p>7. Intestinal inflammation</p> <p>8. Spring back in fear</p> <p>9. Owl genus</p> <p>10. Girls</p> <p>11. Unbeliefs</p> <p>12. Force unit</p> <p>14. Expired trade agreement</p> <p>15. Went alone</p> <p>18. Animal noises</p> <p>20. Woman who graduated from a specific school</p> <p>24. The very top</p> <p>26. Organs in males</p> <p>28. Earnings</p> <p>30. Z Z Z</p> <p>32. Reddish browns</p> <p>34. A salt or ester of acetic acid</p> <p>35. A place to get off your feet</p> <p>37. More disreputable</p> <p>38. Kidney condition</p> <p>40. Cease moving</p> <p>42. Quick</p> <p>43. Extra seed covering</p> <p>45. "Survivor: Panama" winner</p> <p>47. Six</p> <p>49. One who inspects lamps</p> <p>50. Small parrot</p> <p>51. Primordial matter of the universe</p> <p>55. ___ fi (slang)</p> |
|--|--|--|



SUDOKU

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

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answers

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

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PITTSFIELD

1Berkshire organization announces staff promotions

PITTSFIELD – 1Berkshire announces the promotions of staff members Benjamin Lamb and Kristen Harrington, in recognition of their achievements, contributions and dedication to the organization and its initiatives throughout Berkshire County.

Benjamin Lamb has been promoted to Vice President of Economic Development. This well-deserved promotion follows five years of hard work helping to build the economic development team and expand the 1Berkshire footprint of activ-

ities and overall work. Hired in 2018 as the Economic Development Projects Manager, Lamb was promoted to Director of Economic Development a short time later. In his new position, Lamb will continue to lead and expand the outreach of 1Berkshire through its economic development in Berkshire County. Lamb currently resides in North Adams with his wife, two young children and a dog.

Kristen Harrington has been promoted to Finance and Administration Coordinator, a title that reflects her new

responsibilities in accounting and internal operations, and as property liaison. Harrington is integral to office functions that touch all departments. Previously, Harrington functioned as the Accounting Specialist for 1Berkshire, a position she had held since 2019. She joined the Berkshire Visitors Bureau as a Finance Associate in 2015, and a year later, in a merger resulting in the creation of 1Berkshire, Harrington was named Accounting Associate. Harrington currently lives in Pittsfield with her husband and

has two adult children, as well as a dog and two cats.

According to Jonathan Butler, President and Chief Executive Officer of 1Berkshire, “Our success as an organization is dependent upon the commitment, talent and passion of our team members. Kristen and Ben are strong examples of the best we have to offer at 1Berkshire. Both have been with the organization for many years and have consistently demonstrated a selfless approach to helping the Berkshires become a stronger community.”

OTIS

Robbins-Zust Family Marionettes to entertain July 29

OTIS – The Otis Historical Commission and Otis Preservation Trust will host the fourth Notice Otis Series cultural event of the 2022-23 season featuring the Robbins-Zust Family Marionettes Company on Saturday, July 29 (rain date Sunday, July 30), from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on the Otis Town Hall Green, One North Main Road.

Two shows will be performed: “Three Little Pigs” and “Rumpelstiltskin” with a one hour break at noon. Picnics, blankets and lawn chairs are welcome. Ice cream will be available.

The Robbins-Zust Family Marionettes were founded in 1971

by Genie Zust and her late husband, Richard Robbins, after the couple moved to the Berkshires from New York City. The family has used wooden and plaster puppets to bring fairy tales to life for local children. Their son Dion remains the only family member to stay with the business.

“[Puppetry] is like an exercise. Some people go canoeing or play a sport; we just happen to practice the art of puppetry. It’s the same thing. The art of puppetry is an exercise of life.”

Many of the family’s 100 puppets, which vary in size from a foot to 2-feet in height, are handmade. The marionette bodies were whittled from wood

by Richard Robbins over the years, a skill he learned from a book checked out from the Berkshire Athenaeum. The heads were cast in plaster molds by Robbins and Zust, who also made their clothing and wrote the scripts.

“I just turned 50 and it’s taken me my whole life to understand why my parents started this company. Perhaps I understand because I have a son. They did it for us, their children. That’s why I keep doing it.”

The Otis Preservation Trust works with the Historical Commission to organize and preserve the history and heritage of Otis for future generations by supporting efforts to preserve, restore,

repurpose and educate about buildings, monuments, lands and memorabilia of Otis. OPT is a not-for-profit (501c3) organization operated for fundraising and educational purposes. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Otis Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, an agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The event is in-person. To register or for more information, people may visit www.otispreservationtrust.com; or www.townofotisma.com. There is no charge to attend this event. Donations are welcome.

WESTHAMPTON

Library announces events

WESTHAMPTON – The Westhampton Public Library hours are Monday and Thursday from 2-8 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

The library will be closed Tuesday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day. People may visit the website or Facebook or Instagram at WesthamptonPublicLibrary for library updates. The library is open for in-person browsing and materials pickup as well as curbside pickup. To place a request for curbside pickup, people may email westhampton@cwmar.org or call 413-527-5386.

Ongoing events are Council on Aging computer class with Peg Whalen on Wednesday, July 19 at 2:30-4:30 p.m.; knitting group on Mondays at 6 p.m.; yoga with Brian on Monday, July 31 at 6 p.m.; Scrabble group on Tuesdays at 2 p.m.; CFCE Playgroup on Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. except for July 25, Aug. 1 and Aug. 8 and Walkin Wellness Clinics with Westhampton’s Public Health Nurse on first and third Wednesdays from 10-11:30 a.m.

Zoning Bylaw Review Committee seeks comments

WESTHAMPTON – The Zoning Bylaw Review Committee continues to conduct its review of the Town of Westhampton Zoning Bylaw and is pleased to present its latest recommended changes.

The latest revisions, updated as of June 14, may be downloaded by visiting westhampton-ma.com.

The committee continues to meet every other week (meetings are open to the public) to revise and refine its work.

This year’s Summer Reading theme is “Find Your Voice.” The library will be continuing with a team structure by having a “Battle of the Bands.” Children and adults can choose which of two fictitious book-themed bands they would like to join, Möstley Overdüe, or The Grateful Read to read for and earn points for their team. We have some fun events lined up and will have activities that focus on all the different ways to “Find Your Voice,” from music, to theater and performance, writing and illustrating, journaling, art and developing and expressing personal identity and of course a return visit from crowd-favorite and local legend Tom Ricardi.

Comics Workshop with author/illustrator Jannie Ho will be held Saturday, July 8 at 11 a.m. for ages 5 plus. Registration is required by email to Emily at ewayne@cwmar.org.

Caravan Puppets will visit on Wednesday, July 12 at 3 p.m. for children and families. This is made possible by The Westhampton Cultural Council. The Westhampton Cultural Council is a local agency funded by Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

The goal is to present a single revised document for public review.

It is hoped that the final document will be ready for presentation at a public hearing, to be held this fall, and approved at a special town meeting shortly thereafter.

People can submit comments to the committee by emailing the Administrative Assistant at Administration@WeshamptonMAorg or by attending a committee meeting.

WORTHINGTON

Council on Aging to hold picnic, food drive July 10

WORTHINGTON – The Worthington Council will hold their annual picnic, dine in only, Monday, July 10 at noon at the Rod and Gun Club.

Worthy-Que-Smokin’ BBQ will again be serving the fabulous chicken barbecue with sides.

Peter McLean and David LeTellier will be providing music for listening pleasure. Seating is limited and is by reservation only. People should call 413-238-1999 to reserve soon. Clearly leave name, address and

phone number.

The Worthington Council of Aging will be accepting unopened non-perishable food items on Saturday, July 1 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in front of the Corners Grocery Store to be donated to the Goshen Food Pantry.

Gluten free, low sodium and organic items are greatly appreciated. Cash and checks made out to the Hilltown Pantry are also welcome. This is a convenient way to support the Worthington Founders Day, Goshen Food Pantry.

Building workshop set for Founders Day June 24

WORTHINGTON – On Saturday, June 24 at 10 a.m. there will be a building workshop for all ages to help make lawn games for Founders Day at the Maker Space in the Worthington Library Children’s room

Possible games include fishing games, ring toss, target games and marble mazes. People may drop off

for instrument building the following: sturdy cardboard boxes and tubes, plastic soda bottles, styrofoam boxes, various sized tin cans, yogurt cups, etc.

This is funded in part by Parks and Recreation and Friends of the Library. People may email swarner01098@gmail.com for more information.

PLAINFIELD

Plainfield Church to hold concert

PLAINFIELD – Concerts at 7 will present its twelfth summer series of chamber music at the Plainfield Congregational Church.

These free concerts on Mondays,

Aug. 7, Aug. 14, Aug. 21 and Aug. 28 from 7-9 p.m. For program details, people may visit the Concerts at 7 website at <http://www.plainfieldconcertsat7.org/>.

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HELP WANTED

HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT The Town of Huntington is seeking a part-time Highway Administrative Assistant. Applicants must be proficient in Microsoft Word and Excel. 6 to 8 hours per week. Hours are flexible, but must be worked during the regular highway department hours of Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to assist the Highway Superintendent. Application and complete job description are available online at **www.huntingtonma.us** or by emailing **admin@huntingtonma.us**. Position is open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

THE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT Applicants must possess a Massachusetts Class B CDL with Air Brake Endorsement and 2B or higher & 4G Hoisting Engineer's licenses. Application and complete job description are available online at **www.huntingtonma.us** or by emailing **admin@huntingtonma.us**. Position is open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR 1

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EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of July 4th, the Classifieds have an **EARLY AD DEADLINE.**

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29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
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HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



On of the sites on the East Branch Trail was Fish Rock.



Hikers stop and look at a Giant Sycamore tree while on a recent hike.

Submitted photos



Greg carries Angie, the Boston Terrier, across the East Branch of the river.



Hilltown Hikers cross the East Branch of the Westfield River on a recent hike in Chesterfield.



Angie, the Boston Terrier, walks along a section the trail.

Hikers ford East Branch of Westfield River

CHESTERFIELD – The Hilltown Hikers ventured out to hike the East Branch Trail in Chesterfield and to get there they had to cross the East Branch of the Westfield River.

Strapping on the water shoes, all made it across including dogs. They hiked five miles in and back from mile marker five to seven on this flat trail, which is also great for biking and cross country skiing. The other half of the group continued on to Knightville Dam, going across it and back to the campground on the Claude M. Hill Trail for an eleven mile loop, crossing the Dead Branch Trail at the end.

What they forgot was their water shoes were on the other side of the East Branch. The Knightville flood plain is located in Huntington and Chesterfield. A trail on both sides of the East Branch of the Westfield River extend the full length of this area and is owned by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Fishing, hunting, mountain biking, snowmobiling and cross country skiing here makes it a great outdoor recreation destination.

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