

Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

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

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RUSSELL

Family Fun Day

shown support from community

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

RUSSELL – The Russell Police Association held the Fifth Annual Family Fun Day at Strathmore Park Sunday afternoon.

Police Chief Kevin Hennessey said, "This is the community and the police working together... at its best." Over 25 sponsors participated in one way or another, either providing support, a child-oriented program/event or food.

One highlight of the afternoon was the arrival of the emergency medical helicopter, Lifestar, a Connecticut outfit based in several locations including Westfield. The chopper arrived at 12:30 p.m. piloted by Rick Vance, new to Lifestar's parent company Air Methods, but a 16-year

veteran pilot.

The full medical team, which accompanies every flight, included Flite Medic Dave Robinson, Flite Nurses Samantha Mercer and Michael Strumpf. The medical crew is provided by Hartford Health Care and with Lifestar covers most of New England and part of New York.

Youngster centered activities included games, arts and crafts and face painting. All ages could taste at the Ice Cream Bar. "What a great turnout," commented Selectman Wayne Precanico.

At one point the line to enter the park was long and reached to some waiting on Route 20. Chief Hennessey added, "We are humbled by the overwhelming support of the community." He's already thinking ahead to next year.



Top photo, William Burkott, 9, of Westfield and his brother Alex, 5 enjoy Cotton Candy during their visit to Russell's Family Fun Day. Above, many cars of all different eras and styles were on display at Strathmore Park Sunday afternoon. See more photos on page 9.

Photos by Mary Kronholm

BLANDFORD

White Church hosts annual Bel Canto



Performers shown are Madison Marie McIntosh, Maestra Eve Queler, Susan Wheeler, front row and Stephen Gaertner, Nicholas Simpson and Douglas Martin, back row.

Photo by Mary Kronholm

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – It was truly a superlative day weather-wise Saturday afternoon, Aug. 26 for the 28th Annual Bel Canto performance at The White Church.

Historical Society Chips Norcross welcomed the audience and thanked them for continued support of the building's restoration. Bel Canto literally translates as beautiful music, which is what the four vocalists created.

Soprano Susan Wheeler, mezzo-soprano Madison Marie McIntosh, tenor

Nicholas Simpson and baritone Stephen Gaertner entranced an attentive audience accompanied by Maestro Eve Queler and Douglas Martin.

Vibrant virtuosity and stunning voices filled the intimate performance venue. Gaertner, who performed last year as well, opened the program in full voice with a most representative bel canto by Gaetano Donizetti. He sang Lenore viens from "La Favorite." Donizetti was known for composing in the style and genre of bel canto opera.

BEL CANTO, page 7

HUNTINGTON

HPL unveils Little Free Library

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

The Huntington Public Library unveiled a new Little Free Library, designed by Abby Robbins. who is a page at the library.

It was painted by Library Director Amanda Loiselle and her niece Natalie Loiselle. Constructed and donated by Mike Petrovsky of Chester, it is located to the right of the library.

Anyone is welcome to take a book (to read and return or even keep) and/or leave a book. It's "open" 24 hours a day.

Of course, you are always welcome to borrow books from the library during operating hours from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m and on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2-6 p.m.

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month. There are many reasons to get a library card. First it gives people free access to books, audiobooks, movies and magazines at the Huntington Public Library. If patrons want a book that is not on the shelves, the staff will order it for them through an inter-library loan.

At the Huntington Library, patrons may also borrow from their "Library of Things," which includes a telescope, binoculars, puzzles, games and musical instruments. Patrons have access to free technology at the library, such as computers, WIFI and even printing. Libraries also offer savings on admis-

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HILLTOWNS

Rachel's Table expands to reach Hampshire County

HILLTOWNS – It's been a month since Rachel's Table of Western Massachusetts claimed its new name and declared itself independent.

Formerly a program of the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts known as Rachel's Table, they quietly rescued and redistributed food across counties for 30 years. But as an independent nonprofit, Rachel's Table of Western Massachusetts has already outdone themselves.

After expanding operations in Hampshire County, they have more than doubled their amount of food rescued in the county from 3,500 to 8,000 pounds or nearly 6,700 meals in one month.

This 128% increase in service has had significant local impact: The Northampton Survival Center, the Amherst Survival Center and Not Bread Alone now receive fresh meat, produce and dairy via new van routes from Big Y and Aldi. Brookfield Farm in Amherst now donates twice per week to the nonprofit's partner agencies. In July alone, they donated 1,494 pounds of food.

Thanks to a new glean team dedicated to Hampshire County, additional local farms, including Next Barn Over in Hadley, contribute up to 250 pounds of produce per week for immediate distribution.

The nonprofit rescues perishable

and non-perishable food from restaurants, supermarkets, bakeries and caterers and delivers it to more than 65 agencies serving the food insecure in Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire Counties. Rachel's Table of Western Massachusetts also has a special partnership with the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. Its volunteer drivers deliver to agencies in need of same-day support from the Food Bank; in turn, the Food Bank provides a substantial amount of food distributed through the nonprofit.

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts reports an 8.1% rate of food insecurity in Amherst and a rate of 7.7% in Northampton. According to

the Greater Boston Food Bank's 2023 statewide report, an extraordinary 43% of households in western Massachusetts experience food insecurity. Across the state, 1 in 3 people are going hungry.

Rachel's Table of Western Massachusetts seeks to alleviate local hunger and reduce waste of food resources in Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire Counties. With a holistic approach to food security, the organization rescues, purchases, gleans and grows food. In July 2023 they declared nonprofit status and significantly expanded their reach, particularly in Hampshire County, where a 128% increase in food rescue has had significant local impact.

Bidwell House Museum holds Housatonic Heritage Walk

MONTEREY – Each year, the Bidwell House Museum, 100 Art School Road, participates in the Housatonic Heritage Walk series that takes place throughout the Berkshires and northern Connecticut.

This year the museum will be offering three guided walks, the first on Saturday, Sept. 2 with Richard Greene is titled On the Royal Hemlock Trail, A Hike Through Township #1. On this excursion across the Bidwell grounds as well as the BNRC's Hudson-Howard property, visitors will trace the route of the early resi-

dents of Township No. 1 from their homes to the first meeting house on a hill near the museum.

Dr. Richard Greene will lead the group on old roadways, past foundations and stone walls of long-ago homesteads and explore flora and fauna along the way. Greene has always loved being in the woods and is fascinated by the animals that live there. He studies track and sign and has used camera traps to further his interests.

He is a long term Board Member and volunteer at the Bidwell House

Museum. He is a retired physician living in Tyringham and wandering around all over the place.

This walk is free and is being offered as part of the Housatonic Heritage Walk series. The walk is limited to 25 people and attendees are asked to pre-register on the museum website by visiting <https://www.bidwellhousemuseum.org/event/on-the-royal-hemlock-trail-a-hike-through-township-1/>.

Participants should dress for the weather, wear hiking boots and bring water and a snack. This hike will last 2-3

hours and will traverse approximately four miles.

The terrain is steep and rocky in a few places. This is a strenuous hike and is best for those with some hiking experience.

The walk will happen in light rain, but will not go if heavy showers or thunderstorms are forecast. Registration for this hike does not include a tour of the Bidwell House Museum interior. If people would like to book a tour after the hike, they may call the museum at 413-528-6888 or email bidwellhm2@gmail.com.

Healing Voices Project embraces National Overdose Awareness Day

Nonprofit, podcast continue to make an impact in community

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor

HILLTOWNS – National Overdose Awareness Day falls on Aug. 31, and the Healing Voices Project is looking to maximize its outreach.

The podcast and newly established nonprofit counter addiction in northern Connecticut and western Massachusetts by sharing stories of addiction, grief, recovery and courage. Through multimedia platforms, it provides education on prevention, intervention and treatment.

Led by Mike Tourville, a former Chicopee resident, the Healing Voices Project is establishing itself as a community leader.

"I don't want to be the tree that falls in the forest, and nobody hears it," Tourville said. "If this program has the potential to heal broken families and to save lives, is there anything really more important than that to share?"

The Healing Voices Project became

an official 501(c)3 nonprofit earlier this month. The podcast began in 2021 and has reached the 50-episode milestone, featuring guests such as Dr. Peter Friedmann of Baystate Health, an expert in the field of substance abuse disorder, as well as Agawam Mayor William Sapelli and State Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield).

When launching the podcast, Tourville debated who he sought to reach and what guests could best deliver the best message. As more guests became involved, he received an unexpected positive reaction from others seeking to help.

The Healing Voices Project teamed up with the Hampden County Addiction Task Force, which reiterated to Tourville why the podcast is so valuable. He explained the importance of sharing information, as there are few similar podcasts broadcasting in the region.

"It's a great platform because you can share stories, and care providers can talk about what they're doing, (give) updates and the pros and cons of medical-



Mike Tourville

ly assisted treatments, and they can share different treatment options. So, they've been very eager to share their updates and information," Tourville said.

Tourville said the podcast has booked guests through the coming months. The podcast addresses information such as what the first call you make should be if you discover a friend or loved one is struggling with addiction.

"I don't have a reason to contact this place until I do... Once I do, well which place do I call and why do I call this one instead of that one? This is the type of thing that we're doing," Tourville said, noting, "at least they have a 'what do you do now' answer."

Tourville said that uninformed people are more likely to make uninformed decisions, which can be detrimental to a person's healing, a family dynamic or a relationship because they handle it the wrong way.

Before the Healing Voices Project podcast launched, Tourville published "Voices from the Fallen: True Stories of

Addiction, Grief, Recovery and Courage", which shares stories from community members affected directly and indirectly by opioid addiction. Following the 2021 book, Tourville felt a desire to continue the mission, and the podcast was established.

"We have parents who share their stories of what they dealt with, with their children going through this or sadly or even how they coped with the grief of losing something, which is helpful for people to hear that they're not alone," Tourville said.

On the Healing Voices Project website, at <https://www.mtmedianetwork.com>, one can donate to the program. Tourville explained why every dollar counts; he said his job is to facilitate a message and it takes a team to do it.

"The thing is I'm not an expert at social media, promotion, website management and YouTube editing so we need to get the message out through people who can actually enhance and bring that promotion to the people who need to hear it, and that takes on many paths," Tourville said.

One can listen to the Healing Voices Project podcast on YouTube.

Clark Art Institute holds gallery talk

WILLIAMSTOWN – Meet Me at the Clark, a free gallery talk program designed specifically for people living with dementia and their care-partners, will be held Monday, Sept. 18 at 1:30 p.m. at the Clark Art Institute, 225 South St.

On select Mondays, when the museum is closed to the public, specially trained educators guide

open-ended conversations about art and how it celebrates our shared humanity. Advance registration is required for this free program.

Capacity is limited. To register, people may call the Education Department Coordinator at 413-458-0563; accompanying care-partners must also register. For more information, people may visit clarkart.edu/events.

Clark Art Institute hosts writing program

WILLIAMSTOWN – On Friday, Sept. 22 at 10:30 a.m. the Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., welcomes writers aged sixteen and older of all experience and skill levels to the next installment of the free writing closer program.

The session takes place in the Manton Study Center for Works on Paper. September's theme, "Art and the Senses," features prints, drawings, and photographs evoking sensations of

touch, taste, sight, sound, and smell. Whether it's poetry or prose, fiction or non-fiction and a story-in-progress or something completely new, allow the works to inspire writing.

Basic materials will be provided. Only graphite pencils are allowed in the Study Center and museum galleries. Advance registration is required; capacity is limited. To register, people may visit clarkart.edu/events.

Clark Art Institute holds fall concerts

WILLIAMSTOWN – The Clark Art Institute debuts a three-part fall concert series in collaboration with Belltower Records. The Clark hosts Senseless Optimism and Wendy Eisenberg on Sunday, Sept. 17 at 5 p.m. and the

Gelineau-Baldwin-Corsano Trio with Marie Carroll and Rebecca Schrader Duo on Sunday, Oct. 15 at 4 p.m. The free concert takes place on the Moltz Terrace, Lunder Center at Stone Hill. People may bring a picnic and their own seating.

Clark Art Institute presents film series

WILLIAMSTOWN – In celebration and anticipation of the Clark Art Institute's 2023 Conference, "The Fetish A(r)t Work: African Objects in the Making of European Art History, 1500-1900," the Clark presents a four-part film series drawing from the Los Angeles School of Black Filmmakers, better known as the L.A. Rebellion film movement.

Starting in the late 1960s in Los Angeles, especially in and around the University of California (UCLA) Film School, a group of Black filmmakers began exploring alternatives to the film industry, eschewing Hollywood patterns

and embracing international influences, ethnographic study, and African history and mythology.

The Clark screens "Killer of Sheep" on Thursday, Sept. 21 (1 hour, 21 minutes), "Bless Their Little Hearts" on Thursday, Sept. 28 (1 hour, 24 minutes), "Daughters of the Dust" on Thursday, Oct. 5 (1 hour, 52 minutes) and Sankofa on Thursday, Oct. 12 (2 hours, 4 minutes). All showings begin at 6 p.m. in the Clark's auditorium, located in the Manton Research Center, 225 South St.

All screenings are free. For more information, people may visit clarkart.edu/events.

HUNTINGTON

North Hall Association presents 'Fresh Horses'

HUNTINGTON – The world premier reading of Mitch Giannunzio's new play "Fresh Horses," a suspense thriller about obsession and the human need to redeem the past, will be presented by the North Hall Association at the Historic North Hall, 40 Searle Road, on Sunday, Sept. 10 at 2 p.m. Admission is free, with donations accepted.

The cast features Broadway veterans Kenneth Tigar (Fish in the Dark), PJ Adzima (Book of

Mormon), and J. Anthony Crane (Between Riverside and Crazy). They will be joined by Michelle Joyner, recently returned from her smash hit at the Edinburgh Festival and by local favorites James Emery and Alma Negro.

The play, a thriller, takes place in a secluded cabin in upstate New York which was once the summer home of two brothers, one of whom has now been missing for many years. When strange phone calls start coming and a mysterious stranger appears at his door, the surviving brother must figure out how to save himself while being forced to reckon with his and his brother's past.

All program updates may be found by visiting northhallhuntington.org.

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

Huntington author to have table at fall festival

HUNTINGTON – Steve Cormier of Huntington will have a table at the Huntington Fall Festival on Saturday, Sept. 20 and Sunday, Oct. 1.

Copies of his book, "Life and Times of Parley B. Hutchins" will be available for purchase and he will sign copies if desired.

The Huntington Fall Festival will be

held Saturday, Sept. 30 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 1 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on the Town Green by the intersection of Route 20 and 112. Local artists, food vendors, face painting, balloonist and tattoos, pumpkin painting, crafts, live music by Out of Bounds on Saturday and the Time Streechert's on Sunday and more. This is a free event for all.

FREE LIBRARY

from page 1

sion to museums and cultural attractions to their card members.

Book clubs are great ways to get together with fellow readers and socialize. Huntington Public Library also offers speakers and special classes to learn about local wildlife or try out a new hobby like photography. If people are doing more of their reading on their kindle or other device these days, Library Director Amanda Loiselle can help card members get a Libby member-

ship, allowing them to download digital books, audiobooks and magazines for free.

Also in September, the Huntington Public Library will celebrate "Self-Care Month" with a special station set up in the library. It will include activities and information ranging from adult coloring books and journaling to "digital detox" (strategies on taking a break from technology). Special self-care "to go" kits will also be offered.



This Little Free Library was designed by Abby Robbins, a library page, constructed and donated by Mike Petrovsky of Chester and painted by Library Direct Amanda Loiselle and her niece, Natalie Loiselle. Photo by Wendy Long



Nobody dreams of having multiple sclerosis

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

Multiple sclerosis is a devastating disease of the central nervous system where the body's immune system attacks the insulation surrounding the nerves. It strikes adults in the prime of life - and changes lives forever.

To help make the dream of ending MS come true, call 1-800-FIGHT MS or visit us online at nationalmssociety.org.



Visit us at www.turley.com

JOB OPENING

STAFF WRITER

Turley Publications, based in Palmer, is seeking a storyteller who is curious about everything, and who understands how town government works to join our team of weekly reporters.

Experience in covering town government is a huge plus, and any experience in community journalism is as well. Staff writers cover all aspects of communities from features to municipal meetings to crimes and fires. Successful candidates must have people skills, plenty of curiosity and able to tell a story.

If you're a self-starter who enjoys community journalism and who can envision themselves connecting with our communities, we encourage you to apply for this position. Not a remote position.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- A determination to get the story, whatever it might be
- Equally comfortable writing hard news, features and event coverage
- Ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style

Please tell us in a cover letter why you would be a good fit for this position and send it along with a resume and three writing samples to

Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to ekennedy@turley.com



MULTI FAMILY TAG SALE

Sept. 1 & 2 (Fri. & Sat.) 8am-3pm

- Striped Loveseat - Upholstered Chairs -
- Antique Pot Belly Stove - Toddler Bed -
- Metal Bakers Rack -
- Old National Geographics -
- Winter Clothing - Toys - Books - DVDs -
- Household Items & More

78 Jennie Circle, Agawam, MA

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William M. Baker

08/31/1986 ~ 07/17/2004

In memory of our beloved son Billy Baker. We think of you and miss you every second of every day. But on your Birthday we have your memories and our prayers to see us through one more Birthday with out you.

Happy Birthday to you!

Happy Birthday to you!

Happy 36th Birthday to you Sweet Billy!

Happy Birthday to you!

Love and miss you forever and beyond until we can hold you again.

Mom & Dad

Responsible harvesting is the first step in producing our lumber. We mill over four million board feet per year, with most coming from local privately-owned forests. We use only the best cutting processes for minimal impact to the land. If you are interested in managing or foresting your land of three acres or more, let our family walk it with your family, and we'll give you a free assessment and suggestions on how to best manage your woodlot. Contact the office by email at lashway@live.com or by phone 413-268-7685 and we will have our forester set up an assessment.



LASHWAY LUMBER

Lumber Services & Custom Drying

OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

Cherry tomatoes cracked? Mine are too.



I love it when my good friends pose me gardening questions. Lots of times I turn the questions into columns. My friend Jacquie sent a text with a question about her cherry tomatoes.

She was curious if she could eat them even though they were cracked. Alas, I will delve a little deeper into this topic.

Tomatoes crack when the inside of the fruit expands at a rate that the outer skin can't support. Usually, a soaking rain after a period of drought causes this to happen.

This year we have had pretty constant precipitation, but the cracking happened anyway. As soon as the rain ended a couple days back, I went out to the garden and began picking my cherry tomatoes.

Anything that cracked in my hand or when I put it into the basket could be used.

Cracked fruit still on the plant that had started to heal over I decided to give to the chickens. I didn't want to risk eating fungus, mold or bacteria from fruit flies in the fruit that had scabbed over.

If you don't have chickens, the fruit is perfectly safe to add to the compost pile.

There is little you can do to stop tomatoes from cracking. Some people purposely pick almost ripe tomatoes prior to a storm, and let them finish ripening on the counter.

You can also pick unripe tomatoes and place them in a bag with a ripening banana or an apple and the ethylene gas they release will induce ripening.

For this to work, the tomatoes have to feel softish and show slight coloration. You can also use this trick just prior to the last frost.

Pick all of your unripe fruit and try it!

Taste is sacrificed here somewhat - think of a grocery store tomato but maybe a step above. I usually risk the inevitable cracking after a storm because the whole point of growing your own tomatoes is to eat them ripened by the sun!

There are a few varieties that are touted as being resistant to cracking. I have never grown a cherry tomato, at least in my most recent memory, that was truly crack resistant, but I am willing to experiment.

You may wonder what I do with all the tomatoes I pick.

After separating out the bad tomatoes, I cut the good ones in half, added a splash of olive oil, some garlic cloves and slivers of basil and set it all in a shallow roasting pan at 375 degrees. I moved them around every 20 minutes or so, taking the tray out in about an hour, after the skins had blistered.

You can either eat the roasted tomatoes this way, as a chunky topping for pasta or pizza or blend it into sauce. Add seasonings to your specific taste. It can be frozen either way.

Cherry tomatoes are also great dehydrated or sun dried. One summer years ago I sliced some and set them on a tray in the greenhouse at work.

The greenhouse was closed up for my annual weed and bug "fry." In a matter of two days, I had the tastiest little tidbits.

It's amazing how all that tomato flavor can be so incredibly concentrated in this round disk! I stored them in a zip lock bag in the fridge.

Some people don't feel it necessary to refrigerate sun dried tomatoes, but I wanted to be extra cautious since I didn't use any sort of preservative on the fruit.

Dehydrators are all different. I think it took at least 8 hours for ours to produce that leathery, "done" texture.

Sun dried tomatoes are a great pizza topping, and can be blended into hummus or other savory dishes.

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

What about all the money Congress stole from Social Security?



Dear Rusty

Is there any way that Congress will vote to pay back the Social Security funds they took for their stupid reasons, and left IOUs in place of the funds?

Because of the funds they took going back many years, we didn't have any decent Cost Of Living Adjustments for a few years. In fact, there were I think three to five years that we didn't get any COLA. Please Rusty, can you find out if this is true or false? Help us seniors.

Signed: Resentful Senior

Dear Resentful Senior

I can assure you that I've fully investigated the allegation that politicians have squandered Social Security's money and found that charge to be, simply speaking, a myth. I've gone back and looked at Social Security revenues and expenses since the government first started collecting FICA payroll taxes in 1937 and found that every dollar ever collected for

Social Security has been used only for Social Security purposes. Over the years, various claims have been made that the money has been used for other things, but I've researched each of these charges and found them all to be false.

Where the misconception mostly originates is that any excess money collected from working Americans for Social Security is invested in "special issue government bonds," which pay interest, as mandated by President Roosevelt when Social Security began. As with any investment, a financial obligation instrument is given in return for dollars received.

Remember when we used to buy "U.S. Savings Bonds?" We'd use our money to buy those bonds, hold them and later redeem them for a higher amount than we paid. That's exactly how Social Security contributions have always worked - excess money collected from working Americans is used to purchase special issue government bonds, which are held in reserve, earning interest, for future Social Security needs.

These special bonds reside in a Social Security Trust Fund and, as of the end of 2022, were worth about \$2.8 trillion. Are these bonds "worthless IOUs" as some would claim? Hardly, since they are redeemable as

needed to pay Social Security benefits.

Considering that, since 2010, Social Security's income from payroll taxes on American workers has been less than needed to cover benefits paid out, redemption of bonds held in the Trust Fund is the only reason that Social Security has been able to continue paying full benefits to every beneficiary. The Trust Fund is a financial safety net, which is now protecting all SS beneficiaries from having their benefits cut.

Problem is, unless Congress acts soon to reform Social Security's financial picture, the Trust Fund will be fully depleted in about 2033 resulting in about a 23% cut in everyone's monthly Social Security benefit. I'm optimistic that will not happen (it would be political suicide) and, hopefully, Congress will act soon to reform Social Security and restore it to financial solvency and avoid a future cut in everyone's benefits.

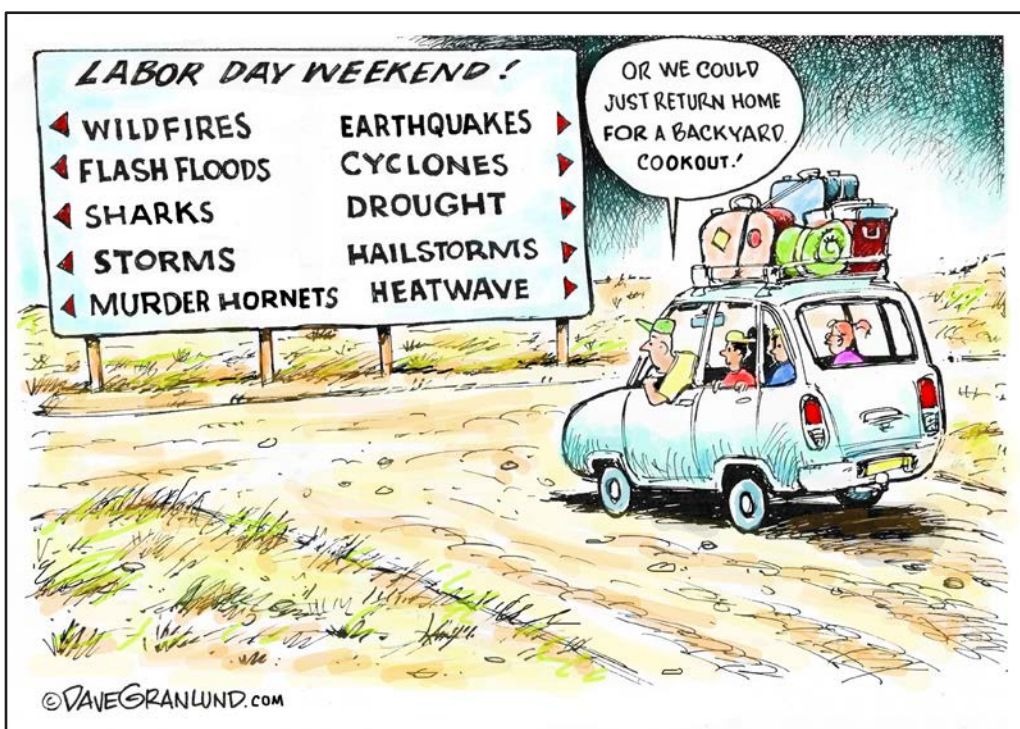
Regarding Cost of Living Adjustment and the lack thereof for several past years, COLA is determined by the government's standard inflation measure, the Consumer Price Index (CPI). There were several years (2010, 2011, and 2016) in which the CPI showed no inflation so, therefore, no COLA increase was given.

Last year, due to soaring inflation, everyone got an 8.7% increase in their Social Security benefit, but that doesn't happen every year. FYI, the average annual COLA increase over the last two decades has been about 2.6%, although COLA for each year can be wildly different depending on each year's inflation measure.

In any case, the lack of a COLA increase in past years was not a result of any political chicanery, it was the result of low inflation during those years.

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.



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OPINION

HILLTOWN HISTORY

Vanishing ink and it was never lead

By Deborah Daniels

Back to School is being banded about to the salvation of many parents' sanity.

The start of school is here. Let us consider September a return to reason and rational behavior for most of the educated population.

The Huntington Historical Society held an open house in its 1800 era school house. Which came first asked a budding student, the pencil or the pen? Short answer, it was the pen, but the journey about the history of pens and pencils was fascinating.

Quill pens reigned as the number one writing implement for almost 1,500 years. Prior to the quill pen it was bamboo and reeds that were used as pens.

Our Declaration of Independence was written with a quill pen. Thomas Jefferson kept a flock of white geese specifically for quill feathers, always a pen at hand for that fellow. A quill pen was made from the wing feathers of swan, geese, turkeys, crows and even chickens.

It used to be that left handed people used the feather from the right wing of a bird and right handed used a feather from the left wing. This was so the natural bend of the feather would not interfere with writing. But all that protocol fell away as the masses learned to write and any feather would do.

A penknife was carried as a pocket tool to sharpen your quill pen and pencil. They are still called penknives today.

The quill pen is an ingenious tool and it was very simple to make. The tip is called the nib and they referred to them as nib and dip pens. It works through capillary action after you dip the nib into an inkwell.

The ink enters the calamus or the hollow area in the center of all feathers which acts as a reservoir and then the ink flows out the central carved channel onto the paper. Writing with a quill pen was a practiced art, the best result came with a light touch and the pen held at an angle. Dipping the pen into an inkwell was fraught with mishap lest you plunge too deeply, forget to tap the excess ink off and yet remember to rotate the pen before touching it to paper.

Is it any wonder that a rural kid would approach the art of writing with trepidation. Spilling and splotching the ink must have been a common classroom

infraction.

Which brings us to copybooks where penmanship was practiced. These were books that had instructions on how to form letters to write with blank pages to practice on.

The pages would have solid and dotted lines to guide your practice. Attention was given to the proportion of the letters, the slant and spacing of words with an almost mathematical precision to how letters were formed.

It was another area destined to mightily challenge the average pupil and might explain how teachers adopted the use of a rod in the classroom.

The first American to publish a copybook was John Jenkin with his "Art of Writing" in 1791. He used a plain and practical style of writing that dismissed the flourishing, decorative style of writing common to educated Europeans. Bear in mind this was an era of calling cards, invitations to tea, dance cards and Bible inscriptions that were written with a florid style that spoke of your status. Ben Franklin and John Hancock dismissed this style of writing as pretentious and they used Jenkin's book.

Copybooks had students copying not just the alphabet but maxims. Some examples are: "Discretion is virtue's handmaid" and "In contentment is true wisdom." These would be written many, many times.

With pencils there was no need for an ink well, no plugs or batteries and a pencil can write just about anywhere. First off there is no lead in what was commonly known as a lead pencil. Pencils are made of graphite powder mixed with clay.

Chewing on a pencil won't cause lead poisoning. However in the very early days some pencils were painted with lead paint.

Pure graphite was first found in Cumbria, England in 1565. The British believed it was lead and lined their cannonball molds with it. It proved so successful in molds that the Crown took over the graphite mines.

When they weren't in use they flooded the mine to prevent theft. Graphite alone is soft, but it was discovered that it could be ground into a powder and mixed with clay (kaolin to be exact) then baked in a kiln yielding pencil lead.

This process was patented by Joseph



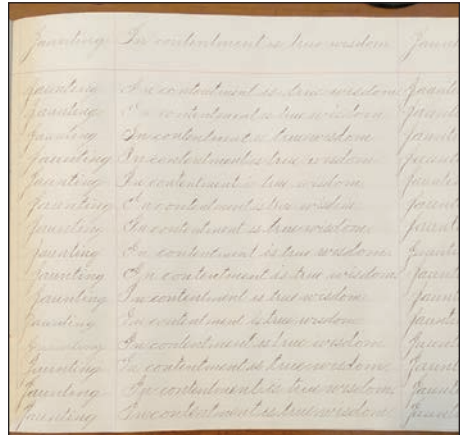
The inside of a circa 1800 school room, it is the Huntington School in the center of Huntington, built in 1800, now part of Huntington Historical Society.



Photo of a sand cylinder box, sprinkled on a document to help the ink dry; a wooden inkwell and an early fountain pen as displayed at the Memorial Hall Museum in Deerfield. This is the best museum for early American history and it is free.



A penmanship copybook displayed in the Huntington School House showing the cover.



This photo shows practice pages written by a student in the 1800s.

Photos by Deborah Daniels

Hardtmuth (1758-1816) an Austrian in 1790. He went on to found KohI Noor pencils, which are still made today. Graphite was mined in Sturbridge at the Tantusques mine, now a 57 acre Trustees of Reservation property full of history.

Apparently Nipmuc Indians used graphite to make paint. Joseph Dixon mined the graphite in Sturbridge and started his company, which became the Dixon Ticonderoga pencil company, still making pencils today.

The first American made wooden pencils were made in Concord in 1812. Henry David Thoreau's father had a pen-

cil factory, dated to 1821. Henry helped tweak pencil production by dipping the pencil lead in oil or molten wax before encasing it in wood. This oil seeped into and sealed up tiny holes in the graphite yielding smoother writing.

Erasers were attached to pencils in 1858. Pencils and their accoutrements were tinkered with for many more years. An 1890s pencil sharpener worked by rubbing the angled pencil on a grater, which may have been made of emery paper possibly made in Chester till you had the precise point you wanted. Yankee ingenuity, you gotta love it. Celebrate the written word, keep hand writing alive.

Corrections policy

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

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 Monday at NOON, on holidays it is Friday at 2 p.m.



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NORTHAMPTON

Three County Fair donates to farm relief efforts

NORTHAMPTON – The Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden Agricultural Society, the non-profit organization that manages the Three County Fair and fairgrounds, announced that the fair will be making financial contributions totaling \$10,000 to three different funds established to assist local farms following this year's extreme weather events.

The funds selected include the Massachusetts Resiliency Farm Fund, the CISA Emergency Farm Fund and the Local Farmer Awards Emergency Flood Relief Fund managed by the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation.

Each fund is providing aid in valuable ways to the farms who have been impacted by the late season frost or damaging rains this summer. Current estimates reported that the July floods affected more than 100 area farms causing more than \$15 million in crop losses and these estimates continue to rise as damage is further assessed.

While the unseasonable warm temperatures followed by a deep freeze in February and then a late frost on May 18, caused significant damage to many apple, blueberry, peach and ornamental crops.

"2023 has been a disastrous year for farmers beginning with damaging freeze in February and frost in May and continuing with the floods and excessive rainfall that has taken place over the past two months," said Tom Smiarowski, President of the Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden Agricultural Society.

"The floodwaters may have receded, but the damage experienced by farmers in the Connecticut River Valley and across Massachusetts, has been devastating and becomes increasingly more evident each passing day. Agriculture remains an important critical focal point of the Three County Fair and our Board of Directors felt it was important to show our support for the farming community and the problems they have and

continue to experience this growing season. The Three County Fair is pleased to be able to contribute to the funds managed by these three organizations who have responded quickly to the needs of the farming community," concluded Smiarowski.

The Massachusetts Farm Resiliency Farm was presented with a check for \$5,000 from the Three County Fair this week at a fundraising event at the Berkshire Brewing Company in Deerfield.

The Three County Fair has also donated \$2,500 each to both the Local Farmer Awards Emergency Flood Relief Fund and the CISA Emergency Farm Fund

The CISA Emergency Farm Fund, in partnership with the Franklin County CDC, is offering zero-interest loans of up to \$25,000 for Massachusetts farms in Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire counties affected by this year's extreme weather events.

The Local Farmer Awards Emergency Flood Relief Fund managed by the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation has utilized their Local Farmer Awards network to communicate with nearly 300 local farms following the mid-July flood devastation and has quickly supplied two rounds of relief checks to those impacted.

The Three County Fair's Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden Agricultural Society was first incorporated in 1818 by a group of business leaders, farmers and enthusiasts who made it the society's mission to promote education, science and sustainability around agriculture throughout the Commonwealth. The Three County Fair is recognized by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture as the oldest on-going agricultural Fair in continuous operation in the U.S.A., with the first Three County Fair taking place, October 14-15, 1818 and every year since without interruption.

WORTHINGTON

Car show to benefit Special Ops Foundation

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

WORTHINGTON – A car show will be held on Saturday, Sept. 9 to benefit the Special Operations Warrior Foundation. It will be held at the Worthington Rod & Gun Club, 458 Dingle Road, Route 112.

The Special Operations Warrior Foundation has a mission to honor "the legacy of America's Finest by taking care of their children to ensure their future success through academic achievement." It serves surviving children of fallen Special Operations personnel, children of all Medal of Honor Recipients and provides immediate financial assistance to severely injured, wounded and ill Special Ops Personnel. Children are supported

from cradle to career, in areas ranging from preschool tuition to college scholarships.

Crafters are sought for this event. A 10 foot x 10 foot space is available for \$20. If interested, people should email Worthingtonrgc@gmail.com.

Vehicles of all years are welcome. The first 50 entrants will receive Dash Plaques; the first 100 get a goodie bag from Summit Racing. Show vehicles are \$10.

Gates open at 8 a.m. and judging will go from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Awards will be announced at 2 p.m. Rain date is Sunday, Sept. 10.

Admission for spectators is free. Food will be available and music provided by Gary Francis. This event includes a Chinese Raffle and 50/50 drawing.

OTIS

Otis Recreation Committee holds self defense course

OTIS – The Otis Recreation Committee will be sponsoring a self defense course by ZenQuest Martial Arts Center for ages eight plus on Saturday, Sept. 9 from 1-3 p.m. in the Otis Town Hall, 1 North Main Road.

This course is free for Otis residents and \$25 for non-residents.

Participants should plan on wearing loose or workout clothing and bring a water bottle for the breaks.

To sign up, they should email townofosrec@gmail.com and include their name, address and number of participants by Friday, Sept. 1. Space is limited.

Otis Transfer Station closes Labor Day

OTIS – The Transfer Station will be closed on Monday, Sept. 4 for Labor Day. The Transfer Station will be open on Tuesday, Sept. 5 from 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

Flu clinics, COVID booster clinic

OTIS – A flu clinic will be held Friday, Sept. 15 from 10 a.m.-noon at the Otis Town Hall.

A second flu clinic and a COVID booster clinic will be held on Friday, Oct. 20 from 10 a.m.-noon at the Otis Town Hall. Community Health Program hosts both clinics.

STOCKBRIDGE

Berkshire Art Center artists to hold talks and exhibits

STOCKBRIDGE – Berkshire Art Center's 2023 Artists-In-Residence, Noah Beauregard and Kelly Po#er, are celebrating the end of their residencies this summer with virtual artist talks and in-person exhibition openings at The Red Lion Inn and Chesterwood.

Red Lion Inn Artist-In-Residence, Noah Beauregard, will have a virtual artist talk on Thursday, Aug. 31 from 6-7 p.m. followed by the opening of his exhibition, "Nocturne" on Saturday, Sept. 9 from 4-6 p.m. at The Red Lion Inn, 30 Main St. Inn has been the perfect location for Beauregard's modern take on the classic fauvism style.

Chesterwood Artist-In-Residence, Kelly Po#er, will have a virtual artist talk on Thursday, Sept. 7 from 6-7 p.m.

followed by the opening of her exhibition, "Friend or Foe," on Saturday, Sept. 16 from 4-6 p.m. at Chesterwood, 4 Williamsville Road. Using oil painting and wall mounted ceramic relief sculpture, Po#er's work investigates a dynamic between the tamed and the untamed.

The Berkshire Artist Residency is supported in part by a grant from the Stockbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

People may learn more about the Berkshire Artist Residency Program and the 2023 Artists-In-Residence by visiting Berkshire Art Center's website at berkshireartcenter.org. Register for upcoming artist talks at berkshireartcenter.org/artist-talks.

MIDDLEFIELD

Council on Aging announces menu

MIDDLEFIELD – The Middlefield Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail, on Wednesday, Sept. 6 will serve lunch at noon.

The menu is eat in or take out. The choice is New England chicken salad or

ham and pickle salad, cucumber slices, pineapple chunks, one slice pumpernickel bread, birthday cake. People should call 413-623-9990 to reserve a meal by the previous Monday.

CHESTERFIELD

Church breakfast returns Sept. 10

CHESTERFIELD – The Chesterfield Congregational Church, 43 Main Road, announces its monthly breakfasts are back from 8-10 a.m.

The next breakfast will be Sunday, Sept. 10. The menu for the coming breakfast includes pancakes with or without blueberries, French toast, blueberry/rhubarb sauce and pure Chesterfield

maple syrup for these items, eggs any style, breakfast sandwich, sausage, home fries, (excellent) corned beef hash, juice, tea, and coffee.

Also featured on Sept. 10 is banana sour cream walnut coffee cake. The breakfast is by donation and all proceeds go to the church. All are welcome to attend.

Town wide tag sale this weekend

CHESTERFIELD – The town wide tag sale in Chesterfield will be held Saturday, Sept. 2 with a rain date of Sunday, Sept. 3.

Last year's sale drew a good turnout of buyers and Francine Frenier, the

organizer, is hoping for the same this year. Seventeen households are participating, who have some unusual things to sell or give away. Maps are available at 11 Stage Road, 70 Smith Road and 497 Main Road.

BLANDFORD

BEL CANTO

from page 1

McIntosh followed with another selection from “La Favorite.” Her stature belies her great vocal range. The diminutive singer, when asked about her ability to project, has a standard response according to her parents, which is, “I swallowed a microphone.”

Wheeler performed Song to the Moon from “Rusalka” by Dvorak. Entering from behind the audience, her actions, expressions and full voice completed the aria and the audience knew full-well the water sprite was longing for the human prince she loved yet could never be with.

Simpson presented another Donizetti selection, Una furtiva lagrima from “L’ Elisir d’ Amore.” One could well imagine the realization of love and desire as he sang.

Presentations continued with Queler and Martin exchanging places at the piano. Both enjoyed their work and appeared to have fun with cueing the audience when there was more to come and their facial expressions were in tune with the storyline of each number, expressing sadness, joy and humor.

Maestro Queler seeks performers who are current with particular repertoires and whose voices she knows will blend well. Wheeler and McIntosh performed two duets, one from “Lakme” and the other the well-known Barcarole duet by Offenbach.

Simpson and Gaertner performed a Blandford favorite selection from the “Pearl Fishers” by Bizet and Wheeler and Gaertner contributed a well-bal-

anced combined vocal presentation of Violetta and Germont’s duet from act two of Verdi’s “La Traviata.”

The ensemble together sang the operatic chestnut and toe-tapper Brindisi, also from “La Traviata” concluding another captivating afternoon of opera.

Curtain call brought everyone center stage. Ushers Clarissa Hart and her sister Kim Daufinais presented bouquets to the women, who in turn presented the men with a bloom taken from their bouquets.

Window and basket floral arrangements were created by Ruth LaPrise, who has donated her talent since the first performance 28 years ago. All the flowers, Blandford blooms, were gleaned from local gardens belonging to Margo and John Gerogantas, Karen and Derek Darley, Jim Kronholm, Debbie and David Lovejoy, Linda and Chris Smith and Jan and Maggie Zajko.

Maestro Queler gave the event her “thumbs up” as did Martin. The performers all enjoyed the afternoon as well.

The Historical Society hosted a post rehearsal dinner Friday evening. Dinner post-performance was at The Blandford Country Club catered by The Blandford Bistro.

The Bel Canto Opera program has been supported in part by grants from the Cultural Councils of Blandford, Montgomery, Otis, Russell and Tolland, local agencies which are supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

COUNTRY CLUB ANNOUNCES TOURNAMENT WINNERS



The Blandford Country Club held its annual club championship tournament and the winners are pictured Dave Oleksak and Sue Wesolowski with club manager PGA Dave Strawn. Submitted photo

Volunteers needed for Fair Weekend

BLANDFORD – Historical Society parking/gate person, Peter Langmore, would really like to hear from folks who are willing to help with ticket sales at the South Gate and parking on the grounds of The White Church during fair weekend.

Volunteers may pick their day or days and whatever hours they would

like to help. The society parks cars every year at fair time as a fund raiser for the preservation of the building.

Parking attendants and people to work in the ticket booth are needed all four days, from Friday at 4 p.m. to Monday at 5 p.m. People who are able to assist should contact Langmore at 413-505-9086.

Finance Committee has new member

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – The Appointing Committee met on Monday, August 21 for the purpose of acting on a new member for the Finance Committee.

The Select Board, Moderator and Town Clerk are members of the Appointing Committee per town bylaw.

Jacqueline (Jackie) Coury was unanimously approved to serve.

Her experience in industry and corporate entities provides background for working with the Finance Committee. She has worked with GE Capital, GE Money, both financial subsidiaries of GE; Aon Hewitt, NICE Systems which specializes in contact software; Pearson Education and Wolters Kluwer, also a financial support group. Coury is looking forward to serving the town.

Immediately following the Appointing Committee meeting, Select Board took several actions at its regular meeting.

Liquor license

The board approved an application for a liquor license for Skyline Beer Co. for Sept. 1 to 4 at the Blandford Fairgrounds with hours of operation to coincide with those of the Blandford Fair.

ARPA funds

The board rescinded a vote assigning American Rescue Plan Act funds to the Municipal Light Plant for Broadband Infrastructure to be applied for other uses, but leaving funding open to permit the MLP to cover some lesser connectivity costs.



Jacqueline Coury

Police Chief Jennifer Dubiel was appointed Interim Animal Control Officer.

Commission on Disability

The board approved a notice and grievance procedure under the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) act, appointed Town Administrator Christopher Dunne the ADA Coordinator and appointed Margit Mikuski, Mary Kronholm, Judy McKinnon and Linda Barnard to the town’s Commission on Disability.

The board voted not to exercise the town’s first right of refusal option to purchase about 5.6 acres of land now classified as agricultural land on Huntington Road and authorized Chair Cara Letendre to execute the Notice of Nonexercise of Option.

School superintendent

Gateway Regional School District Superintendent Kristin Smiddy met with the board and provided updates on current and future programs. The district is waiting to see if transportation really will be funded at 100 percent. “We’re not sure, but it will be funded at a higher rate,” she said. She acknowledged budget constraints and teacher layoffs or reassignments.

Executive session

The board then went into executive session not to return to open meeting “to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual.”



First-time opera goer Kevin Charlton of Stockbridge joined opera regular David Sandborn of Monson for a picnic prior to the performance. Photos by Mary Kronholm



Taking a curtain call from left are Douglas Martin, Stephen Gaertner, Maestra Eve Queler, Madison Marie McIntosh, Susan Wheeler and Nicholas Simpson.



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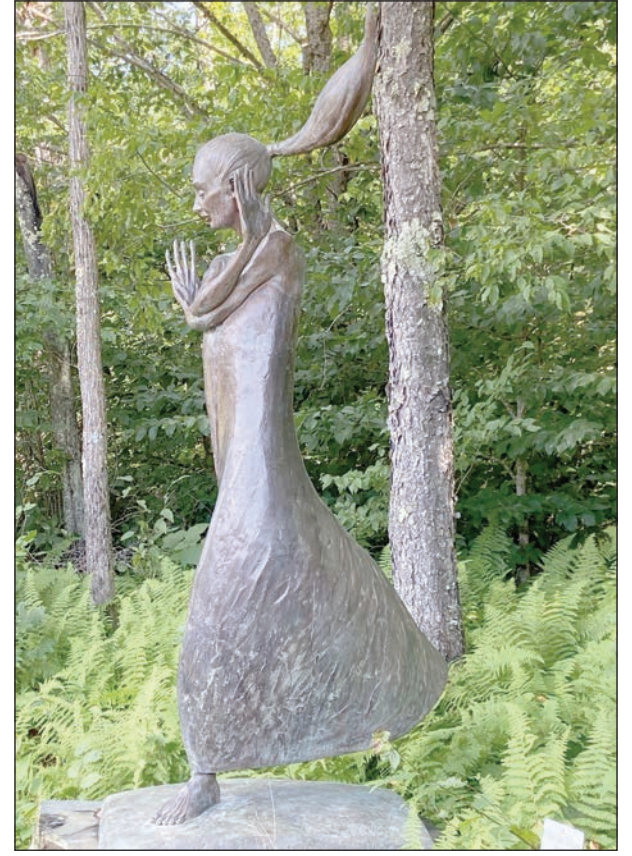
HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



This is one of the many sculptures by Andrew DeVries along his sculpture trail.



The sculpture trail is along the Westfield River in Middlefield. Photos by Deborah Daniels



This is just another one of the bronze sculptures found along artist DeVries' sculpture trail.

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of Labor Day, there will be an **EARLY AD DEADLINE** To advertise, place your ad no later than **NOON Friday, September 1**

— Thank you! —

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Taking a hike along sculpture's trail

MIDDLEFIELD – The Hilltown Hikers took a different kind of trail than they usually follow.

The took a walk along the sculpture trail of Andrew DeVries; 42 East River Road in Middlefield. It was a very inspirational trail he has made along the Westfield River complete with contemplative benches and sculpture.

It was a terrific outing narrated by the artist. He has been creating bronze sculptures for 44 years. He opens the trail for visitors Thursday through Sunday.



Artist Andrew DeVries works on a sculpture in his studio. His wife, Patricia Purdy is shown taking a photo of him through a window.

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CHESTER

Council on Aging announces upcoming news and events

CHESTER – The Chester Council on Aging, 15 Middlefield Road, is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The COA has puzzles and games to offer, bring crocheting or knitting, come gather with friends and have tea/coffee or some lunch.

Friday Sept. 8 at 12:30 p.m., the COA will be putting on a “Hot Pot Luncheon.” They will be having soup/chowder and also a baked potato bar. People may bring a pot of their favorite soup/chowder or topping for the baked potato, any donation is welcome. If anyone would like to attend or donate they should call the COA at 413-354-7735.

Foot Clinic Day will be held on

Tuesday, Sept. 12. It is \$20 dollars for 30 minutes. People should call the above number to get on the list and reserve a time.

Wednesday Sept. 20 at 11:30 a.m. the COA will be continuing the monthly potluck. People should bring a dish. Last month’s potluck was so fun and successful and hopefully it will be held every month.

Tuesday Sept. 26 at 11 a.m. the COA will be hosting a Senior Tea Party. They will be serving tea/coffee and also baked goods. If people would like to come join us for a nice relaxing sit down, no need for a reservation, just drop by and stop in.

As we all know the weather will be

becoming cooler soon and that means the wood stoves and heaters will be being used. Don’t forget to vacuum out the vents and clean the stove pipes before turning on anything for the season to avoid a fire in the home. If people need fuel assistance, they may call Valley Opportunity Council Inc. in Holyoke at 413-552-1548 open Monday through Friday 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Seniors that needs to get to appointments or shopping, the Hilltowns offer rides through FRTA. In town a local man that drives the FRTA van. Richard Homan is the gentleman to contact, his number is 1-860-836-1844. People should call ahead of time to schedule with him.

Highland Valley Elder Service also provides and delivers lunch meals to the Town Hall COA Senior Center Monday, Thursday and Friday of every week. Lunches are delivered between 11:30 and 11:45 a.m. People can come and eat in the COA with friends or Grab N Go. It is free to seniors with a simple sign up. Donations are welcomed, but not necessary. If people know of anyone who could use assistance with food, this is a great opportunity.

If at any time anyone has questions or concerns about what the COA can offer, they should call either Ann Daley or Keirsen Broman at 413-354-7735 and leave a message if they aren’t in and they will return the call.

Library lists September events

CHESTER – The Hamilton Memorial Library, 195 West Main St., will hold Lego Club Friday, Sept. 2 at noon.

An informational talk introducing NextGen Careers Initiative, a new initiative to help young adults ages 18-30 with special needs to explore the world of work will be held Saturday, Sept. 9 at 10 a.m.

Community Sharing Exchange Talk will take place Tuesday, Sept. 12 at 5 p.m. People will learn how a free Timebank account is used in the community to manage an exchange of services in place of money.

Paint and Snack for adults will be held Saturday, Sept. 16 at 10 a.m. Participants will be guided step by step to paint a beautiful peacock on a 12” x 16” canvas. Snacks will be provided and people must registers by calling 413-354-7808 by Saturday, Sept. 9

ANCESTRY.COM (NEW) now available at the library. One computer is dedicated for a library edition of Ancestry.com, so people should call today to

reserve a time slot and research their family’s heritage.

Writer’s Club will meet Wednesday, Sept. 13 at 4:30 p.m. Writers of any level, in any stage of the creative process, are welcome to join in supporting each other through the writing journey.

Monthly Book Club meets the third Wednesday of every month at 4:30 p.m. This month the date is Sept. 20. They will be discussing “The It Girl” by Ruth Ware.

Kids-Story time and Creative Movement will be held Saturday, Sept. 30 at 11:30 a.m. Laurel Lenski who holds a B.S. in Expressive Art Therapy and an AA in Dance will lead the Creative Movement.

Story time, craft, and snack is held very Thursday at 11:30 a.m. and is perfect for preschoolers.

People may follow updates and news by visiting the new website at www.Hamilton-library.org or on facebook at Hamilton Memorial Library and Instagram @chesterlibrary.

‘History of Chester Center’ talk set

CHESTER – The Chester Hill Association and Chester Historical Society announce a talk entitled “The History of Chester Center” will be held on Sunday, Sept. 10 at 2p.m. in the First Church of Chester, 334 Skyline Trail.

The talk will explore the reasons why the highlands of Chester became the

original political and religious center of town and the factors that led to it losing that designation.

The talk is free and open to the public, refreshments will be served after the talk. The sanctuary where the talk will be held as well as the refreshment area and bathrooms are all accessible.

RUSSELL

FAMILY FUN



Children enjoy a waterslide.

Photos by Mary Kronholm



One segment of the area’s tents set up for crafts and food

CHESTER LIBRARY HOSTS READING PROGRAM



The end of summer reading program event, Nature Matters Inc. was held on Saturday, Aug. 12 at the Hamilton Memorial Library in Chester. Submitted photo

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GOSHEN



Roxanne Cunningham cuts away bittersweet vines growing through the chain link fence.



Michel Fairchild uses bolt cutters to cut heavy gage wire attached to the chain link fence.



Gary Cunningham removes bolts holding up the chain link fence. *Submitted photos*

Open Space Committee to host event Sept. 16

By Lorraine Brisson

GOSHEN – The Goshen Open Space Committee is hosting an event on Saturday, Sept. 16 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. in the center of Goshen.

This event has been planned in coordination with the Oliver and Friends Season Celebration on the same day. Oliver's Farm Stand of Goshen and Pause and Pivot Farm of Williamsburg are co-hosting the Season Celebration event at 36 Main St. The event will benefit It Takes a Village in Huntington and celebrate local farmers, artists, producers and the Valley's bounty in general.

The Open Space Committee event will celebrate the Re-imagine and Revitalize Goshen Center Project. This project is intended to create a town center and green that will invite a sense of place, pride, social cohesion and community engagement. It will work synergistically with existing economic outlets including

Oliver's Farm Stand, The Ledges Food Truck, The Goshen General Store to stimulate economic activity and enhance Goshen's Main Street corridor.

The mission of the project is to create a vibrant town center that provides a recreational, cultural and social gathering place that welcomes people of all ages and abilities; promotes community pride through beautification of our town center and provides a landscape to encourage physical activity and social gatherings.

Activities on September 16th are planned for both indoors and outdoors. In the Town Hall, there will be an informational display about the Re-imagine & Revitalize Goshen Center Project, displays on beekeeping, farm and household antiques from the Williams-Boltwood Project, sunrise photos by Bob Labrie, model cars, the Goshen Free Public Library exhibit and more. Corn hole and chalk art will be available on the tennis court asphalt.

The organizers hope you can join them for this opportunity to learn more about the project, socialize with your neighbors and participate in some fun and educational activities.

With the recent dismantling of the tennis court by volunteers and the Goshen Highway Department, the Open Space Committee can proceed to the next steps, which include some necessary tree cutting as well as removing the tennis court asphalt and stockpiling the aggregate base for re-use in the construction phase.

In 2024 the construction phase will include building a timber frame pavilion and creating a town green in the area previously occupied by the tennis court. The area, bound by the parking lot, Route 9 and the entrance to the senior housing, will undergo a major renovation, converting the area into a multi-faceted park. New elements will include stone walls and a patio constructed of Goshen indigenous stone, café tables, park benches, tree and

shrub plantings, pollinator gardens, a brick walkway, refurbished memorials and a wrought iron archway at the park entrance.

The revitalized center will accommodate special gatherings and events and provide a welcoming space for visitors and residents alike, as well as a safe area for play and relaxation.

There are other activities being planned for this fall including bingo and a quilt raffle with dates and local venues to be determined. This full/queen size quilt sewn in a log cabin pattern is professionally quilted and was donated by a Goshen resident and Sue's Quilt Studio in Chester, Vermont.

For more information on the Re-imagine & Revitalize Goshen Center Project, people may visit: www.goshen-ma.us, use the navigation bar to Click: Committees, and then click on the Open Space icon. For questions, people may email reimaginegoshen01032@gmail.com.

Goshen Council on Aging announces upcoming news and events

GOSHEN – The monthly luncheon will be held Tuesday, Sept. 12 at the Town Hall.

The Council on Aging had some requests for a home-cooked lunch, so this month COA board members will be featuring their favorite dishes. People should call Kerry Normandin at 413-268-9354 by Sept. 5 so they know how much food to make. Hopefully participants will stay and eat together, but there will have to-go containers available.

Goshen COA is offering a Tai Chi class on Tuesday mornings from 9-10 a.m. at the Goshen Town Hall. The instructor will be Goshen resident, Richard Larson. He learned Tai Chi at the School of Tai Chi Chuan in New York City.

He will be teaching us the Eight Ways. There are many benefits to Tai Chi practice including improved balance, improved flexibility and improved peace of mind. Participants should wear comfortable clothing and supportive shoes.

All abilities are welcome and he can

modify the approaches as needed so that everyone can benefit. The class is free and Larson has generously donated his time and talent. This will be a great way to start Tuesday mornings.

The COA will sponsor a field trip to Mike's Maze in Sunderland on Friday, Sept. 22 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Rain date is Friday, Sept. 29. The COA arranged for the Easy Ride Van to meet at the Goshen center parking lot so they can ride together.

The van needs eight riders and can take up to 12. The group will go through the maze and then to a local restaurant for lunch. The van will leave at 11 a.m. from Goshen center and return by 3 p.m. If people prefer to meet the group at the maze, they should arrive around 11:40 p.m. They should call Kerry Normandin at 413-268-9354 or email coa@goshen-ma.us by Friday, Sept. 15 and should tell if taking the van. There is a brief form to fill out for those using the van. This should be a really fun event.

In person exercise class will be held-

with skilled instructor and Goshen resident, Joan Griswold on Wednesdays. Class will be held at 10:15 a.m. in the Goshen Town Hall. Participants should wear supportive footwear and bring water and free weights if they have them. There is a brief health questionnaire Joan will have them fill out. This class is also offered simultaneously on Zoom, so if people prefer this method they should email Joan for the link at joan@byb-health.com.

Community Connections Group will meet Friday, Sept. 1 from 10-11 a.m. in the dining room on the second floor of the Town Hall. Goshen resident Kelly Sturtevant will return to educate about Reiki and Integrated Energy Therapy.

On Wednesday, Sept. 6 the Knitting and Crafts Group is back and meet upstairs Dining Room at the Goshen Town Hall from 1-3 p.m. Participants should bring whatever craft or needlework project they are working on and work together.

On Tuesdays, Sept 19 and 26, the

Highland Valley Elder Services lunches are served on the third and fourth Tuesdays of the month, pick up is from noon-12:30 p.m. On Tuesday, Sept. 19, the meal will be chicken divan over egg noodles or New England Chicken Salad and on Sept. 26 the meal will be salmon with dill sauce or a Vegetable and Cheese Frittata plus vegetables, milk and dessert. If people have not signed up and would like to for October, they should call Kerry Normandin at 413-268-9354 to fill out a brief intake form. There is a suggested \$3 donation that is given to Highland Valley Elder Services to offset the cost of the meal.

Games Group will be held Wednesday, Sept. 20 from 1-3 p.m. and continue on the third Wednesday of each month in the upstairs dining room at the Town Hall. If it is a nice day, it may be held outside.

All Thursdays in September there will be Tilton Town Field Treks at 1 p.m.

Peg Whalen will be teaching technology skills.

This paper publishes birth, engagement, wedding and significant anniversary announcements free of charge.

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EASTHAMPTON

bankESB to host free shred days

EASTHAMPTON – bankESB invites customers and members of the community to two free shred days at local offices.

Events will be held Saturday, Sept. 23 at the Easthampton office located at 241 Northampton

St. and Saturday, Oct. 14 at the Belchertown office located at 40 State St., Belchertown from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. on both dates or until the truck is full. No appointment is necessary.

Local residents can reduce their risk of identity theft by bringing old mail,

receipts, statements or bills, cancelled checks, pay stubs, medical records or any other unwanted paper documents containing personal or confidential information and shredding them safely and securely for free. A professional document destruction company will be on site in the bank's parking lot and can accept up to two boxes of documents per person.

Founded in 1869 as Easthampton Savings Bank, bankESB is headquartered in Easthampton, Massachusetts and operates 11 branches throughout Western Massachusetts.

CUMMINGTON

Friday Night Cafe returns

CUMMINGTON – The second session of the 2023 season of Friday Night Cafe takes off on Friday, Sept. 8 from 7-9 p.m. with Louise Mosrie-Coombe in the Village Church, located the downtown cultural district.

Raised in Tennessee and now firmly at home here, Mosrie-Coombe is a pro and a good friend of the cafe. People won't have many other chances to hear her locally.

The show is free, donations are appreciated. Snacks are provided and

BYO drinks. Masks are welcome.

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

The Friday Night Cafe is supported in part by grants from the Cummington, Chesterfield, Williamsburg, Worthington, Windsor, Goshen and Plainfield Cultural Councils, local agencies, which are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

WESTFIELD

Clean Energy Incentives offers free public forum

WESTFIELD – The Pioneer Valley Library Collaborative and Voices for Climate announce the keynote event for Climate Preparedness Week, Sept. 24-30.

On Wednesday, Sept. 27, the public is invited to the Clean Energy Incentives For All Forum at Westfield State University. The forum's goal is to highlight state and federal incentives for homeowners, renters, businesses, municipalities, nonprofits and individuals to cut costs by shifting to clean energy sources, move away from fossil fuel use and thus assist Massachusetts in the transition to a greener, low-carbon economy.

Special opening remarks from Hampden County District Attorney Anthony Gulluni will welcome the audience, followed by a distinguished panel featuring Larry Chretien, CEO of Green Energy Consumer Alliance; Massachusetts Deputy Climate Chief, Jonathan Schrag and Massachusetts Senator Paul Mark.

Beth Spong, the new CEO of Dean's Beans Organic Coffee, of Orange will share her company's historical journey and successes to become a business committed to ecological accountability and highlight the business benefits of the MA and Federal incentives. A question and answer session will close out the evening.

Clean energy financial incentives

exist in the form of rebates and tax credits for individual consumers, businesses and communities. Everyone can reduce long-term energy costs while benefiting, in the short term, from rebates, tax credits and other incentives, as they install solar panels, purchase new or used electric vehicles, buy energy efficient appliances or otherwise reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. The forum is designed to educate the general public on how to access these federal and state tax-based incentives that are available for implementing cleaner means of heating and cooling, transportation, energy efficient appliances, and whole-building energy efficiency.

The PVLC's focus for this year, along with its community partner, V4C, is to turn climate change awareness into action using the incentives that are broadly available. The Collaborative is a partnership of 10 Western Massachusetts libraries that aspires to be a hub of climate education and conversation for communities in the region. The partners annually share their resources and talents to plan events and programming during Climate Preparedness Week. This dedicated group currently includes the public libraries of: Agawam, Granville, Westfield, Northampton, Southwick, Tolland, West Springfield, Easthampton, Williamstown and Westhampton.

This Wednesday, Sept. 27 free

forum will take place in Wilson Hall at Westfield State University. There will be a reception with light refreshments beginning at 5:45 p.m. during which clean energy resources and information will be exhibited. The forum presentation will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by a question and answer segment.

Registration is required for this event. The registration link can be found on the websites of each of the member libraries. Interested members of the public who are unable to attend may watch the forum over livestream on Facebook or through the recorded video available approximately two weeks after the event through member libraries' websites. Any questions about the event may be emailed to John Meiklejohn at jmi-serve183@gmail.com or calling 413-348-2848.

The PVLC and V4C are grateful to the Forum's sponsors: Westfield Gas & Electric; Citizens Climate Lobby-Pioneer Valley; Elder Climate Action-MA; Climate Action Now-W. MA.; First Churches' Peace & Justice Team; and the Center for EcoTechnology. They're grateful as well to the Forum's partners: Sierra Club-MA; Mass Audubon; Citizen Climate Lobby-Berkshire; League of Women Voters of the Northampton Area; Kestrel Land Trust; Connecticut River Conservancy; Interfaith Power & Light, and Local Energy Advocates.

BECKET

Athenaeum to hold book sale

BECKET – The Becket Athenaeum, 3367 Main St., is holding a two-day book sale on Saturday, Sept. 2 and Sunday, Sept. 3 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on its front lawn.

A wide variety of books will be available for readers of all ages (children and adults) and interests (fiction, non-fiction, art, gardening, cooking, etc.). Anyone taking one or more books is simply asked to donate any amount they choose to support the library's operations. Previous book sale visitors have said, "We look forward to coming every year and enjoy meeting new folks at this event."

The Athenaeum, which serves the Becket and Washington communities, is open four days a week and offers its patrons over 5,000 items such as museum passes, books (both physical and e-books), CDs, magazines and a Library of Things. Patrons also enjoy free programs like the Book and Cooking Clubs, story time and crafts, game and movie nights and monthly workshops.

Anyone who is free this weekend and loves books, should plan on going to the Becket Athenaeum Book Sale to stock up on books to read over the winter and support a good cause.

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THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES
Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, you may want to move your relationship in a different direction, but your partner is resistant. This could be a conflict, or something that opens up a dialogue.

CANCER
Jun 22/Jul 22
You may think that others do not understand you. But that may be a good thing. You can focus on explaining your position and maybe make a few friends along the way.

LIBRA
Sept 23/Oct 23
You may want to do it all, Libra, but sometimes you have to let others know you have limits. When you don't, it is easy to get taken advantage of or run yourself ragged.

CAPRICORN
Dec 22/Jan 20
You may want to tell a loved one what they want to hear right now to make a difficult situation go away. However, that only postpones the inevitable tough talk.

AQUARIUS
Jan 21/Feb 18
You have been feeling like it is time to break away from your regular routine, Aquarius. It could be because there has been added stress on your shoulders. A vacation may be needed.

TAURUS
Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, you might feel like doing all you can to make a problem go away, and think that acting immediately is the way to go. But ponder a few options beforehand.

LEO
Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, you tend to be attracted to things that tempt fate or may even be considered forbidden. When others want you to walk the straight and narrow for a bit, it could be tough.

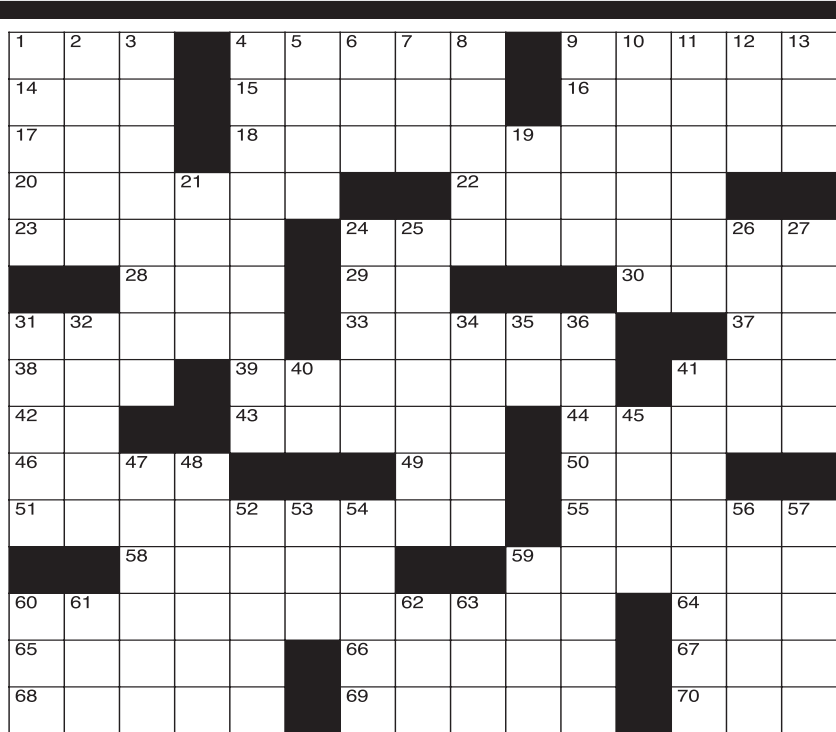
SCORPIO
Oct 24/Nov 22
Are you ready for an adventure? Identify some new hobbies and then learn all you can about getting out there and doing those types of activities with frequency.

GEMINI
May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, a professional opportunity that seems to have many positive financial outcomes actually could have a down side to it. It's best if you do your research before acting.

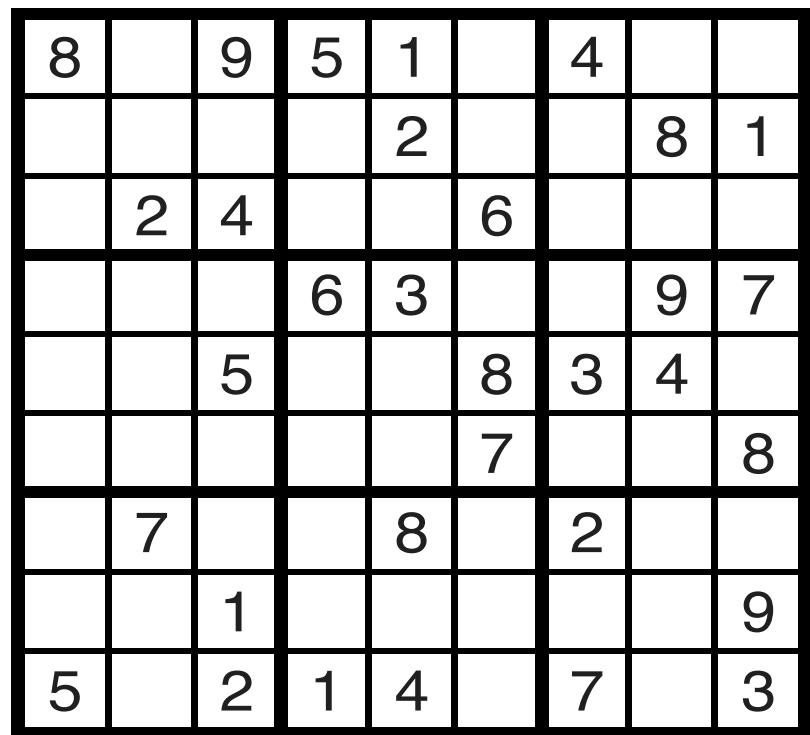
VIRGO
Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, an opportunity to get away presents itself. Enjoy this much-needed respite and don't be afraid to go the extra mile to ensure the trip is as memorable as possible.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23/Dec 21
A loved one may want to be more cozy with you this week, but you're content to have ample space and do your own thing, Sagittarius. Let your views be heard on this situation.

PISCES
Feb 19/Mar 20
There are some limits to doing all of the work on your own. First off, you may lack the time and the expertise. Bring on helpers this week if anyone is available.



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Midway between east and southeast
 - 4. At right angles to a ship's length
 - 9. William Penn's business partner
 - 14. ___ de plume
 - 15. Accomplished soccer coach
 - 16. Bone cavities
 - 17. ___ juris: independent
 - 18. Popular Philly sandwich
 - 20. Northern Ireland county
 - 22. Performing artist
 - 23. S S S
 - 24. Lacks flavor
 - 28. Commercials
 - 29. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
 - 30. Qatar's capital
 - 31. Indigenous peoples of Alberta
 - 33. Popular footwear
 - 37. Indicates position
 - 38. Anglican cathedral
 - 39. Aircraft part
 - 41. Before
 - 42. Blood group
 - 43. Secretary organ
 - 44. Fencing swords
 - 46. The small projection of a mammary gland
 - 49. Technological advancement
 - 50. Male parent
 - 51. Dissociable
 - 55. More cold
 - 58. Cape Verde Islands capital
 - 59. Blood disorder
 - 60. Creative
 - 64. Sun up in New York
 - 65. Made angry
 - 66. Relieves
 - 67. Brooklyn hoopster
 - 68. Seasonings
 - 69. Movable barriers
 - 70. Attempt
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Occur as a result of
 - 2. Spiritual essences
 - 3. Representative
 - 4. Entering
 - 5. Nobel Prize-winning physicist
 - 6. Midway between northeast and east
 - 7. Consumed
 - 8. Tablelands
 - 9. Kids' craft accessory
 - 10. Not known
 - 11. Sound directed through two or more speakers
 - 12. A major division of geological time
 - 13. Wild ox
 - 19. Shock treatment
 - 21. Turner and Lasso are two
 - 24. Genus of flowering plants
 - 25. Relating to ductless glands
 - 26. Stock certificate
 - 27. Satisfies
 - 31. Places to enjoy a rest
 - 32. Edward ___, author and writer
 - 34. "___ but goodie"
 - 35. One hundredth of a liter
 - 36. Shabbiness
 - 40. TV personality Roker
 - 41. Triangular upper part of a building
 - 45. Speed at which you move
 - 47. Offend
 - 48. A reference point to shoot at
 - 52. Forays
 - 53. Biblical city
 - 54. Blatted
 - 56. Northern sea duck
 - 57. Shabby (slang)
 - 59. Allege
 - 60. Tax collector
 - 61. Whereabouts unknown
 - 62. Chinese philosophical principle
 - 63. Indicates equal



SUDOKU

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

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

answers

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

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SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Holyoke Community College offers free line cook training

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Community College is offering free training classes in line cook skills offered through the Office of Workforce Development office. The free line cook training starts in September and is for anyone interested in developing new

skills.

Classes will be held in person at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St. For more information about the programs, please visit hcc.edu. Class times are as following:

Line Cook a.m. Training

Sept. 18 to Oct. 20, 2023
Monday 9 a.m. to Noon
Tuesday to Friday
9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Line Cook p.m. Training

Sept. 18 to Nov. 9, 2023
Monday to Thursday, 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Line Cook AM Training
Oct. 30 to Dec. 8, 2023
Monday is from 9 a.m. to Noon
Tuesday to Friday, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm

Massachusetts launches community college program

WELLESLEY – Holyoke Community College President George Timmons joined Gov. Maura T. Healey to launch MassReconnect, the administration's new program establishing free community college for Massachusetts residents aged 25 and older.

The announcement event, held this morning at MassBay Community College, was attended by representatives from the Healey administration and Department of Higher Education, as well as the presidents of the state's 15 community colleges.

"MassReconnect will be transformative for thousands of students, for our amazing community colleges and for our economy," Healey said. "It will bolster the role of community colleges as economic drivers in our state and help us better meet the needs of businesses to find qualified, well-trained workers. We can also make progress in breaking cycles of intergenerational poverty by helping residents complete their higher education credentials so they can attain good jobs and build a career path. Our administration is grateful for the partnership of the Legislature to move forward on this critical program that will make our state more affordable, competitive and equitable."

The state is investing \$20 million in MassReconnect for the first year of implementation. The funding covers the full cost of tuition and fees and includes an allowance for books and supplies for qualifying students. Additionally, each community college will receive \$100,000 to support student and community program aware-

ness, staffing, and program administration

"This is an exciting moment for HCC and all Massachusetts community colleges," said Holyoke Community College President George Timmons.

MassReconnect starts immediately. There is still time for students to enroll for the fall 2023 semester. Qualifying students must be enrolled in at least six credits per semester in an approved program of study leading to an associate degree or certificate at one of the Commonwealth's 15 community colleges and complete the 2023-2024 FAFSA (Free Application for Student Aid). There is no deadline to sign up.

Fall semester I classes at HCC begin Tuesday, Sept. 5, but there are also two additional flexible fall start dates, on Monday, Sept. 25 and Monday, Oct. 30. For more information about MassReconnect at HCC, people may go to hcc.edu/massreconnect.

To qualify for MassReconnect, students must be 25 or older on the first day of their classes and be a permanent Massachusetts resident for at least one year at the start of the enrolled term. The program is limited to residents who have not previously earned a college degree (Associates or Bachelor's) who enroll in at least six credits per semester in an approved program of study leading to an associate degree or certificate at a community college.

MassReconnect will likely support up to 6,500-8,000 community college students in the first year, which could grow to closer to 10,000 students by FY25, depending on how many students take advantage of the new opportunity.

MassDOT announces high school video contest

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces entries are now being accepted for the tenth annual statewide Safe Streets Smart Trips high school video contest.

Applications are due on Sunday, Sept. 17 by 11 p.m. The contest, which began in 2014, encourages high school students to showcase their understanding of roadway safety across all travel modes to try to decrease pedestrian and bicyclist injuries and fatalities.

The contest serves as an initiative of the Massachusetts Strategic Highway Safety Plan to promote safe walking, bicycling, and driving behaviors within the Commonwealth. "We are excited to launch the tenth year of this popular high school video contest that helps to recognize and promote multimodal safety throughout the Commonwealth," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Gina Fiandaca. Hared to help keep family, friends and classmates safe."

The video contest, which is open to all Massachusetts public high school students, features a freshman/sophomore category and junior/senior category. Per contest guidelines, this year students are being asked to write and produce a 30-60 second video that focuses on the new vulnerable user laws in Massachusetts. Vulnerable road users include pedestrians, people on bikes, individuals using wheelchairs and personal mobility devices and others using modes other than cars.

In April 2023, new vulnerable user laws went into effect in Massachusetts which updated the state's definition of a "vulnerable user" to include more

modes of transportation. Since about one in five fatalities and serious injuries in motor vehicle crashes involve a vulnerable user, this updated definition will help increase roadway safety for all users across the Commonwealth.

Additional components of these new laws include increased safe passing distances, new rear light requirements for people on bikes, safer speed limits in thickly settled areas, safety devices for trucks, and the use of a standardized analysis tool for crash reporting.

MassDOT will host a virtual informational session for educators on Thursday, Aug. 24, to help answer any contest questions. Educators and students can register for the informational session at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8273156191>.

Grand prize, runner-up and honorable mention videos in each category (freshman/sophomore and junior/senior) will be chosen by a MassDOT panel. Winning videos will be shown Wednesday, Oct. 4 at MassDOT's annual active transportation conference, Moving Together, where the creators will receive their prizes including \$600 Amazon gift cards for the grand prize videos and \$300 Amazon gift cards for the runner-up videos. Top videos may also be used in future safety campaigns.

To learn more about the Safe Streets Smart Trips high school video contest visit Mass.gov/roadway-safety-video or call 857-383-3807.

For transportation news and updates, people may visit www.mass.gov/massdot or follow MassDOT on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/massdot](https://twitter.com/massdot).

LEE

MassDOT to hold Meadow Street Bridge Project hearing

LEE – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces a live virtual design public hearing will be hosted to present the design for the proposed replacement of the Meadow Street Bridge over Powder Mill Brook in Lee on Wednesday, Sept. 6 at 7 p.m.

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

The proposed project consists of the replacement of the single span steel stringer bridge and will not significantly change the existing geometric layout

of the roadway. However, the horizontal alignment will be slightly adjusted to improve the existing irregular roadway layout at the bridge and the vertical profile will be raised to accommodate the proposed bridge structure.

The existing bridge span will be lengthened to 64 feet to provide a wider hydraulic opening for Powder Mill Brook and bend scour counter measures will be installed. Shared use accommodations consisting of a wide travel lane have been provided in accordance with applicable design guides.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer,

via e-mail to massdotmajorprojects@dot.state.ma.us or via U.S. Mail to Suite 7210, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Major Projects, Project File No. 607597.

Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten business days after the hearing is hosted.

This hearing on Sept. 6 is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g. interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available.

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

Registration for the virtual meeting can be found by visiting https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3Pc6Rm-RX6HtmAFelZETQ#/registration.

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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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PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413)586-8500
Docket No. HS23P0519EA
Estate of:
Gaylon R Donovan
Also known as:
Gale Donovan
Date of Death: 07/10/2023
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Mary Senatore of Huntington, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Mary Senatore of Huntington, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/20/2023.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsuper-

vised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Diana S. Velez Harris**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 25, 2023

Michael J. Carey
Register of Probate
08/31/2023

Chester Conservation Commission Legal Notice Public Hearing

The Chester Conservation Commission will be holding a public hearing on **Monday, September 18, 2023 at 5:30 PM** at the Chester Town Hall, 15 Middlefield Rd Chester MA to review a Notice of Intent (NOI) submitted by **Fuss & O'Neill, Inc** on behalf of **Trout Unlimited (Applicant)**.

The proposed project is for the **Kinne Brook Tributary Culvert Replacement**, an **Ecological Restoration Project** located at **Kinnebrook Road (42.33605, -72.91693)** in **Chester, Massachusetts**. The majority of the project will occur within the **Kinnebrook Road right-of-way**, with a portion of the work on the adjacent parcel, located at **250 Kinnebrook Road**, owned by the **Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife**. The proposed project includes the removal of the undersized culvert on **Kinnebrook Road**, replacement with a large open-bottom structure which meets **Massachusetts Stream Crossing Standards**, and restoration for full fish passage. Once completed, the project will restore aquatic and riparian habitat connectivity and enhance riverine function.

This hearing is in accordance of **M.G.L. c. 131 §40** of the **Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act**.
08/31/2023

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) of the Town of Huntington will hold 2 public hearings on **September 19, 2023 beginning at 7:00 pm** in **Stanton Hall**.

The first Public Hearing is scheduled for 7:00 pm for the Special Permit Application of **Dale Rogers DBA Gray Catbird Pottery & Gift Shop**, under several **Huntington Zoning Bylaw Sections** including **IV.D.: Use Regulations; Non-Residential Uses on Lots Not Also Used for Residence, IV.I: Signs, and V: Special Permits** at **22 East Main Street, Assessors Map # H-2, parcel 101-0** in a portion of the **Huntington Shoppes complex**.

The second Public Hearing is scheduled for 7:30 pm for the Special Permit Application of **David Baillargeon** under **Huntington Zoning Bylaw Sections IV.J: Earth Removal and V: Special Permits** to operate an **Earth Removal Operation** at **3 Thomas Road, Assessors Map # H-3, parcel 4-0** at the site of his former **Earth Removal Operation**.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
TOWN OF HUNTINGTON
08/31, 09/07/2023

Country Journal
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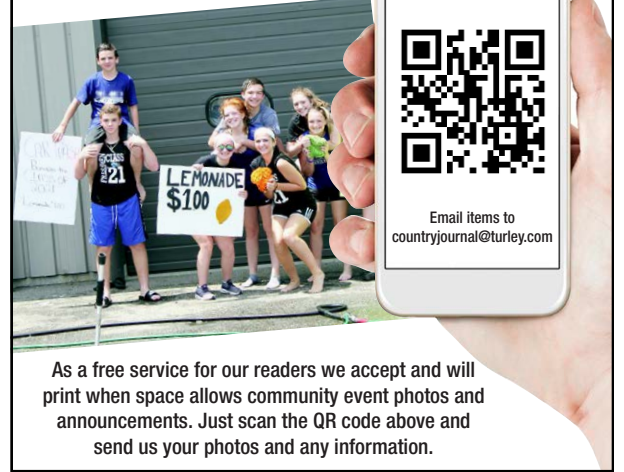
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Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to ekennedy@turley.com

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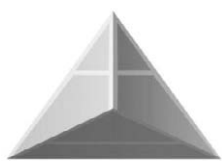
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Friday, September 1

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Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to ekennedy@turley.com

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