

Country Journal

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MERIDEN, CT

Hayden Labonte earns Eagle Scout rank

MERIDEN, CT – On June 13, 2026, at a special Court of Honor held at the Saint John Lutheran Church, Hayden Crawford Labonte was recognized for receiving his Eagle Scout rank the highest honor in Scouting America.

Hayden Lebonete is the son of Heather and

Dennis Labonte, former Scoutmaster. Maternal grandparents are Helen and Rev. Alden Barnes of Cromwell and paternal grandparents are Paul and Carol Labonte of Worthington, Massachusetts.

The ceremony started with Troop 43 of Meriden leading Hayden into the fellowship hall, followed by the

Pledge of Allegiance, Scout Oath and Scout Law.

Life Scout and good friend of Hayden’s, Lorcan Hayes was the master of ceremonies for the event. Meriden City Mayor, Kevin Scarpati, gave a speech on the importance and honor of attaining the Eagle Scout rank, and that only 4% of

all Scouts attain the highest rank.

Mayor Scarpati reinforced the importance of the Scouting America program, highlighting the leadership and community service roles that it instills in the young men and women of the program.

At his conclusion, Mayor Scarpati presented Hayden with a certificate of achievement from the City of Meriden.

Among the attendees were Hayden’s parents, Heather and former Scoutmaster Dennis Labonte; Hayden’s maternal grandparents, Helen and Rev. Alden Barnes of Cromwell and paternal grandparents, Carol and Paul Labonte of Worthington, Massachusetts.

Many current and past Troop 43 Scouts and families were also in attendance, along with numerous family and friends.

Hayden started his Scouting journey in first grade as a Cub Scout in Meriden, Connecticut. In 2019, he crossed over to Troop 43 Boy Scouts, now



Submitted photos

Eagle Scout Hayden Crawford Labonte is flanked by his father, Dennis Labonte and mother, Heather Labonte.

EAGLE, page 8

BLANDFORD

Bells Ring through the land



By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – As the nation celebrated the semiquincentennial of its origin, bells pealed for a full ten minutes in Blandford.

Bells rang out at the White Church, the

Historical Society and the First Congregational Church of Blandford Chapel on Saturday afternoon, July 4.

Historical Society President Chips Norcross, board members Melissa Hamm Stearns, Terri

BELLS, page 6



Photo courtesy of Mary Hull Blandford Historical Society

Historical Society President Chips Norcross pulls the rope to the clapper at the White Church.

BLANDFORD

Select Board hears department issues and questions

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – The Monday, June 29 Select Board meeting included multiple departments reporting in with any issues or concerns or questions.

Water Department

The Water Department, represented by Chair Brand Curry, Administrative Assistant Jasmine Ortega and Superintendent Steven Grondon voiced concern regarding compensation for damage done to the Kana

driveway on Chester Road.

Kana will have to provide an invoice, as according to Town Accountant Kelli Pontbriand, the town must pay the vendor for the service rendered.

The Water Department plans to provide a regular newsletter with information for the town and water users. There are currently 40 households late with payment, some houses may be vacant.

There are 25 to 30 water users whose accounts are a year in arrears.

Highway Superintendent

Highway Superintendent Ray Hultay spoke about the bridge work on Beech Hill Road. Select Board Chairman Jackie Coury said that the 100% reimbursement had not been discussed nor budgeted.

Council on Aging

Council on Aging Director Margit Mikuski informed everyone that the senior tax work off program is underway and lunches are well attended.

She will be attending a Farmers’ Market Coupon luncheon.

Highway Superintendent

Hultay will replace the existing chains on the swing set behind Town Hall with longer chains so youngsters can have easier access.

They are not able to get on the seats as the chains are too short making the swing seats too high for convenient access.

He said his seasonal employee, Robert Holmes, wants something in writing from the town regarding his time and wages.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Adam Dolby, attending virtually, referred

enced the acquisition of the department’s brush truck. Responding to a question regarding the \$20,000 for training, the board wants to see a written program proposal.

Dolby said, “We need the program.” A written description will be provided for the board. He said he does not require any administrative assistance, as he now has “a better system” in place for bills.

He told the board that the Fire Department was at the fairgrounds for the fireworks

from the time the fireworks arrived until well after the event ended and returned the next morning to make sure there were no smoldering embers.

Public comment

Public comment brought a question from George Reichert about maintenance around the Jethro Jones Historical Marker on Blair Road.

Executive session

There was a roll call vote by the board to go into executive session.

BOARD, page 6

HUNTINGTON

Huntington residents graduate Fire Academy

Jose Acevedo Rivera receives McNamara Award

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – Three Huntington residents are graduates of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy’s call/volunteer recruit firefighting training program July 1.

Huntington graduates are Lia Oliveira, Brandon Noonan and Jose Acevedo-Rivera. Acevedo-Rivera of Huntington won the Martin H. McNamara Outstanding Student Award.

The award is named for Martin McNamara V, a firefighter with the Lancaster Fire Department. In 2003, McNamara died while fighting a fire in a multifamily house.

The award is given to

one recruit in each graduating class for their performance in academic and practical skills, testing and evaluations.

A statement from Fire Chief Joshua Ellinger on the Department’s Facebook page commended Acevedo-Rivera on this achievement. “Jose is the first member of the Huntington Fire Department to receive this distinguished honor, making it a historic achievement for both him and our department.”

“It was definitely a surprise. I am a firefighter of a certain age. I turned 53 during the academy and hadn’t been in a classroom setting for over 30 years,” Acevedo-Rivera said. “I was surprised and honored.”

Fire Chief Ellinger said

of the three Huntington graduates, “Their commitment to training and serving our community has brought them to this important milestone, and we couldn’t be prouder.”

The Huntington Fire Department is a paid, on-call department serving Huntington residents. It also provides mutual aid to Montgomery, Russell, Chester, Worthington, Blandford, Westhampton and beyond.

The Call/Volunteer training program took place at the Department of Fire Services’ Springfield campus. It provides 240 hours of training on evenings and weekends to address the needs of both suburban and rural firefighters.

Students begin with

classroom instruction in basic firefighting skills and then progress to using those skills in controlled fire situations. Proficiency must be demonstrated in search and rescue, ladder deployment, water supply, life safety, fire attack and pump operations, all under a variety of conditions.

According to the Academy, today’s firefighters are the first line of deployment in a variety of situations, ranging from stalled elevators and lost children to someone falling through the ice. They must also be prepared to deal with hazardous situations such as chemical spills, gas leaks or carbon monoxide events, as well as fighting fires in a variety of settings.



Submitted photo

Huntington’s newest fire academy graduates, from left, are Lia Oliveira, Brandon Noonan and Jose Acevedo-Rivera. Acevedo-Rivera was the first Huntington firefighter to win the prestigious Martin H. McNamara Outstanding Student Award for his performance in academic and practical skills, testing and evaluations at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy.



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HILLTOWNS

Armbrook Village seniors, students interact

WESTFIELD – Residents from Armbrook Village Assisted Living recently visited Westfield High School for their third annual “Past Meets Present” initiative.

This intergenerational program allows today’s seniors and students to connect and learn from one another’s experiences. The Past Meets Present Initiative took off in 2024, when Armbrook Village partnered with Westfield High’s AP history class, taught by Nicole Hamel, to bring their Dementia Friendly training to younger generations.

In an effort to promote understanding and compassion toward those living with Alzheimer’s disease and dementia, Armbrook Village worked to make Westfield the first dementia friendly city on the east coast in 2014 and since then has hosted numerous trainings for students, healthcare workers and the general public.

With a focus on historical artifacts that are important to seniors’ lives, this year’s take on Past Meets Present encouraged residents to share important objects that hold meaning to their life experiences.

Between World War I books and keepsakes from the 1994 Paris Olympic Games, Westfield students were deeply drawn to not only which items each senior brought in, but also the personal stories that they held.

After learning from Armbrook residents about the meaning behind their items, students got their chance to present to seniors, faculty, and family. In a museum-style exhibit, each student shared what they learned from their conversations with the seniors.

Not only were students given the opportunity to enhance their history knowledge, but seniors also were able to learn about their neighbors’ past experiences, contributing to Armbrook Village’s goal of building connection and community.

“The Past Meets Present Project cultivates a sense of purpose within our residents. Not only does it positively affect our residents, but it also has a lasting impact on the students, teaching them empathy, patience, and a deeper understanding of how



Submitted photo

Shown from left are Bela, Bea Szenda and Maddie.

the things that they learn about in textbooks actually were real life experiences,” said Armbrook Village’s Director of Community Relations, Jayda Handzel.

This entire project allows young students to apply their conversations with each senior to their history lessons and teaches them the value in connecting with older generations.

Armbrook Village in Westfield offers seniors service-enriched independent living, assisted living and a state-of-the-art Compass Memory Support Neighborhood for those with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementia. People can visit www.ArmbrookVillage.com for more information.

Clark Art Institute hosts free community day

WILLIAMSTOWN – On Sunday, July 12, the Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., opens its doors for Community Day: Eye on Art, an annual day of fun for all ages.

Visitors enjoy free museum admission all day from 10 am-5 pm), and from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. the institute offers hands-on activities, live performances, special food vendors and more—all inspired by the Clark’s summer exhibitions, including An Exquisite Eye: Introducing the Aso O. Tavitian Collection, Giorgio Griffa: Paths in the Forest, and CoastLines: American Prints and Drawings.

Attendees will have the opportunity to create their own bobbleheads, grind oil paint from natural pigments, pose at a free photo booth with art-inspired props, make buttons and more. While visiting, visitors are also encouraged to walk about the Clark’s 140-acre grounds and explore Ground/work 2025, an outdoor sculpture exhibition featuring specially commissioned, site-specific works by international artists Yō Akiyama, Laura Ellen Bacon, Aboubakar Fofana, Hugh Hayden, Milena Naef and Javier Senosiain.

The full Community Day entertainment lineup is Trojan Horns Brass Band from 11-11:50 a.m. and 2-2:50 p.m. and Duo Maresienne from 12-12:45 p.m., 1-1:45 p.m., 2-2:45 p.m. and 3-3:45 p.m.

Other activities are Earl the Pearl Rules the World 12-12:15 p.m., 1:30-1:45 p.m. and 3-3:15 p.m. and Hannah Mayree from 12:30-1:15 p.m. and 3:15-4 p.m.

Community Day is free and open to the public. Refreshments are available for purchase. This event happens rain or shine. For accessibility questions, call 413 458 0570. For more information, people visit events.clarkart.edu.

Family programs are generously supported by Allen & Company.

Giorgio Griffa exhibition open through Oct. 12

WILLIAMSTOWN – The Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., presents the first solo museum exhibition in the United States of artist Giorgio Griffa.

Giorgio Griffa: Paths in the Forest is on view now through Monday, Oct. 12 in the galleries of the Lunder Center at Stone Hill. Born in 1936, he lives and works in Turin, Italy.

“It is a great honor to present Giorgio Griffa’s first solo museum exhibition in the United States, coinciding with the energetic artist’s ninetieth birthday. The Clark provides an especially fitting setting, where Griffa’s deep historical references and engagement with the natural world resonate with both our collections and the surrounding landscape,” said Olivier Meslay, Hardymon Director of the Clark.

“Giorgio Griffa considers himself a classical painter yet his work and his thinking—especially in its ecological dimensions—is bracingly contemporary,” said exhibition curator Robert Wiesenberger, John and Barbara Vogelstein Senior Curator of Contemporary Art at the Brooklyn Museum, former curator of contemporary projects at the Clark.

For almost sixty years, Giorgio Griffa has explored the potential of painting in a practice that is both rigorous and lyrical. Griffa paints with diluted acrylics in pastel colors on unstretched, unprimed canvases. These are tacked to the wall for display and folded for storage, a memory of which persists in their creases. Griffa values “the intelligence of materials” and views his paintings as neither representational nor abstract, but as real, material facts.

Giorgio Griffa: Paths in the Forest is organized by the Clark Art Institute and curated by Robert

Wiesenberger, John and Barbara Vogelstein Senior Curator of Contemporary Art at the Brooklyn Museum, former curator of contemporary projects at the Clark.

This exhibition is made possible by the Edward and Maureen Fennessy Bousa Fund for Contemporary Projects and Directorate-General for Contemporary Creativity of the Italian Ministry of Culture under the Italian Council program (14th edition, 2025), with the aim of promoting Italian contemporary art internationally. Additional support is provided by Margaret and Richard Kronenberg. Support for the catalogue is provided by Michael Alper and Bruce Moore.

A free opening lecture takes place Saturday, June 27 at 11 a.m. in the Manton Research Center auditorium. For accessibility questions, people may call 413-458-0524.

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Georgina Kleege receives excellence in writing

WILLIAMSTOWN – The Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., selected Georgina Kleege as the recipient of the 2026 Clark Prize for Excellence in Arts Writing.

Kleege is Professor Emerita of English at the University of California, Berkeley, where she taught courses in creative writing, literature and disability studies.

“The selection of Georgina Kleege for the Clark Prize reflects not only the intellectual rigor and originality of her work, but also its profound capacity to expand how we perceive and engage with art,” said Olivier Meslay, Hardymon Director of the Clark Art Institute. “Her writing challenges conventions, opening new pathways for understanding visual culture through a deeply thoughtful and inclusive perspective. We are honored to recognize her outstanding contribution to the field.”

“I am deeply honored to be selected for the Clark Prize. I hope that this recognition of my work will inspire arts institutions to think more creatively and courageously about the audiences they serve,” said Kleege.

An acclaimed essayist, cultural critic, and disability studies scholar, Kleege’s work has significantly influenced contemporary conversations about blindness and visual culture. Legally

blind since childhood due to a form of macular degeneration, Kleege first gained widespread recognition with her memoir Sight Unseen (1999), a groundbreaking work that challenged conventional assumptions about blindness and reframed it as a complex, lived visual experience rather than simply an absence of sight.

The Clark Prize is funded by the Beinecke Family through the Prospect Hill Foundation. It is accompanied by a \$30,000 honorarium and an award designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Tadao Ando, the designer of two buildings on the Clark’s Williamstown campus.

MassTrails grant program awards

BOSTON – The Healey-Driscoll Administration announces more than \$7.6 million will be awarded through the MassTrails grant program to support the creation, expansion and maintenance of public trails throughout Massachusetts.

This year’s grant program funds trail projects in 38 municipalities, as well as statewide efforts to improve trail networks. Leaders from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and the Department of Conservation and Recreation celebrated the announcement and this year’s grantees this morning along local officials and Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust members at an event this morning at Rauscher Farm in Clinton, abutting the future Mass Central Rail Trail.

The program funds the efforts of municipalities, public entities, non-profit organizations, and Native communities. Trails receiving funding are used for a variety of activities, including hiking, running, cycling, skiing, horseback riding and off-road vehicle use.

“Each Massachusetts community is home to at least one public trail that gets residents outside and brings in visitors that help support small businesses,” said Governor Maura Healey. “These grants will help improve and expand access to trails across our state so more people can enjoy the outdoors, stay active and explore new places. We’re proud to invest in projects that strengthen local communities and support our economy.”

This year’s grant recipients are working on projects in the following municipalities: Belchertown, Berlin, Billerica, Boxford, Clinton, Dover, Dudley, Easthampton, Everett, Falmouth, Framingham, Gardner, Georgetown, Hardwick, Holliston, Lynn, Malden, New Bedford, New Braintree, Newbury, Northampton, Northborough, Quincy, Revere, Sandwich, Saugus, Shrewsbury, Southampton, Sturbridge, Swampscott, Topsfield, Webster, Westborough, West Springfield, Westfield, Westport and Winchendon.

All grant applications are reviewed by the inter-agency MassTrails Team, which is comprised of representatives from MassDOT, EEA, DCR and the Massachusetts Recreational Trails Advisory Board. Projects related to recreational trails are eligible for up to \$100,000 in funding while share-use path projects can receive up to \$500,000.

MassDOT lists I-90 roadwork

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

In Montgomery and Russell bridge repairs will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 36.0 nightly beginning now through the morning of Friday, July 10 from 6:30 p.m.-4 a.m.

Appropriate signage and law enforcement details will be in place to guide drivers through the work areas. Drivers traveling through the area should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution.

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

For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to: Download the Mass511 mobile app or visit www.mass511.com to view live cameras, travel times, real time traffic conditions, and project information before setting out on the road. Users can subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions. Dial 511 and select a route to hear real time conditions.

Follow @MassDOT on X, formerly known as Twitter, to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

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GUEST COLUMN

SOCIAL SECURITY
Matters
By Russell Gloor



Why doesn't my Social Security record show all my military earnings?

Dear Rusty:

When I look at my earnings on my Social Security account, I see that in 1955 and 1956 have no earnings. I was in the U.S. Navy as a first officer and have my DD-214 paperwork, which shows my military service from Oct. 1954-Oct. 1958.

My Social Security earnings record shows that I had earnings in 1954, 1957 and 1958 but doesn't show that I was paid in 1955 or 1956. Shouldn't I have received Social Security credit for all my service years?

Signed: An Older Veteran

Dear Older Veteran:

First, I want to thank you for your military service.

Whether your earnings while in the military would provide you with any additional Social Security benefit depends on your career earnings after leaving military service. Here's why:

Your monthly Social Security benefit is based upon the highest earning 35 years over your lifetime with earlier years adjusted for inflation.

From those highest earning 35 years, SS develops your Average Indexed Monthly Earnings, your lifetime "AIME," which is the basis of the SS benefit you get if you claim for benefits to start at your Full Retirement Age So, if - after you completed your military service - you had at least 35 years of other employment where you earned more money than you did while serving, then your military pay won't affect your Social Security benefit.

FYI, Social Security payroll tax has been withheld from military pay since 1957, which is why your SS earnings record shows your military pay only for 1957 and 1958. Your SS record wouldn't show military pay prior to 1957 because you didn't contribute to SS from your military pay during those years.

The earnings you see in your SS earnings record for 1954 are likely from non-military employment prior to starting active duty in October 1954.

SS does provide older veterans with "special extra credits for military service," but those credits are only a supplemental earnings amount added to your military pay record during the years you served.

It is not a bonus amount added to your monthly Social Security payment; rather it is only an amount added to your military pay record used when calculating your Social Security benefit. For those who served prior to 1957, Social Security would have no record of your military earnings during those early service years.

But when you claimed Social Security later in life, they would have asked if you served in the military and given you "special extra credit" in the form of presumed earnings for your service years. They likely asked for a copy of your DD-214 and would have added \$160 to your military earnings record for each active-duty month from October 1954 through December 1956 and additional earnings credits for 1957 and 1958.

But that doesn't mean you get a special Social Security bonus for your military service. If you have at least 35 years of civilian employment after serving in the Navy, your service years would only affect your SS benefit if those military service years were among the highest paying 35 years over your entire lifetime. And, again, please accept our appreciation for your service to our country.

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.

OPINION



GUEST COLUMN

Bad news and good news in this week's garden

My annual flower gardens were just starting to come into their own when I noticed some damage on the leaves.

They looked chomped on from the outer edge going in. Some leaves also had a watery brown residue on them.

Going by date, I knew the culprit already, even before digging around the base of the plant. The Asiatic Garden beetle is hard at work wrecking my plants.

Read on to learn more about this pest.

I've also got some good news. Blueberries and peas are ready for harvest. Yippee!

The Asiatic Garden beetle is a bit smaller than the Japanese beetle and is chestnut brown in color. It feeds during the night, so look for chewed foliage in gardens or planter boxes under lamp-posts, street lights or other outside lights.

Cultivate directly underneath the affected plant during the day and you will likely see the culprits scurry back into the soil. Usually they snuggle up very close to the stems an inch or so below the soil surface.

Sometimes watering at the base of the plant will bring them to the top of the soil where they can be easily collected or squished. This is one pest you don't want to have around - send them swimming in a soapy bath or you may not have any plants left!

In my experience, two plants they particularly love are coleus and calibrachoa. This year they are decimating my blue salvia.

It's pretty amazing that



I've found dozens a day in an 18-inch planter. If digging around in the soil isn't your style, go out near dusk with a headlamp or flashlight and pick them right off the plant.

One note of good news is that my blueberries are bearing great this year, really it's the first year that I've had a significant harvest since the bushes were given to me over a decade ago. I am pretty certain I owe it all to Organic Grower Supply through Fedco Seeds, (fedcoseeds.com), where I purchased "Blueberry Booster."

I ordered the fertilizer last year and applied 3 pounds per bush in the springtime. Lo and behold it worked.

I have enough to do it again this fall since I missed the opportunity this past spring. A blend of Granite Meal, sulfur, Tennessee brown rock phosphate, compost, and Azomite, the mix reduces the soil pH and provides the nutrients necessary for healthy blueberry plants and good fruit.

Fourth of July weekends over the last several years have been spent picking, shucking and freezing peas, and this year is no exception. It's technically a tradition around my house.

Now you may be think-

ing that I really know how to have fun, but to me, this is what summer is made of! I plant my peas the end of April, so typically they ripen almost on cue each year!

I plant three seeds deep a couple of inches apart up against the interior of my garden fence where they naturally climb up with their tendrils attaching to one another and the fence. I loosen up the soil prior to planting, but I never add any fertilizer - maybe just a sprinkling of compost if I am feeling generous.

Since peas are legumes, they "fix" their own nitrogen from the air.

I do soak the seeds in an inoculant prior to planting them, however, to make the fixation happen easily and to reportedly increase yield.

If you are going to try your hand at freezing your "shell" peas, as opposed to sugar snap or snow peas, be sure to pick, shuck and freeze in the same sitting, since peas begin to lose their sweetness within hours of being off the plant.

Like anything else, we take the good with the bad. As long as there is enough good, we won't throw in the towel just yet.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 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.

Correction

The photo of fireworks on the front page of the July 2 Country Journal was

by Michele Crane and not Mary Kronholm.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO
RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Corrections policy

If you notice a factual error in our pages, please let us know, so that we can set the record straight. Email information to countryjournal@turley.com, or call us at 413-283-8393. Corrections will be printed on page 4 or 5.

Keep your liver alive for a lifetime

Tucked under your ribs next to your stomach on the right side, your liver may not be a body part you think about every day, but this three-pound powerhouse - our largest internal organ - performs a lot of important functions our bodies rely on.

And it's up to us to keep it going.

Some liver diseases are caused by genetic mutations that can be inherited. Liver health, however, is largely dependent on our own lifestyle behaviors. Let's take a moment to appreciate all our liver does for us, and how we can keep it in tip-top condition.

What does the liver do?

A lot. Your liver's big-



your health



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

gest job is filtering harmful substances and waste from your blood. Every day, your liver filters more than 250 gallons of blood. As if that weren't enough, it also makes cholesterol, produces certain hormones, makes proteins, stores glucose

to keep your blood sugar steady, and breaks down toxins and germs so your body can eliminate them.

How do you know if your

HEALTH, page 5

Country Journal

We Want to Hear From You

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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

ELECTION LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Country Journal welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Country Journal, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to countryjournal@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Friday to be considered for the following Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election. For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

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

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

OPINION

HEALTH

from page 4

liver is healthy?

A healthy liver doesn't really call attention to itself. Typically, your regular bloodwork will look at albumin and bilirubin levels. Low albumin levels, typically below 3.5 grams per deciliter, can indicate liver malfunction. A normal bilirubin level is generally less than 1 milligram per deciliter; anything higher is associated with potential liver disease. Abnormal results in these measures may indicate further screening is needed.

A liver that's feeling poorly will make you feel poorly, too, with fatigue, swelling in feet and ankles, abdominal pain, easy bruising or bleeding, and chills. Another telltale sign is jaundice, a yellowing of the skin and eyes caused by the buildup of bilirubin.

What can go wrong with your liver?

One of the more prevalent liver disorders is inflammation classified as Hepatitis A, B and C. Hep A is caused by contaminated food or water, not a huge problem in the U.S. but more common elsewhere in the world.

Hep B and Hep C viruses spread through contact with infected blood and body fluids through unprotected sex or needle sharing. It used to be that blood transfusions were a common source of hepatitis, but today's thorough screening methods make that very rare now. Vaccines help prevent Hep A and B. There's no vaccine yet for Hep C because the virus takes many different forms.

The most common liver

disorder is metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD), which is excessive fat build-up in the liver without another clear cause, such as alcohol use. Obesity and type 2 diabetes are associated with this disorder.

What does alcohol do to your liver?

Heavy drinkers and binge drinkers are at particular risk for liver disease, but even moderate drinking can affect liver function. Alcohol stresses the liver by causing fat buildup, inflammation and eventually scarring, leading to conditions like alcoholic fatty liver disease, alcoholic hepatitis and cirrhosis.

The good news is that our livers are remarkably resilient. Going 24 hours

without alcohol eases the burden on the liver, and taking a break for a full 30 days lets your liver go into full recovery mode. If you drink, try to take a 30-day break a couple of times a year, and then have a few "dry" days each week. Your liver will thank you.

How do you keep a healthy liver healthy?

A lot of the same foods in a healthy diet are also liver-friendly: lean proteins, fatty fish, cruciferous veggies (i.e. broccoli, kale, cabbage and the like), nuts and olive oil.

Some studies indicate that blueberry and cranberry extracts may be helpful, but more research is needed. Experts warn against so-called "de-tox" treatments for livers because

they haven't been through clinical trials or been approved by the FDA.

Other helpful behaviors include maintaining a healthy weight and exercising. No surprises there. Above all, limit alcohol intake and take booze breaks for a day, a week or a month.

Problems with our livers can creep up on us, causing few symptoms until significant damage has already been done. If you have a family history of liver disease, acquaint yourself with the symptoms and ask your doctor whether more screening should be done.

While liver transplants have become relatively common - more than 11,000 performed in 2024 - it's likely you can keep yours going with some smart lifestyle

choices.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, R.N., a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. A Monson, MA resident, she is the author of "How to Be a Healthcare Advocate for Yourself & Your Loved Ones" and her new book, "Advocating Well: Strategies for Finding Strength and Understanding in Health Care," available at Amazon.com. Contact her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com to set up a free phone consultation.

HILLTOWNS

Country Bank pledges \$100,000 to YWCA of Western Massachusetts

Country Bank announces a \$100,000 pledge in support of the YWCA of Western Massachusetts and its comprehensive \$7.5 million "Shifting the Paradigm" campaign, an initiative focused on expanding violence prevention programs, supporting survivors and strengthening critical services across the region.

Dawn Fleury, FSVP and Chief Risk Officer of Country Bank, has also been appointed to the YWCA's Board of Directors. "I am

deeply passionate about ensuring women and children have access to the support and resources they need during times of crisis and am honored to serve on the Board at YWCA," said Fleury.

The campaign will help expand the YWCA's Children Who Witness Violence and Healthy & Empowering Relationship Education programs, while also supporting residential program renovations and increasing reserve funding

needed to sustain long-term impact.

These programs provide therapy and support services for children ages 3 to 18 who have witnessed or experienced violence and educate middle and high school students on human trafficking prevention, bystander intervention and healthy relationship dynamics.

"Country Bank, under the outstanding and visionary leadership of its President and CEO, Mary C. McGovern, is a true com-

munity partner. The YWCA of Western Massachusetts is deeply grateful for Country Bank's overwhelming generosity and terrific financial support. Country Bank's wonderful donation of \$100,000 to the YWCA's Capital Campaign is much appreciated and will be used to assist survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, human trafficking, and homelessness, as well as their children," said Elizabeth Dineen, YWCA CEO.

"As a community bank, we are committed to making a meaningful difference in the communities we serve by prioritizing philanthropic investments in humanitarian efforts," said Mary McGovern, President and CEO of Country Bank. "Supporting organizations like the YWCA of Western Massachusetts reflects our belief that strong communities are built by uplifting individuals and families facing significant challenges. We are proud to support the

'Shifting the Paradigm' campaign and help ensure critical services continue to reach those who need them most."

The YWCA's campaign comes at a critical time as organizations nationwide continue to face increased demand for services alongside funding challenges. Philanthropic support from partners like Country Bank will help offset reductions in federal funding and ensure continued access to life changing programs and resources.

Now Hiring!

Advertising Sales Representative

➤ Do you want to work in your community helping local businesses connect with their customers?

➤ If so, then join our team! Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers an supplements. The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

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

Send resume & cover letter to:

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

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

Turley Publications, Inc.

News, photo publication policy

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

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

Deadline is Friday at NOON.

Chester Baptist Church

Pastor Dan Herr
14 Middlefield Road
Chester, MA 01011
413-354-7743
Email: pastor@chesterbaptistchurch.org
Website: chesterbaptistchurch.org
Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship at 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Afternoon at 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Bible Study and Prayer at 6:30 p.m.

First Congregational Church of Blandford

Pastor Tom Crouse
91 Main St., Blandford, MA 01008
413-848-2052
Sunday service 10 a.m.

First Congregational Church of Chester

Pastor Susan Borsella
334 Skyline Trail, Chester, MA 01011
Service with Live Music: 10 a.m. - Sunday
Coffee and Sweets Social: 10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

First Congregational Church of Williamsburg

Rev. Jack Kraaz
4 North Main St., Williamsburg, MA 01096
413-268-7557
burgychurch@gmail.com • burgychurch.org
Facebook:
First Congregational Church of Williamsburg
YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/channel/UCdyH1EA-fduamqHYeekxw5w
Office Hours: Tues. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 12 noon
Days and Hours of Services: Sun. at 10 a.m.

Hilltown Community Church

Dr. Robert Perreault, Senior Pastor
55 Main St., Russell, MA 01071
413-275-3232
Office: 413-862-3341
hilltownchurch3341@gmail.com
hilltowncommunitychurch.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/p/Hilltown-Community-Church-61580281487624/
Sunday Mornings 10 a.m.

Holy Family Parish

Rev. Ronald F. Sadlowski, known as Fr. Ron
5 Main St., Russell, MA 01071
413-862-4418
Office Hours: No set times.
Please call, leave a voice message or email: holyfamilyrussell.org
parish@holyfamilyrussell.org
Saturday Vigil: 5 p.m.
Sunday Masses: 8:15 a.m. & 11 a.m.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Community Church

New Boston Congregational Church

Pastor Eric Kriebel
4 Sandisfield Rd., PO Box 81
Sandisfield, MA 01255
Services held twice monthly, check website: www.newbostoncongregationalchurch.org

Pioneer Valley Assembly of God

Pastor Javier Melendez
63 Old Chester Rd., Huntington MA 01050
413-667-3196
pvaglife@gmail.com
www.pioneervalleyag.org
Facebook: Pioneer Valley Assembly of God
Sunday service: 10:30 a.m.

Pioneer Valley Mennonite Fellowship

Deacon Jerald Reinford
400 Huntington Rd., Russell, MA 01071
(413) 297-6037
Sunday worship at 10 a.m.
Visitors appreciated

Westhampton Congregational Church, UCC

Pastor Carol Smith
1 Tob Rd., Westhampton, MA 01027
(413) 527-4204
Sunday Worship at 10 a.m.

GREAT BARRINGTON

Marcus Smith receive History Tellers award

GREAT BARRINGTON – The Du Bois Freedom Center, 9 Elm Court, announces Mars and Amercian Heritage HERITAGE Chocolate,honored their resident historian, Marcus P. Smith with their 2026 History Tellers Award Winner.

As America celebrates its 250th anniversary, the History Tellers Award shines a spotlight on the educators, interpreters, preservationists, guides and storytellers who keep the nation’s history alive. Nominations for the 2026 History Tellers were opened on April 14, 2026 and applications were reviewed by a selection committee of museum and history experts.

Smith is an historic preservationist, public historian and Ph.D. candidate in W.E.B. Du Bois Afro-American Studies and Public History Graduate Certificate Program at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. His work centers on preserving and interpreting historically African-American communities and heritage sites through community-driven approaches.

At the Du Bois Freedom Center, Marcus has led programming and interpretation initiatives since 2023. He also served as a docent at the W. E. B. Du Bois National Historic Site and Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church. In 2024, he was named a Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellow and a Graduate Research Fellow at the W. E. B. Du Bois Center at UMass Amherst, where he studies Du Bois’s role as a public historian.

Marcus is the founder of the Black Grassroots Heritage Preservation Network, a national digital storytelling initiative that highlights Black-led preservation efforts across the United States through oral history, multimedia storytelling, and an interactive map and database documenting more than 400 grassroots heritage projects.

Through this work, he helps connect, document and amplify community-based preservation initiatives-including organizations such as the Du Bois Freedom Center-while increasing their visibility to national audiences. His scholarship and public history work have been recognized by leading organizations including the National Council on Public History and the the National Council for Black Studies.

“I want to thank Mars and American Heritage Chocolate for this very special honor as well as for their immense respect for history, education and preservation. My passion for history comes from my grandparents, who made sure we always knew and respected the stories and history of our family,” Smith said.

In speaking of the choice of Marcus as this year’s recipient,William Clements, Vice President Sponsorships/Premium Brands/Properties Mars, Inc. shared “History is preserved in more than just books and archives. It is kept alive by passionate historians, interpreters, docents and community advocates who research, protect and share the stories that shape our understanding of America. Marcus Smith embodies what it means to be a History Teller and we couldn’t be more excited to honor him as our 2026 winner.”

MassDEP penalizes Housatonic Water Works Company

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection issued a \$2,500 Demand for Payment of Suspended Penalty to Housatonic Water Works Company for failure to comply with a July 2025 Administrative Consent Order with Penalty.

The order required the company to complete a manganese treatment plant at its drinking water treatment facility in Great Barrington by June 1, 2026.

“It is unacceptable that Housatonic Water Works has failed to meet the required deadline for completing and placing the manganese treatment system into operation,” said Michael Gorski, director of MassDEP’s Western Regional Office in Springfield. “MassDEP expects the company to accelerate construction of the treatment plant and make it operational without further delay.”

Under the terms of the 2025 order, Housatonic Water Works agreed to complete the manganese treatment plant by March 1, 2026, to mitigate ongoing seasonal drinking water discoloration affecting the company’s service areas.

MassDEP agreed to suspend the full penalty of \$12,360 on the condition that Housatonic Water Works complied with the requirements of the order. The Company subsequently requested an extension of the March 1 deadline, citing pending litigation and related delays in acquiring required construction funding. MassDEP extended the completion date to June 1, 2026.

The Company requested an additional extension; MassDEP denied that request. Housatonic Water Works had failed to complete construction of the treatment plant.

Based on that violation of its Order, MassDEP demanded partial payment of the suspended penalty in the amount of \$2,500. Penalty costs may not be passed along to ratepayers in any way. MassDEP will continue to track this matter closely until compliance is achieved.

BECKET

Becket Historical Commission offers self-guided tour

BECKET – The Becket Historical Commission announces the availability of a self-guided tour of Revolutionary War Veteran graves.

The tour is available in booklet form in a box at the entrance to the Becket Center Cemetery on YMCA Road. Twenty-eight of the twenty-nine graves of Revolutionary War Veterans buried in Becket are in that cemetery.

The guide is also available for download at www.townofbecket.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf4146/f/uploads/revwar_cemeteryguide.pdf.



Submitted Photo

A self-guided tour of Revolutionary War Veteran graves is available at the Becket Center Cemetery, YMCA Road.

BLANDFORD

Historical Society lists summer music programs

BLANDFORD – The Blandford Historical Society announces the summer lineup of musical performances at The White Church, 4 North St.

The Jeff Gavioli Bad News Jazz and Blues Orchestra will be back this Saturday, July 11 at 7:30 p.m.

The 18-piece big band will play favorites and classics from the early 1910 continuing through the early 1940s, the big band era.

Saturday, Aug. 8 at 7:30 p.m., pianist Marcia Eckert and soprano Sara Paar will perform “An American Sampler,” a program of nostalgic songs by American composers. There will be humorous segments from Jake Heggie’s song cycle, New England tunes by Charls Ives and songs about ground-breaking women by composer Alla Borzova.

The final musical event for the season is the 31st Annual Bel Canto Evening of Opera on Saturday, Aug. 29 at 7:30 p.m. Part-time Blandford resident Eve Queler, now 95, an internationally acclaimed conductor, will present new young operatic voices. She is the recipient of the Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, which is the highest award presented by the French government, among other awards.

She is the driving force behind this longstanding program. For more information, people may visit the website: <https://thewhitechurch.org/>.

Disabled veterans exemption applications due July 31

BLANDFORD – The Board of Assessors reminds disabled veterans to file their application for exemption this month.

The annual Veteran Exemption applications are due to the Assessors by Friday, July 31. Applications are available at the assessors’ office at Town Hall.

The office is open Monday and Wednesday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. They may call 413-848-4279, extension 200 with any questions or for more information.

BOARD

from page 1

utive session to “consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property, specifically the Town’s potential exercise of its fright of first refusal regarding property off Josh Cross Road because the Chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating positions” pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Sec. 21 (a)(6). The board did not return to open meeting.

Informational meeting

The first informational session for residents is set for July 14 at 6 p.m. and the topic will be clean energy and the facts of what we are facing as a community.

WORTHINGTON

COA to hold annual picnic

WORTHINGTON – The annual Council on Aging picnic takes place Monday, July 13 at noon in the Worthington Rod and Gun Club.

The menu included Worthy-Que-BBQ chicken, sides and dessert. It will be held rain or shine.

Reservation are required as seating is limited by calling 413-238-1557 by Monday, July 6.

BELLS

from page 1

Garfield and Judith MacKinnon presented a full reading of the United States Constitution.

At the conclusion of the reading, the bell ringing at the White Church was shared by Norcross, Chuck Benson and Luke Paterson. Outside, bell ringers gathered and in concert rang sleigh bells, hand bells, holiday bells and the peal sounded.

At the Historical Society people took turns pulling the clapper on the historic bell there.

At the Chapel, Steven Hart pulled the rope to ring the bell there.

The weather held and there was no rain.



Turley Publications photos by Mary Kronholm

Steven Hart rings the bell at the First Congregational Church of Blandford Chapel.



ABOVE:

Melissa Hamm Stearns reads from the United States Constitution. From left are Historical Society Board members Terri Garfield, Melissa Hamm Stearns, Historical Society President Chips Norcross and Judith MacKinnon.

Photo courtesy of Mary Hull Blandford Historical Society



RIGHT:

Mary Powers brought her holiday bells to chime at the White Church.

Turley Publications photos by Mary Kronholm



CHESTER

CHA awards Elizabeth Mass Citizen of the Year

CHESTER – The Chester Hill Association honors Elizabeth “Liz” Mass with their 2025 Citizen of the Year award.

They recognized her not only for what she does for Chester, but for how she does it with heart, skill, and an unwavering commitment to Chester and the western Massachusetts hilltown communities.

Through service, public events, town leadership, teaching and exploration, she has helped uncover local history and restore relics and trails long lost to time.

In doing so, she has helped make Chester stronger, more visible, and more hopeful about its future.

Hard work and a deep commitment to learning are at the heart of Liz’s family.

Both of her parents came to the United States as immigrants: her father from Greece and her mother from Poland.

Born Elizabeth S. Peroulakis in Hampden, Massachusetts in 1971, Liz’s roots were firmly planted in western Massachusetts. Her mother was a teacher, her father was a machinist and small business owner and she grew up with one younger sister, who now lives in Canada.

Every life of service begins somewhere—in the values learned early, in the example set by family, and in the lessons carried forward from school and community. Liz graduated from Longmeadow High School in 1989 and went on to Bay Path College, where she earned a degree in business.

From an early age, she also helped her father run his business. That experience gave her a strong foundation in accounting, administration, and marketing.

The loss of her father and with it the loss of his business, marked a new chapter in Liz’s life. A friend of her father’s offered her a position as an apprentice plumber.

She accepted, worked for years in the trade, and earned her plumbing license. Later, drawing on the entrepreneurial spirit that has always been part of her nature, Liz purchased a gym and tanning business from a friend and successfully ran it for more than ten years.

Liz was married and living in Springfield when her dream of moving to a more rural life in Russell, to the log home she had always wanted, was becoming real. Sadly, that chapter also brought the frightening reality of domestic violence, and the marriage ended in divorce.

The support she received during that time provided resources, counsel, and community and helped restore her hope for the future. She remains an engaged advocate and supporter of the Southern Hilltown Domestic Violence Task Force, which for 25 years has helped residents of the hill towns face the unique challenges of isolation and limited transportation in situations of domestic violence.



Submitted photo
Muriel Hall presents the Chester Hill Association Citizen of the year award to Elizabeth “Liz” Massa.

During that difficult time, a friend invited Liz to go hiking. Those Sunday in the calm and quiet of the woods became a lifeline. They also helped lead her toward the purpose and community that would shape the next chapter of her life.

After she was introduced to hiking around 2008, Liz became fascinated by the trails and history of the hill towns. She explored every

with Jerry Sikes about those possibilities and the work already underway.

Jerry later introduced her to his daughter, Karen McTaggart, knowing they shared a love of the area and its history. That connection helped spark the beginning of the Hilltown Hikers. In 2015, Rachel Lewis joined the active year-round hikers and in 2019 the Hilltown Hikers incorporated as a 501(c)(3).

Liz has collaborated with DCR, the Hilltown Land Trust, the Appalachian Mountain Club, Friends of the Keystone Arches, Westfield Wild and Scenic, the Chester Foundation and many others. The Chester Hill Association also partners with the Hilltown Hikers in sponsoring a “Snow Day” event for all.

Her pride in rural community life is evident in everything she does. Over time, Chester became more than a place to live. It became the town where she chose to give her energy, leadership and care.

As she put down roots, she also helped share and promote the town’s many wonders in the media and online. As Liz has said, “Sharing the natural beauty of our Hilltowns is what I love most.”

Liz Massa’s impact on Chester can be seen not only in formal leadership, but in the spirit she brings to community life. She serves as Chair of the Chester Planning Board, Chester Director of Parks and Trails,

and a member of the Board of Health.

She is also a Trustee of the Chester Historical Society. In addition, she serves as Treasurer of Jacob’s Ladder Scenic Byway, Friends of Keystone Arches Inc., Jacob’s Ladder Business Association, and Friends of SHAEC.

One recent example of her impact came on Sept. 25, 2023, when the Western Mass Hilltown Hikers purchased the Chester Granite and Polishing Works property. The 2.6-acre site includes the historic Hudson & Chester Granite Co. finishing works and the last remaining shot saw in Massachusetts.

Each of these roles reflects Liz’s investment in Chester’s future, its public spaces, and its quality of life. She has also helped represent and celebrate the town through traditions such as Chester on Track, Littleville Fair, historic talks and walks reflecting the pride, history, and neighborly spirit that define this community.

What makes her influence especially meaningful is that it reaches beyond titles. She helps people feel that Chester truly is the “Gem of the Valley,” that its heritage matters, its people matter and its future is worth building together.

For all of these reasons, and for the many quiet acts of generosity that rarely make headlines, Elizabeth “Liz” Massa is a fitting and inspiring choice as the Chester Hill Association’s 2025 Citizen of the Year.

Vacation Bible Time takes place July 13-15

CHESTER – The Chester Baptist Church, 14 Middlefield Road across from the Town Hall, invites all children ages 4-12 to Vacation Bible Time on July 13-15 from 6:30-8 p.m.

The theme this year is “Down on the Farm.” Children will enjoy singing, crafts, games, puppets, Bible stories and lots of fun.

Free transportation is available. People may call Pastor Dan Herr at 413-668-7768 or visit chesterbaptist-church.org for more information.

WORTHINGTON
Grave stone cleaning takes place July 11

WORTHINGTON – On Saturday, July 11 from 9 a.m.-noon stone cleaning will take place at Brewster Cemetery off Kinne Brook Road.

Volunteers should bring plastic scrapers, non-metal brushes, gloves and jugs of water for cleaning.

They should prepare to get dirty and dress accordingly. People may call Pat Kennedy at 413-238-5560 with any questions.

WESTHAMPTON

Westhampton Public Library lists summer events

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

To place a request for curbside pickup, patrons may email westhampton@cwmares.org or call 413-527-5386.

Recurring programs include knitting and crocheting group Mondays at 6 p.m., yoga Mondays at 6 p.m., Scrabble group Tuesdays at 2 p.m., book group fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m., walk-in wellness clinics with Westhampton’s Public Health Nurse first and third Wednesdays from 10-11:30 a.m. and coffee and chat Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-noon.

Tech connect drop in help is Thursdays, July 23 and Aug. 27 from 2-4 p.m. People should call ahead to make sure the tech is at the library.

Beginning Tuesday, July 14 playgroup meets Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. After a brief three-week break the preschool playgroup will resume on Tuesday mornings with CFCE Playgroup Leader Kelly. There will be movement, play and fun in the library community room or in the library yard when weather permits. Playgroup is recommended for preschool aged children and their family members. Older siblings are always welcome.

Summer reading 2026 is entitled “Plant a Seed, Read.” There is still time to sign up for summer reading and all ages are welcome to participate. Choose a side and earn points for that team.

This year’s teams are

Plants vs. Zom-bees. As in previous years, participants can track their reading on a traditional reading log or use a BINGO log which includes reading and activities.

All children and teens will win a gift card for a free ice cream cone at Mount Tom’s. The top child and teen readers will win a free ice cream sundae at Mount Tom’s, books, and a gift certificate to Highfive Books.

The top adult reader will win a free ice cream sundae, books, and a gift card donated by Intervale Farm.

Special thanks to the Friends of Westhampton Public Library and the Lyn Keating Programming Fund for sponsoring Summer Reading 2026. Summer reading closes Saturday, Aug. 1 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

On Thursday, July 9 at 5:30 p.m. playful engineers meet. Registration is

required.

On Thursday, July 16 paper making with Jan Ruby-Crystal takes place with two sessions two sessions: from 3-4 p.m. and 4:30-5:30 p.m. Registration is required.

On Saturday, July 25 at 11 a.m. macrame plant hangers with Via Luino takes place. Registration is required.

People may email westhampton@cwmares.org or call 413-527-5386 to register for all programs that require registration.

A Virtual program Celebrating America’s 250th: The Black experience of the Revolution with Historian Gracia Rich takes place Monday, July 20 at 7 p.m.

Rich, independent scholar, author and avid reader discusses the extraordinary efforts of Black Americans whose invaluable

contributions during the Revolutionary War helped bring about American Independence. This program is sponsored by the Friends of Ashland Public Library and co-hosted by a multitude of other Massachusetts libraries. This is a virtual program on Zoom and people should email westhampton@cwmares.org for registration link.

On Thursday, Aug. 20 at 5:30 p.m. Birds of Prey with Wingmasters takes place in the Town Hall.

Wingmasters is a partnership of two people dedicated to increasing public understanding and appreciation of North American birds of prey. Julie Anne Collier and Jim Parks are both licensed raptor rehabilitators based in Massachusetts.

This program strongly recommended for ages 6 and up and is free of charge.

Capacity of Town Hall is 150 people and this program is first-come, first-served. This program is sponsored by the Westhampton Public Library. Special thanks to the Friends of Westhampton Public Library and the Lyn Keating Programming Fund for sponsoring this event.

Field of Dreams concerts take place Fridays at 6 p.m. in the backyard of the library. People should bring a lawn chair or blanket. In the case of inclement weather, concerts will be held at Town Hall.

Concert dates are July 10, July 24, Aug. 7 and Aug. 21.

Friends of Westhampton Library, Westhampton Cultural Council, Easthampton Savings Bank, Greenfield Cooperative Bank, Florence Savings Bank and Marek Builders, Inc. sponsor the concerts.



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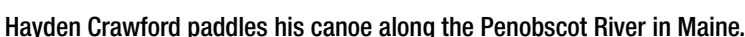
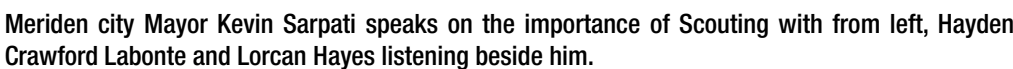
Our Own Sweet Peas are in!

1131 SPRINGFIELD STREET

EAGLE

from page 1

Hayden is also a recent graduate of Francis T. Maloney High School and has plans to attend Western Connecticut State University in the fall with an emphasis on movie and film production. Hayden's Eagle rank was instrumental in gaining him some of the scholarships that will help further his education.



Submitted photos

Local news. Local stories. Local advertisers.

The Museum grounds-194 acres of woods, fields, historic stone walls, self-guided trails and picnic sites-are open every day, dawn until dusk, free of charge. The program of events can be found on the museum's website by visiting www.bidwellhousemuseum.org.

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Hampshire Regional High School lists honor roll

WESTHAMPTON – Hampshire Regional High School, 19 Stage Road, lists the honor roll.

Ninth grade students making first honors are: Madison Bannish, Elizabeth Barry, Elaina Bigda, Samantha Black, Gabriel Carrasquillo, Stella Cubi, Talya Eiseman, Trinity Fellows, Isabella Fini, Ryan Garvey, Jaymes Goddard, Willow Guteruth, Noah Haryasz, Hayden Johnson, Madison Johnson, Saoirse Keane, Natalie Labrie, Anna MacLachlan, Felicity Manganelli, Noa Nabut, Teagan Noel, Connor Perkins, Abigail Phelan, Shane Radon, Kacey Reed, Maeve Reynolds, Hazel Scully-Henry, Addison Thomas, Aurelia Tosh, Sadie Wasiuk, Ava Westcott, Ethan White and Tarlo Zerbach.

Tenth grade students making first honors are: Declan Butler, Griffin Darling, Brianna Day, Rosemarie Estelle, Gabrielle Falkowski, Alana Hanke, Colleen Hearn, Grant Jennings, Logan LaPointe, Samantha Law, Charlotte Letendre, Eleanor Miller, Charlotte Niswonger, Luke Pickard, Caroline Puttick,

Maya Rudnitzky, Malcolm Todd and Madelyn Zannotti.

Eleventh grade students making first honors are: Alyssa Barcomb, Kathleen Barry, Emmett Bastek, Madeline Bresnahan, Kai Calabretta Rek, Elyse Campbell, Julia Caputo, Emma Chateaneuf, Lily Connor, Alexa Cortis, Owen Cubi, Cameron Dextraze, Raegan Dubai, Ryanne Dubai, Natalie Dunlap, Nadia Easton, Leo Florek, Xavier Greenberg, Cal Gworek, Rachael Hickox, Astrid Jensen, Katelyn Krause, Magdeline Lashway, Addison Miklasiewicz, Thomas Moore, Shayne Moynahan, Austin Mullaly, Catalina Ocampo, Theodore Overtree, Hailey Paszko, Caroline Payson, Nicholas Roy, Aria Simonelli, Brielle Stine, Lisalynn Strong, Eleri Tomsovic, Sophia Tremblay and Benjamin Zajac.

Ninth grade student making second honors are: Jaden Buell, dona, Jocelyn Fasoli, Sage Fisk, Jackson Galenski, Lexie Gauger, Samantha Gay, Aiden Goyette, Mason Hean, Tanner Hunsicker, Thomas Janik, Sophia Lashway,

Emma McDonald, Vivienne Mendes, Kennae O’Connell, Damian Pasiut, Mackensie Provost, Karolina Robak, Avrianna Rodriguez, Austin Sojkowski, Sienna Steffenhagen, Nicholas Theroux and Amelia Woz.

Students in tenth grade making second honors are: Dexter Bonczek, Colby Cabrini, Isaac Clark, Eliza Curran, Madeline Desilets, Kalin Dubai, Calvin Faiella, Brady Geffin, Kylie Grimsley, Moira Long, Grace Malo, Jacob Moran, Owen Moylan, Mason Normandin, Lukasz Robak, Torin Rowlett, Patrick

Schmidt, Grace Scoble, Colton Shadrick, Estella Steffenhagen, Katelyn Theroux, Valerie West, Olivia Whittaker and Joseph Wright.

Eleventh grade students making second honors are: Francis Dunn, Harrison Farrar, Kason Fellows, Bella Paige Foster, Isaiah Isa, Leonidas Ketcherside, Holly Kowalczyk, Krystian Lech, Kaitlin McDonald, Hayden Miller, Gerald Moreau, Autumn O’Malley, Vanessa Reese, Emmett Schatz and Finch Stah.

Hampshire Regional Middle School, 19 Stage Road, announce the honor roll

WESTHAMPTON – Hampshire Regional Middle School, 19 Stage Road, lists the honor roll.

Seventh grade students making academic excellence are: Brennan Bigda, Zoe Buell, Julian Carrasquillo, Savannah Chicoine, Trevor Christenson, Patrick Corduff, Brooklyn Desrochers, Emma Dybacki, Jaice Ellinger, Keegan Farrell, Adriana Fini, Leanna Francis, Mason Galenski, Hayden Gamache, Connor Graham, Gunnar Gribi, Kaelen Guillemette, Alice Hearn, Ryleigh Hurley, Eli Hutchison, Kendall Jarosz, Ishmael Jeffords, Carey Jillson, Charlie Johndrow, Adalyn Johnson, Michael Kraus, Brooke Labrie, Miya Lambert, Aubrey Leary, Violet Letendre, Jesse Locke, Lucas Maak, Maisie Mahoney, Eleanor Maynard, Claire Musa, Tessa Neill, Olivia

Patruno, Saige Reynolds, Kaleigh Rida, Elliot Scully-Henry, Louisiana Sinopoli, Rory Snape, Taylor St. Pierre, John Tisdell, Stella Tremblay, Nora White, Allison Woz, Sage Zimora and Ryan Zononi.

Eighth grade students making academic excellence are: James Clemeno, Stephen Estelle, Caleb Falkowski, Riley Fisher, Patricia Gagne, Lorelei Gilman, Anna Huard Corbin Liimatainen, Aurora Loud, Camilo Ocampo, Gianluca Pica-Smith, Madeline Soares, Ashtyn St. Martin, Georgia Sugrue, Phoebe Todd, Cyrus Tomsovic, Addyson White, Eli Willard and Meghan Wood.

Seventh grade students making academic achievement are: Emma Assan, Hannah Chilson, Quinn Dunphy, Gavin Emmonds, Chloe Guillemette,

Benjamin Haughey, Harley Hilt, Paxton Hufnagle, Diane Leahy, Isabella Le Cours, Levi Liimatainen, Lilly Malo, Tula Marino, Nolan Merriam, Anthony Mone, Zachary Moylan, Kennedy Mulvaney, Jacob Nadolski, Desmond O’Sullivan, Avery Palpini, Rosalie Punska, Addison Reyor, Logan Schmitter, Liam Schnell, Augustus Taylor, Brycen Tylek

Ashlynn Ulrich and Audrina Whittaker.

Eighth grade students making academic achievement are: Mala Adams-Rivera, Ivy Cardoza, Sunali Driver, Joseph Gagne, Lana Gomes-Parsons, Dylan-Joy Hocking, Aubrielle Jarrett, Camryn Jasinski.

Sienna Kalmakis, Abraham Kellogg, Lillian Loven, Brigid McArdle, Samuel Lucy Trombley, Blake White, Cooper Williams and Bradley Woods.

HCC announces students honors and awards

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College celebrates the students, who earned honors and awards for their outstanding achievements during the 2025-2026 academic year.

Awardees were honored Wednesday, May 20, during a ceremony in the Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation.

The full list of students along with their specific honors and awards can be found by visiting hcc.edu/awards-2026.

Local students making HCC Honors Awards for 2025-2026 are: Ian Cartmill

of Chester (two awards),

Christopher Eriquezzo of Easthampton, Autumn Gaffney of Easthampton, Isabella Gitana of Easthampton (two awards), Emma Pelletier of Easthampton (two awards), Caleb Subocz of Easthampton, Zoe Thomas of Easthampton, Leah Zielenski of Easthampton, Ash Martinez of Florence, Simon Sinclair of Florence, Sarah Belote of Northampton, Amaranth Cole of Northampton (two awards), Kathryn Guinn of Northampton, Noon Ladd of Northampton, Lyra Schaffer

of Northampton, August Assarian of Russell, Matt Riel of Southampton, Toby Stearns of Southampton, Elizabeth Hancharonak of Westfield, Noel Herbele of Westfield, Sabir Hussain of Westfield, Olha Klykova of Westfield, Jill Krueger of Westfield, Elizabeth Kudrya of Westfield, Abdullah Langrial of Westfield, Amy Pilecki of Westfield, Angel Rosa, Angelray Rosa of Westfield (two awards), Anjou Edwards of Westhampton (two awards) and Lionel Nunez of Worthington.

WORTHINGTON

Sevenars concert opens July 12

WORTHINGTON – On Sunday, July 12 at 4 p.m. Sevenars Academy, 15 Ireland St. just off Route 112, holds its first concert of the season.

Special guests are pianist Clifton J. Noble, bass-baritone John Henry Thomas, violinist Alexis Walls, join Schrade and James family members

This “Family and

Friends” opener marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of the USA. The program will feature a fantastic array of American music including Gershwin, Copland, Joplin, Blake, Braggiotti, Waller, Schoenfield, Bolcom, Brubeck and songs of late Sevenars co-founder Rolande Young Schrade.

Rorianne Schrade,

Lynelle James and Christopher James will be at the pianos and violinist Alexis Walls, pianist/composer Clifton J. “Jerry” Noble, Jr. and bass-baritone John Henry Thomas will also perform.

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

OTIS

Friends of Otis Library hold Coutry Craft Fair

OTIS – The Otis Library will once again be sponsoring its annual Country Craft Fair on Saturday, July 18 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on the Town Hall

Green in the center of Otis.

It will feature multiple craft vendors, a used book and puzzle sale, children’s activities, bake sale, raffles, Antonio’s

Italian food and more. For more information, people may call Otis Library at 413 269-0109 or email FriendsOtisLibrary@gmail.com.

EAST HAMPTON

bankESB declares July ‘National Ice Cream Month

EASTHAMPTON – While National Ice Cream Day may only be one day in July, bankESB is making the case for a month-long celebration.

This July, the community bank is officially declaring National Ice Cream Month, bringing free ice cream, surprise giveaways and family-friendly events to communities across Western Massachusetts as it celebrates summer and builds excitement for its upcoming unification to TruNorth Bank.

Throughout the month, bankESB will host a series of community-focused events featuring complimentary ice cream from local vendors and pop-up collaborations designed to thank customers and community members for their continued support.

“Community connections have always been at the heart of who we are,” said Matthew Sosik, president and CEO at bankESB. “As we look ahead to becoming TruNorth Bank, we wanted to celebrate with the people and neighborhoods we proudly serve. These events offer a fun opportunity to come together, enjoy summer, and share our appreciation

with our communities.”

As part of the celebration, local ice cream trucks will visit select bankESB office locations, offering free ice cream while supplies last.

In addition, bankESB will host events at several local ice cream shops, where the first 50 customers will receive \$5 off their order, courtesy of bankESB.

Event schedule includes: On Friday, July 10 Creamy Delights, 71 Lawrence Plain Road, Hadley from

11 a.m.-1 p.m.; Chubby’s, 2 Stadler St., Belchertown from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and Gran-Val Scoop, 223 Granby Road, Granville from 2-4 p.m.

On Wednesday, July 15 the Moolicious Ice Cream Truck will be at bankESB, 85 Broad St., Westfield Office from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

On Friday, July 17 Moolicious Ice Cream Truck will be at bankESB, 134 College Highway, Southampton Office from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

On Monday, July 20 Moolicious Ice Cream Truck will be at bankESB, 297 King St., Northampton Office from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

The schedule on Thursday, July 23 is

Moolicious Ice Cream Truck at bankESB, 241 Northampton St., Easthampton Office from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and Cindy’s Ice Cream Truck at bankESB, 605 Granby St., South Hadley Office from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

The schedule on Friday, July 24 is Moolicious Ice Cream Truck at bankESB, 36 Main St., Easthampton Office from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and Schermerhorn’s, 224 Westfield Road, Holyoke from 5-7 p.m.

The month-long initiative reflects bankESB’s commitment to supporting local businesses, fostering community engagement, and celebrating the relationships that have defined the organization for generations.

As the bank prepares to unite under the TruNorth Bank name on Saturday, Aug. 22, the events offer a festive way to recognize the communities that have helped shape its success.

For event updates and additional information, people may visit bankesb.com or follow bankESB on social media. Founded in 1869 as Easthampton Savings Bank, bankESB is headquartered in Easthampton.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Division of Wetlands and Waterways Public Notice

Pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1341 and M.G.L. c. 21 §43, notice is given of a 401 Water Quality Certification Application for the Cone Road Stream Crossing Improvement Project. The Project involves the construction of a single span open bottom bridge to improve the existing crossing of Cone Road over Bear Mountain Brook located near 44 and 54 Cone Road in Middlefield, Massachusetts. The Applicant is the Town of Middlefield, 188 Skyline Trail, Middlefield, MA 01243. Additional information may be obtained from the applicant’s agent, SWCA Environmental, Attn: Christin Mc-

Donough at 413-658-2063 or cmcdonough@swca.com. Written comments should be sent to MassDEP Western Regional Office, Wetlands and Waterways, 436 Dwight Street, Springfield, MA 01103 or via email to Michael McHugh at michael.mchugh@mass.gov within twenty-one days of this notice.

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

07/09/2026

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

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WILLIAMSBURG

Meekins Library hosts art exhibit this month

WILLIAMSBURG – The Meekins Library, 2 Williams St., hosts an artist reception July 18 from 1-3 p.m. featuring gallery artist, Rey Milici. The exhibit “Genesis” and will be on display through July in the library’s Neil Hammer Gallery during library hours. Life never runs in a straight line...This show is a culmination of that crooked line...up to a point.

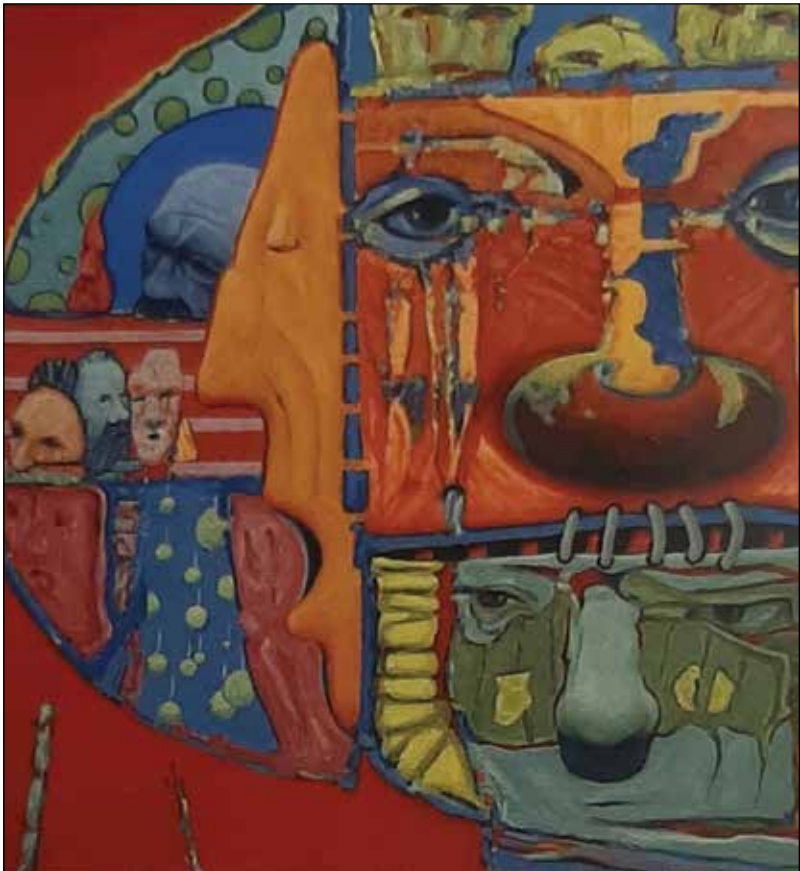
With the realization of Parkinson’s Disease, the renowned Pioneer Valley Realist, Rey Milici, has moved into an abstract approach with his art.

He said, “The images, based on my feelings, began to slowly evolve. The drawings were telling me where they wanted to go. I felt a story line was happening, and it was important to trust in what was emerging. I realize the new work is very different from the realism for which I’ve been known. In many ways, the work I am doing now seems more real, and is all very important to me.”

The gallery occupies the same space as the community room; if there is an ongoing program, patrons should refrain from interrupting the event.

Painting by Ray Milici

This is one of the paintings by Ray Milici in his “Genesis” exhibit through July at the Neil Hammer Gallery located in the Meekins Library in Williamsburg.



OBITUARIES

DEATH NOTICE

CATHIE R. BROWN

Celebration of Life on July 25, 2026 at 2 p.m.
Middlefield Fair Grounds at 7 Bell Road in Middlefield

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

THIS WEEK’S HOROSCOPES

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

There is nothing that you cannot handle this week. Expect to juggle a lot at the same time, but somehow you make it look easy. A calm demeanor is a big asset.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

This week will be fairly quiet for you, Taurus. You are likely to connect with a task and dig down deep until it is completed. If someone tries to persuade you to take a break, you likely won't.

GEMINI

May 22/Jun 21

Many forces are working together to provide insight, Gemini. Take a step back and consider all of the variables in play. The solution may be simpler than you can imagine.

CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, there is no time for daydreaming right now. You will be tasked with managing multiple projects in the days head. Remain focused.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

Are you getting pummeled by obstacles, Leo? It could be that you need to set aside more time to yourself to complete the tasks expected of you. You also may need to ask for help.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, an ability to communicate clearly is among your most notable assets. If you have thoughts about explaining your ideas to others, keep reinforcing your goals.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, your projects will take some time to set up. A patient approach will pay off as results begin to materialize. Your ability to multi-task will drive you forward.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Life isn't an individual sport, Scorpio. You don't have to do everything alone. Interact with others as much as you can this week.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, when a person has found his or her path, naturally the desire is to start walking down it. You are eager to get started on something that has been on your mind.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, keep an open mind so you can discover new experiences. You don't have to completely reinvent yourself, but make a concerted effort to be open to new ideas.

AQUARIUS

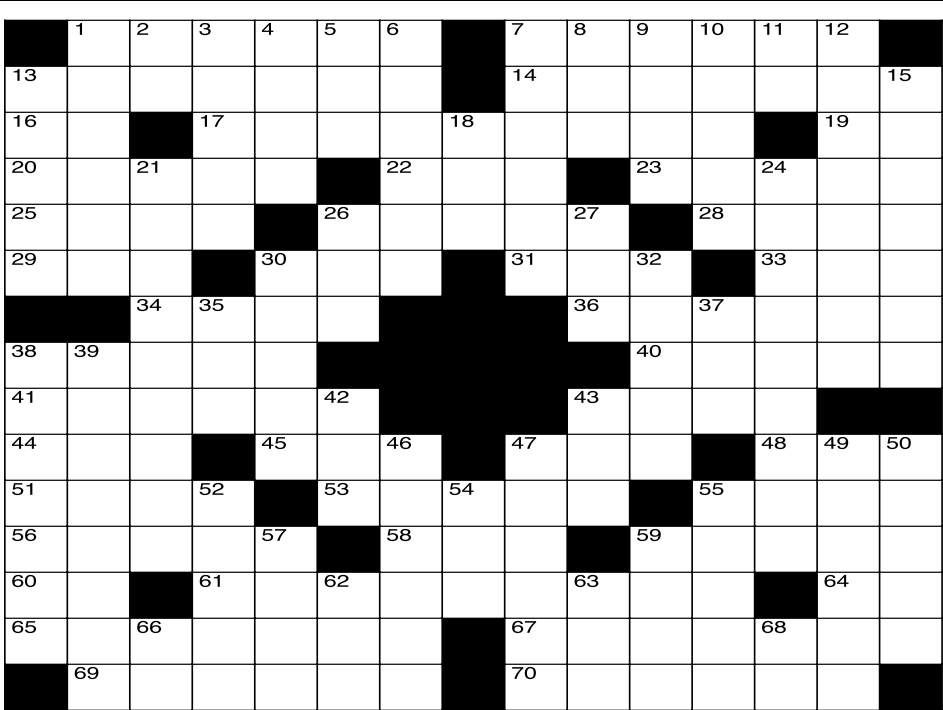
Jan 21/Feb 18

The horizon is clear and you have all of the information you need to navigate what life is throwing at you right now, Aquarius. Keep the faith that you are on the right path.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, share your experiences and feelings with someone close to you. Let your feelings out and express your gratitude to the person who lends a listening ear.



CLUES ACROSS

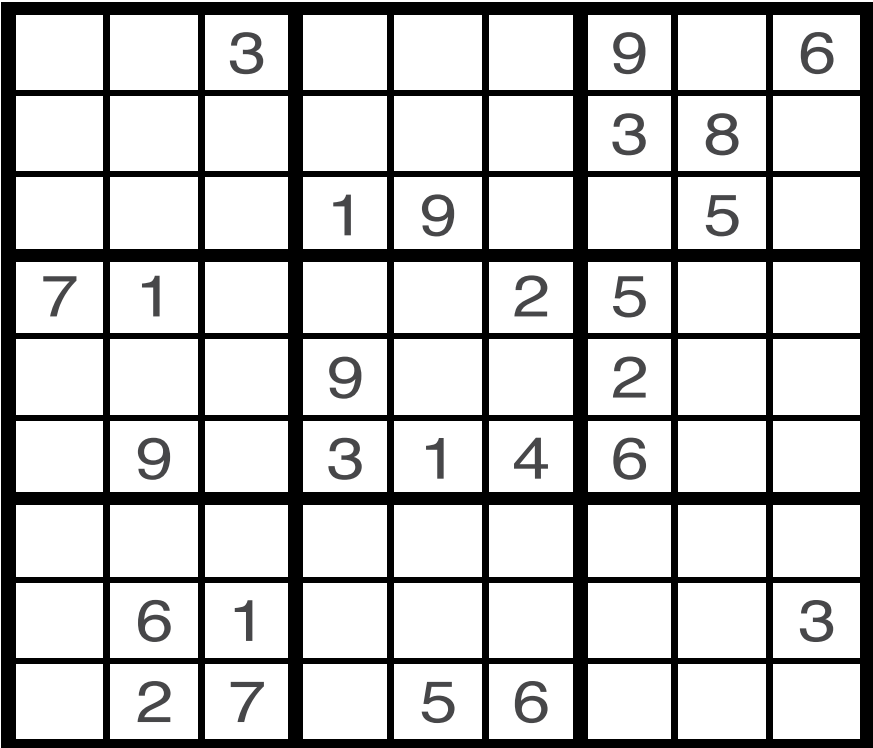
- Mended
- Hymns
- Commercial transport of goods
- Poked holes in the ground
- They precede C
- Branch of knowledge concerned with wealth
- Larry and Curly's pal
- Injured
- Popular type of dance
- Moon crater
- American state
- Places to lock valuables
- Stalk that supports the capsule
- Keyboard key
- ' _ death do us part
- A type of cage
- A place to sleep
- Annual music awards show
- Made over

- Hard, stony substance
- Incantations
- Long-legged, wading bird
- Breathe noisily
- Congressman
- Rip off
- Golf score
- Popular pickup truck
- Where infants sleep
- Music term
- Small opening in a surface
- Musical term meaning "very"
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Treats with powder
- Email subject line feature
- A British lawyer
- Expression of laughter
- Farmer's calendar
- Seeds used as food
- Eurasian shrubs
- Periods of inactivity

CLUES DOWN

- Hard things to kick
- Collective of countries
- Letter of Hebrew alphabet
- One-time Alabama running back
- Eddie
- One's sense of self-esteem
- Of the teeth
- Treat with care
- Type of whale
- Curved structure
- Emits coherent radiation
- One of the Gospels (abbr.)
- Smallest interval in western music
- Netherlands seat of government
- Gives to charitably
- Lout
- Pastas
- Release from restrictions

- Female sibling
- Title of respect
- Silver coins
- Region in India
- Partner to cheese
- Dark or dusky
- Pacific Northwest tree
- Exaggerate
- Toddler
- Touch lightly
- Fundamentals
- Jeopardies
- Curved structures
- Isolated, flat-topped hills
- Forming the bottom layer
- Reciprocal of sine
- Genus of Old World birds
- New York college
- Cloak
- Kawhi Leonard's team (abbr.)
- Vietnamese offensive
- "The Great Lakes State"
- "_, myself and I"



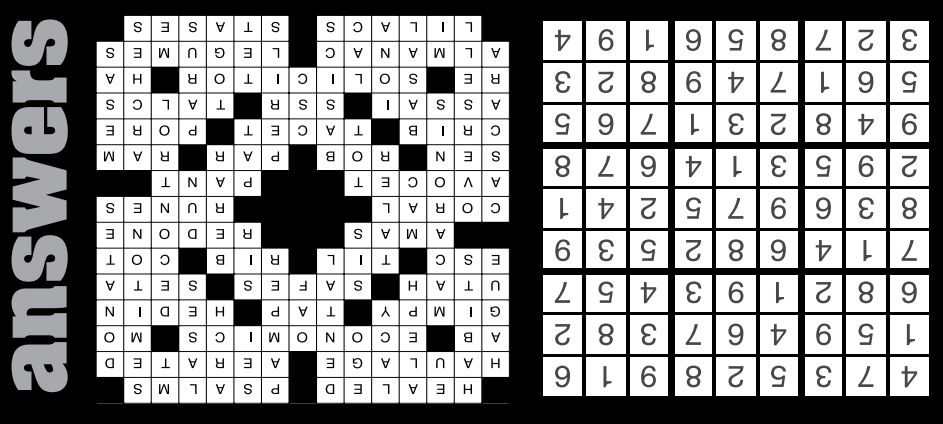
SUDOKU

Here's How It Works:

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

Fun By The Numbers

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



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HELP WANTED

Town Administrator
Town of Russell, MA

The Town of Russell seeks a **Town Administrator** with strong communication and collaborative skills to oversee and manage day-to-day operations for our Town. Russell is a small rural community (pop. 1643) in the Southern Hilltowns of the Pioneer Valley region in Hampden County. Led by a three-member Select Board, and Open Town Meeting form of government, the Town relies on the Town Administrator to be responsible for the oversight and management of daily operations of the Town.

Responsibilities include scheduling, developing and implementing town projects, assisting with the preparation of budgets, coordinating with various town boards and committees, supervising and coordinating overall operations of Town government and managing day-to-day affairs under the general direction of the Select Board. The Town Administrator will support the Select Board, ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, interface with government agencies and the public and manage municipal operations for the Town. Attendance at certain evening meetings is required.

Candidates should have knowledge and competence in municipal finance and budgeting, project management, human resource/personnel administration, Massachusetts municipal law, and intergovernmental and community relations.

The successful candidate should possess five (5) years of municipal management and leadership experience, or similar responsibilities in a public or government agency. A degree in public administration or a related field is preferred. An equivalent combination of education, training and experience which demonstrates possession of the required knowledge, skills and abilities may also be considered.

This is a full-time position with benefits. Starting salary range of \$70,000 – \$85,000 commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Submit resume and cover letter as a pdf attachment to nboersig@townofrussell.us. Applications must be received by July 16, 2026.

The Town of Russell is an equal opportunity employer.

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826 EAST STREET, LUDLOW. 2 BR., 1-1/2 bath, kitchen, dinette, LR. Applications required. For more information, please call 413-583-3097.

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

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HUNTINGTON

Summer reading kicks off

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – The staff at the Huntington Public Library, “Calls all brave explorers, book wizards, dragon tamers and quest seekers” as their Summer Reading opens.

This year builds upon the popularity of last year’s adventure-themed program. Summer 2026 features a “Dungeons and Dragons” themed journey.

This year’s handbook contains a broader map and instead of moving between mythical villages, readers move through the “guild halls” (libraries) of surrounding towns.

Sign-ups opened on Saturday, June 27 and the first one through the door was James Perras, aged 11 of Montgomery. His mother Brittany said he took part last year and loved it.

“I just personally liked the theme,” he said, of last year’s adventure focus. His only disappointment, he said, was missing the sessions on how to play Dungeons and Dragons.

This year, James hopes to attend the D&D workshops. Space is limited and

people must sign up by visiting the library website at huntingtonpubliclibrary.org.

Storyteller Kevin Weldell will lead four sessions on tabletop role playing games like D&D. Each takes place from 4:30-9 p.m. at the library and includes a pizza dinner; dates are July 1, July 15, July 29 and Aug. 12.

If people are away on one of those dates, they can still attend the others; while designed to be a continuous campaign, each event has the same starting point.

Twenty adventurers signed up on opening day, and the kickoff invited visitors to build an allergy-free snack and try to bait and trap one of the elusive stuffies that will be among the prizes for this year’s raffle on closing day.

Raffle tickets are awarded each time participants complete a quest at the Huntington Guild or a side quest at the Blandford, Chester, Montgomery, Russell, Easthampton, Westhampton and Worthington “Guilds.”

Those opportunities will be posted in the library each week. Participants log their events and books read in the quest log; they can also

earn a point if they complete a “scouting mission” while they’re away on vacation.

July’s Crafternoon on Thursday, July 9 will use dungeons & dragons dice to make key chains, necklaces or earrings. Other side quests at HPL include making fizzy glitter potions on July 16, fairy light jars on July 21, DIY slime on Aug. 3 and a fantasy map making session on Aug. 13.

Special in-town quests will be offered by other groups in Huntington, so keep apprised at the library and on its website.

Every reader who completes and turns in their logs by the closing party on Saturday, Aug. 22 will receive a complete set of Dungeons and Dragons Dice. Raffle tickets will be drawn that day for additional prizes, including two \$25 gift certificates to Barnes & Noble (those come with the hard cover or graphic novel book, Dungeon Crawler Carl) and a \$50 gift certificate to Barnes and Noble.

Four D&D stuffies will also be raffled: a giant space hamster, owl bear, griffon and displacer beast. Readers tried to catch a glimpse of those same shy critters by creating a snack mix to bait a trap on opening day.

Summer reading programs were designed to prevent the “summer slide.” Children who don’t read during the summer can lose up to two months of learning by the time they return to school in the fall.

Children who participate in summer reading programs and read a minimum of six books over the summer score higher in reading and math when they return to school. But the ultimate goal of this program is to have fun.

“There’s so much to see, so much to do at your library. There’s no better place to take your kids. The library is the place to learn, read, and have fun . . . a place the whole family can enjoy,” Loiselle wrote in the program guidebook, given to each adventurer who signs up for summer reading.



Turley Publications Photo by Wendy Long

Eleven year-old James Perras of Montgomery was the first to sign up for the Huntington Public Library’s summer reading adventure, which opened on June 27.

NIGHT SKY REVEALS ASTRONOMER’S DELIGHT



Turley Publications photo by Deborah Daniels

The night sky on Tuesday, June 16 was a stunning scene with one of the planets as close as it gets to Earth. The view was taken on Searle Road in Huntington.

Meredith Robinson performs July 16

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – Rock and Roll artist Meredith Robinson will take the stage on Thursday, July 16 from 6:30-8 p.m. on the town green as part of the town’s summer music series.

Robinson is described as a versatile vocalist and guitarist and hails from Chicopee. As a solo artist, she is a regular performer at Riverside Pub and at Se7ens Sports Bar and Grill.

She is also a lead singer in Crazy on You, a Heart tribute band that plays throughout New England, including at the Mohegan Sun’s Wolf Den and the North Country Center for the Arts Jean’s Playhouse in Lincoln, New Hampshire.

Concerts are held every Thursday on the town green, located at the corners of Routes 20 and 112.

The series is free of charge and runs through Thursday, Aug. 20. Different town groups will offer refreshments for sale at each event.

Music lovers are invited to bring their lawn chairs, but not their pets to enjoy these free performances.

Also in this summer’s lineup are Jon Berman (beach favorites and originals), Rock 201 (classic rock), Cover Daddys (mix of pop and classics), Moon Hollow (folk/bluegrass/Americana/early jazz) and The 413s.

This series is organized by the town’s Community Events Committee; follow them for updates on Facebook (the Huntington MA Summer Music Series/C.E. Committee page). The Huntington Local Cultural Council, a local agency, helps fund this popular event. The HLCC is funded by the Massachusetts

Cultural Council, a state agency.

In the event of inclement weather, the show moves indoors to Stanton Hall, which is wheelchair accessible.



Submitted photo

Meredith Robinson will perform on Thursday, July 16 at 6:30 p.m. in Huntington’s Summer Music Series on the town green.

Send Us Your Autumn Event Information

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Autumn Fest Supplement** which will be published **September 9, 2026.**

Total circulation of 85,000 reaching over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley.

Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 19.

Community Autumn Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

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MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO:
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or email* them to: jamie@turley.com
***Be sure to indicate “Autumn Event” in the subject line of your email.**