

Country Journal

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After a storm comes a rainbow



This rainbow graced evening sky on Thursday, June 18 at the Freeland Brook Farm in Blandford.

Photo by Tricia Bergland

SOUTHAMPTON

Trenton Bush earns Eagle Scout rank

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

Family, friends, fellow Scouts and community leaders gathered at Conant Park on May 29 to celebrate Trenton Bush as he received the Eagle Scout rank, Scouting America's highest honor.

The ceremony opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by Dominic and Nolan DiSanto of Troop 210 escorting Trenton to the Eagle Scout Court of Honor.

He was welcomed by three-star General Scott Rice, Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Western Massachusetts Council, along with Scoutmaster Dan Fried and assistant Scoutmaster Chris Rogers of Southampton's Troop 210.

Following the Scout Oath and Scout Law, General Rice delivered the Eagle Scout Charge, emphasizing leadership, service and lifelong responsibilities that accompany the Eagle Scout rank. Scoutmaster Fried and Assistant Scoutmaster Rogers then reflected on Trenton's personal growth, dedication and accomplishments throughout his Scouting journey.

Trenton's parents, Nathan Bush of Southampton and Amanda Hobart of Texas presented the Eagle Scout badge. They pinned the Eagle



Photos courtesy of Corinne Shartrand
Grandfather and mentor Roger Bush is shown with Eagle Scout Trenton Bush.

Scout medal on their son and replaced his Troop neckerchief with the Eagle Scout neckerchief. In keeping with tradition, Trenton presented each of his parents with an Eagle Scout Parent Pin in recognition of their support and encouragement throughout his Scouting career.

General Rice also honored Trenton by presenting him with his personal 2023 Distinguished Eagle Scout Coin, having previously gifted him one of his challenge coins.

As the ceremony drew to a close, Eagle Scout Bush presented a special Mentor Pin to his grandfather, Roger Bush, recognizing his "countless hours of hard work, guidance, and dedication" in helping

ing with Trenton's Eagle Scout projects. His Eagle Scout project was the construction of three kiosks for Southampton conservation areas for trail maps and information flyers.

Trenton concluded the ceremony by expressing heartfelt gratitude to the many people, who supported and encouraged him on his path to earning the Eagle Scout rank.

Following the ceremony, guests enjoyed a celebratory spaghetti dinner and a specially decorated Eagle Scout cake.

Among those in attendance were Assistant Scoutmaster Mary Rogers, Executive Board Member Mary Rice, Board of Review member and Eagle Scout parent Janet Brown, Committee Chair Esther Clarke, stepbrother Gavin Rensel of California, grand-

EAGLE SCOUT, page 3

BLANDFORD

Jackie Coury speaks on current town issues

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

Select Board Chair Jackie Coury opened Monday, June 15 meeting with a lengthy prepared statement regarding current town issues.

She first acknowledged the June 13 election, thanking all who "took the time to vote, every volunteer who helped make the election possible, and every candidate who was willing to put their name forward in service to the Town of Blandford."

She said, "Local government only works when residents are willing to participate and elections are one of the most important ways we shape the future of our community."

Coury then thanked Cara Letendre "for her many years of dedicated service to our community and for her leadership as Chairman of the Select Board," adding that Letendre had a "wealth of experience, institutional knowledge and unwavering commitment to the people of Blandford."



Jackie Coury

COURY, page 7

HUNTINGTON

Police Chief Kowal to resign

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

Chief Brian Kowal confirmed his resignation as Huntington's Police Chief at the Select Board meeting on Wednesday, June 17 in Town Hall.

He had already sent a letter to the Board dated June 11 to give them the news as quickly as he could.

"I want to thank the Board for the opportunity and apologize for this short service," he said, explaining that he is leaving to take another position.

In keeping with the town's expectation of 90 day notice, he said his last day will be Friday, Sept. 11.

With Select Board members, Bill Hathaway and John McVeigh and Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin all present, they discussed posting the position for a new chief.

Kowal said he reviewed the job descrip-



Police Chief Brian Kowal

tion and believes it is satisfactory. He said he would not start any new projects that he might not be able to wrap up by the time he leaves.

His priority is to continue organizing and digitizing documents and past files so that all is ready for the new chief. He said that many former License to Carry applications, for example, are still in the office and the law requires only having the most recent one on file.

Kowal said that former chief Bob Garriepy did a great job onboarding him.

He is working on a list of suggestions for the next chief and told the Select Board that he recommends bringing on one more part time police officer to better fill out patrol shifts and provide local, after-hours response.

"I would seriously look into setting up an

CHIEF, page 2

CHESTER

Chester Theatre presents 'The History (and Mystery) of the Universe' one-man play

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

The Chester Theatre Company presents a production of "R. Buckminster Fuller: the History (and Mystery) of the Universe" at the Chester Town Hall, 15 Middlefield Road, through Sunday, June 28.

Directed by Barbara Karger and starring Michael Preston, the one-man play draws from the life, work and writings of futurist, environmentalist,



Submitted photo
Actor Michael Preston rehearses his role as R. Buckminster Fuller at the Chester Theatre Company now through June 28.

architect and inventor R. Buckminster Fuller.

Preston follows Fuller as he takes the audience through his journey from growing up in Massachusetts to attending Harvard to meeting Albert Einstein.

Also featured are his ideas about humanity, power, the future of the planet and his philosophy of "doing more with less" that informed his invention of the geodesic dome, one of the most energy-efficient forms of human shelter.

Although Fuller only lived until 1983, Karger called it "terrifying" that so much of what Fuller was lecturing and writing about from the 1960s through early 1980s "seem[s] [to be] directly speaking to us when he talks about what we are doing to this planet."

"It really is a call to action," she said. "It's kind of horrifying how much we are in the same place or in a worse place [as] when he was saying the time is running out."

In addition to the time-

THEATRE, page 11



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HUNTINGTON

Summer reading program kicks off

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – Library Director Amanda Loiselle announces that this year’s summer reading program will kick off with a special event on Saturday, June 27 at the Huntington Public Library, 7 East Main St., from 10 a.m.-noon.

This summer’s program will be modeled after last year’s highly popular “Dungeons and Dragons” themed program.

It will again be adventure themed and the opening activity will be a “Make Your Own Bait” station. Patrons will be able to create their own allergy-friendly trail mix as “bait” to lure and reveal this summer’s very special stuffed animal summer reading prizes. The Summer Reading program runs through Saturday, Aug. 22.

Readers will follow a new epic map that will include a number of surrounding libraries that will collaborate as Guild Locations on this year’s adventure.

Readers can gain additional participation credits for Huntington’s program by attending events at other libraries throughout the summer.

Kevin Weldell will also return to teach four Dungeons and Dragons sessions for adventurers, who

have not yet learned to play this popular game. Weldell’s events are funded through a grant from the Huntington Cultural Council, a local agency that is funded through the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

July events geared toward this summer’s reading adventurers include the first session with Weldell on Wednesday, July 1 from 4:30-9 p.m.

“Huntington Adventurers Guild: Path of the Keystone Roads” will be the first Dungeons and Dragons session, which is recommended for ages 12 and up.

This event is free, but space is limited so registration is required. Youths may register online by visiting huntingtonpubliclibrary.org or calling 413 667-3506.

Session II will be on Wednesday, July 15 and session III will be held on Wednesday, July 29, both from 4:30-9 p.m. Each session moves up a level; the fourth session will be held in August.

Adventurers will have additional opportunities for related events, including creating fizzy glitter potions on Monday, July 6 at 11 a.m.

And nothing helps light a trail like fairy light jars; the first fourteen patrons to arrive can take part in this one on Tuesday, July 21 at 4 p.m. The library’s monthly Crafternoon on Thursday,

July 9 will feature creating dice keychains and necklaces from 4-6 p.m.

Of course, the library will continue to host its regular monthly events. Co working Coffee Hours will be held on Wednesdays, July 8 and July 22from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Book Swap Club will be held on Tuesday, July 14 at 4:30 p.m. (bring a favorite read to recommend to others).

As always, monthly story hours for children of all ages take place every Monday and Saturday at 10:30 a.m. except for Saturday, July 6 due to potion making.

July’s monthly game night will take place on Thursday, July 16 from 4-6 p.m. and all ages are welcome. People must register online or by phone for free pizza.

The library’s monthly Family Playgroup will be Monday, July 20 at 10:30 a.m. This group is sponsored by the Friends of the Huntington Public Library.

At the monthly Library Trustees meeting held June 17, Loiselle reported that attendance has been growing at events. Last month’s game night had 18 people, John Garvey’s talk on “Losing Murrayfield” had 25 people and the library exceeded its total 2025 attendance record on May 23.

Community Events Committee offers Thursday concerts

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington free summer music series take place on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8 p.m. in the gazebo at intersection of Routes 20 and 112.

The opening night starts at 5:30 p.m.

On Thursday, July 9 Acoustic Thunder and on July 16 the performer will be

announced.

On July 23 Jon Berman performs and on July 30 it is Rock 201.

August schedule includes Aug. 6 Cover Daddys, Aug. 13 Moon Hollow and Aug. 2 the 413’s.

The concerts are sponsored by The Huntington Community Events Committee and supported

by the Huntington Cultural Council.

Local non-profit groups offer baked goods sale every week. People should bring a lawn chair to the concerts.

All performances will be moved inside to Stanton Hall in case of rain. Stanton Hall is air conditioned and handicapped accessible. No pets are allowed.

CHIEF

from page 1

account that can cover detail fees so that officers don’t have to wait for pay,” he answered, when McVeigh asked for any other suggestions.

Kowal was referring to the fact that Officer Todd Michon and Deputy Chief Robert Garriepy are owed \$32,706.22 for police details they worked from October through December 2025 to support the Basket Street water main project.

Kowal also indicated he will bring the last two policies to the select board in July for approval, after which the department will meet the state’s minimum standards for required policies.

“We can’t have hard feelings on you bettering yourself,” said selectman Bill Hathaway. Kowal thanked him and assured the Board it had been a great opportunity.

His part in the meeting closed when he received a letter of support from the board to submit to Mass DOT with the engineering study supporting a request to prohibit heavy traffic on County Road.

In light of Kowal’s upcoming departure, the board decided to schedule a special meeting on Wednesday, June 24 at 5 p.m. to plan the posting for a new police chief and determine a screening and interview process.

Zach Chornyak from Tighe and Bond also attended and said he had been looking into short term bonding for the remaining \$267,000 in funds to complete paying out the work that was done on Basket Street, related to the Per and Polyflouro Alkyl Substances situation there.

As a result of a residential well testing positive for PFAS on that street, the town extended its public water main up the road to give that resident a safe water supply. PFAS has likely leached from the previous town landfill on that road.

The town received

emergency grant funding to pay for this work and continue PFAS testing but had to file a grant amendment to cover work that had already taken place prior to the grant’s award date of Nov. 12, 2025.

This delay in the amendment’s approval also slowed the town’s ability to pay some of the contractors, which ultimately led to Western Earthworks delaying over \$32,000 in payments for police details they subcontracted.

Borrowing the money will no longer be needed, as the town received the approved amended contract under the EC-SDC grant from MassDEP on June 17.

Although they already had verbal assurances, the amendment officially allows the town to be reimbursed for work completed prior to Nov. 12.

Peloquin noted that McVeigh had recently reached out to Massachusetts Senator Paul Mark for help on this matter, which likely moved things along.

In other business, Peloquin said that employees who are eligible for payment of the fees they collected during Fiscal Year 2026 must have all monies deposited with the Treasurer by Tuesday, June 30 to be eligible for payout.

FY ‘26 is the final year that these four positions can be paid the fees they had collected: Town Clerk, Collector, Building Commissioner and the Fire Chief.

Beginning Wednesday, July 1, those salaries have been adjusted to reflect the average fees they collect in the course of their work. From July 1 forward, any funds collected for the town will be deposited into the General Fund.

After an internal posting, Peloquin has hired Laura Driscoll as the Select Board’s Administrative Assistant to help in her office.

Driscoll already works part-time for the Water and

Sewer Department, came highly recommended and is already familiar with many of the town’s billing and payroll procedures.

She will be paid at the rate of \$22.60 an hour and is now eligible for health insurance, which will be split between the two departments’ budgets.

The tax status on the Timothy Hill property remains unresolved. According to Harald Scheid, the Regional Tax Assessor from Regional Resource Group who provides the town’s assessor services, going after the organization could be an uphill and expensive battle.

Collector Sue Fopiano verified that the organization paid their back taxes for 2025, but does not believe they filed their tax exempt paperwork for FY ‘26.

In addition, the Board of Assessors are only meeting once a month and their next meeting isn’t until August. Hathaway was aghast at the news. “This is \$20,000 out of the town’s pocket. Harald needs to realize he works for us,” Hathaway said.

The town is also grappling with a few other issues that will be taken up when Chairman Roger Booth returns. Gateway Little League will come to the Wednesday, July 8 select board meeting regarding the new water meter at Pettis Field.

With the upcoming retirement of town accountant Richard Bouley, the town needs to secure an interim accountant by Wednesday, June 29.

Peloquin will also seek input from town counsel on how to approve a tax abatement for a reservist who is currently deployed; the town has to vote to approve this every two years and it did not make this year’s warrant.

Finally, the town is scheduling a public hearing on Wednesday, July 15 at 6 p.m. regarding the possible scenic roadway designation for Skyline Trail.

North Hall Arts Festivals begins July 12

HUNTINGTON – The North Hall Association, 40 Searle Road, presents its 2026 Historic North Hall Arts Festival with six free programs in July, August and September on the North Hall stage.

All events are held on Sundays at 2 p.m. The 2026 North Hall Arts Festival season opens Sunday, July 12 with “Let’s Get Out of Here.”

It is an original comedy written by North Hall favorite Mitch Giannunzio, about a very strange family intervention that occurs when one of the sons returns home.

The reading will be performed by a stellar cast including Ellen Barry, Kenneth Tigar, Mitch Giannunzio, Raye Birk, Candace Barrett Birk, P.J. Adzima and James Cameron Emory.

“The Story Cafe,” a celebration of the Pioneer Valley’s large, rich and enormously talented short-story authors, returns on July 26.

Hosted by Raye Birk and Candace Barrett Birk, “The Story Cafe” combines the work of Pioneer Valley authors with the talents of favorite Pioneer Valley actors, to transport the audience through the magic of the spoken word into worlds of joy, discovery and connection.

On Aug. 9, Trio Mundo presents a fun, rhythmically compelling, dynamic and lyrical program, “Mediterranean to the Caribbean.”

Violinist Robert Lehman, cellist Rebecca Hartka and guitarist/composer Jose Lezcano move fluidly through a range of styles with music by Paganini, contemporary Turkish composer Refik, Lezcano’s own Cuban sketches, and popular styles such as tangos by Piazzolla and Brazilian Choros.

“The Composer’s Voice” features original songs by Jerry Noble and Tania Coletta on

Aug. 23. The program includes poems by Mary Oliver, Emily Dickinson and Rumi, set to music, as well as originals and there may be some surprises.

There will be solos as well as ensemble singing by a quartet. A variety of genres from classical to popular sounds characterize the music. Jerry Noble will accompany on the piano.

“Opera Arias and Broadway Musical Showcase” will return to the North Hall stage on Sept. 13. The accomplished NYC ensemble of Tenor Antonio Abate, Soprano Amy Orsulak and Jerome Tan on piano, will be performing celebrated opera arias and Broadway

musical solo and duet favorites.

Perennial favorites, Old Country Road Band, dedicated to the Golden Age of Country Music, will close the 2026 Festival on Sept. 27.

Performers Ron Jackson (rhythm guitar, vocals), Mark Leveille (mandolin, vocals), Dan Pilachowski (flat-pickin’ guitar), Dave Helman (stand-up bass) and guest artist Chris Boucher (banjo) on some performances, will play songs that take you back to the Grand Ole Opry, the Ryman Auditorium and the Nashville bluegrass of Hank Williams, Patsy Cline and others.

All performances are free (donations welcome) and begin at 2 p.m. Upstairs seating is limited to the first 75 attendees. Doors open about 1:30 p.m.

People will visit the website at www.northhall-huntington.org for program updates. North Hall is wheelchair accessible and air conditioned.

The six program series is sponsored by the Westfield Bank and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, through Cultural Councils of Chester, Cummington, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Russell, Westhampton and Worthington.

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CUMMINGTON

Friday Night Cafe set for June 26

CUMMINGTON – The cafe wraps up 2026 Session 1 on Friday, June 26 from 7-9 p.m. with 1976 Re-Played, a tribute to music from 1976.

Ten Friday Night Cafe performers have each chosen a couple songs from 1976 and will perform them in their own styles. It’s a bunch of talented musicians having fun with songs they like from 50 years ago. It’s always surprising and fun.

Friday Night Cafe will return in September for 2026 Session 2.

The show at the Village Church in beautiful downtown Cummington in the heart of the Cummington Cultural District. The event is free, donations are appreciated.

Snacks will be provided. Participants should bring their own beverages.

Once again this event is brought by the friendly folks at the Village Church who believe music can be a powerful force for building community.

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

HILLTOWNS

MassDOT announces I-90 roadwork

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces daytime and overnight bridge repairs and guardrail repairs on I-90 eastbound and westbound in Montgomery and Russell.

All work is weather dependent and will take place at the following locations and times:

In Montgomery and Russell bridge repairs will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 36.0 on Thursday, June 25 and Friday, June 26, from 6 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

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

Drivers traveling through the area should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution.

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

For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to: Download the Mass511 mobile app or visit www.mass511.com to view live cameras, travel times, real time traffic conditions, and project information before setting out on the road.

Users can subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions.

Dial 511 and select a route to hear real time conditions. Follow @MassDOT on X, formerly known as Twitter, to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

SOUTHAMPTON

EAGLE SCOUT

from page 1

parents Corinne and Leo Shartrand of Blandford, grandparents Linda and Roger Bush of Russell and many friends and relatives, who traveled from several states and counties to share in this special occasion.

Earning the Eagle Scout rank is a significant achievement attained by only a small percentage of Scouts. Through years of service, leadership, outdoor skills and community involvement, Trenton has demonstrated the character, perseverance, and commitment that define an Eagle Scout. His Court of Honor was a fitting celebration of this remarkable accomplishment



Amanda Hobart and Nathan Bush are shown with their son, Eagle Scout Trenton Bush.



General Scott Rice, Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Western Massachusetts Council is shown with Eagle Scout Trenton Bush.

RUSSELL

Russell Public Library list upcoming summer programs

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

The library is closed Saturdays in July and August.

The Russell Public Library Trustees will meet Thursday, July 16 from 3:15- 4:30p.m..

The library will resume the Monthly Book Club in September.

On Thursday, July 9 the library will sponsor Community Open Forums to get ideas for the library strategic plan.

Children in grades K through 5 may sign up for “Wild Readers,” summer reading.

Every Wednesday from Wednesday, July 1to Wednesday, Aug. 5, participants will learn how to be curious and cautious in the wilds while hiking and camping.

On Wednesday, July 1 from 5-6:30 p.m. the theme is take a hike. They will check maps, the weather and the environment for planning fun and safety on the trail.

On Wednesday, July 8 from 5-6:30 p.m. the theme is be a pack rat. Participants will learn daypack vs backpack what to pack and leave no trace.

On Wednesday, July 15 from 5-6:30 p.m. the theme is don’t be a raisin and eat one high energy food and hydration

On Wednesday, July 22 from 5-6:30 p.m. the theme is how to avoid needing first aid, but if you do. Special guest is EMT Jade from Hilltown Ambulance.

On Wednesday, July 29 from 5-6:30 p.m. the theme is animals in the wild, curious caution. Special guest naturalist is Tom Tynning and his reptile friends.

The final Summer Reading Adventure is “Camp Like a Pro,” with a family camping overnight at Noble View Outdoor Center in Russell from Friday, Aug. 14 at 5 pm to Saturday, Aug. 15 at 10 a.m.

This event is co-sponsored by the Russell Public Library and the AMC WMA Chapter Family Committee.

Two steps parents/guardians must do to join “Camp Like a Pro” by Saturday, Aug. 1.

Book a campsite at Noble View by calling (603-466-2727) for one night Friday, Aug.14th. (\$30)

Register the family at Camp like a pro family overnight.

All food for the overnight and morning breakfast stay will be provided by Russell Public Library.

Everyone is welcome to come to the library this summer to complete the Appalachian Trail with us. Each time they complete a book they will receive a ticket to put into a drawing for prizes at the end of the summer. Add some pieces to the Appalachian Trail puzzle to see if they can complete it before Labor Day.

Parents: the weekly interactive story time with Maggie Lufkin for children ages 0-4 years will resume in September.

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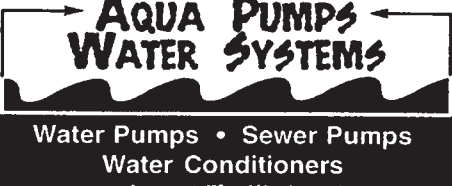
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OPINION

HILLTOWN HISTORY

‘Barn doctor’ gives old barns new life

By Deborah Daniels
Correspondent

People may have read the Country Journal article about the collapsing barn in Montgomery, but how about the man. who resurrects barns in dire distress.

Brad Green, owner of Colonial Restorations, is known aa a barn doctor.

He specializes in breathing new life into barns, specifically that is structural restoration of post and beam buildings.

To clarify, post and beam is construction talk for the post referring to the vertical wooden boards in a building and beams referring to the horizontal wooden boards in a building.

If a barn is leaning, sagging or quietly rotting out in the farm field owners may want to consider a 911 call to Brad.

His father, a psychology major, started the business in 1981 after being asked to restore some old window sills.

Apparently he was hooked on the work. He grew a house and barn restoration business as a career.

He may have had a deeper understanding of deteriorating barns than all can appreciate.

Follow his hands he did. His son has taken over the business after a similar circuitous route. He was an economics major.

The first assessment of a building is to determine if it can be saved. He reports that the time honored ways of barn raising was generally done by quality workmanship.

Usually local wood was used.

Today, people now know quite a bit more about what wood is more durable for building.

They can access a variety of wood for building something that colonial builders would not have done easily.

They are no longer limited to what trees are growing on the farm. Pine was often used and it served the barns well.

However, hardwood is preferred for home construction today because it is more durable.

Hardwoods are oak, maple and walnut. These are trees that drop their leaves in the fall and have encased seeds as in nuts and fruit.

Softwood trees are coniferous trees such as pine, cedar and spruce which keep their needles year round and have naked soft seeds. So a barn made of softwood shows more wear and tear than a barn made of hardwood.

The biggest threat to old barns is the damage done by carpenter ants, termites and powder post beetles. A profile of the powder post wood boring beetle gives an idea of this enemy of old barns.

Female beetles lay eggs in the wood cracks. When the larvae hatch they burrow inside the wood and feed on the wood while carving extensive tunnels in the wood. As they eat the wood they leave excrement called frass behind.

It is the texture of talcum powder and is a tell-tale sign of infestation. Next they pupate and chew their way out of the wood leaving behind a tiny round shot hole that is visible and there may be some frass spilling out which is detectable.

These are signs of infestation. The powder post beetle effectively hollows out the wood. With continuous re-infestations the wood eventually collapses.

Termites and carpenter ants follow a similar pattern reaming out the inside of boards.

Remedies used today are to use wood that has been kiln dried, which resists the invasion of these pests and to paint or stain the wood which acts as a further deterrent to pest invasion.

Brad Green uses a sawyer in Ware, who is very selective about the trees he uses for barn restoration. Only tall, healthy trees need apply.

There is a cow barn Green’s outfit has almost completed restoring in Westhampton. It reflects three months of work by his



A barn is being restored in Westhampton.



Here is another view of the barn.



This photo shows the stacked lumber being used to complete the job.

team of workers.

There were four workers the day I visited hammering mammoth beams of wood.

It looks like a half barn or a barn pulling up its petticoats to show off its sturdy new wooden legs. People can see where the individual cow stanchions were anchored in the cement floor and a shallow manure trough runs the length of the floor.

There are wooden box shaped vents on either side of the barn that allow the heat to rise out of the barn. There are no windows.

The hay loft has a pulley system for hoisting the hay aloft where it would continue to dry. Brad explained how originally old barns would have piled the hay loose in the loft to dry.

Now hay bales are piled in the loft, which are much heavier requiring stronger floor boards. Yup genuine cow barn here.

Well it is about to be reincarnated as a showpiece barn complete with large windows with a stupendous view that will serve as an entertainment space.

It is an impressive operation and a truly amazing feat of reconstruction. Best of all it preserves the agricultural heritage and celebrates those glorious barns.

People may celebrate the local barn and applaud the barn builders.



Turley Publications photos by Deborah Daniels
This view shows the inside of the barn.



Brad Green from Colonial Restorations, LLC. is a barn restorer.

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A TURLEY PUBLICATION

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Chester Baptist Church

Pastor Dan Herr

14 Middlefield Road

Chester, MA 01011

413-354-7743

Email: pastor@chesterbaptistchurch.org

Website: chesterbaptistchurch.org

Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m.

Sunday Worship at 10:45 a.m.

Sunday Afternoon at 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study and Prayer at 6:30 p.m.

First Congregational Church of Blandford

Pastor Tom Crouse

91 Main St., Blandford, MA 01008

413-848-2052

Sunday service 10 a.m.

First Congregational Church of Chester

Pastor Susan Borsella

334 Skyline Trail, Chester, MA 01011

Service with Live Music: 10 a.m. - Sunday Coffee and Sweets Social: 10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

First Congregational Church of Williamsburg

Rev. Jack Kraaz

4 North Main St., Williamsburg, MA 01096

413-268-7557

burgychurch@gmail.com • burgychurch.org

Facebook: First Congregational Church of Williamsburg

YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/channel/UCdyH1EA-fduamqHYeekxw5w

Office Hours: Tues. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 12 noon

Days and Hours of Services: Sun. at 10 a.m.

Hilltown Community Church

Dr. Robert Perreault, Senior Pastor

55 Main St., Russell, MA 01071

413-275-3232

Office: 413-862-3341

hilltownchurch3341@gmail.com

hilltowncommunitychurch.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/p/Hilltown-Community-Church-61580281487624/

Sunday Mornings 10 a.m.

Holy Family Parish

Rev. Ronald F. Sadlowski, known as Fr. Ron

5 Main St., Russell, MA 01071

413-862-4418

Office Hours: No set times.

Please call, leave a voice message or email: holyfamilyrussell.org

parish@holyfamilyrussell.org

Saturday Vigil: 5 p.m.

Sunday Masses: 8:15 a.m. & 11 a.m.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Community Church

New Boston Congregational Church

Pastor Eric Kriebel

4 Sandisfield Rd., PO Box 81

Sandisfield, MA 01255

Services held twice monthly, check website: www.newbostoncongregationalchurch.org

Pioneer Valley Assembly of God

Pastor Javier Melendez

63 Old Chester Rd., Huntington MA 01050

413-667-3196

pvaglife@gmail.com

www.pioneervalleayag.org

Facebook: Pioneer Valley Assembly of God

Sunday service: 10:30 a.m.

Pioneer Valley Mennonite Fellowship

Deacon Jerald Reinford

400 Huntington Rd., Russell, MA 01071

(413) 297-6037

Sunday worship at 10 a.m.

Visitors appreciated

Westhampton Congregational Church, UCC

Pastor Carol Smith

1 Tob Rd., Westhampton, MA 01027

(413) 527-4204

Sunday Worship at 10 a.m.

WESTHAMPTON

Conservation partnership preserves 806 acres of forest

WESTHAMPTON – Four land trusts and the town of Westhampton announce the permanent protection of 806 acres of forest within walking distance of the Westhampton town center.

These lands expand upon a large existing block of protected forest, which has now grown to 3,000 contiguous acres. The lands conserve important wildlife habitat and protect streams that provide drinking water to the City of Holyoke.

The public can access the newly protected lands from Spruce Hill Road, Tob Road and Burt Road including via a short walk from the Westhampton Library and Town Hall.

Trailhead kiosks and signage will soon be installed at each entrance to invite recreational uses including hiking, cross-country skiing and hunting.

Kestrel Land Trust led the collaborative effort by securing a Massachusetts Landscape Partnership Grant for \$1.25 million, in a partnership with the Trustees of Reservation, Town of Westhampton, Mass Audubon and Hilltown Land Trust.

Half of the land was purchased from W.D. Cows by Lyme Quabbin LLC and donated to The Trustees for permanent protection with Kestrel Land Trust.

This critical element was an important source of financial match towards the state grant. Mass Audubon's 30x30 Catalyst Fund also provided critical funding, project support and collaboration.

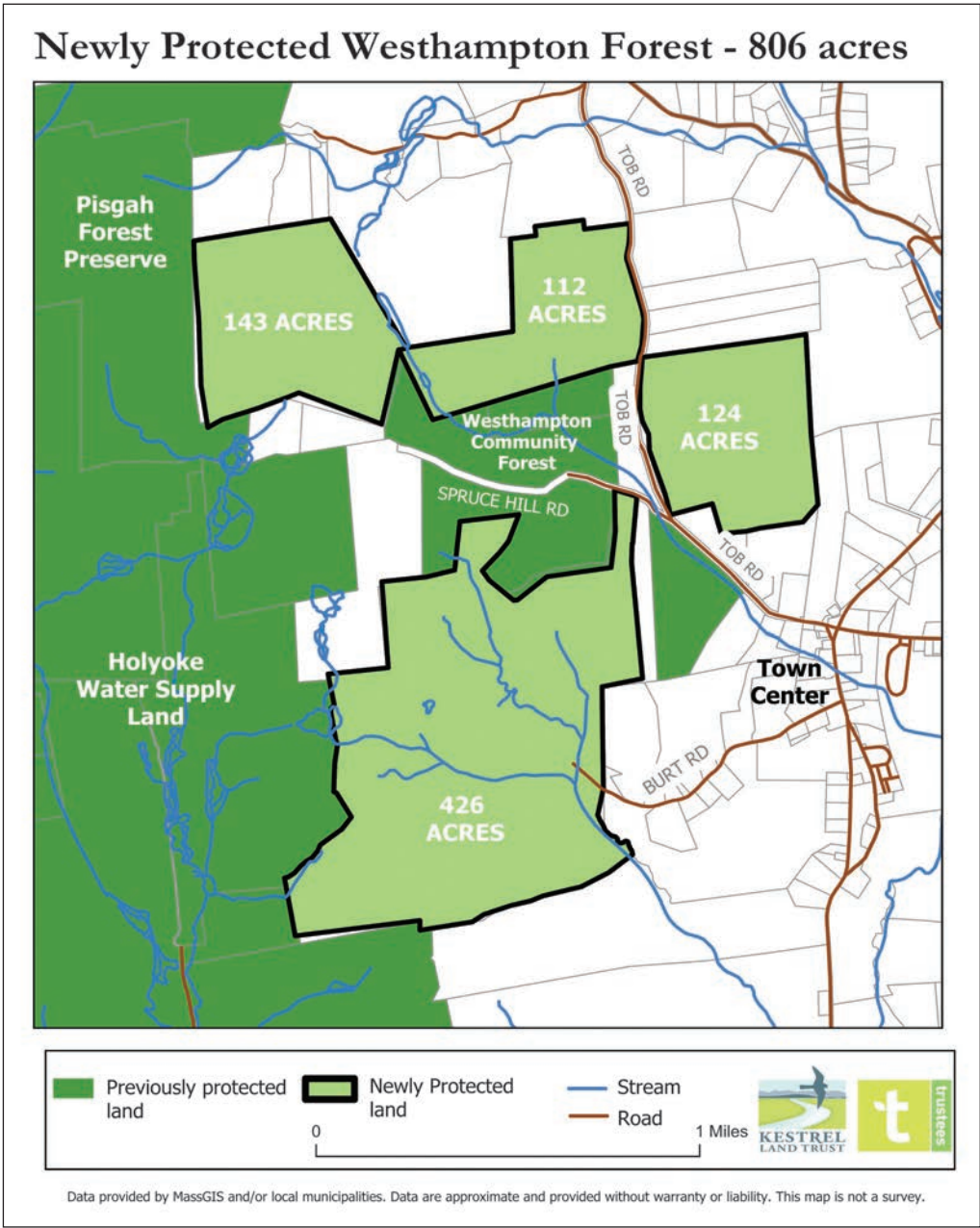
Last spring, this project was unanimously supported by Westhampton residents through a Town Meeting vote, and as part of the project, the existing Westhampton Community Forest has more than doubled in size to 425 acres.

It will be managed for local residents, through the Westhampton Conservation Commission.

Fred Morrison, Chair of the Westhampton Conservation Commission, said, "This inspiring conservation project has made a remarkable contribution towards ensuring habitat for the wildlife with whom we share the forest, and has created a substantial natural resource for the people of Westhampton and surrounding communities to enjoy forever more."

Lee Halasz, Conservation Manager at Kestrel Land Trust, said, "This project was a satisfying and highly successful conservation collaboration between six partners. It provides a successful template that Kestrel will continue to apply with private and public partners throughout the Valley, to accelerate the pace of forest conservation as a critical solution to the climate and biodiversity crises."

Katie Theoharides, President/CEO of The Trustees, said, "This project reflects the power of partnership to protect important landscapes at scale. The Trustees is proud to conserve and steward 426-acres in Westhampton as a new reservation open to the public,



This map shows the 806 acres of forest in permanent protection.

Courtesy map

expanding access to the outdoors while connecting a larger network of land protected by Kestrel Land Trust, Hilltown Land Trust, and the Town of Westhampton."

Sally Loomis, Executive Director of Hilltown Land Trust, said, "After years of discussion, this collaborative project allowed Hilltown Land Trust to add 143 acres

to our largest block of conservation land, which now extends from Pisgah Road in Huntington to Spruce Hill Road in Westhampton. This project is a powerful reminder that when local communities, regional land trusts, and state-wide conservation organizations work together, we can accomplish far more than any of us could alone."

David O'Neill, President and CEO of Mass Audubon, said: "Mass Audubon created the 30x30 Catalyst Fund for exactly this reason - to assist local and regional land trusts and towns to accelerate the pace of land conservation so we can meet our shared goal of protecting 30 percent of the Commonwealth's natural lands by 2030. We celebrate the hard work of Kestrel Land Trust, Hilltown Land Trust, The Trustees, and the Town of Westhampton that resulted in the protection of over 800 acres of land-land that cleans our air and water, provides recreational opportunities, and protects forests and crucial wildlife migration corridors."

Peter Stein, Managing Director of The Lyme Timber Company, said, "We are glad to have been able to transfer a 426-acre property to the Trustees of Reservations (working in partnership with the Kestrel Land Trust) given the property's adjacency to other permanently protected conservation land owned by the City of Holyoke, and in order to help maintain connectivity to benefit wildlife habitat and water quality in the Connecticut River Valley."

EASTHAMPTON

bankESB continues annual community veterans drive

EASTHAMPTON – bankESB continues its annual Veterans Drive, a community-wide campaign supporting the One Call Away Veterans Support Center in Agawam.

The initiative will run through Independence Day, inviting customers and community members to donate items and funds to help local veterans in need.

The One Call Away Veterans Support Center provides essential services to veterans and their families, including peer-to-peer support, emergency assistance, and outreach programs designed to reduce veteran suicide and improve mental health and well-being.

Through this drive, bankESB aims to raise awareness and provide tangible support to those who have served our nation. Community members are encouraged to contribute by donating much-needed items such as toiletries, household goods, and personal care items.

"Supporting veterans is a year-round priority for us at bankESB, and this drive is one way we can make a real difference in the lives of local heroes," said Matthew Sosik, president and CEO at bankESB. "The One Call Away Veterans Support Center is doing critical work, and we're honored to stand alongside

them."

This effort builds on bankESB's longstanding commitment to the veteran community.

Donations for the Veterans Drive can be made at any bankESB branch through Friday, July 3. Requested items include gift cards for groceries, gas, and clothing, non-perishable food, and toiletries.

For more information about the Veterans Drive or bankESB's community initiatives, people may visit bankESB.com.

Founded in 1869 as Easthampton Savings Bank, bankESB is headquartered in Easthampton.

CHESTERFIELD

CPL annouces upcoming events

CHESTERFIELD – The Chesterfield Public Library announces its annual July events.

All events are held at the Chesterfield Town Hall, 403 Main Road. On Wednesday, July 8 at 11 a., the Tanglewood Marionettes will perform "The Dragon King."

On Wednesday, July 15 at 11 a.m. there will be inter-

active balloon magic with Jungle Jim. This is sponsored in part by the Mass. Cultural Council.

On Wednesday, July 22 at 11 a.m. there will be a hands on soil science program with local geologists Dave and Deb Kozlowski.

The final event Wednesday, July 29 at 11 a.m. is "Laughter is the Best Medicine" with Robert Rivest.

All events are free and open to all.

For more information, people may call the Chesterfield Public Library at 413-296-4735 or email chesterfieldpubliclibrary@gmail.com.

Library hours are Mondays from 2-7 p.m., Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Chesterfield yard sale set for Sept. 5

CHESTERFIELD – The Chesterfield Town Wide Tag Sale takes place on Saturday Sept. 5.

At this time, folks who want to have a sale at their home or other location of their choice, should call Francine Frenier at 413-296-4291 or email francine.frenier@gmail.com.

A street map listing tag sale sites will be distributed to potential shoppers. The sale will be advertised on Craig's List. There is no fee to have a sale. Last year's sale was very good with many satisfied sellers and buyers.

PLAINFIELD

Library hosts reading of Declaration of Independence

PLAINFIELD – This year is the 249th anniversary of the founding of our nation: it exists for 250 years.

The 250th Fourth of July Commemoration and Eleventh Annual Hilltown Fourth of July Community Reading and Discussion takes place Saturday, July 4 from 10 a.m.-noon takes place in the Alden Pavilion behind Shaw Memorial Library, 312 Main St.

All 12 and over are welcome.

There will be a reading together, the Declaration of Independence and Frederick Douglass' Fourth of July Address (1852, abbr.). Then they will discuss in small groups.

The library will provide text; people can also visit at Swiftriverpress.com for the company.

The event will be held rain or shine. People should bring a chair.

Hosted by Plainfield Reads. Co-Hosted by Earthdance, the Plainfield Historical Society, the Plainfield Congregational Church, Shaw Memorial Library, the Northern Hilltowns COAs, the West Cummington Congregational Church, the Cummington Village Church, the Cummington Historical Commission, the Ashfield Historical Society, The Worthington Public Library and the Plainfield Mutual Support Network.

This event is funded in part by Mass Humanities, the West Cummington Congregational Church and the Plainfield, Cummington and Worthington Cultural Councils, which are funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

SOUTH WORTHINGTON

Sevenar's Academy to hold six concerts beginning July 12

S O U T H WORTHINGTON – The Sevenar's Academy, 15 Ireland St., just off Rte. 122, will hold six concerts beginning Sunday, July 12 and running through Sunday, Aug. 16 at 4 p.m.

Their "Family and Friends" opener marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of the USA.

The program will feature a fantastic array of American music, including Gershwin, Copland, Joplin, Blake, Braggiotti, Waller, Schoenfield, Bolcom, Brubeck, and songs of late Sevenars co-founder Rolande Young Schrade.

Rorianne Schrade, Lynelle James, and Christopher James will be at the pianos, and violinist Alexis Walls, pianist/composer Clifton J. "Jerry" Noble, Jr., and bass-baritone John Henry Thomas will add their tremendous gifts.

For more information on the program, people may visit <https://www.sevenars.org/july12>.



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BLANDFORD

250th anniversary to be held this weekend

BLANDFORD – A weekend of fun, food, fireworks and more starts off Friday, June 26 from 6-9:30 p.m. at the fairgrounds. Parade organizer Jennifer Girard reminds all participants in the parade are to meet at the town offices on Saturday, June 27 at 11 a.m. “sharp” for lineup assignments.

The parade will go from the Town Hall on Russell Stage Road to the fairgrounds. From noon-3 p.m. under the fairground pavilion there will be a free community cookout and more.

Porter Memorial Library announces events

BLANDFORD – Porter Memorial Library, in its temporary space at the Town Hall, announces Summer Reading program and a new activity for BookSquirms.

A Universe of Stories... Summer Reading Blasts Off!

The library will take young patrons out of this world with crafts, activities and stories all about space. in a “Universe of Stories... Summer Reading Blast Off.”

Families may stop in to the library to sign up between now and Tuesday, July 7. The six-week program will take place on Tuesdays from July 7 through Aug. 11 at 4 p.m. This program is for children starting kindergarten through sixth graders.

BookSquirms

Wednesdays in July regular BookSquirms sessions continue through July and into August with an added feature.

As part of the weekly BookSquirms program the library will host a Creative Movement Class with Laurel Lenski.

These sessions will take place during the month of July at the library space in the town hall and the gym. Children may stop in at the library at 10:15 a.m. for a story and then move into the gym for music and dancing to build gross motor skills and boost imaginative play. The dates of the program are July 15, 22, 29 and Aug. 5.

Select Board to hold monthly information sessions

BLANDFORD – In response to concerns broached on social media, Select Board Chair Jackie Coury announced Monday the Board will establish a monthly public informational session focused on these subjects.

Subjects include water infrastructure, taxes, solar development, battery energy storage systems, the Eversource substation expansion, town communications, the library, the Fire Department, the Highway Department facilities and more.

The purpose of these meetings will be straightforward, according to Coury: to present the facts, explain the challenges, discuss available options, and answer questions from residents.

“We intend to be transparent, have open discussions, and focus on facts as we know them,” she said adding that the hope is that these sessions will encourage greater participation, foster productive dialogue, and provide residents with a clearer understanding of the issues facing Blandford.

“We also hope they create an opportunity for residents to share their ideas, concerns, and perspectives directly with town officials in a positive and constructive manner.”

The first of these public informational sessions will take place on Wednesday, July 15 at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

The topic will be: Clean Energy and the Facts of What We Are Facing as a Community.

Select Board list new summer hours

BLANDFORD – Summer hours for the Select Board begin Monday, July 6 at 6 p.m. and will continue every other Monday through Aug. 31.

To be on the agenda, presidents make a request by using the form on the town website by visiting townofblandford.gov on the Select Board page.

The form must be completed at least three business days prior to any board meeting. Confirmation of agenda placement will be made prior to the meeting.

Tara Jacobs speaks at Democratic Town Committee

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – Governor’s Council member Tara Jacobs was the guest speaker for the Saturday, June 13 Democratic Town Committee meeting.

She seeks re-election and is on the November state election ballot for District 8, which includes 102 cities and towns across Western and Central Massachusetts.

The Massachusetts Governor’s Council, also known as the Executive Council, is composed of eight members elected from their respective districts every two years and the Lieutenant Governor, who serves ex officio.

The Council meets weekly to record advice and consent on warrants for the state treasury, pardons and commutations, appointments such as judges, clerk-magistrates, public administrators, members of the Parole Board, justices of the peace and more.

One only needs to review the state’s constitution to read about the number of duties the councilors have jurisdiction over.

Jacobs said, “This is the most important elected office that no one has ever heard of,” and described the council as having an advice and consent role providing a check and balance for the Governor of Massachusetts.

Jacobs is in her second term on the Governor’s Council, having first taken office in 2023. She attended Simon’s Rock College of Bard, earned a BS in social psychology research from Tufts University and an MBA in management and marketing from New York University Stern School of Business.

She left a career in advertising, as a brand strategist and consumer insight specialist, to move to the Berkshires where she focused on working within the community for positive social change.

She has lived in North Adams for 20 years and has served on the Berkshire Commission on the Status of Women, the Northern Berkshire Local Cultural Council, as a Chair of the North Adams Public Library Trustees and is serving her third term on the North Adams School Committee. She lives with her husband and daughter, as well as two dogs, a cat and two bunnies.



Tara Jacobs



Submitted photos

Shown in the front row from left are Beth Lanzoni, Wanda Deitner, Mary Powers and Rhonda Dunn and back row from left, Randy Gilman, Valerie George, Karen Buchinsky, Greg Lanzoni, Pam Dirschka, Lloyd Martin, Tara Jacobs, Eileen Bragg, Deborah Lundgren and Paul Dirschka.

COURY

Coury also said that it was Letendre, who helped get the town through “challenging times and restoring confidence in local government.”

Coury said Letendre’s leadership helped position the town to where it is today.

Welcoming Corinne Shartrand to the board, she said, “Public service can be both rewarding and challenging, especially when stepping into a new role. There is a great deal to learn, and every community has its own unique history, processes, and priorities.”

Addressing her directly, she said, “Corinne, I am confident that you will find T.J. and me, our town employees, board and committee members, volunteers and residents to be supportive and welcoming. We are fortunate to have many dedicated people who care deeply about this community and are always willing to lend a hand.”

“We look forward to hearing your perspective as we continue addressing the opportunities and challenges facing our town.”

Coury referred to the “election season” when criticisms, comments and disagreements with policies and decisions by the board became “visceral personal attacks,” she said, adding that no one person runs the Select Board and decisions are made collectively through discussion, debate and ultimately a vote of the Board. Also, that individual members may hold different perspectives during deliberation, once a decision is made, it becomes a decision of the Board as a whole.

“Because of that, when the integrity of one Board member is questioned, the integrity of the entire Board is called into question,” she said.

Asking residents going forward, if there are any questions or concerns regarding the actions of the Select Board, these be brought directly to the Board for explanation.

“The Select Board conducts its business in public, and we believe discussions about the Board’s actions are best held in the same public forum where those actions are taken. Open meetings provide transparency, accountability and an opportunity for residents to hear the complete discussion rather than fragments of personal opinion,” she said.

Returning to the agenda, the board heard an update on the 250th town-wide celebrations for June 26 and 27 from organizer, Jennifer Girard.

George Reichert provided a summary of the Meet the Candidates night and suggested this be an annual program. Coury said that the town really needs volunteers to step up.

Reichert said that feedback had been “very positive.”

Reporting on the plantings at Bicentennial Park, he said 75 plants

from page 1

were set out, the area weeded and hoses were purchased, adding that Shartrand had organized volunteers to “water.”

Regarding items moved to the stage area from re-arranging rooms at Town Hall, boards affected need to mark items for disposal or for return to a new space.

The board approved a “disposition policy.”

Coury provided an Energy Project Siting and Engagement Committee wrap-up. The final meeting was June 17, with the committee disbanding at the end of this month.

She said that if the town pushes too hard, referring to all things solar and the substation expansion, “Eversource will leave,” and the town will lose thousands of dollars and that taxpayers would have to pick up the loss.

Board member Ted Cousineau was not at the meeting.



Nobody dreams of having multiple sclerosis

Some dreams are universal: hitting a ball over the Green Monster; winning the World Series with a grand slam in the bottom of the ninth inning. Finding out you have MS is not one of them.

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WESTFIELD

No Kings Westfield hosts Declaration of Independence event

WESTFIELD – No Kings Westfield invites community members to a Celebration of the Declaration of Independence, a community gathering to honor the founding ideals of the United States through readings, music, speakers, and a symbolic signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Attendees will go home with Declarations of Independence, pocket Constitutions and American flags on Saturday, June 27 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in Park Square

There is no rain date. Together, attendees will reflect on what this country was founded to be and recommit themselves to the ongoing work of making it so.

This is not a protest or rally, but an educational community gathering celebrating the founding of our nation and the democratic principles at its heart.

No Kings Westfield is a grassroots organizing group founded in March 2025 with a mission of “defending democracy through nonviolent action, uniting community to reject authoritarianism, and affirming that power belongs to the people.”

All are welcome. For more information, people may email contact@noking-swefield.com.

Armbrook Village earns best senior living community

WESTFIELD – Armbrook Village earns the honor of U.S. News & World Report’s 2026 Best Senior Living award in all three categories: Assisted Living, Independent Living and Memory Care in the publication’s fifth annual year measuring Assisted Living communities.

Best Senior Living Ratings are based on multiple aspects of a resident’s daily life. Considered categories include dining experiences, programming, safety, and the overall value of care given to each resident.

As seniors and families search for the best option to match their loved one’s needs, wellbeing, programming and quality of life are crucial.

Out of the 540,000 consumer surveys completed by family, friends, and staff, only the highest ranked communities are given the title of “best.”

Between movie nights, educational lectures, art classes and book clubs, Armbrook Village is known for its engaging social programming.

With various brain healthy choices on the community’s menus and an enthusiastic dining staff, a fine dining experience is offered to all residents at each meal. Caregivers are available 24/7, ensuring a safe envi-

ronment for all residents and peace of mind for families.

“Whether seeking an active or specialized lifestyle or specialized care, U.S. News’ 2026 Best Senior Living ratings help families navigate these options by identifying communities where residents and their families reported the highest levels of satisfaction,” shares U.S. News Senior Living Director, Liz Pearce.

Armbrook Village is a senior community in Westfield that also offers a secure Compass Memory Support Neighborhood® for those with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementia.

FLORENCE

Stephen Bourgeois receives manager bank promotion

FLORENCE – Florence Bank announces Stephen Bourgeois was promoted to manager of the bank’s downtown branch in Northampton.

He replaces Vice President and Branch Manager Cynthia Malinowski, who retired in May.

Bourgeois joined the Florence Bank in 2012 as a senior teller. He has also served as a Customer Service Representative in the Amherst branch and as Assistant Branch Manager in the Belchertown and Hadley branches.

Bourgeois has 13 years of experience in the banking industry and is skilled in customer service, teamwork, communication, problem-solving and employee development.

He holds a Bachelor’s Degree in political science from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and serves as treasurer and chairman of the Grant Committee for the Belchertown Education Foundation.

In his new role, Bourgeois is responsible for leadership and team development, deci-



Stephen Bourgeois

sion-making, community engagement and mortgage lending.

“I’m really excited to get to know our customers in Northampton and become involved in the downtown community,” he said. “Community banking isn’t just about checking and savings accounts; it’s about being a part of the community we work in and supporting our neighbors.”

“We appreciate Stephen’s commitment and dedication to our customers and we are proud to see him continue to grow as a bank leader,” said Matt Garrity, President and CEO of Florence Bank. “We look forward to seeing him lead our Downtown branch to great success.”

Florence Bank is a mutual savings bank chartered in 1873. Currently, the bank serves the Pioneer Valley through 12 full-service branch locations in Florence, Northampton, Easthampton, Williamsburg, Amherst, Hadley, Belchertown, Granby, Chicopee, West Springfield and Springfield.

Florence Bank presents President’s Award

FLORENCE – Florence Bank recently presented the 2026 President’s Award to three team members for exceptional service.

Established in 1995, the President’s Award recognizes outstanding performance, customer service and overall contribution to Florence Bank. Those named are nominated by their colleagues at the bank.

This year’s award recognizes Otto Mantz of Easthampton, a Senior Teller and Customer Service Representative at the bank’s King Street branch in Northampton; Paola Sherman of Williamsburg, Community Mortgage Loan Originator at the main office in Florence and Devon Wonderlie of Ware, Community Relations and Communications Manager also at the main office.

Mantz serves as a senior teller and customer service specialist at the King Street location in Northampton. He is responsible for assisting customers with deposits, withdrawals, bank checks, and opening new accounts. He provides incred-

ible customer service and is always ready to offer coworkers a helping hand. His engaging personality and genuine approach leave a lasting impression on everyone he serves, fostering teamwork and leading with professionalism.

As a Community Mortgage Originator, Sherman walks customers through the process of finding the right combination of terms and product features to find a mortgage that meets their needs.

She is fluent in Spanish and supports the Latino community through the home buying process.

Sherman also hosts first-time homebuyer classes and attends informational fairs to further educate and connect with the community. She participates in numerous events and is dedicated to providing the highest level of customer service.

Wonderlie has five years of banking experience and manages community relations, including the bank’s charitable giving, volunteering efforts, social channels, and public relations.



Otto Mantz



Paola Sherman



Devon Wonderlie

She is skilled in planning, organizing, and managing multiple deadline- and detail-oriented projects. She completes her master’s degree in marketing later this year from Southern New Hampshire University and holds a Bachelor’s Degree of Science and Bachelor’s Degree of Arts from the University of Hartford.

Matt Garrity, President and CEO of Florence Bank, said, “These employees embody the qualities we value at Florence Bank—hard work, determination, dependability, enthusiasm, and compassion. They have built enduring relationships with colleagues and customers alike, giving their peers good reasons to nominate them.”

Florence Bank is

a mutual savings bank chartered in 1873. The bank serves the Pioneer Valley through 12 full-service branch locations in Florence, Northampton, Easthampton, Williamsburg, Amherst, Hadley, Belchertown, Granby, Chicopee, West Springfield and Springfield.

“These employees embody the qualities we value at Florence Bank—hard work, determination, dependability, enthusiasm, and compassion.

– CEO Matt Garrity

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Colleges and universities announce President’s and Dean’s list

PRESIDENT’S LIST University of Hartford

Nick Brisson of Williamsburg
Avery Brooks of Westhampton
Marina Slivca of Westfield

DEAN’S LIST

American International Colleges

Yaireliz Rivera Tirado of Westfield
Rebecca Connell of Williamsburg
Jeilianis Vazquez of Westfield
Ian Soto of Westfield
Makenna Slate of Easthampton
Ashley Pacheco of Westfield
Tatyana Denisyuk of Westfield
Christina Legkodukh of Westfield

Champlain College

Henry Norton of Easthampton
Heidi Pohlman of Cummington

Eastern Connecticut State University

Sophie Redmond of Easthampton, *psychology major*
Braelyn Willett of Easthampton, *elementary education and liberal studies major*
Elayna Carlson of Westfield, *criminology major*
Sydney Goyette of Westfield, *business administration major*

Elms College

Alyssa Allen of Westfield
Emma Bialas of Montgomery
Ashley Brazier of Westfield
Nathalia Carando of Westfield
Gabriel Colenback of Easthampton
Brayden English of Easthampton
Theanna Hernandez-Tiedemann of Easthampton
Krystal Hiltbrand of Westfield
Chelsea Indyk of Easthampton
Angela Ivanova of Westfield
McKenzie Kiltonic of Westfield
Emily Kostek of Easthampton
Megan Lavoice of Westfield
Nelly Moka of Westfield
Zoe O’Neill-Garvey of Easthampton
Owen Pais of Westfield
Alicia Potter of Huntington
Ashmita Sarki of Westfield
Angela Sikop of Easthampton
Caitlynn Therrien of Easthampton
Madison Topor of Westfield

Hofstra University

Reese Gibson of Westfield, *criminology major*

Lasell University

Lyssa Tirrell of Westhampton
Julia Smidt of Russell

Springfield Technical Community College

Shahnon D. Post of Chester
Esther G. Stewart of Chesterfield
Marlon E. Arauz Easthampton
Irish M. Bartolomei of Easthampton
Owen M. Bourbeau of Easthampton
Bridget A. Cauley of Easthampton
Colby J. Clapper of Easthampton
Ryan T. Cowan of Easthampton
Morgan E. Denis of Easthampton
Kaiden G. Dion of Easthampton

Catherine M. Hennessey of Easthampton
Weston O. Hill of Easthampton
David H. Ferland of Easthampton
Amanda Groblewski of Easthampton
Ivanna Kabushka of Easthampton
Tiudy C. Kamau of Easthampton
Anna Marie D. Light Easthampton
Keane Lowell of Easthampton
Anthony D. Manganaro of Easthampton
Timothy J. O’Keefe of Easthampton
Maria Ortega of Easthampton
Katherine Paradis of Easthampton
Ava G. Roberts of Easthampton
Emily M. Rodriguez of Easthampton
Eva S. Romero of Easthampton
Heather L. Antonelli of Florence,
Claire Blakely of Florence,
Benjamin Fowler of Florence
Sara Paiva of Florence
Jonathan J. Mendez Palacios of Florence
Catherine Plaza of Florence
Karen M. Plaza of Florence
Molly P. Smith-Eilenberg of Florence
Kristofer D. Thibedau of Florence
Alexander Podel of Haydenville
Megan L. Courtney of Huntington
Giordano L. Caldieri of Northampton
Dimitra A. Chatman-Gray of Northampton
Sarisa Ford of Northampton
David Hetzner of Northampton
Karina L. Rivera of Northampton
Abigail Walker of Northampton
Michelle M. Doucette of Pittsfield
Nicholas J. Hassett of Pittsfield
Ana Monsalve of Pittsfield
Raia E. Robotham of Pittsfield
Jessica Beaudry of Russell
Ivan Chepureenko of Russell
Melina V. Korchevskiy of Russell
Nico A. Paulson of Russell
Benjamin S. Apodaca of Southampton
Elizabeth M. Barcomb of Southampton
Jason W. Jones of Southampton
Ron D. Madsen of Southampton
Rebecca A. Mooney of Southampton
Jacob B. St Pierre of Southampton
Nathaniel J. Berrian of Westfield
John Blake of Westfield
Valeria M. Cruz Bonilla of Westfield
Anzhelika Botyan of Westfield
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Rylie M. Gour of Westfield
Maraya Green of Westfield
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Sangmyoung Han, of Westfield
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Brandon L. Hodgdon of Westfield
Sage J. Howes of Westfield

Reem Ibrahim of Westfield
Sonna Jiana of Westfield
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Randy Perez of Westfield
Andre B. Postell of Westfield
Milana Povar of Westfield
Krista M. Quaglieri of Westfield
Mateo C. Reyes of Westfield
Mackenzie B. Roberts of Westfield
Dayanara Rosado of Westfield
Jennifer A. Sanchez-Karch of Westfield
Samantha M. Santos of Westfield
Viktoriia Sereda of Westfield
Brianna K. Sgambati of Westfield
Elena L. Silvia of Westfield
David J. Spice of Westfield
Benjamin A. Tatro of Westfield
Elicia T. Tracey of Westfield
Meghan M. Wert of Westfield
Darian S. Wheelock of Westfield
Philip Yurovskiyh of Westfield
Timothy Yurovskiyh of Westfield
Hailey Bergeron of Westhampton

SUNY

Shelbee Parker of Westhampton

University of Hartford

Anna Dunlap of Westhampton
Sydney Kleppinger of Easthampton
Angelina Krikunova of Westfield
Josh Moran of Easthampton

University of New England

Jackson Harding of Chester
Kelly Couch of East Otis

WPI students complete research projects

WORCESTER – At Worcester Polytechnic Institute, all undergraduates are required to complete a research-driven, professional-level project that applies science and technology to addresses an important societal need or issue.

Known as the Interactive Qualifying Project, this project is a core part of the innovative undergraduate experience at WPI. Centered around project-based learning, this hands-on approach offers students opportunities to help develop thoughtful solutions to open-ended problems.

Local students completing the project are: Michael Grinley of Goshen, class of 2027, majoring in environmental engineering, completed the project

titled Developing Laboratory Sustainability Guidelines for AMI; Christopher Ondrick of Westfield, class of 2027, majoring in electrical and computer engineering, completed the project titled Feasibility of AI in Armenian Early-Stage Tech Startups and Gabriel Rapoza of Easthampton, class of 2027, majoring in aerospace engineering, completed the project titled Assisting ELWP to Develop a Community Garden at Aldriche Way.

These real-world problems affect the quality of life for people in the communities where students work, giving students a chance to make a difference in the world before they graduate. All WPI undergraduates are required

to complete an IQP, usually in their junior year, through which they apply science and technology to address an important societal need or issue.

About two-thirds of WPI students complete their IQP at one of the university’s 50+ off-campus project centers located in more than 30 countries around the world.

“The WPI project-based curriculum’s focus on global studies brings students out of the classroom and their comfort zones and into the global community to apply their knowledge and to solve problems,” said Professor Kent Rissmiller, professor of International & Global Studies and associate dean of The Global School.

MONTGOMERY

Bob Cipolli returns to Music in Montgomery in July

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

MONTGOMERY – Dale Rogers, organizer of the monthly Music in Montgomery series announces the July line up. Co-hosted by the Montgomery Public Library and Gray Catbird Pottery Studio, Music in Montgomery takes place at Montgomery Town Hall every Thursday, starting at 3 p.m.

July performers include regulars Jerry and Kara Noble, Larry Southard, Ed Bentley and Friends and Ravenwood, with Bob Cipolli returning to the line-up to close the month on July 30.

Opening on Thursday, July 2 are pianist, guitarist and composer Jerry Noble and bassist and Jerry’s wife, Kara Noble.

People may have seen Jerry live in Montgomery, at Smith College or at the Bombyx Center for the Arts in Florence.

But you might be interested to hear some of his recorded music available on Apple Music. A search for Jerry will bring up a series he recorded (Journeymen’s Songs) with Daniel Zehringer and C. Donald Compton.

Or, for something different, check out his performance of “Mabel’s Done Gone” with the Plantation



The Ravenwood String Band performs at Music in Montgomery on Thursday, July 23. Held every Thursday at 3 p.m. at Montgomery Town Hall (161 Main Rd.).

Playboys (2000). That’s the thing about Jerry, one never knows where he’ll turn up next.

Next is Larry Southard on July 9. Southard can be seen all over the hilltowns and this time of year is a frequent performer at the Otis Farmer’s Market.

One of his most recent gigs was at the Route 8 Pub, located in the Becket General Store with Lesley Friedman Rosenthal and mandolin player Kurt Hansen.

Holding the middle position for the month is Ed Bentley and Friends on July 16. Like the rest of the Music in Montgomery

folks, Ed gets around and was recently spotted at the Westfield Farmers Market with Tom Boldo and Linda O’Neill.

He covers a range of music and is often seen with Jane Martin Pelletier and Ron Campagna. People never know who will stop in and join him in Montgomery, but settle in for country, rock and folk favorites.

Barry Searle returns and this time brings the Ravenwood String Band on July 23. Searle plays in a number of ensembles locally; he was just seen at Conant Park in Southampton with his Time Stretchers

Band.

Ravenwood is a bluegrass-influenced string jazz band that includes a mandolin, violin, bass, guitar and four vocalists.

Rounding out the month: Bob Cipolli returns to the stage on July 30. Rogers says Cipolli is noteworthy for his vocals and masterful guitar work, in presenting a variety of genres including classical music.

He also has a lot of musical friends and was seen in late April at the Southwick Inn with Steve Piper, Dennis Clark, Joe Elliot and Tim Smith with Myles Reed sitting in.

They are e all connected and one of the best ways is through music/

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.

Montgomery Town Hall is located at 161 Main Road. This event is open to all who are interested. For more information, people may call Dale Rogers at 413-875-5205.

MHS offers program on American Revolution

MONTGOMERY – The Montgomery Historical Society offers the program “Western Massachusetts’ role in the American Revolution” to all interested area residents on Saturday, June 27 at 1:30 p.m. in the Montgomery Town Hall at 146 Main St., in the town center.

Presenting the program is Samuel MacMunn, a member of the Westfield Historical Commission, who will appear in period costume and will display items from that period during his talk.

He will enlighten the audience about connections between Western Massachusetts and the War for Independence in 1776, on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the beginning of the conflict. Montgomery has previously been identified and recognized as the home of Revolutionary War armorer, Richard Falley, Jr.

The program is free and will be followed by an old-fashioned ice cream social.

Donations for the event and the refreshments will be gratefully accepted for the Historical Society’s Scholarship Fund, which offers scholarships yearly to graduating high school seniors who live in Montgomery.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Goshen Conservation Commission

The Goshen Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing under the provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Chapter 131 Section 40) on **July 6, 2026, at 6:30 PM** at the Goshen Town Offices to review a **Notice of Intent** filed by Tom Jenkins for work at 115 Aberdeen Road. The work to be reviewed includes the demolition of an existing two bedroom dwelling and construction of a new three-bedroom dwelling, partially within the buffer zone to Highland Lake, associated site work, and repairs to waterfront amenities.
06/25/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
County of Hampden
The Superior Court
CIVIL DOCKET
#2679CV0260
RE: Blue Chip Commercial Broker, LLC vs Lisa Estrada
ORDER OF NOTICE BY PUBLICATION**

TO: **Lisa Estrada**, an individual with an address of 92 Old State Road, Chester, MA in the **County of Hampden**; all in said Commonwealth;

AND TO ALL PERSONS ENTITLED TO THE BENEFIT OF THE SERVICE MEMBERS’ CIVIL RELIEF ACT OF 1940 AS AMENDED 2003 as amended:

Blue Chip Commercial Broker, LLC, a Massachusetts limited liability company, duly organized by law with its principal office located at 71 Mohawk Trail, Florida, MA 01247 claiming to be the holder of mortgage covering property known as 92 Old State Highway,

Chester, Hampden County, MA given by the Defendant Estrada to Blue Chip Commercial Broker, LLC dated October 13, 2023

recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds, Book 25190, Page 65, has filed with said court a Complaint for authority to foreclose said mortgage in the manner following: by entry on and possession of the premises therein described and by exercise of the power of sale contained in said mortgage.

If you are entitled to the benefits of the Service Members’ Civil Relief Act of 1940 as amended, and you object to such foreclosure you or your attorney should file a written appearance and answer in said court at **Springfield** in said County on or before **07/24/2026** or you may be forever barred from claiming that such foreclosure is invalid under said Act.

Witness, Michael D. Ricciuti, Esquire, Chief Justice of the Superior Court, at Springfield, Massachusetts, this 12th day of June, 2026.

Laura S. Gentile,
Clerk of the Courts
By: **Lauramarie Sirois**
Assistant Clerk
06/25/2026

Huntington Conservation Commission Notice of Public Meeting

The Huntington Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on **Tuesday July 7, 2026 at 7:30 pm** at the Huntington Town Hall to review a **Request for Determination of Applicability** submitted by Mass DOT. The proposed activity is for resurfacing and related work on Route 112 in Hunting-

ton from Mile Marker 0.15 to the Worthington Town Line, Mile Marker 0.05 to 8.5, including milling, resurfacing, and associated activities. This hearing is in accordance with M.G. L. Chapter 131 Section 40 of the Wetlands Protection Act.
06/25/2026

Chesterfield Planning Board Notice of Public Hearing

A public hearing will be held for a Special Permit Application from Verizon Wireless on behalf of SBA Communications, on **Monday, July 6 at 6:30 PM** in the Town Offices, 422 Main Road, Chesterfield, MA. The proposed plan at 53 Bofat Hill Rd., Chesterfield, MA is to add a 10’ antenna extension and 8’ lightning rod to an existing 18’ cell tower; a back-up 50 kw diesel generator; flood lighting; and related construction. A copy of the proposed plan is available for viewing and a notice is posted at the Town Clerk’s office..
06/18, 06/25/2026

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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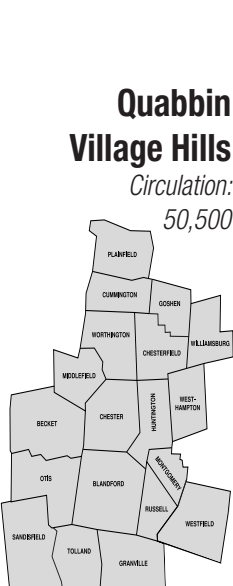
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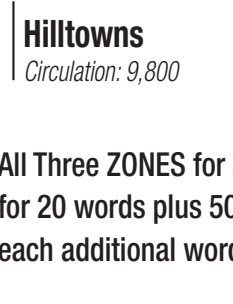
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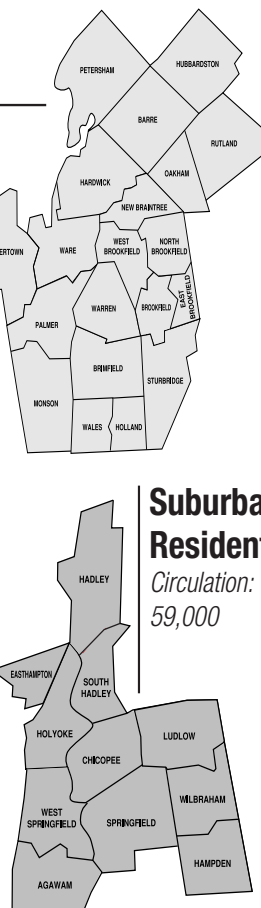
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CHESTER

THEATRE

from page 1

liness of the play, Preston was drawn to Fuller’s emphasis on the “individual” as the solution to these seemingly insurmountable problems.

“I was really fascinated by his mind and the idea that the individual is the only way we can change things,” he said. “Individuals have to empower themselves. Nobody can tell them what to do. They have to do what they need to do to solve problems.”

Preston, who had never done a one-man show before, also found the process of being on stage by himself for two hours, as well as “bring[ing] [Fuller] to life with the most humor, with the most understanding, with the most compassion of all the things he was talking about” to be a rewarding one. “It calls on me to use every part of myself, from when I was a child until now,” he said.

Despite the urgency

that characterizes much of Fuller and the issues he wrestles with in the show, Karger also expressed appreciation for his ability to maintain “an incredible warmth, hopefulness and love in his writing,” which she called her favorite part of the production.

“R. Buckminster Fuller: the History (and Mystery of the Universe” runs June 19-28 at the Chester Town Hall.

Tickets can be purchased by visiting www.chestertheatre.org or by calling 413-354-7771.

“I was really fascinated by his mind and the idea that the individual is the only way we can change things.”

– Michael Preston

OBITUARY

Cathie R. Brown, 71

Cathie R. Brown of Chester, born March 15, 1955, passed away peacefully on June 9, 2026 at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, at the age of 71.

Cathie enjoyed crafting, crocheting, and gardening. She generously volunteered at local fairs, helping prepare the “Famous Turkey Dinner.”

She also loved cooking and baking and was happiest when hosting family cook-outs and gatherings.

She was predeceased by her father, Earl L. Foss, in 2001.

Cathie is survived by her sister, Francis Fuchinni and her husband, Tony of Chester; her former husband, Robert M. Henrichon of Huntington; her son, Robert A. Henrichon and his wife, Michelle of Westfield; her son, Gary W. Henrichon and his wife, Gina of Chester



and her daughter, Alicia A. Lord and her husband, Lucas, of Huntington.

She also leaves behind her cherished grandchildren, Austin, Damion, Andrew, Matthew and Oliver, as well as her beloved cat, Oreo. In addition to her immediate family, Cathie leaves behind many other loved ones and friends whose lives she touched.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to: Middlefield Fair, P.O. Box 23, 7 Bell Road Middlefield, MA 01243.

Cathie will be remembered for her kindness, her love of family and the warmth she brought to every gathering. Her memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date at the Middlefield Fairgrounds. www.firtionadams.com

DEATH NOTICE

BROWN, CATHIE R.

Died June 9, 2026

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date at the Middlefield Fairgrounds.

Country Journal

OBITUARY POLICY

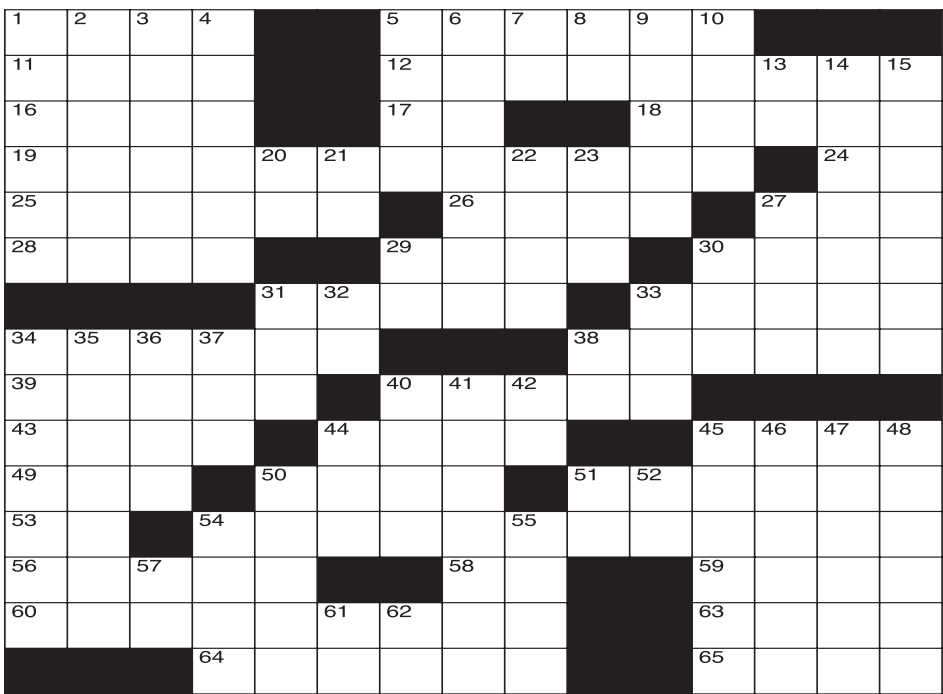
Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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 (with a word limit of up to 500 words) 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.

Subscribe to the Country Journal online at countryjournal.turley.com



CLUES ACROSS

- Nocturnal S. American rodent
- Requesting
- Give temporarily
- Excitedness
- Armed Forces branch
- Actor Harris
- Middle Eastern capital
- Air hostesses
- Partner to “Pa”
- Percussion instrument
- Popular computers
- Reduce light
- Asian mountain range
- Every one of two or more
- Absence of difficulty
- A public announcement of a proposed marriage
- Whittles
- Impact
- Serviceman
- A French river
- Prehistoric people

43. Messenger ribonucleic acid

- ___ Clapton, musician
- Ancient Greek sophist
- Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- Singer Hansard
- A way to disentangle
- Atomic #93
- Manifesting approval
- Indigo bush
- Former AL MVP Vaughn
- Off-Broadway theater award
- Fencers
- Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
- Relating to passerine birds
- Arrange systematically

CLUES DOWN

- Colorless fluid
- Of a main artery
- Photographer’s tool
- Blues Traveler hit “But

___”

- Grew older
- Not the leader
- ___ Lang (country singer)
- A driver’s license is one
- Nests of pheasants
- Wildbeests
- Equal to one quintillion bytes
- Japanese three-stringed lute
- Type of cat
- It cools your home
- The ancient Egyptian sun god
- Pouches
- German trigraph
- Form of Persian
- Measurement unit
- Body part
- Bridge building degree
- Indicates position
- Political action committee
- Snack food

35. Front part of a quadruped

- Locate
- Pitching statistic
- ___, myself and I
- City in Utah
- They play in the trenches
- “Can’t Touch This” rapper ___ Hammer
- Type of tree
- Performers
- Slang for mistake
- More open
- Most slick
- Needles
- University of Dayton
- Atomic #11
- Large fish of the mackerel family
- Not any
- ___ and behold
- Popular sports highlight show (abbr.)
- “The Great Lakes State”

THIS WEEK’S HOROSCOPES

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, physical activity can boost your mood and clear your mind for some big decisions that are ahead this week. Tackle some larger projects.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Indulge in simple pleasures this week, Taurus. They will lead you to the happiness you deserve. You may discover a new favorite recipe or cozy nook to hang out.

GEMINI

May 22/June 21

Networking may feel less like a chore and more like a party this week, Gemini. A chance encounter could open a door to an excellent opportunity.

CANCER

June 22/July 22

Cancer, right now your home is filled with laughter and shared memories. It’s a great week to host a small gathering or a movie night with close friends to share all the good vibes.

LEO

July 23/Aug 23

Leo, today you are a beacon of light and a source of inspiration. Use your unique position as a leader to spread positivity and watch good fortune multiply.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you are often a master of finding practical solutions to tricky problems both at work and at home. Your reliable nature is a great gift to those around you.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, some diplomacy this week can help you navigate a complex situation with ease. Find moments for mindful meditation so you can create a calm atmosphere wherever you go.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

If you are brave enough to voice it, a secret wish just might come true. After some difficult days, you can use a bit of magic and mystery to change your perspective.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

You’re definitely a glass-half-full kind of person. This optimism will open doors to a new horizon. A sudden urge to learn something new leads to an opportunity.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Discipline will be rewarded with a measurable success that can feel very uplifting, Capricorn. Your hard work is finally getting the recognition it deserves.

AQUARIUS

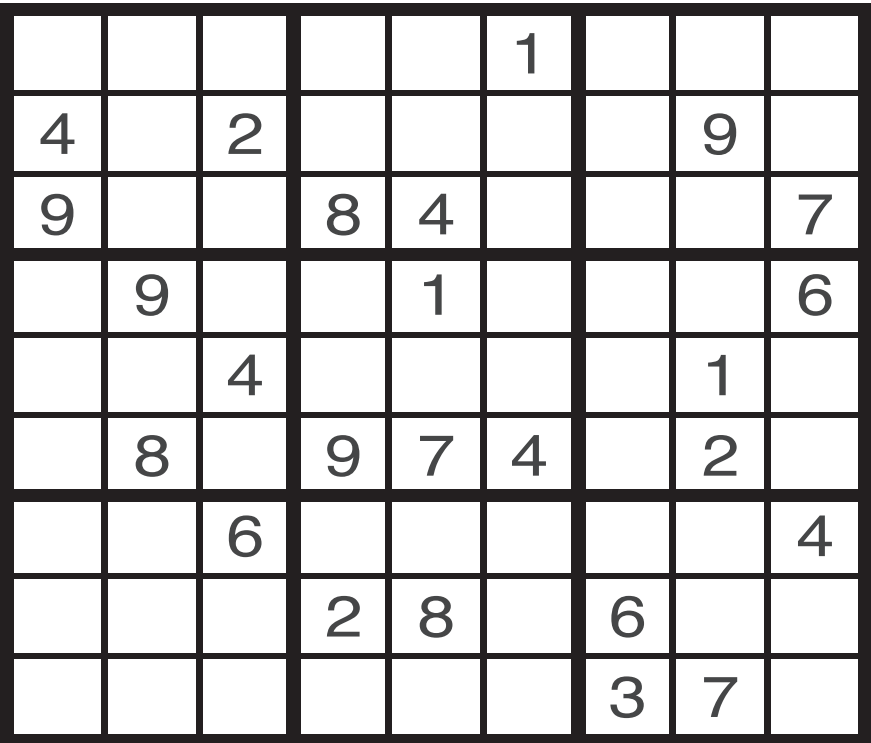
Jan 21/Feb 18

Be your most authentic self this week and watch how it attracts those you want in your circle, Aquarius. A weird coincidence may lead to a funny situation.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, calmer waters ahead allow you to reflect on yourself and recharge your emotional batteries. You may emerge at the end of the week centered and ready for anything.



SUDOKU

Here’s How It Works:

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

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HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



Hikers enjoyed a nature stop at Tilden Swamp in the Pittsfield State Forest.



Hikers traverse the Taconic Crest at the start of the azalea fields.



DCR interpretive coordinator Bob Rando points out locations.



Berry Pond was a stop for the group.

Submitted photos



The group spotted an Eastern newt in Tilden Swamp.

Hilltown Hikers visit Pittsfield State Forest

The June public group hike by Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers group hike was at Pittsfield State Forest with special guest Department of Conservation and Recreation interpretive coordinator Bob Rando and Ranger Patty on Saturday.

They took group just over three miles through the azalea fields on the beautiful Taconic Crest Trail. They went up and over Tower Mountain where a fire tower once stood and people picked blueberries, down to Tilden Swamp.

They saw leeches and Eastern newts and hiked over the beaver dam to Berry Pond the highest body of water in the state.

Even though the azaleas were past peak the Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers had a great time on beautiful trails and had a great nature stop at Tilden Swamp.

The Eastern newt is a semi-aquatic salamander. It is unique among amphibians for its complex, three-stage life cycle, during which it transitions from an aquatic larva to a terrestrial juvenile and finally to a fully aquatic adult.

The eastern newt goes through three distinct phases, which can span a total lifespan of 12 to 15 years in the wild. Aquatic larva hatches in the water, breathing through feathery gills.

The red eft is the terrestrial juvenile stage. The newt turns bright orange-red, loses its gills, develops lungs and lives in moist forest leaf litter for two to four plus years before returning to the water. Aquatic adult returns to the water, where it shifts to an olive-green coloration, develops a paddle-like tail, and spends the rest of its life as an aquatic predator.

They are carnivorous at every stage, feeding on various small invertebrates like mosquito larvae, insects, worms and snails.

Eastern newts produce tetrodotoxin in their skin, which makes them highly toxic and unpalatable to predatory fish, birds and mammals.

The Hilltown Hikers thank the DCR for again partnering with them.



Stephanie is in this hikers photo at Tilden Swamp.



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