

"Genius ain't anything more than elegant common sense." – Thomas Paine

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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RUSSELL

Families turnout despite the heat

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

Despite extreme heat and humidity on Wednesday, June 19, around 50 families of young children still attended the Early Childhood Extravaganza at Strathmore Park.

Alterations had to be made in the activity line-up, due to the heat. While the loss of pony rides might have been disappointing to some children, the replacement of an inflatable water slide certainly seemed to make up for it. Gilbert the Party Pig made an appearance and families received a free hot dog/ham-burger meal.

This event was funded by a Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative grant that Gateway won in a competitive submission this year. The goal of the grant is to build partnerships in the Gateway towns that increase the number of high quality preschool options for families. This kickoff event rewarded those families who took a 57-question needs assessment; the results of this survey will guide the creation and growth of preschool

FAMILIES, page 8



Lori Grimsley watches over Elliot Ortiz, who delighted in the duck pool at the event.

Turley photos by Wendy Long

HUNTINGTON

Home values threatened by proposed gravel pit

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

Fifty six Huntington residents attended the second public hearing on a proposed gravel pit hosted by the Huntington Zoning Board on Tuesday, June 18.

Missing were representatives from Hull Forestry, R. Levesque Associates, or Hilltown Sand and Gravel. Nonetheless, Chair Karon Hathaway called the public hearing continuance to order, introduced the Zoning Board members and verified that public hearing notices were confirmed in six public posting places and a courtesy mailing to abutters. Stanton Hall was already booked for the date of June 15, agreed to at the first hearing, so the new date had been set and agreed to.

GRAVEL PIT, page 3

BLANDFORD

Old Chester Road pipe needs covering

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

Water Commissioner Chair Michael Keier approached the Select Board at Monday evening June 24 meeting about an uncovered pipe on Old Chester Road.

He asked the board to see that the Highway Department covered an asbestos pipe on Old Chester Road. Work had been done to cover the pipe, but it washed out again with the recent rains.

Year end transfers

The Finance Committee and Select Board approved two year-end transfer requests, moving \$14,187.46 from Vocational Education to the Hilltown Community Ambulance and \$1,332.96 from the Town Administrator account to Town Hall Miscellaneous Expenses.

PIPE, page 10

HUNTINGTON

Fishermen bring river access complaint to Select Board

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

One of the top topics at the June 18 meeting of the Huntington Select Board was fishermen's access to the

Westfield River, which has been closed to the public in recent years.

Bill Hardy, former Russell Conservation Commission member; Ginny Hardy, former Russell

Selectboard member and William Gogol, owner of B. G. Sporting Goods in Westfield met with the board to discuss the loss of access to the Westfield River in Huntington. Interim Select Board Chair Roger Booth invited the guests to share their concerns and what they saw as possible solutions.

"Live" parking signs have gone up at places like the rest area across from the Huntington Health Center, in response to high volumes of trash left behind by picnickers, boaters, swimmers and fishermen. Those parking in the pull offs with these signs have one hour of access to the river. Not only does the time limit frustrate fishermen, the trio

have recently learned from Andrew Madden, District Supervisor of Massachusetts Fish and Wildlife, that the state will no longer stock the river with fish because access is so limited.

Bill Hardy acknowledged that the area had become a public health hazard. "There were no problems until city people started coming up to use the river," Hardy said. With no toilet facilities, people were leaving feces, dirty diapers and trash behind. Hardy questioned whether the state could put sani-cans at the pull offs in Huntington and Russell to reduce the problem and suggested that people be fined

RIVER ACCESS, page 3



William Gogol, from left, Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin, William Hardy, Police Chief Robert Garriepy and Virginia Hardy discussed river access with the Huntington Select board.

Turley photo by Wendy Long



PAGE 6

Becket.....2	Classifieds.....14, 15	Northampton.....6	Puzzle Page.....13
Blandford.....10	Goshen.....7	Obituaries.....15	Russell.....8
Buckland.....11	Hilltowns.....2	Opinion.....4, 5	Schools & Youth.....9, 10
Business Directory.....2	Huntington.....3	Otis.....2	Washington.....6
Chester.....11	Middlefield.....6	Pittsfield.....11	Westhampton.....6
Chesterfield.....6	Montgomery.....7	Public Notices.....12	Worthington.....11



8 0 4 8 7 9 1 3 1 7 8 6

HILLTOWNS

Massachusetts Firefighting Academy lists graduates

SPRINGFIELD – State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy leadership announced the graduation of 17 firefighters from the 50-day Career Recruit Firefighting Training Program.

Local graduates are Joanna Jaracz of Northampton and Colin Burns of Westfield. The graduating firefighters of Class #S37 represent the fire departments of Amherst, Athol, Auburn,

East Longmeadow, Longmeadow, Northampton, Seekonk, West Springfield and Westfield. Deputy State Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier presented them with certificates of completion.

“Massachusetts firefighters are on the frontlines protecting their communities every day, and today’s graduates are needed now more than ever,” said State Fire Marshal Davine. “The hundreds of hours of foundational training they’ve

received will provide them with the physical, mental, and technical skills to perform their jobs effectively and safely.”

“Massachusetts Firefighting Academy instructors draw on decades of experience in the fire service to train new recruits,” said Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Director Eric Littmann. “Through consistent classroom instruction and practical exercises, today’s graduates have developed the tools they’ll

need to work seamlessly with veteran firefighters in their home departments and in neighboring communities as mutual aid.”

The Richard N. Bangs Outstanding Student Award, which is presented to one recruit in each graduating class, was presented to Firefighter Keith Bosse of the Seekonk Fire Department. The award is named for the longtime chair of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council and reflects the recruit’s academic and practical skills, testing, and evaluations over the course of the 10-week program.

At the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, recruits learn all these skills and more, including the latest science of fire behavior and suppression tactics, from certified fire instructors. They also receive training in public fire education, hazardous material incident mitigation, flammable liquids, stress management, and self-rescue techniques. The intensive, 10-week program involves classroom instruction, physical fitness training, firefighter skills training and live firefighting practice.

The MFA provides recruit and in-service training for career, call, and volunteer firefighters at every level of experience, from recruit to chief officer, at campuses in Stow, Springfield and Bridgewater.



Shown are firefighters in the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy graduating of Class #S37.

Submitted photo

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Pat Gilhooly, a photographer, is one of several artists featured now through Sunday, July 21 at the Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, Becket. Photo by Pat Gilhooly

BECKET

Arts Center hosts opening

BECKET – The Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, will host a free opening reception on Friday, June 28 from 5-7 p.m. for the exhibition “Reaching.”

This is the second juried show of the season. The group show features artists representing a variety of media: Julian Craker, watercolors; Olwen Dowling, monotype, dry points and

intaglio etchings; Pat Gilhooly, photography; Polly Kurasch, mixed media and Elmer Orobio, wood and metal sculpture. The show, which is free and open to the public, will continue Wednesdays through Sundays noon-4 p.m. until Sunday, July 21, when there will be a closing reception. For more information, people may visit becketartscenter.org.

OTIS

Recycling bins available

OTIS – There is a limited supply of free 14 gallon blue recycling bins at the Otis Transfer Station.

First come first serve. Limit is one per household and they will be distrib-

uted on a first come first serve basis. Residents must have a valid transfer station sticker to receive a free recycling bin. They should see the transfer station attendant to get a recycling bin.

Transfer Station closed Fourth of July

OTIS – The Transfer Station will be closed on Thursday, July 4 for the Fourth of July holiday.

The Transfer Station will be open on Friday, July 5 from 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

HUNTINGTON

Ed the Wizard presents 'Reading is Magic'

HUNTINGTON – Ed the Wizard's "Reading is Magic" performance will appear at the Huntington Public Library, 7 East Main St., on Monday, July 8, starting at 10:30 a.m.

This is a family friendly interactive magic performance full of comedy and suspense as Ed the Wizard weaves

together the importance of building and maintaining one's reading skills.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Huntington Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

GRAVEL PIT

Hathaway announced that R. Levesque Associates had signed a continuance and the next scheduled hearing will be Tuesday, Aug. 13 at 6 p.m. at Stanton Hall.

Public comments were taken by the Board and those present were unanimously opposed to the project, which has applied for approval to mine gravel and sand on five acres of land owned by Hull Forestry. The proposed site is located between the Westfield River along Route 112 and Goss Hill Road. As owner of the land, Hull must apply for the permit, but the gravel operation would be run by Hilltown Sand and Gravel.

Hathaway announced that the Zoning Board is requesting nine studies to look at things like noise impact, river impact, silica dust with remediation, endangered and threatened species and environmental impact. The noise study will not only cover Goss Hill, but will go as far as Lowell Lane and Kennedy Drive on the opposite side of the river.

The Zoning Board has sought quotes from a number of companies and will select the contractors for this work, but the cost of these studies will be borne by Hull. It is not known yet how long the studies will take to complete, but the Zoning Board will make their decision based on the findings of these studies. When completed, these studies will be published on the town website.

Hathaway heard a complaint about the robo call going out the night before this hearing and he agreed to get the next call out earlier for the next hearing.

A few facts were clarified early in the hearing including that the buffer from the Westfield River has to be 200 feet and that Melvin Hess of Hilltown Sand and Gravel had estimated that 32 trucks per week would be moving material, although the permit application stated 32 trucks per day. Hathaway also verified that the application, minutes from the first hearing, and maps are all posted on the Zoning Board page of the town website by visiting huntingtonma.us.

Residents had plenty of concerns. According to Gary Cole of Goss Hill Road, vehicles going south on Route 112 at the posted speed limit of 50 miles



Fifty six residents attended the June 18 Zoning Board Hearing on the proposed gravel pit near the Westfield River. Not present were representatives from applicant Hull Forest Products, engineer R. Levesque Associates and operators Hilltown Sand and Gravel.

Turley photo by Wendy Long

per hour will have just six seconds in time to respond to a gravel truck pulling onto Route 112. Mike St. Martin stated that many of the dump truck operators are independent contractors, not Hull or Hilltown drivers. "Dump truck drivers are absolute cowboys," he said. "Hull's CSA score is impeccable because he uses contracted drivers, not employees." Others added that the point of egress is likely to create traffic accidents, which could stretch the town's police and ambulance capacity.

One person, who lives on Route 112, said that Hilltown Sand and Gravel has a truck that drives in an unsafe manner and had several near accidents near his home. Hathaway confirmed that Hess, owner of Hilltown Sand & Gravel, stated that he wants to know if anybody sees an unsafe driver. Carla Tacke of Kennedy Drive asked if there would be a tax benefit to the town for approving this. The response was there would be no change in the tax benefit to the town. "What is the benefit for the Town of Huntington for doing this?" she asked. "There is zero benefit to the town. We're getting nothing out of this except noise, pollution and destruction." The comment was met with applause from the audience.

Summer music series begins July 11

HUNTINGTON – The kickoff for Huntington Community Events Committees Summer Music series will be Thursday, July 11 starting at 5:30 p.m. with Jim Blanch and Boot Hill on the Huntington town green at the intersection of Routes 20 and 112.

All performances will be moved

inside Stanton Hall in case of inclement weather.

Jim Blanch and Boot Hill, play classic country with a "twist." There will also be an appreciation picnic tonight only with hamburger or hot dog, popcorn, lemonade and cake for \$1 donation.

from page 1

outside the scope of the proposed studies, according to Hathaway.

Dave Lansing of Pond Brook Road felt that if this is a resale operation, there's no way it's only 32 trucks a week. Kathy Briseboise presented the critical review that was done 25 years ago for a similar proposal, which the Zoning Board said they have. One resident asked if their questions could be submitted to Hull for answers. Hamlin responded, "Citizens can do that. The notes will be public and Hull will get a copy."

But Mike Brisebois said, "We're not going to get anywhere just saying We don't want this." He went on, Hull was clearly aware of the public opinion against the gravel pit. Nobody objected to the lumber operation. Eco tourism needs to be preserved. But Brisebois is skeptical on several fronts. "Has anybody here seen what a gravel operation looks like when it's done? The word reclaimed is not true; the actual visual effect is more of a scorched earth sight."

He further stated that the maximum that can be approved is five acres, which has been requested. But he believes that the original application from 25 years ago proves that there are multiple sites on Hull's property where gravel could be extricated. "Does anybody really believe that they built a road a mile long just to excavate five acres?"

Silica dust is a big concern and one resident wants everybody to know that the dust can travel nine miles, which would encompass Gateway Regional High School. People questioned where the water to keep dust down would come from and Hathaway said they would ask. Another person suggested a \$7 million umbrella policy, as a condition of approval.

In conclusion, Hathaway said that the Zoning Board has the right to approve or deny the application, based upon the scientific data from the studies.

Hamlin added, "The key isn't whether we get taken to court. The key is whether we win."

At the hearing's end, several attendees thanked the board for listening to residents' concerns. These comments were met with applause from those present.

RIVER ACCESS

for littering.

Gogul said he hears about it all of the time at his sporting goods store. "I'm getting calls from people all over the state asking about the river. I've done the trash pickups for 40 years; nobody's picked up more trash than I have," he said. It's Gogul's opinion that the swimmers and picnickers leave most of the trash.

Gogul described a day when there were about 60 people at the Huntington pull off having a huge picnic. He spoke to group leaders asking them to keep the area clean and saying he had all of the license plate numbers and would be back at 5 p.m. "I returned and there was not one piece of trash. That's what it takes," he said.

Selectman William Hathaway noted that the live parking signs have worked. "The trash is way down. I don't see a porta-potty located at the pull off because it will be trashed, tipped over, and create an awful mess."

Booth explained that the pull offs are rest areas for the state highway. Last year, the Select Board had a meeting with multiple state agencies. Booth said that

the turn offs used to be owned and operated by the counties. Even Russell Pond was at one time a county beach. With the demise of county government, oversight and eventually access went away. Massachusetts General Law states there is no parking at all along state highways.

Booth, himself a fisherman, told the state agency representatives that he would take part in any committee people wanted to form. But until that multi-agency committee forms, he said, nothing is going to change. "The town is not against opening the river," Booth said. "The problem is, it's not up to us."

A proposed social media policy was also reviewed and considered.

Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin reported, "There is a lot of Facebook stuff going on. We have an official town website and not everyone has access to Facebook. Officials who want to post on the town's Facebook page must have their own personal Facebook account in order to post. We do not have the manpower to monitor all these pages. If people have questions or concerns they should call or email the appropriate town department or me,"

Peloquin said.

Peloquin has proposed a change to the social media policy that will require a statement of all town-related Facebook pages reminding viewers that the town website is the official posting site for all departments. It specifies the statement includes notice that town employees may not be monitoring social media pages as well as a link to the town hall website. The Select Board will discuss this issue at their July 10 meeting.

In other business, Police Chief Robert Garriepy reported on the state-wide 911 outage and the town's back-up system for such an eventuality. He also reported that the town cruiser with the emergency back-up system has no air conditioning; the Board agreed to splitting the funding for addressing this with American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Approval for a payment to Kenney Masonry for \$15,171 for the new ramp at town hall was made; \$62,709.29 is still being held until the painting of the railing is completed.

Peloquin reported that several employees have requested their unused vacation time carry over on July 1. The

personnel policies state that the Select Board has to approve and that the maximum that can carry over is 40 hours. While the board approved this, Booth asked Peloquin to let people know that they should try to take all of their vacation time, as it is there for a reason.

Town Clerk interviews were postponed to June 26. A request from the Middlefield Fair to use Stanton Hall on Oct. 12 for a penny social fundraiser was approved. A request to separate phone numbers for the Planning Board and Conservation Commission was also approved. Melissa Reid was confirmed for the FY'25 cleaning person.

Tree service quotes and heavy equipment services bids were due on June 20 and will be reviewed at the June 26 meeting. To date, there is only one quote on the highway boom mower repair; two more quotes are required because the estimate is \$8,000-\$10,000. The fire department's request for an enclosed trailer funded by ARPA was approved, but will also need three quotes. Narcan boxes were approved.

The Select Board meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

from page 1

OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



Why is there a Social Security Earnings Limit?

Dear Rusty:

I try to read your article in the Carmichael Times each week and appreciate the information you provide. I am 62 and considering my retirement options and when I should do that to get the most benefit. I understand my full retirement age is 67, but what I don't understand and I hope you can answer, is why there is such a thing as the Social Security earnings limit? I know that if I was to retire before 67, my benefits would be reduced. But since I have been paying into SS for 45+ years and that money is technically money I have earned, why does SS care if I make more than the earnings limit? It doesn't affect them or my benefits. Can you tell me about the reasoning behind the earnings limit? I will, for many years after "retiring," continue working in my field.

Signed: Working American

Dear Working American:

This is a great question and, as a point of interest, our parent company, the Association of Mature American Citizens, advocates doing away with Social Security's earnings test which affects those collecting benefits before reaching their SS Full Retirement Age. In AMAC's view, it discourages people from working and, thus, paying Social Security taxes on their earnings. It is, after all, SS taxes from the earnings of working Americans, which largely pays for the benefits provided to Social Security beneficiaries. Eliminating the restriction would tend to improve Social Security revenue and help ease Social Security's current financial stress.

The reasoning behind the earnings test? Well, when Social Security was first enacted in the 1930s, the intent was that Social Security was for retired workers, meant to keep them from poverty in old age. The logic back then was that if a person worked they didn't need Social Security to sustain them, so those who worked could not collect Social Security at all. The current rule, after many adjustments over the years, says that annual earnings for those who collect early SS benefits are limited. If each year's earnings limit (\$22,320 for 2024) is exceeded, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 over the limit (FYI, the penalty is less severe in the year FRA is attained).

Historical accounts suggest that the reasoning behind the wording in the original Social Security Act - that "No person shall receive such old-age annuity unless he is not employed by another in a gainful occupation" - was quite controversial, except for the fundamental thought that if someone worked they didn't need Social Security. Over the ensuing decades the rule has been softened to provide that only those who collect benefits before their Full Retirement Age would have a portion of their SS benefits offset

SECURITY, page 12

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GUEST COLUMN

A rabbit rendition



Yesterday I walked up to one particular garden at Old Sturbridge Village and stood in amazement.

There was something off with the bed of red dahlia plants, orange cannas and a mixed color lot of rudbeckia that I had planted less than a month ago. What kind of animal would eat the rough, somewhat hairy leaves of the rudbeckia, better known as "brown-eyed Susan" almost all the way down to the ground?

The culprits ran or should I say "hopped" in front of me, just as I approached the bed. Peter and Petra Rabbit in plain sight.

If you too are plagued with rabbits, read on for a few tips straight from the archives on how to dissuade them from eating your precious plants.

I never had a problem with rabbits in my home garden until after the dog died. It would be safe to assume that "the marking of his territory" had something to do with keeping the bunnies at bay.

Outside of dog urine, there are lots of other deterrents out there that folks swear by.

One is dried blood. The smell signals danger. To be effective it must be reapplied each week as well as after it rains. You can either sprinkle a narrow band around the perimeter of the border or place containers of it in the garden.

Dried blood is a nitrogen fertilizer and is available at most garden centers. It will burn sensitive plants if applied directly on top of them, so sprinkle it a few inches away from the base. Along the same line would be ammonia sprays.

I have also heard of different home brews that you may, or may not want to whip up in your blender. One consists of garlic, hot peppers and marigold leaves - maybe this combination would work better than the other tactics already tried. These

would need to be reapplied periodically, especially after it rains.

A less attractive but better option to control rabbits would be to install a wire fence. It should be at least three feet tall and dug into the ground four inches or more.

Be sure that the fence is fine enough so that the rabbit's head won't fit through the holes - the unfortunate rabbit that is able to fit his head may think that the rest of his body will follow suit. When it doesn't, panic ensues, and the result is not something I would want anyone to find in his or her garden a day later.

Rabbits will eat almost anything except for prickly plants or strong smelling/tasting plants. For prickly plants think Globe Thistle (*Echinops Ritro*); blue globes bloom in early July. Sea Holly (*Eryngium maritimum*) is another similar plant.

Strong smelling/tasting plants include Bee Balm (*Monarda didyma*), Catmint (*Nepeta racemosa*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Mints (*Mentha spp.*) Garlic and Onions among others. In fact, I read of one gardener having great success keeping rabbits away from her flowering plants by planting a living fence of garlic in between them.

This summer, when it came time to clip the scapes off of my garlic plants, I collected the stems and dispersed them in and amongst the broccoli. It worked for a time being, probably as long as the scapes held their stink.

Along the same lines are all natural pellets that are soaked mainly in garlic essential oil. These should be hung or planed about three feet apart to make a stinky barrier that the rabbit won't cross to get to your plants.

I will certainly have to employ some of these tactics after I replant that garden.

You would think that the rabbits would have been happy enough with the clover in the lawn. I guess they are more "hoppy" with a varied diet.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 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.

Friday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election. For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the news-

paper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

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

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

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Election letters to the editor welcome

The Country Journal welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Country Journal, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to countryjournal@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that

OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



A Brimfield resident reported his wife saw an Eastern towhee in their driveway.

It has been some time since I saw a towhee. I saw it hopping to get seeds on the ground under my feeder.

The towhee is eight inches long with a long tail. The male has a dark hood, beak and back with reddish brown flanks and white belly. The female is brown on top with the reddish flanks and white belly.

They hop backward, raking up leaf litter in search of insects and seeds. They eat insects, spiders, lizards, snakes and weed and grass seeds. They come to feeders for seeds on the ground.

The female lays two to six cream with brown spotted eggs in a nest of leaves, strips of bark and grasses lined with finer grasses. The female places the nest on the ground in a scratched



Eastern towhee

depression under brush.

Towhees inhabit edges or open woods with shrub cover. Often towhees are heard rather than seen. The distinctive “chevink” or “chweee” call note of both sexes is a good clue to their presence. The noise from their “raking” of leaf litter is another clue they are nearby.

In the spring, the male sings and counter sings with neighboring males. He courts the female with song and by displaying with wings and tail spread. Their song is two whistles followed by a high trill like “drink your tee.”

During egg laying and incubation, the male rarely comes near the nest and the female is secretive. Both parents feed the young.

Bobolinks

An Oakham resident sent an email, he said “In 1982, after graduating with my M.S. degree from Cornell, I worked as a field assistant on a bobolink study. We assembled staging in the fields to construct elevated observation platforms. Then we needed to capture and mark all the individuals. Several mist nets were set up.”

He said, “When a bird landed near one of the nets we would rush to it and try to scare the bird into a net, quite effective. With ‘bird-in-hand’ we needed to mark it to allow us to recognize it. So we painted the tails with different combinations of colors. Capturing the very last bird took a lot of time and effort.” He also said, “When females returned repeatedly to a particular spot, we searched there for the nests, which was very difficult, as the nests were well hidden. We could then monitor nest success.”

Bluebirds

I received an email from a woman, who also sent photos of fledgling bluebirds, in her yard. She said, “At the end of winter the mated pair shooed off their offspring and got down to

nesting. We now have four fledglings visiting our mealworm feeder. They are too funny to watch, so hungry and they keep their parents very busy.” The bluebirds laid eggs for second time.

More Brimfield birds

The Brimfield resident, who sent the email about the towhee also said, “The other day I spent a couple of hours at the pond in South Street where the osprey nest is located. In addition to the osprey nest there are four great blue heron nests with at least eight chick, I can’t see the fourth nest very well but an adult is standing on the nest so I assume there are young chick there also. Young herons can’t stand for awhile so they probably wouldn’t be visible yet.”

He said he saw common grackles, chickadees and tree swallows at the pond as well phoebes, Eastern kingbirds and belted kingfishers.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES

Hikers traveling a section of the Appalachian Trail

Saturday’s flash hike took the Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers section hiking north bound on the Appalachian Trail for 5.6 miles starting in Tyringham at Goose Pond Road to Becket on Route 20 at the Jacob’s Ladder Scenic Byway parking lot, spotting cars at either end.

Stephanie started on Main Road in Tyringham because she is on a quest to complete the entire Massachusetts Appalachian Trail. She started her day by climbing Baldy Mountain and we started an hour or so later at Goose Pond Road meeting up with her along Upper Goose Pond.

This section is beautiful with the Mountain Laurel in bloom creating a canopy. The Hilltown Hikers also saw lots of thru hikers; shout out to Back Nine and Taxi and everyone else we talked to along the way.

At the junction of Goose Pond Cabin on the Appalachian Trail, the Hilltown Hikers took the half mile spur to visit John Purbrick, caretaker of the two story cottage situated on Upper Goose Pond in Becket. The only way to get here is by hiking in and it offers free overnight accommodations for hikers.

They went back on the trail coming down to the Mass Pike foot bridge, crossing where the Pike

proudly displays the ‘Appalachian Trail Becket’ signage, which is a very a cool spot. Finally, they came across Greenwater Pond and an old Tannery Dam and out to their spotted cars at Route 20. This summer, try hiking a few sections of the Appalachian Trail and meet hikers from all over the world.



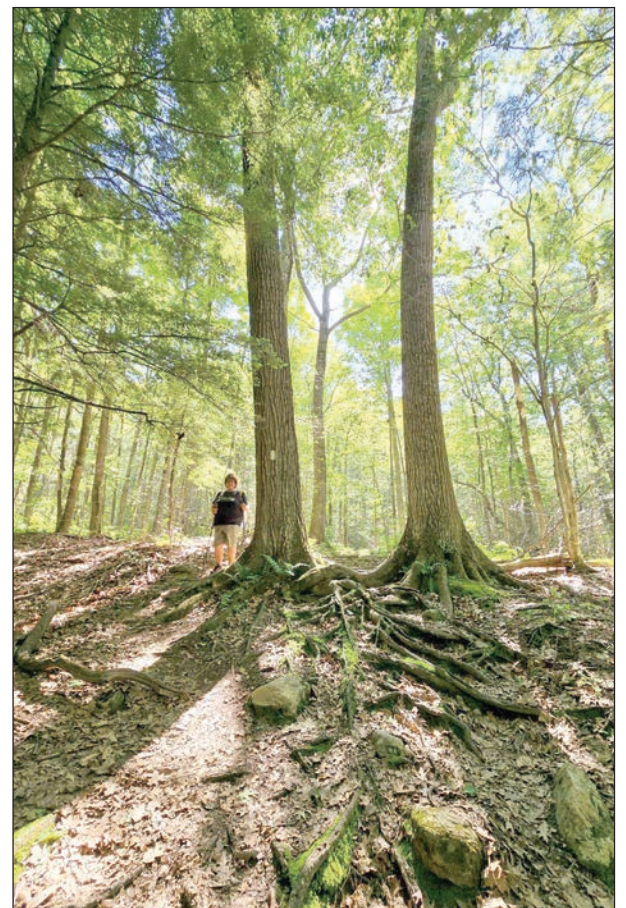
Kaen and Angie hike on the footbridge over the Massachusetts Turnpike built especially for hikers.



The Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers started their recent Saturday hike at in Tyringham at Goose Pond Road.



Stephanie and Cybil were excited to see the Goose Pond for the first time.



These old growth trees are along a section of the Appalachian Trail. Submitted photos



Karen and Tom follow the Appalachian Trail along the Massachusetts Turnpike.



This foot bridges crosses the swampy area in Tyringham.

WESTHAMPTON

FOUR GENERATIONS



Shown are four generations of Dragon family. They are from left, Robert Ernest Dragon Sr., 83, retired Easthampton public schools Maintenance Supervisor; Robert Lynn Dragon, 31, Easthampton Firefighter; Robert Ernest Dragon Jr., 60, retired Southamton Postmaster and the newest member, Bennett Taylor Dragon, six weeks.

Photo by Connie Dragon

NORTHAMPTON

Cooley Dickinson Hospital receives home programs grant

NORTHAMPTON – Cooley Dickinson Hospital, through a collaboration with Highland Valley Elder Services, will benefit from a nearly \$200,000 grant that aims to expand the state's hospital to home program.

The funds, announced by the governor's office earlier this month, will be used to provide specialized expertise to Cooley Dickinson Hospital that will support discharges directly to a patient's home, rather than to a skilled nursing facility or other long-term care setting.

"These funds will be a huge benefit to our patients, hospital, and the community," said Susan Pierce, senior manager of case management at Cooley Dickinson. "Not only will more patients be able to return directly home, instead of being sent to a skilled facility, but we will also be able to discharge them faster – allowing greater access to other members of the community who need their beds."

The money is intended for Highland Valley Elder Services to hire personnel, who work onsite with Cooley Dickinson, to connect patients and their families with resources and services that ensure appropriate supports are put into place in their homes upon discharge. The grant money was part of \$1.1 million in awards announced this month for acute care hospitals and Aging Services Access Points, like Highland Valley Elder Services, across Massachusetts.

There are 24 regional ASAPs throughout Massachusetts that provide programs and services designed specifically to support older adults in the community. The organizations provide support and assistance with home care options, food security, housing, financial wellness, transportation, and safety, among others.

Funding for the grant was provided by the American Rescue Plan Act.

Three County Fair announces new executive director

NORTHAMPTON – The Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden Agricultural Society, the non-profit organization that manages Northampton's Three County Fair and fairgrounds announce it's new Executive Director, Taylor Haas of Northampton.

Haas assumed her position on June 3. The Executive Director is responsible for the overall operations of the fairgrounds, which not only includes the annual Labor Day Weekend Fair, but events held throughout the year such as horse and livestock shows and other types of events such as the Paradise City Arts Festival. The Society was first organized in December of 1817 by a group of area leaders in business and farming with the purpose to promote agriculture and the domestic arts. The Society received its charter from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts two months later in February of 1818.

"It is quite an honor to take on the role of Executive Director at the Three County Fair. I am eager to preserve the legacy of the 3 County Fair and to support the future of agricultural fairs,

community events and cultural gatherings on these historic fairgrounds," Haas stated.

Haas grew up in Chester County, Pennsylvania where she began a life-long passion for equine sports and agriculture. Haas possesses a history in competing in and organizing high-profile Hunter/Jumper horse shows and has culminated generous experience from key players in the industry. Haas attended Virginia Tech where she studied communications and marketing, continuing on to West Virginia University where she earned her Master's in integrated marketing communications. Haas possesses over 15 years experience in business operations and administration, event planning, marketing and property management. Prior to her role with The Fair, she worked for a local company in transforming the old Yankee Hill Machinery building into an updated facility and business. While Haas has only lived in Northampton for five years, she has built relationships with members of the community with whom she holds very close. Haas lives in Florence with her two children and husband.

CHESTERFIELD

Library lists July events

CHESTERFIELD – The Chesterfield Public Library has some great hilltown community events coming in July.

All these shows are free and open to the public and will take place in the old town hall on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. On Wednesday, July 10 at 11 a.m. the Tanglewood Marionettes return to perform The Fairy Circus. Storyteller extraordinaire, Diane Edgcomb brings her Let's Go Eco Show, Stories and Songs for Planet Earth on Wednesday, July 17.

Pioneer Valley's Magician and Comedian, Rich Gilbert will entertain us with magic and laughter on Wednesday, July 24. The July series ends with Carrie

Ferguson on Wednesday, July 31 at 11 a.m. She will share her voice, piano and guitar with her music from The Grumpytime Club for all to enjoy.

For more information, people may email the library at chesterfieldpubliclibrary@gmail.com or call 413-296-4375. The library is open on Mondays from 2-7 p.m., on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

These happenings are supported by the funding of the Chesterfield Council On Aging Multi generational Grant Fund, the Chesterfield Cultural Council and the Friends Of The Library. The library staff is grateful for their continued financial aid.

MIDDLEFIELD

COA announces lunch menu

MIDDLEFIELD – The Middlefield Council on Aging will serve lunch in the Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail, on Wednesday, July 3 at noon.

The menu is eat in or take out. The

choice is tomato bruschetta quiche or hot dog, bun, baked beans, broccoli and blue raspberry smoothie cup. People should call 413-623-9990 to reserve a meal. Suggested donation is \$3.



Shown are from left, Middlefield Police Chief Jenny Dion, State Senator Paul Mark and Officer Alex Seid.

Submitted photo

Middlefield receives \$10,000 public safety grant

MIDDLEFIELD – Senator Paul Mark visited the town of Middlefield on Monday June 17 to visit with Middlefield Police Chief Jenny Dion and Officer Alex Seid.

The officers showed him the tasers that the town purchased with the \$10,000 grant from the Massachusetts Office of Public Safety. Senator Mark was a strong supporter of the public safety grants in the State Senate.

Town Administrator Sean F. Curran said, "Senator Mark's efforts were a great boost for the police here in Middlefield." Officer Alex Seid who advocated for applying for the state funds through the Office of Public Safety stated, "the tasers are going to provide law enforcement, a much-needed tool as we conduct our patrols and encounter the various situations that may arise."

In recent years, the heavily traveled Skyline Trail, in Middlefield, has seen an increase in heroin and fentanyl trafficking. Chief Jenny Dion said, "every traffic stop has the potential to escalate, it's good to know that we now have something other than a firearm to rely on, if a situation becomes less than routine."

Senator Mark added, "I am glad to see that these funds will provide assistance to the Middlefield Police Department, as they serve the residents in their daily patrols." Middlefield Select Board Chair Ann Marie Visconti said, "we appreciate Senator Mark's advocacy on behalf of Middlefield, as these public safety funds will be put to good use."

Select Board Member Tamarin Laurel-Paine was on hand to greet the State Senator at the Town Hall press conference.

WASHINGTON

Bash Bish Falls parking lot reopens

MOUNT WASHINGTON – Effective immediately, the Department of Conservation and Recreation reopened

the Falls Road parking area of Bash Bish Falls State Park in the town of Mount Washington.

GOSHEN

Highland Ambulance celebrates 20 years of service

By Kathryn Koegel
Correspondent

On Saturday, June 22nd, Highland Ambulance, which serves Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Plainfield and Williamsburg, celebrated its 20 years of operation with a ceremony honoring those who made the service happen.

Massachusetts Senator Paul Mark and Massachusetts State Representative Lyndsay Sabadosa acknowledged the significance of the service and the towns that banded together to create and fund its operations. They presented a joint resolution that was read into the government record congratulating the Highland Ambulance Service on its 20 years of

servicing the region as a community based non-profit.

Among the individuals noted during the ceremony was Margaret Waggoner, a pioneering female physics professor from Smith College, whose bequest paid off the ambulance services building in Ashfield and John April, the bassist for popular '90s band Staind, who donated the first four wheel-drive ambulance to the service in 2012.

Prior to the ceremony, ambulance service director Mike Rock gave a tour of the facilities and explained in detail the upgraded equipment and its related costs to the members of the community. "The cost of an ambulance empty is \$300,000," Rock said. "Prior to our first purchase when this was all volunteer, the ambulance

was a hearse." Rock's team of EMTs show off a new load system for patients that cost \$61,000. "You also have to remember that we only get back a small portion via insurance of our costs," Rock said.

The service now has five full time EMTs and a sound future serving the region. "We go to people at a turning point in their lives," said Rock. "Our greatest accomplishment is the lives we save."



Massachusetts Senator Paul Mark and State Representative Lindsay Sabadosa present a state joint resolution to ambulance service director Mike Rock.



Ambulance service director Mike Rock explains the state-of-the-art equipment that six towns, and private donations, have funded.



The new ambulance lift system is shown in action.

Turley photos by Kathryn Koegel

Council on Aging announces upcoming news, events

GOSHEN – On Wednesday, July 3 the crafts group meets in the upstairs Dining Room or the Library at the Goshen Town Hall from 1-3 p.m.

People may bring whatever craft, hobby or needlework project they are working on. There are some very talented people in the group, who are willing to answer questions and help others. Librarian Julie always has interesting things going on too.

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

Tuesdays, July 2, 23, and 30 Tai Chi is back. Goshen resident Richard Larson will be back to teach the Tuesday morn-

ing tai chi class on three Tuesdays in July. The group will meet at the Goshen Town Hall from 9-10 a.m. Everyone is welcome

On Tuesdays, July 16 and 23 Highland Valley Elder Service lunch will be available for pickup from the Goshen Town Hall from 12:30-1 p.m. The HVES lunch is on the third and fourth Tuesdays of the month. The meal choices on July 16 are chef salad with turkey and cheese or chicken salad and on July 23 the meal choices are bean and cheese enchiladas or broccoli and cheese chicken. The meals also include milk, vegetables, and a dessert.

People who have not signed up and would like to for August, should call Kerry Normandin at 413-268-9354 to fill out a brief intake form. There is a suggested \$3 donation that is given to

Highland Valley Elder Services to offset the cost of the meal.

Wednesday, July 17 the games group meets. They changed the time at players' request and they will meet 2-4 p.m. They meet in the library or the upstairs dining room.

Wednesday, July 24 the First Ever Car Fit Event will take place. This is a national program created by AARP, AAA, and AOTA. The COA is partnering with the Springfield College Occupational Therapy program to aid mature drivers in adjusting their car features to make the fit safer and more comfortable for the driver. People should come to the Goshen Fire Station parking lot anytime between 9 and 11:30 a.m., where they will be set up for a drive through event with various helping stations. It should take about 20 minutes per

car and they will drive away with some great tips from the Occupational Therapy students and staff. People from all towns are welcome-please spread. They can find more information about these events by visiting car-fit.org.

Foot Clinics with Piper Sagan-Goshen residents are able to sign up for this service through the COA in Cummington by calling 413-634-2262 or Williamsburg 413-268-8407. Appointments include assessment of foot structure, health of the skin, toenails and circulation. Nails are clipped and filed, dystrophic nails are thinned and painful calluses are reduced. Recognizing the importance of this service, the Goshen COA will pay \$10 towards the \$50 fee. Piper also does home visits for \$80, people should call her directly at 413-522-8432.

MONTGOMERY

Grace Hall Memorial library lists summer reading program

MONTGOMERY – Grace Hall Memorial Library, 161 Main Road, announces summer reading program with activities for all ages.

Summer Reading Program features an array of interactive events and activities throughout July. Designed to inspire a love for reading and exploration, the program offers something for everyone-children, teens and adults alike.

Cook Book Club meets Thursday, July 18 at 6:30 p.m. and will celebrate the summer's food star, corn. People may stop by the library and check out the selection of cookbooks featuring corn then come in and share a recipe with other cooks. On Thursday, Aug. 15 at 6:30 p.m. the Cook Book Club will highlight summer garden crops bounty. Various cookbooks on vegetables will be available to preview. Lego days are

every Tuesday and Thursday in July at 2 p.m. Each session includes free Marvel Masks kits, perfect for young builders and superhero enthusiasts.

Bears with Mass Wildlife will be held Thursday, July 11 at 11 a.m. A biologist from Mass Wildlife will present fascinating facts about the local bear population.

On Tuesday, July 13 at 3 p.m. the program will be **beavers with Mass Audubon**. People will discover the remarkable world of beavers with Mass Audubon experts in an engaging and informative presentation.

On Thursday, July 25 at 1 p.m. **Turtles with Mass Audubon** will be the topic. Participants will meet these amphibious friends in this captivating session on turtles, hosted by Mass Audubon.

On Tuesday, July 23 at noon **Wildlife on Wheels, the Springfield Forest Park Zoo** will be at the library. This is a chance to encounter animals from the Springfield Forest Park Zoo. This event is open to all and promises to be a wild time

On Tuesday, July 30 at 6:30 p.m. **Star Lab Traveling Planetarium** will be at the library. The beloved blow-up dome returns. Participants will experience the wonders of the night sky with this immersive planetarium presentation and is perfect for stargazers of all ages.

In addition to our events, we're introducing brand-new Library Kits available for checkout:

Summer Hikes Kit: Includes trail guides, binoculars, and the Poop Track game.

Star Gazing Kit: Comes with guide

books, night sky dominoes, and a red view flashlight for night vision.

Outdoor Exploring Kit: Features an underwater scope and microscope for young explorers.

Great Outdoors National Park Kit: Packed with games and puzzles themed around national parks.

To join any of these events, people should sign up at the library by Sunday, June 30 via email at montgomerylibrary@yahoo.com or calling 413-862-3894.

All attendees will receive a free book at each event. The library staff looks forward to seeing you at Montgomery Library's Summer Reading Program. The library is open Tuesday from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Thursday from 4-8 p.m and Saturday from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

RUSSELL



Michelle Burns and Gilbert the Party Pig visited with children at the Early Childhood Extravaganza on June 19.



Children beat the heat with the inflatable water slide. *Turley photos by Wendy Long*



Chris Bresnahan was on hand to speak with families about programs and services offered by the Hilltown Family Center.

FAMILIES

from page 1

options for families to choose from and ensure the daycare models meet families' needs.

Survey questions captured how families are currently securing daycare or preschool options, and barriers-such as cost, distance, available days/times-to those options meeting each family's needs. It is also gathering data on the numbers of families using programs that currently exist in the community (such as the ParentChild+ home visiting program, story walks, play groups, parent education workshops, It Takes a Village, and many more) and, if not, why they don't take part. Finally, it looked closely at how families felt about the current preschool program offered through the school district.

Families, who completed the survey were not only rewarded with this fun event, but were entered into a drawing of six \$50 Amazon gift cards during the Extravaganza.

Also present with information for families were staff from the Hilltown Family Center, sponsored by the Hilltown Community Health Center. Chris Bresnahan (ParentChild+ home visiting program), Susan LeBarron, who runs playgroups and story walk and Kilee Holmes, Community Health Outreach worker, spoke with parents.

This free event was open to any family with children aged 5 and under who live in one of the hilltowns of the Gateway Regional School District (Blandford, Chester, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery or Russell). Organizer and Gateway preschool teacher Joanne Hentnick said that they had 100 RSVPs for this event.

There will be at least one more event before school starts, to bring families together to guide the grant.

For more information on the CPPI Grant and upcoming events, people may visit GRSD CPPI GRANT Facebook page.



This photo was of last year's classic car show. It will be held Saturday, June 29 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. *Turley photo by Mary Kronholm*

Legion sponsors 'Hotrods or Heroes'

RUSSELL – American Legion Post 356 in Blandford is the sponsor of this Saturday's, June 29 Hotrods for Heroes at Strathmore Park, 950 Westfield Road, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

According to Legion Commander Douglas Emo, the vintage Classic Car Show will draw about "200 car entries."

George Hallock of Russell has organized this event and there will be food, trophies and raffles.

Police Chief Kevin Hennessey said that his department "is volunteering for this event." There is no admission charge for spectators, but there is a \$10 entry fee for vintage cars.

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INFLATION

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<p>USDA INSP. FRESH COUNTRY STYLE PORK RIBS \$2.49 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN ST LOUIS PORK RIBS..... \$2.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BON-IN ASSORTED PORK LOIN CHOPS..... \$2.22 lb</p> <p>GREAT ON THE GRILL</p> <p>USDA INSP. STORE MADE BONELESS CAROLINA GOLD MARINATED CHICKEN THIGHS..... \$2.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. STORE ALL VARIETIES ITALIAN SAUSAGE..... \$2.79 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. STORE MADE KABOBS W/ VEGGIES</p> <p>BEEF..... \$7.99 lb CHICKEN... \$5.49 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. IN OUR DELI 160 COUNT 5 LB BLOCK LAND O' LAKES AMERICAN CHEESE \$13.99 ea</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF WHOLE OR HALF</p> <p>STRIPLOIN \$7.88 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF RIB EYE STEAKS \$9.89 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP ROUND LONDON BROIL \$4.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN STORE MADE HAMBURGER PATTIES 80% LEAN 20 CT BOX 3 OZ 4 OZ \$15.69 ea \$19.99 ea</p>	<p>USDA INSP. BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG..... \$2.19 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN LEG 1/4s 40 LB BAG..... \$27.99 ea</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH NATURAL CASING HOT DOGS 2.5 LB \$3.99 ea</p> <p>USDA INSP. HILLSHIRE FARMS POLSKA KIELBASA 13 or 14 OZ... \$3.99 ea</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN KAYEM OLD TYME HOT DOGS NATURAL CASINGS 2 1/2 LB BOX. \$10.99 ea</p> <p>USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN RAW SHRIMP EASY PEEL 30/40 COUNT 2 LB BAG..... \$8.88 ea</p>
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Thursday, June 27

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SCHOOLS & YOUTH

COLLEGE NOTES

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

President's list

*Fitchburg State University
Fitchburg*

Ashley L. Farina of Pittsfield and Emily K. Gelinas of Westfield

Dean's list

*Champlain College
Burlington, Vermont*

Henry Norton of Easthampton, a game design major and Cole Patrick of Easthampton, a graphic design and visual communication major

Emmanuel College

Boston

Lauren Menzel of Westfield, Brigid Moriarty of Westfield, Brandon Shuman of Westfield, Ryan Lambert of Westfield and Caitlin Bolduc of Easthampton

Fitchburg State University

Fitchburg

Owen T. Bonney of Pittsfield, Josiah C. Hylton of Pittsfield, Benjamin K. Adams of South Hampton and Kayo Rosse of Williamstown

Rochester Institute of Technology

Rochester, New York

Nate Valeri of Westfield, 3D digital design major; Emma Pedro of Westfield, applied statistics and data analytics major; Kaitlin Price of Westfield, biomedical engineering major; Kaden Matuszczak of Westfield, computer engineering major; Jaden Kitchen Lipski of Plainfield, computer science major;

Zane Kitchen Lipski of Plainfield, computer science major; Ariana Ciaschini of Westfield, cybersecurity major; Alex Currie of Westfield electrical engineering major; Emmet Blanchette of Westfield, graphic design major; Isaiah Rivera of Westfield, human-centered computing major and Wunnam Ziblim of Westfield, mechanical engineering major

State University of New York Cortland

Cortland, New York

Nathaniel Godden of Williamsburg, a sport management major

U12 SOCCER TEAMS WIN BCYSL TOURNAMENT



Huge Gator shout out to both the GYAA U12 teams who performed amazingly during the Playoff games on Saturday, June 15. The U12 Diamond Gators girls team and the U12 Golden Gators boys team won the 2024 Berkshire County Youth Soccer League Tournament, well done players. U12 Golden Gators boys team won BCYSL Tournament. *Submitted photo*



U12 Diamond Gators girls team won BCYSL Tournament.

Allen Pensivy wins Peg Brodrick Scholarship

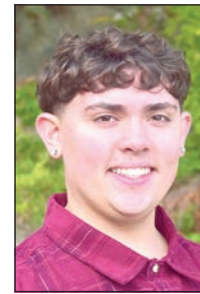
The Peg Brodrick scholarship committee announces this year's winner is Allen Pensivy of Peru.

Allen is a recent graduate of the health technology program at Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School in Northampton. He was the main student body representative speaking on behalf of all students in the program to seek better course options for the program as a whole.

He has been accepted at New England College in Henniker, New Hampshire where he will continue his education to pursue his goal as a registered nurse. At this time, he is a certified nursing assistant and currently

working in this field and a nationally licensed phlebotomist, earning these degrees through his high school program.

This scholarship was established in the name of Peg Brodrick, a long-time nurse at the Hilltown Community Health Center in Worthington. She passed away in 1989 from cancer at the age of 49. Anyone of any age pursuing their secondary education in a health related field is eligible to apply. That applicant must either reside in one of the six towns within



Allen Pensivy

the Gateway district or one of the original towns served by the Hilltown Community Health Centers. Former winners and applicants may apply each year as well as first time applicants.

Donations for this scholarship are accepted throughout the year in Peg Brodrick's memory. They can be mailed to the Peg Brodrick Memorial Scholarship, 14 Harvey Road, Worthington, MA 01098.

People may call Robert Brodrick at 413-238-7728 for more information.



everyone shines

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Chris
An employee since 2021

"I am a proud member of Sunshine Village because I love being with people here, I have fun all the time and I just enjoy it."

Louis
A client since 2021

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CHESTERFIELD

77th Annual Fest!!

Celebrating the Hilltowns

Pancake Breakfast (Firehouse)	7:00 - 10:00
Food & Vendor Booths	9:00 - 1:30
Historical Exhibits (Edwards Museum)	9:00 - 1:30
Heritage Pops Orchestra (Town Center)	9:30 & 11:30
Hilltown Art Display (Town Hall)	9:30 - 1:30
Historical Exhibits (Town Hall)	9:30 - 1:30
PARADE	10:30 - 11:30
MARCHING BANDS!	
ANIMALS	
Chicken Barbecue (Church)	11:30 - 1:30
Magic Show & Face Painting (Russell Park)	11:30 - 1:30



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Massachusetts Cultural Council

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Shea Coe receives Advertising Club scholarship

The Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts Scholarship Committee announces its 2024 scholarship was awarded to Shea Coe, a recent graduate of Taconic High School in Pittsfield.

Coe is the daughter of Andrea Terry and Jeffrey Coe and plans to attend Salem State University in the fall to study graphic design. She is the first Ad Club scholarship recipient in recent memory from Berkshire County and intending to major in graphic design.

Coe was recently presented with a \$1,000 check from the Advertising Club at Taconic High School. In addition to Coe's exceptional academic record and extracurricular volunteerism, both factors in her selection, her summer job made a distinct impression on scholarship committee members: she cuts and stacks firewood at Williams Lumber in Lee. "Shea isn't afraid to get her hands dirty and do the hard work, an attitude that will serve her well in life," remarked scholarship committee chairman David Cecchi.

Members of the scholarship committee are Matt Audette, Creative Strategist/Accounts Director at Andrews;



Shea Coe of Pittsfield, left, received the Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts Scholarship. She is shown in front of Taconic High School with David Cecchi, scholarship committee chairman. Submitted photo

David Cecchi, principal at Cecco | The design office of David Cecchi and copywriter Deborah Sirulnik of Copyopolis. The Advertising Club of Western

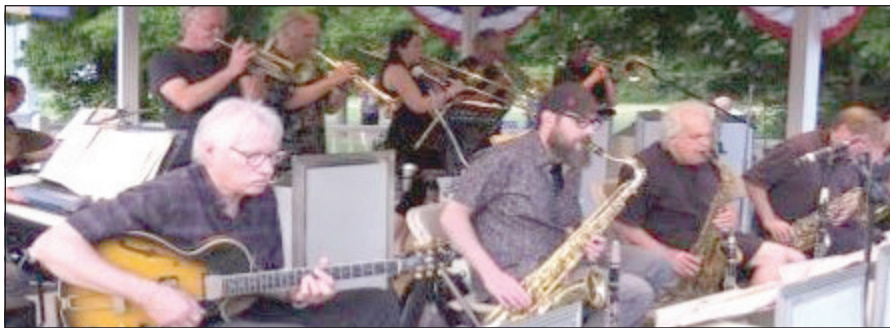
Massachusetts supports future generations of creative professionals with an annual merit-based scholarship, awarded to a deserving student from west-

ern Massachusetts intent on pursuing a career in the advertising, communications, marketing, graphic design, or affiliated industries.

The Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts is the premier organization for marketing and communications professionals in western Massachusetts and northern Connecticut. Founded in 1909 as the Publicity Club of Springfield, for more than a century the Club has offered members the ability to advance and enrich the local creative community, by acting as a catalyst for idea exchange, professional development, and innovation. The Club continues to create a forum for members to learn, network, recognize achievement and give back to build a stronger advertising and marketing community.

In 1915, the Advertising Club established the region's first community service award – The Order of William Pynchon – to recognize outstanding commitment to the community. Since that time, more than 200 deserving citizens have been presented with the Pynchon Medal bearing the likeness of Springfield's founder and the words: The Honor Us Whom We Honor.

BLANDFORD



The New England Swing Orchestra will perform at the White Church Saturday, June 29 from 7-9 p.m. Submitted photo

Swing Orchestra to perform

BLANDFORD – Put on your dancing feet and get ready for The New England Swing Orchestra at the White Church, 4 North St., this Saturday, June 29 from 7-9 p.m.

Ted Wirt's group has been active since 1980 promoting traditional big band swing from the 1930s-40s. The group plays traditional big band swing music from Duke Ellington, Fletcher Henderson, Count Basie, Cab Calloway, Benny Goodman, Harry James, Artie Shaw, Glenn Miller, Bob Crosby, Woody Herman, Stan Kenton, the Dorsey Brothers and more.

According to Wirt, the band also performs more modern swing arrange-

ments covering the span 1950 to 2000 from Frank Sinatra, Louis Prima, Louis Jordan, Van Morrison, Powder Blues Band, Cherry Poppin' Daddies, Quincy Jones, Tower of Power and others.

The Band Members are Ted Wirt-clarinet, alto sax; Doug Glanville-clarinet, alto sax; Rick Page, tenor sax, clarinet; Donna Lee, bari sax, vocal; Mike Spencer, trumpet; Peter McNeaney, trumpet; Allison Kone and Chris Glanville, trombone; Karl Rausch, guitar; Lynne Lovell, bass; Diane Choquette, piano and Dave Choquette on drums.

Tickets are \$20 and are available at the door.

Smokey Bear visit drew large crowd

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – Smokey Bear arrived at the Porter Memorial Library Saturday morning, June 15.

He came with District Fire Warden Greg Whittier and two State Firefighters Vinnie Marino of District II and Angel Reyes, who staffs Fire Towers.

Whittier spoke about the importance of fire safety and read a book about Smokey and forest fire prevention. There were bags of Smokey oriented things for each of the youngsters, who attended.

Everyone had a chance to shake Smokey's paw or get a bear hug and have a picture with him. Smokey's appearance, besides bringing the message of forest fire prevention, coordinates with

his 80th birthday this summer.

The morning's activities continued with the arrival of "Lil' Whip" Ice Cream Truck with Karen Maratea from West Springfield. Many different selections of ice cream treats were available. The ice cream truck came to the library courtesy of the Recreation Committee, which had scheduled Maratea for the Memorial Day picnic, which was cancelled, rescheduled and cancelled again.

Cristina Ferrera, new Town Administrator, came to see the festivities and the newly installed patio.

There were 49 children and parents to welcome Smokey, and the number jumped to 63 for visits to the ice cream truck. Director Nicole Daviau said she was pleased with the event and the number of people from town, who came.

PIPE

from page 1

Lap pool fence

Board of Health member Jennifer Girard brought the board up-to-date on a problem at 106 Main St. A fence that protects a lap pool has come down and even though the pool does not have water in it, it holds water after a rain storm and creates a mosquito habitat. The Board of Health has sent a registered letter and the owner has ten days to respond.

Appointment

The board appointed Cristine Ferrera to the town's Emergency Management Team and the American Disabilities Committee for three-year terms.

Meeting dates

Select Board will meet again on Monday, July 1 at 6 p.m. and after that, every two weeks, Mondays, July 15 and July 29 and Aug. 12 and 26.

TAG SALE BENEFITS BLANDFORD FAIR



Deb Brodie and Jeff Allen stop to chat with wood crafter Jim Berthiaume.



Fair President Matt Ripley and Vice President Greg Girard were on hand for Saturday, June 22 fundraiser tag sale.



Flea Market visitors gather at tents to check out items for sale. Turley photos by Mary Kronholm

WORTHINGTON

COA hosts barbecue picnic

WORTHINGTON – The Worthington Council on Aging will host their annual dine-in barbecue picnic on Monday, July 8 at noon at the Worthington Rod and Gun Club.

Worthy Que Smokin' BBQ will again be serving barbecue chicken, sides and dessert. This event is by reservation only and deadline to make res-

ervations is Monday, July 1 by calling 413-238-1999.

They should leave their name, address, phone number and names of other persons receiving meals.

Seating is limited and the picnic will be held rain or shine. The event is underwritten by the Rolland Trust Fund.

Sevenars 'Family and Friends' concert to be held July 14

WORTHINGTON – Sevenars "Family and Friends" opens Sunday, July 14 at 4 p.m. at Sevenars Academy, 15 Ireland St.

Members of the Schrade and James Families join Jerry Noble to open the season with a tribute to recently departed family member David James (1947- 2024), pianistic pride of New Zealand and beloved Sevenars family member. Brahms, Gershwin, Holst and more await.

David James blessed Sevenars Concerts for nearly five decades, playing his first concert with us in 1976, marrying Robelyn Schrade in 1978 and bringing two new musicians, Lynelle James and Christopher James, into the musical fold. The family are broken-hearted that he will not be physically with us this year, but he is with then in spirit always. They will play in his honor. He was a huge part of the success that greeted the Schrade-James family concerts whether at Sevenars or Lincoln Center, New York. This year's opening "Family and Friends" is especially delighted to join renowned musician Jerry Noble, who will add his special flair to a 100th-anniversary performance of Gershwin's Rhapsody

in Blue with pianist Rorianne Schrade. In tribute to David James, Rorianne Schrade and Lynelle James will perform festival favorite, Brahms Variations on a Theme by Haydn, which David had been scheduled to play and Christopher James (pianist as well as cellist) will dazzle with music of Liszt. The 150th anniversary of Gustav Holst will be honored with a selection from the Planets by Rorianne and Lynelle, and there are some other surprises in store!

Reservations are not required or taken. All are welcome on first-come-first-served basis. People should come a bit early for a good seat. There is no required admission cost, however donations are welcome at the door. Twenty dollars per person is suggested to help defray expenses of maintaining this magnificent historic concert hall and continuing to bring fine music to this idyllic setting. Complimentary refreshments are offered at intermission.

This 2024 project is supported in part by the Cultural Councils of Chesterfield, Gardner, Huntington, Lee, Montgomery, Northern Berkshire, Russell, Westford, West Springfield, Wilmington and Worthington.

BUCKLAND



The Wilder Homestead and barn along with the Buckland Historical Society Museum will hold an open house and barn reconstruction on Sunday, July 14 from 2-4 p.m. Worker s fit the transoms to the 1780 barn. *Submitted photo*

Historical Society hold open house

BUCKLAND – The Buckland Historical Society Museum, 20 Upper St., will hold an open houses and barn reconstruction on Sunday, July 14 from 2-4 p.m. at the Wilder Homestead, 129 Route 112.

Participants may tour the furnished 1795 Saltbox Home with five fireplaces, the 1780 English Barn, which is 90% restored and the circa 1820 Shoemaker Shop, where boots could be bartered for with bushels of apples,

cords of wood, or in one case, the work of digging a grave.

The Museum is a former school house of the Greek Revival style which now houses three floors of artifacts and town records. Participants will see exhibits on local industry, clothing, education featuring Mary Lyon, local artists Robert Strong Woodward and Edward Romanzo Elmer. They also will learn about the tragic life of Josiah Spaulding.

CHESTER



Chester Police Chief Jennifer Dubiel reads to the young patrons at the Chester Railway Station. Story times are held there while the Hamilton Memorial Library is undergoing renovations. *Submitted photo*

Police Chief reads to youngsters

CHESTER – The Hamilton Memorial Library building in Chester, continues to be under construction which is expected to be completed sometime in July. We will continue to hold library hours on Tuesdays in the Council on Aging room in the Chester town hall from 1-6pm and Thursdays at the Chester Railway Station from 10am-3pm with Story & fun time for children at 11am. Patrons can continue to use the online CW MARS ordering system and book holds can be picked up at both locations. You may return books at these locations or at our book drop off bin on School Street. We can be reached at chesterlibrary@gmail.com or by voicemail at 413-354-7808 for any questions or rsmps for events. Please leave a name and number

where we can return your call. Join us at Blue Skye Wellness on Thursday June 27 from 6-8 pm as we learn about aromatherapy and how they can support our well-being when used safely. Participants will make their own personal essential oil inhaler. Must rsvp. We wish to thank Chester Police Chief Jennifer Dubiel for reading to our young patrons at the Chester Railway Station on Thursday, June 20th and for talking to the kids about safety and for the safety gift bags! Our Summer Reading Program has begun and all ages are encouraged to sign up. We will have some fun summer programs so stay tuned at our website: www.hamilton-library.org, Facebook: Hamilton Memorial Library, and Instagram: @chesterlibrary.

STOCKBRIDGE

Chesterwood to hold annual outdoor sculpture show

STOCKBRIDGE – The 46th Annual Contemporary Outdoor Sculpture Show, "Birth of a Shadow" will take place at Chesterwood, 4 Williamsville Road, Saturday, June 29 through Monday, Oct. 21.

An opening reception will be held Saturday, June 29 from 5-6:30 p.m. This

is a free event, but reservations are suggested. Lauren Clark is guest curator.

Featured work is by Peter Barrett, Peter Dellert, DeWitt Godfrey, Wendy Klemperer, Michael Thomas, Natalie Tyler and Joe Wheaton. The exhibit is on view daily except Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-5 pm. With site admission.

PITTSFIELD

Mill Town Foundation hosts free Common Ground Festival

PITTSFIELD – Mill Town Foundation announces the inaugural Common Ground Festival that will take place on Saturday, July 6 between 3-9 p.m. at the Pittsfield Common at 100 First St.

Sponsored and programmed by Mill Town Foundation, this free event welcomes all ages and includes live performances, family-friendly activities and food vendors from Berkshire County. Live performances will be presented by Kripalu, Barrington Stage Company, Tanglewood, Clara Guatta, Quarteto de Samba, The Funky Dawgz Brass Band, along with a dance circle led by Andres Ramirez and the Funk Box Dance Studio.

Over 40 vendors and presenting orga-

nizations will be on site leading free interactive activities including bounce houses, artmaking, photo booths, and more. Food trucks will be provided by BB's Hot Spot, Charlie's Bistro Bus, Cravin's Ice Cream, along with a Hot Plate Brewing Co. beer garden.

A rain date for Common Ground Festival is scheduled for the same timeframe on Sunday, July 7. Follow @milltownfoundation on social media and visit www.milltownfoundation.org for more information and updates. Additional support for Common Ground Festival is generously provided by the Feigenbaum Foundation, Unistress, and the City of Pittsfield.

PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that on **July 10, 2024 at 6:30 P.M.** at the Worthington Town Hall, the Worthington Zoning Board of Appeals will hear the petition of Sheila Kinney, President, Worthington Library Corporation for property located at 1 Huntington Road.

The applicant seeks a variance under section 5B Dimensional Regulations of the town's zoning bylaw. The proposed project is to construct a 12' x 16' pavilion on the south side of the library. The application and related materials are available for review in the office of the Town Clerk during normal business hours. 06/20, 06/27/2024

Town of Blandford Conservation Commission Public Notice

At its regularly scheduled meeting on **Monday, July 8, 2024 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 Robert Durocher for the regrading of an existing drive to redirect storm water from an existing home at 9 North Blandford Road (Lot 107-0-2). Work will occur within the buffer of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland. 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.

Nicolas Pietroniro, Conservation Agent
Town of Blandford
Conservation Commission
06/27/2024

TOWN OF WILLIAMSBURG

Office of the Planning Board
Zoning Board of Appeals
Haydenville, MA

LEGAL NOTICE

A public Hearing will be held at **5:30 PM on Thursday, July 18, 2024** in the Williamsburg Town Offices, 141 Main St., Haydenville, MA to consider the following: The application of David Nehring and Susan Fortgang of 16 Walpole Rd., Assessors Map G, Lots 65.0 and 65.A and Map K, Lot 14 Williamsburg, MA for a Special Permit, as required by Section 3.2 of the Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Williamsburg, to build five lodging units for overnight guests located at 16 Walpole Rd., Williamsburg.

Gerald Mann, Chairman
06/27, 07/04/2024

TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD PRICE REQUEST NOTICE

The Town of Middlefield is requesting price proposals to provide Moving Services

at the Middlefield Town Hall located at 188 Skyline Trail in Middlefield, MA, 01243. Completed proposals will be received at the Town Administrator's office located at 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield, MA 01243. **Price Proposals will be received until 11:00 AM on July 12, 2024, at which time and place said Price Proposals will be publicly opened and read.**

The work includes the moving of furnishings, office furniture, storage units, computers, copiers, library books and shelving, town records and related items form areas of the town hall to other areas within the town hall so that asbestos containing floor tile can be removed from floors and new luxury vinyl floor tile installed. All items moved will then be returned to their original location.

Price Proposal information and forms may be obtained at the Select Board Office, Town Hall 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield, MA 01243 by emailing the Middlefield Assistant Town Administrator at middlefield.adm@gmail.com. Bidders may also call Sean Curran, Middlefield Town Administrator at 413-636-1614 to request a copy of the documents or email him at middlefield.adm@gmail.com. **The deadline for questions on the documents is July 2, 2024 at 12:00 noon.** Questions should be directed to Sean Curran, Middlefield Town Administrator, at 413-636-1614 email: middlefield.adm@gmail.com. **Sealed**

Bids will be opened in the Middlefield Town Hall 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield, MA 01243 on July 12, 2024, at 11:00 A.M.

Each Price Proposal must be accompanied by a bid security of CASH, CERTIFIED, CHECK, or BID BOND issued by a responsible bank or trust company licensed to do business in the State of Massachusetts in the amount of 5% of the total Price. **A Pre-Proposal Site Visit will be held for all interested parties on June 26, 2024 @ 10:00 AM. at the front entrance to the Middlefield Town Hall 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield, MA 01243.**

The minimum wage rates to be paid for labor on the project established in a schedule issued by the Massachusetts Department of Labor and Workforce Development that are contained in the bid packet. Middlefield is an equal opportunity employer 06/13, 06/20, 06/27, 07/04/2024

TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD BID NOTICE

Sealed Bids for the abatement of asbestos floor tile, mastic, and cove base in the Middlefield Town Hall located at 188 Skyline Trail at the Town Administrator's Office located at the Middlefield Town Hall P.O. Box 238, 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield, MA 01243. **Bids will be received until 11:00 AM on July 19, 2024, at which time and place said bids will be**

publicly opened and read.

The work includes the removal of 9" x9" vinyl asbestos containing floor tile, mastic, and cove base as defined and shown in the bid documents and related work.

Bid Documents and bid forms may be obtained at the Select Board Office, Town Hall 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield, MA 01243 and also by emailing the Middlefield Assistant Town Administrator at middlefield.adm@gmail.com. Bidders may also call Sean Curran, Middlefield Town Administrator at 413-636-1614 to request a copy of the documents or email him at middlefield.adm@gmail.com. **The deadline for questions on the documents is July 2, 2024, at 12:00 noon.** Questions should be directed to Sean Curran, Middlefield Town Administrator, at email: middlefield.adm@gmail.com. Sealed Bids will be opened in the Middlefield Town Hall 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield, MA 01243 on July 19, 2024, at 11:00 A. M. Each bid must be accompanied by a bid security of CASH, CERTIFIED, CHECK, or BID BOND issued by a responsible bank or trust company licensed to do business in the State of Massachusetts in the amount of 5% of the total bid. **A Pre-Bid Site Visit will be held for all interested parties on June 26, 2024 @ 10:00 AM. at the front entrance to the Middlefield Town Hall 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield, MA 01243.**

The minimum wage

rates to be paid for all labor on the project established in a schedule issued by the Massachusetts Department of Labor and Workforce Development that are contained in the Bid Documents. Middlefield is an equal opportunity employer. 06/13, 06/20, 06/27, 07/04/2024

TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD BID NOTICE

Sealed Bids are for the installation of luxury 18" x 18" vinyl floor tile, moisture barrier, and cove base in the Middlefield Town Hall located at 188 Skyline Trail will be received at the Town Administrator's Office located at the Middlefield Town Hall P.O. Box 238, 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield, MA 01243. **Bids will be received until 11:00 AM on July 19, 2024, at which time and place said bids will be publicly opened and read.**

The work includes the installation of new 18" x 18" luxury vinyl floor tile, moisture barrier, and cove base as defined and shown in the bid documents.

Bid Documents and bid forms may be obtained at the Select Board Office, Town Hall 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield, by emailing the Middlefield Town Administrator at middlefield.adm@gmail.com. Bidders may also call Sean Curran, Middlefield Town Administrator at 413-636-1614 to request a copy of the documents or email him at middlefield.adm@gmail.com. **The deadline for questions on the documents is July 2, 2024, at 12:00 noon.** Questions should be directed to Sean Curran, Middlefield Town Administrator, at middlefield.adm@gmail.com. **Sealed Bids will be opened in the Middlefield Town Hall 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield, MA 01243 on July 19, 2024, at 11:00 A.M.** Each bid must be accompanied by a bid security of CASH, CERTIFIED, CHECK, or BID BOND issued by a responsible bank or trust company licensed to do business in the State of Massachusetts in the amount of 5% of the total bid. **A Pre-Bid Site Visit will be held for all interested parties on June 26, 2024 @ 10:00 AM. at the front entrance to the Middlefield Town Hall 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield, MA 01243.**

The minimum wage rates to be paid for all labor on the project established in a schedule issued by the Massachusetts Department of Labor and Workforce Dev 06/13, 06/20, 06/27, 07/04/2024

Send Us Your Community Autumn Events

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Autumn Fest Supplement** which will be published **September 11, 2024.** Total circulation of **85,000** which reaches over **200,000** readers in the Pioneer Valley. **Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public**

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name _____
Date/Time _____
Location _____
Description _____

Cost _____
Contact name & phone number for more information _____

MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO: Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email* them to: jamie@turley.com *Be sure to indicate "Autumn Event" in the subject line of your email.



SECURITY

from page 4

by their work earnings. In any case, the earnings test, in its mitigated form, still persists today. FYI, H.R. 5193 – The Senior Citizens Freedom to Work Act was recently introduced in Congress proposing to repeal the SS earnings test, but has not advanced in the legislative process since introduced in August 2023.

In any case, under current rules, if you continue working after your FRA, the earnings test will not apply to you. And, if you lose any benefits before your FRA due to the earnings test, when you reach your FRA you'll get time credit for any months that benefits were withheld, resulting in a somewhat higher monthly payment after your full retirement age.

One final point: if you continue to work after starting your Social Security benefits and your recent earnings are higher than any of those in the inflation-adjusted 35 years used to originally calculate your benefit, your entitlement will be recalculated to give you credit for those higher recent earnings.

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

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of July 4th,
PUBLIC NOTICES
EARLY AD DEADLINE
Place your public notice
no later than **NOON**
Thursday, June 27
– Thank you!

NOTICE

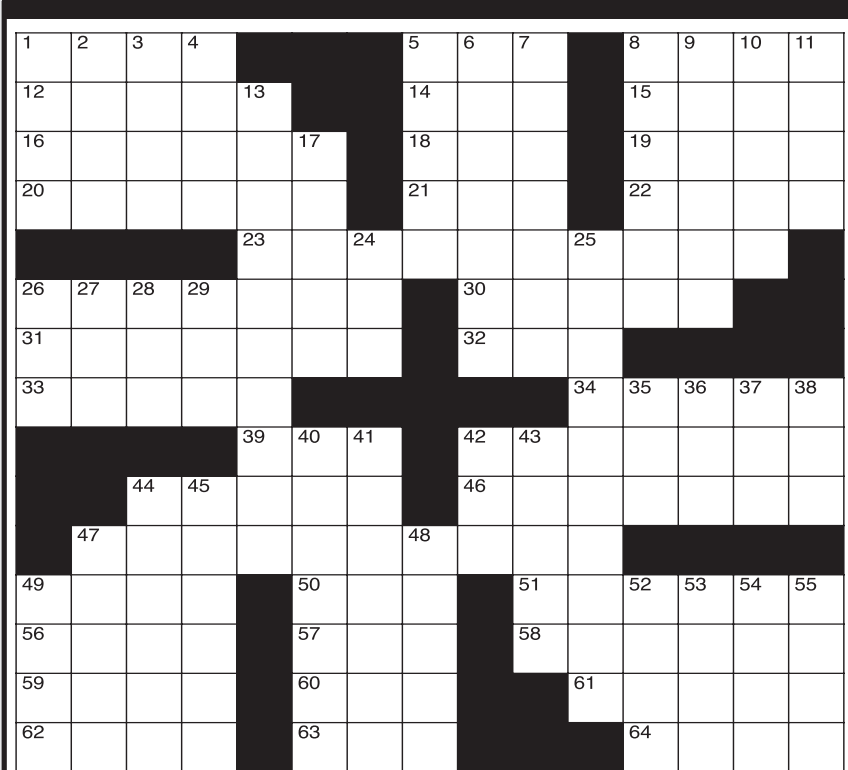
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CLUES ACROSS

- Volunteer school groups
- Cash machine
- Title of various Muslim rulers
- Indian hand clash cymbals
- Scarf
- Easily manageable
- Cry
- Financial term
- Reactive structure in organic chemistry (abbr.)
- Clean out a riverbed
- Seaport (abbr.)
- English seascape painter
- Bring back again
- Subtracted from
- Related to the mother's side
- Mooches
- Commotion
- Boer War general
- Silklike nylon fabric

- CNN's founder
- Sarcastic in a bitter way
- Minute reproductive unit
- Nourishment
- Large predatory tropical fish
- Small, rich sponge cake
- Drink a small amount
- Golfer Rodriguez
- Norse personification of old age
- Large flightless bird
- Capsized
- Convicted American spy
- Music genre
- Makes tractors
- Undergo cell disintegration
- Patti Hearst's captors
- Self

CLUES DOWN

- Post-traumatic stress disorder
- Goat-like mammal
- Swiss river
- Slithered
- Humiliate
- Tumbled
- Popular alcoholic drink
- Small round hole in a leather cloth
- Fertilizer
- State of affairs that seems deliberately contrary
- Count on
- One who discriminates against
- New Hampshire city
- One who cares for teeth
- Sent off
- Mutual savings bank
- Initial public offering

- Denial
- Northeastern institution of higher learning (abbr.)
- A doctrine
- Consumed
- Trent Reznor's band
- Perform in a movie
- Schoolhouse implements
- Mathematical term
- Man who behaves dishonorably
- Expression of regret
- Martens
- Approval
- Pleasantly warm
- The Eurasian hoopoe
- NBAer Bradley
- Engineering organization
- Horsefly
- Type of sandwich
- A day in the middle of the month

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20
You may have a renewed sense of energy and motivation right now, Aries. Capitalize on that to tackle a laundry list of projects that have been sitting on the back burner.

CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22
Everyone's heads are seemingly in the clouds right now, Cancer. It may feel like you are the only person with your feet on the ground ready to get down to business.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, being honest with yourself is important as you confront a notable challenge. Accept a self-assessment and devise a plan to make the most of this opportunity.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20
Something could be brewing but you can't identify what it is just yet, Capricorn. This could lead you to feeling restless and out of sorts. Give it some time and it will work out.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, your sense of humor and quirky personality could get you a few extra chuckles from friends this week, but try not to take it too far. Factor in time for serious pursuits.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, people have been gravitating in your direction for some time seeking advice. You can open up conversations to other topics that are important to you with such a captive audience.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22
You have to develop a strategy before making your next move, Scorpio. Whether it is a business proposal or something with a friend or family member, don't be too hasty.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18
Others' words are meaningful to you right now, Aquarius. Consider these opinions and spend time figuring out how to incorporate this advice.

GEMINI

May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, when focusing on your health this week, remember that stress reduction is an important component of getting healthy. Aim for activities that focus on relaxation.

VIRGO

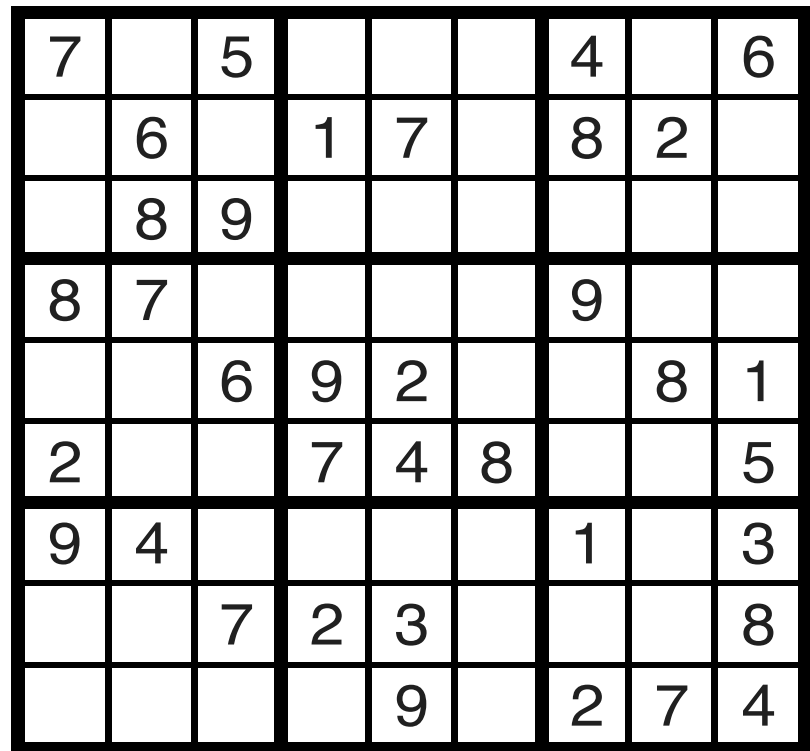
Aug 24/Sept 22
Strong emotions could be drummed up this week and may cause you to be distracted more so than usual. Try to get a break so you can make some time sort things out.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, you may notice that people are very sensitive to what you are saying, so you may have to change your approach if you want your message to be well-received.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, often it can be challenging to take the high road. But that's just what you have to do right now. Others will recognize your willingness to set a good example.



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!

answers

S	O	G	E	V	T	S	E	S	A	T
E	R	E	D	V	R	S	E	W	V	
D	E	T	E	K	U	W	E	I	L	T
I	H	I	C	I	S	V	R	V	B	
B	A	V	D	U	C	V	R	V	B	
T	N	E	M	I	L	V	E	R	O	S
C	I	T	S	U	C	A	D	T	E	
V	A	N	V	I	O	T	H	T	O	B
A	N	I	D	S	E	N	O	D	S	
E	T	V	N	E	D	N	E	N	M	
A	R	E	V	I	D	R	E	S		
A	N	T	S	E	G	N	O	D	S	
L	O	N	E	P	V	K	I	E	H	S
E	R	V	A	O	B	L	S	V	T	
R	I	M	E	A	T	S	V	T	P	

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

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OBITUARIES

Marsha Gilman Messier, 83

CHESTER – Marsha Gilman Messier, 83 of Chester, passed away on June 20, 2024.

She was born in Ludlow, in 1941 to Walter and Marion Gilman and preceded by sister, Ruth Gilman. She is survived by husband, Ronald Messier; sons, Michael Richter and wife Cheryl, Scott and Christopher Richter; sister, Lois Kominsky and predeceased husband Rick and extended family Ronald Messier Jr. and wife Lynne, Keith Messier and wife Michaelene, Donna and husband Michael Deyorio, Wendy Ventura and predeceased husband Joe. She leaves her grandchildren, Karliegh and Hayden Richter, Elizabeth and Liam Richter, Mikayla and Gabriel Messier, Chad, Beth and Jackie Messier, Adam Messier, Zachary Ventura and partner Amanda Marshall, Danielle and husband Justin Bowan, Michelle and husband Hunter Edwards; great-grandchildren, Tron and Coast Messier, Jameson and Easton Ventura, Sawyer and Paytyn Bowman, Hudson and Kennedy Edwards; nephew, Allen Kominsky and niece, Jody Surprenant.



Marsha graduated from Ludlow High School in 1959. Marsha gave piano and organ lessons for many years; later raising three boys while graduating an accelerated Registered Nursing program in 1981. Marsha was an active choir member before serving as Choir Director and Organist at the First Church in Ludlow for 12 years. She was also Choir Director and Organist at the First Congregational Church in Huntington for 15 years. She also served as Organist for Chester Congregational Church for a short time before her passing. Marsha was also a member of the North Hall Association in Huntington and was a Clerk for the First Congregational Church in Huntington.

Marsha truly had too many accomplishments to list, in her many years. Marsha's hobbies included playing the piano, sewing, knitting, embroidery, puzzles and fishing with her husband Ron. Marsha also greatly enjoyed traveling for 10 years throughout the United States with her husband Ron in their fifth wheel camper.

Funeral services for Marsha will be held on Tuesday July 2, 2024. Visitation is at the First Church in Ludlow, 859 Center St., Ludlow, from 9:30-11 a.m. followed by a service at 11 a.m. Marsha's burial will be held privately by her family.

It was the wish of Marsha's family that in lieu of flowers please make donations in her memory to: Hilltown Community Ambulance, 1 Bromley Road, Huntington, MA 01050. For additional information please visit ludlowfuneralhome.com.

Marsha graduated from Ludlow High School in 1959. Marsha gave piano and organ lessons for many years; later raising three boys while graduating an accelerated Registered Nursing program in 1981. Marsha was an active choir member before serving as Choir Director

Linda Morse, 83

MONTGOMERY – Linda Morse passed away peacefully at home on June 17, 2024 with her husband of 65 years, Wayne L. Morse at her side.

Born Oct. 2, 1940 and living her entire life in Montgomery, she was predeceased in 2019 by her only sibling, Judith A. Keniston also of Montgomery. She leaves her husband Wayne; her son, Jeffrey Morse of Westfield; her son, Jerald W. Morse of Montgomery; her granddaughter, Ashley E. Smialek (Morse) and her husband Matt T. Smialek of Westfield; two great grandsons, Tristan C. Rogers and Brady S. Jacobs; a grandson, Justin M. Morse of Southwick, his wife Alexis A. Morse; a great granddaughter, Mattison S. Morse and a great grandson, Tate J. Morse.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, she worked at the Moriarty Shoe store in Westfield. Being of Irish decent,



she and Wayne frequently visited Ireland years ago, she truly enjoyed the country. She loved her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and interacted with them whenever she could. With great-grandchildren ages 1, 4, 15 and 20, they all kept her smiling. She hated cooking and made no bones about it and never, ever wanted her picture taken but she was always ready and willing to laugh. In her golden years she would giggle until she snorted and then laugh some more because she did.

She was Wayne's constant companion and of her 83 years on this earth, she spent 68 of them with Wayne. She was a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and she will truly be missed.

Visiting hours will be held on Sunday, June 23, 2024 from 1-3 p.m. at the Firtion-Adams Funeral Home, 76 Broad St. Westfield. Burial will be private. Firtionadams.com.

DEATH NOTICES

MESSIER, MARSHA

Died June 20, 2024
Funeral Service Tuesday, July 2 Visitation 9:30-11 a.m.
Service 11 a.m.
First Church in Ludlow

MORSE, LINDA

Died June 17, 2024
Visiting hours Sunday, June 23 from 1-3 p.m.
Firtion-Adams Funeral Home, Westfield



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