

Districts make funding pleas

At request of Youth Commission, state education boss hears from students, administrators demanding change



Patrick Tutwiler, education secretary for Massachusetts, laughs with Helen Tejirian, a Northampton High School student and member of the Northampton Youth Commission. The commission organized and hosted Tutwiler’s visit to NHS on Tuesday to discuss school funding.

By ALEXANDER MACDOUGALL
Staff Writer

INSIDE
Budget negotiators will decide whether to start ed funding talks.
Story, B5

NORTHAMPTON — School districts across the Pioneer Valley made their case for more support to rural and western school districts, appealing directly before Massachusetts Secretary of Education Patrick Tutwiler during a visit he made to Northampton High School on Tuesday.

Tutwiler made the trek from Boston to Northampton at the request of the Northampton Youth Commission, an official city body consisting of high

school students that advocates for youth in the city. The commission had previously met with Tutwiler in the Boston office of state Sen. Jo Comerford in December.

For an hour, students and administrators from seven local school districts presented to Tutwiler the particular needs facing their districts. Those districts were Northampton Public Schools, Hatfield Public Schools, Hadley Public Schools, Pioneer Valley Regional School District, Hampshire Regional School District, Gateway Regional School District, and Amherst-Pelham Regional School District.

Superintendent E. Xiomara Herman of the Amherst-Pelham district told Tutwiler that the district was facing a “breaking point” where expenses were rapidly outpacing school revenue. According to Herman, the school district com-

bined with the elementary schools in Amherst and Pelham faced a combined deficit of \$2.7 million.

“This shortfall is not a result of poor fiscal planning or fiscal irresponsibility,” Herman said. “It’s a result of cost increases that are becoming impossible to absorb without structural state support.”

In particular focus was the state’s formula for distributing funds to different school districts, known as Chapter 70 funding. Districts in Hampshire County have long expressed concern that they’ve been underfunded by the state, with Northampton saying less than a quarter of its funding comes from the commonwealth.

Northampton Youth Commission Vice Chair

SEE TUTWILER B5

HADLEY

Russell School rehab pegged at \$8M

Architects present town with range of options

By SCOTT MERZBACH
Staff Writer

HADLEY — An historic school building in town center that has been vacant for a decade could be rehabilitated into micro apartments, office space or classrooms and art studios at a cost of less than \$10 million, according to a report presented to the Select Board last week.

“There’s work that needs to be done on the Russell School. However, it is a strong building, one that is ripe for redevelopment, and one that we think should have a future in this town, from our perspective,” said Jake Sanders, project executive for the nonprofit Architectural Heritage Foundation, or AHF Boston, of Brighton.

AHF Boston, working with Allegrone Companies of Lenox, a design/build company with a struc-

SEE RUSSELL B5

GRANBY

Students getting a return to music

After program disintegrated during pandemic, classes take stage again

By EMILEE KLEIN
Staff Writer

GRANBY — It’s been six years since all of Granby’s East Meadow School students graced the stage to perform choral and instrumental music for their community, but the spotlight will soon shine on their faces once again.

On Thursday at 6 p.m., students in kindergarten through third grade will sing a selection of songs, either two full songs or four song segments, for their friends and family. The following evening, the older cohort of students in fourth, fifth and sixth grades will perform a selection of choral music and join the junior high

school band for a selection of songs. The event is free for all to attend. Bombyx Center of the Arts has donated microphones for the show.

“It’s definitely going to be a big learning experience, and I think, a very joyful one,” East Meadow Choral Director Will Lynch said.

Granby’s small but mighty music program collapsed during the pandemic: of all the students who performed at the last music concert in 2019, only two have continued to play their instruments at Granby Junior Senior High School.

Bob Castellano, director of music for the district and retired music director in Amherst and Pelham for 32 years, said the departure of the music directors, combined with the social isolation during the



Kyla Houle and Cora Bahlke, students at East Meadow School in Granby, during a percussion class taught by Bob Castellano.

SEE MUSIC A7

WEATHER TODAY

Sunny, pleasant; 78/55
Page A2

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TODAY



High: 78

Pleasant with clouds and sun
Wind: S 6-12 mph


TONIGHT



Low: 55

Cloudy with a few showers late
Wind: SSE 4-8 mph


THURSDAY



High: 66
Low: 57

Cloudy, showers around; not as warm
Wind: NNE 6-12 mph


FRIDAY



High: 73
Low: 57

Warmer with a brief shower or two
Wind: W 4-8 mph


SATURDAY



High: 67
Low: 50

Cloudy with a couple of showers
Wind: NW 7-14 mph


SUNDAY



High: 65
Low: 45

Intervals of clouds and sunshine
Wind: W 8-16 mph

MONDAY



High: 70
Low: 48

Mostly sunny and nice
Wind: W 6-12 mph

Almanac

Westfield through 3 p.m. Tuesday

Temperature

High/low79°/43°
Normal high/low74°/50°
Record high90° in 2011
Record low39° in 2013

Precipitation

24 hrs ending 3 p.m. Tue.Trace
Year to date18.85"
Normal year to date16.01"

Today's UV Index

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1

3

6

6

3

2

8 am 10am Noon 2 pm 4 pm 6 pm

0-2 Low 3-5 Moderate 6-7 High 8-10 Very High 11+ Extreme

RealFeel Temperature

61

69

77

82

77

72

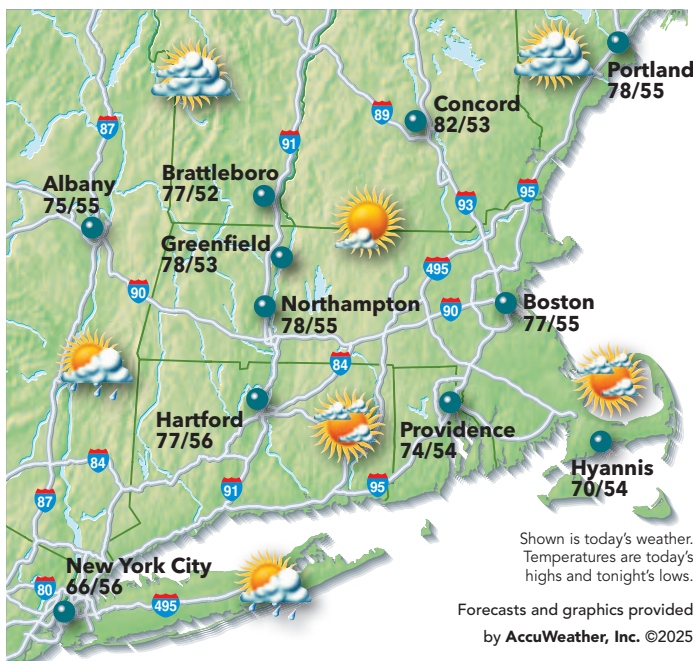
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A tornado 100-yards wide caused \$100,000 damage at Allentown, Pa., on May 28, 1896. The same system killed 306 people in St. Louis, Mo., a day earlier.

The Region



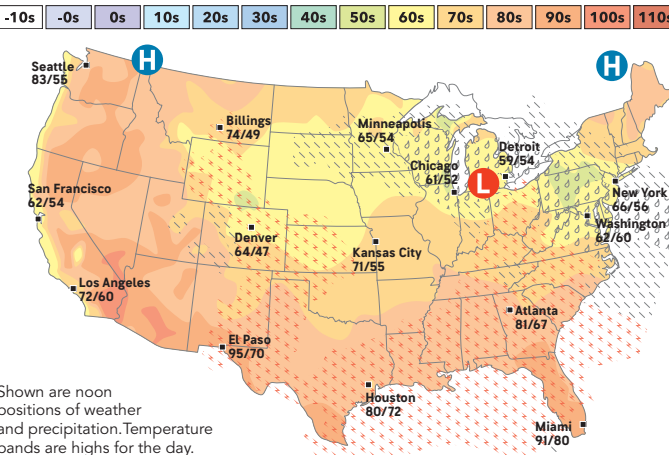
Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2025

City	Today	Hi	Lo	W	Thu.	Hi	Lo	W
Burlington	81	58	c	68	57	sh		
Cape Cod	73	54	pc	64	58	sh		
Chicopee	77	55	pc	67	58	sh		
Greenfield	78	53	pc	67	57	sh		
Holyoke	76	55	pc	67	56	sh		
Lowell	80	54	pc	68	57	sh		
Manchester	81	57	pc	67	57	sh		
Nashua	81	54	pc	66	57	sh		
New Bedford	74	55	pc	66	57	sh		

City	Today	Hi	Lo	W	Thu.	Hi	Lo	W
New Haven	69	59	sh	66	61	sh		
N. Adams, MA	75	54	sh	68	58	sh		
Montpelier	77	52	c	63	54	sh		
Pawtucket	74	53	pc	65	57	sh		
Rutland	73	53	pc	64	54	sh		
Springfield	77	54	pc	65	57	sh		
Waterbury	72	55	sh	67	57	sh		
W. Warwick	75	53	pc	64	57	sh		
Worcester	73	53	pc	63	57	sh		

The Nation



Shown are noon positions of weather and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

T-storms Rain Showers Snow Flurries Ice Cold Warm Stationary

City	Today	Hi	Lo	W	Thu.	Hi	Lo	W
Atlanta	81	67	t	77	67	t		
Baltimore	63	59	r	79	64	t		
Boston	77	55	pc	65	59	sh		
Buffalo	66	55	r	62	51	pc		
Chicago	61	52	r	71	53	sh		
Cincinnati	72	54	t	74	57	c		
Cleveland	64	55	t	66	53	sh		
Dallas	82	68	t	82	63	t		
Denver	64	47	t	67	49	t		
Detroit	59	54	sh	67	54	c		
Honolulu	87	71	s	88	74	pc		
Houston	80	72	t	86	72	t		
Indianapolis	70	53	sh	72	55	sh		
Kansas City	71	55	pc	69	51	sh		
Las Vegas	99	76	s	102	76	pc		

City	Today	Hi	Lo	W	Thu.	Hi	Lo	W
Los Angeles	72	60	pc	78	62	pc		
Miami	91	80	t	91	76	t		
Minneapolis	65	54	sh	74	58	pc		
Nashville	80	64	t	78	62	t		
New Orleans	84	75	t	85	74	t		
New York	66	56	sh	70	61	sh		
Philadelphia	61	57	r	75	60	sh		
Phoenix	104	77	s	104	79	pc		
Pittsburgh	65	56	r	72	54	sh		
Portland, OR	87	56	s	70	51	c		
St. Louis	78	60	pc	72	58	sh		
Salt Lake City	89	65	pc	90	65	s		
San Francisco	62	54	pc	69	53	sh		
Seattle	83	55	s	64	50	sh		
Wash., DC	62	60	r	77	65	t		

Cooling Degree Days

Tuesday0
Month to date (norm)29 (31)
Since Jan. 1 (norm)37 (31)
Degree days are an indicator of energy needs. The more the total degree days, the more energy is necessary to cool.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today5:19 a.m.
Sunset today8:18 p.m.
Total daylight14 hr, 59 min.
Moonrise today6:09 a.m.
Moonset today10:46 p.m.

First

Full

Last

New

June 2

June 11

June 18

June 25

Tonight's Sky

The two brightest stars these nights are Vega and Arcturus. Vega starts its climb low in the northeast. Arcturus is higher in the southeast. Arcturus crests two-thirds of the way up in the south before 11 p.m.

- Patrick Rowan

A LOOK BACK

50 Years Ago

■ In Hampshire County, as in most other parts of the country, more families are headed by women than ever before. In 1970, when the last census was taken, it was found that 2,402 local families, or 9 percent of the total, were headed by women. It is now estimated that the proportion in Hampshire County is now approximately 10.4 percent.

■ A publication party, to announce the release of "Northampton Massachusetts Architecture & Buildings" by William L. MacDonald, will be held Thursday at the Autumn Inn. The party is sponsored by the Northampton Bicentennial Publication Committee.

25 Years Ago

■ Elizabeth Sadlowski retires from her job next week, after 31 years as the manager of the police records system, taking with her a store of facts hard to replace, colleagues say. With the longest tenure of any employee, Sadlowski "is one of the most valuable people in the police department," said Police Capt. Joseph Koncas.

■ The governor will be in Northampton this week to talk up Web-based technologies. Gov. Paul Cellucci will give the opening talk Thursday for a three-day conference on the Internet that organizers hope will be a model for other small communities.

10 Years Ago

■ L-3 KEO, Northampton's largest private-sector employer, has landed a \$48.7 million contract to develop and build a new, slimmer version of one of its products — a sensor similar to a periscope for attack submarines. The design will help U.S. submarines be less recognizable when traveling the world's oceans.

■ A \$1.5 million project is underway at Smith College to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility at West and Elm streets, and to refurbish the college's historic Greccourt Gates. The construction project — ex-

learning environment.

— The Associated Press

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AMHERST

Budget: Eight school positions in jeopardy

\$27M elementary spending plan would mean loss of teaching, paras and central office jobs

By SCOTT MERZBACH
Staff Writer

AMHERST — Eight staff positions across Amherst’s three elementary schools would be lost if a \$28.32 million budget, a 5% increase over

this year’s \$26.97 million budget, is adopted by the Town Council, according to school officials.

Finance Director Shannon Bernacchia told the Amherst School Committee at its May 20 meeting that the budget

currently recommended by Town Manager Paul Bockelman, a 4% increase with another 1% from free cash, falls short of the 6% increase, \$28.59 million budget, the committee endorsed. That budget had preserved all current staff who work directly with elementary school students.

The town manager’s budget is \$269,704 short of the 6% increase. Bernacchia said cutting this shortfall in half could make a big difference. “It

would be nice to see slightly more than 5%,” Bernacchia said.

She explained that the problem is unknowns that may come up, including whether another fifth-grade teacher will be needed at Wildwood School. While the budget includes a contingency for that \$70,000 expense, Bernacchia said there would be concern about using that money to make a hire at the beginning of the school year.

The staff positions that would be lost in the 5% budget

SEE AMHERST A5

A TRADITION ENDURES



STAFF PHOTO/CAROL LOLLIS

Beatrix O'Brien holds her doll, Levi, while Carly Marburger helps attach a Forget-Me-Not Poppy on the doll's arm as they wait for the Florence Memorial Day parade to start on Monday morning.

NEAR RIGHT: Marchers in the Florence Memorial Day Parade on Monday morning.

FAR RIGHT: Hugo Pritchard with his mother, Emily Pritchard, wave as the Florence Memorial Day Parade goes by Monday morning.



AREA BRIEFS

HCC recognizes faculty and staff at awards ceremony

HOLYOKE — Holyoke Community College English Professor Elizabeth Trobaugh of Amherst is the recipient of the 2025 Elaine Marieb Faculty Chair for Teaching Excellence Award, HCC’s highest faculty honor.

As this year’s awardee, she will lead the procession of graduates and give the keynote faculty address at

the college’s 78th Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 31 at the MassMutual Center in Springfield.

The award was one of six presented during HCC’s annual, end-of-the-year staff and faculty awards ceremony on Wednesday, May 21.

“I’d like to thank everyone at the college for creating the ecosystem that allows me to do what I love so much, which is to be in the classroom with

SEE BRIEFS A7

DEERFIELD ACADEMY

Find ‘structure and spontaneity’

Commencement marks next chapter for 207 graduates

By SAM FERLAND
For the Gazette

DEERFIELD — Deerfield Academy’s 207 graduates were urged to be who they are, fearlessly, by a commencement speaker who seized the opportunity of a lifetime.

When he was a boy, Henry R. Kravis, co-founder and co-executive chairman of a leading global investment firm, Kohlberg

Kravis Roberts & Co., attended middle school down the road from Deerfield Academy at Eaglebrook School. On Sunday, he gave a commencement speech to Deerfield Academy’s 2025 graduates, with his grandson, Theodore Kravis Schulhof, as part of the graduating class.

Kravis roused the graduates to embark on their next step with three key virtues: courage, curiosity and independence.

“We tend to think of courage in terms of danger or challenges, but courage is really about doing what’s right,” Kravis said.

SEE DEERFIELD A5

PLAINFIELD

New pot cultivator pitches for site

Michigan native buys spot on Broom St. in hopes of launching growing business

By SAMUEL GELINAS
Staff Writer

PLAINFIELD — Michigan native, former Mandarin and economics double major and experienced marijuana cultivator Daniel Till introduced himself to Plainfield last week shortly after buying 45 acres in town for a proposed outdoor marijuana cultivation business.

During an open forum held at Town Hall last Thursday with 10 residents in attendance, Till pitched his business plan for Farm Plainfield LLC at his new property on 27 Broom St. The property is located next door to an existing marijuana cultivation business at 28 Broom St. called High Plains Farm.

“What I am requesting is to do a Tier 11 permit, which allows me to have 100,000 square feet of canopy,” Till said.

The property, which Till bought for \$500,000 from Martin Downey, complies with state laws governing cannabis cultivators with regards to zoning and distance from a school. Minimal development will be necessary on the site, said Till. Legally, he will be required to enclose his growing spaces with a fence. But as for the rest of the property, he said that other buildings and infrastructure currently suit his business’s needs.

Resident Kare Marshall, who is running unopposed for a Select Board seat in Saturday’s town election, questioned how Till would handle the smell that comes with growing marijuana. She noted that the odor emanating from High Plains Farm is at times “nauseating.”

Till, who has been in the business for a decade, said he would plant rows of buffer crops between his marijuana plants and the fence enclosure, rather than using aerosols or other artificial ways to limit odor. It’s a method he uses at an outdoor farm in Michigan. Till said he will choose plants that flower in the fall to cancel out the smell of the marijuana plants, which are the most odorous in late summer and early fall.

Additionally, Till said he will opt avoids using harsh chemicals for fertilizers and pesticides, and instead chooses natural solutions, like using bacteria to ward of pathogens.

A house on the property dating from 1783, which is featured on the official town seal, will remain.

“There is no intention of knocking

SEE POT A5

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OBITUARIES

Jane Mast Frey

HOLYOKE, MA — Jane Frey lived an extraordinary life of commitment to justice, beauty, community, and love. Growing up in Wadsworth, Ohio, she was deeply influenced by the pacifist teachings and egalitarian culture of the Mennonite Church. Her first protest was as a little girl, against the town’s efforts to cut down the old trees lining the street of her neighborhood. While she only blocked their chainsaws for a few hours, she negotiated a promise to plant new trees in their place. At 13, after moving to Lake Forest, Illinois, her fire was further ignited, and she convinced her mother to regularly drive her to local protests against the Vietnam War.



In high school she was introduced to the work of the United Farmworkers Union, who were endeavoring to improve the working and living conditions of migrant farmworkers in the United States. She was so inspired by the cause that at 17 she spent the summer in La Paz, California, learning to organize with the UFW, meeting Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, Joan Baez and many other inspiring leaders. It was there she began to understand the relationship between community organizing and culture, and the fundamental necessity of using food, music, art, and joy as the bonding force of movement solidarity.

Jane began her higher education at Mount Holyoke College in 1973 before eventually graduating with a BA in elementary education from UMass Amherst in 1980. During this time, she continued her work with the UFW lettuce and grape boycott efforts in Cleveland, Boston, and Holyoke. Once back, she fell in with the notorious 15 Hamilton Street crowd. This amazing group of friends living, playing, and organizing together became the basis of her social and political life for years to come. It was there she befriended the Sisters of St. Joseph, who were also dedicated to community work in the Flats and South Holyoke. She helped start community gardens, joined the efforts of New Unity (a worker-empowerment organization based in Springfield), helped start Womenshelter/Compañeras (a sanctuary for abused women), along with numerous other community activities. It was during this era that she met and married Carlos Vega and became stepmother to his son Aaron.

After her son Jesse was born in 1978, she was inspired to become a nurse-midwife – both as a personal calling to meaningful work and to address the racially charged crises in prenatal care, infant mortality, and teenage pregnancy in Holyoke.

She received her nursing degree from Springfield Technical Community College in 1983 and her MSN in nurse-midwifery from Yale University in 1985, the same year her son Nicolás was born. She proceeded to help create a dynamic midwifery practice in Holyoke with a devoted team of beloved compatriots that served the community for many years. Jane estimated that she delivered over a thousand babies during her career as a nurse-midwife.

Over the ensuing years, Jane’s life developed in many beautiful directions. She participated in various choirs: the Amanda Chorus, the Hampshire Choral Society, the Warren Plaut Memorial Singers, the Frey Family Christmas Choir, and, perhaps most influentially, Jane Sapp’s Community Chorus. She traveled extensively through Latin America and Europe, even into the final year of her life. She always relished the opportunity to eat new foods, see more art, and experience the richness of human culture. She loved walking and hiking through natural and urban environments with friends and family across Western Massachusetts and around the world. She was a school nurse at Smith Vocational High School for several years and a long-time board member of the Carlos Vega Fund for Social Justice. All the while, she enjoyed working in her garden, decorating her home, and cooking delicious food for her family and friends.

Jane died far too young and will be missed beyond measure. In these final years, she refused to call cancer a “journey.” She felt it was cancer that was preventing her from her desire to keep exploring, learning, and sharing in the goodness of this great earth with all the people she encountered in it. She did everything she believed she could to push back against its journey-dampening force. It was yet another opportunity to protest, and in that determined effort she refused to lose her humanity and commitment to beauty and goodness.

Jane leaves behind her beloved children, siblings Mary and John, cherished friends, devoted colleagues, and countless loved ones. She would want us all to carry forward with determination her ethic of joy, beauty, and kindness in the world. ¡Hasta la victoria siempre!

A memorial service will be held in late September. In lieu of flowers, she asked that friends please make a donation to the Carlos Vega Fund for Social Justice. <https://carlosvega-fund.org/>

Learn more about the history of midwifery in Holyoke, here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e2BuZ3ll-xA>

Maureen Barron

FLORENCE, MA — The family of Maureen McGuiness Barron of Florence is saddened to share her passing on May 16, 2025. Maureen was born on January 14,1931 to Desmond and Amy (Thomas) McGuiness in Washington Village, Tyne and Wear, England. She spent her childhood with sisters Sheila and Patricia, attended local schools, and had as normal a childhood as possible during World War II. Maureen went on to work in Fenwick’s Department Store in Newcastle, working in dress making and later in the hardware department. Through her apprenticeship she became an accomplished seamstress, a skill she practiced and honed for many years. Maureen met her husband, Francis (Frank) Barron, while he was in the U.S. Navy. They married in 1953 and moved to London, where he was stationed. There, Maureen enjoyed the theater and musicals, and spending time with friends. She truly loved living in London. During their time in London, Frank and Maureen welcomed their first son, Christopher. They moved to the U.S. in 1954 and settled in Florence, where the family grew to include sons Glenn and Stuart. As her sons grew, Maureen found employment at Lilly Library and then Forbes Library, where she also was a fixture on the popular Bookmobile, visiting many city neighborhoods. Maureen was an avid reader and enjoyed working in the libraries, as well as her enduring friendships with other staff. Maureen was a gifted painter, knitter and seamstress, often making many of her own outfits. She shined brightest through her skill and dedication as a gardener. She was proud of her yard with extensive flower beds and the addition of a pond. She had a particular ability to make roses thrive. She was frequently in her garden at first light, tending to the smallest detail and keeping the beds immaculate. Equally, she would savor the view with a book and her ever-present cup of tea. She enjoyed old movies and any program from the U.K. However, she most enjoyed a wide variety of music, ranging from standards to country. She had a particular affection for the song” Always” and would sing along whenever she heard it. She had a lovely voice. Maureen and Frank liked to travel around the US, with the east coast and Cape Cod as favorites. They returned to England several times, and in later years, she made a pilgrimage to Lourdes in France with her sisters. A



wonderfully talented cook and baker, Maureen would prepare traditional English holiday meals. Her abundance of special cookies, cakes and miniature pies at Christmas made every year memorable for her children and grandchildren. Maureen was an elegant woman, always well dressed. She was funny and enjoyed invigorating conversation. She would often tell stories of growing up in Northern England, especially what life was like for her family during the War. She was much loved and respected by those who knew her and will be deeply missed. Maureen’s family extends their gratitude to the staff at The Gardens at Rockridge for the exceptionally kind care she received. Special thanks also go to the volunteers and activities staff for the musical therapy and sing-alongs that gave her so much joy. Maureen was predeceased by her husband, Francis, her son Christopher, and her sister Sheila. She is survived by her son Glenn and his wife, Ilse, of Florence, and son Stuart of Woodinville, WA, as well as grandsons Ian and Nathan Barron of Florence, and sister Patricia Willis of Stowe, MA, and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. Calling hours for Maureen will be held at AHEARN FUNERAL HOME, 783 Bridge Road, Northampton on Friday, May 30, 2025, from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. with a Religious Service at 1:00 P.M. at the Funeral Home. A private burial to reunite Maureen with her beloved husband at the Veteran’s Cemetery in Agawam will take place at a future date. Donations in Maureen’s memory may be made to Shriners’s Hospital for Children, Springfield Unit 516 Carew St. Springfield, MA.01104 or Northampton Survival Center, 265 Prospect St., Northampton, MA 01060.

Ahearn
Cremation & Funeral Services
Celebrating Life...

Christopher “Chris” Barron

NORTHAMPTON, MA — Christopher “Chris” Barron, 69, passed away October 16, 2024, at Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton following a heart attack. Chris was born in London England January 26, 1954, to Francis & Maureen (McGuiness) Barron. He grew up in Northampton and Florence and attended local schools. Growing up in Florence he enjoyed his times with his friends and the many outdoor activities. As a youth he was very creative in art and music., He was fascinated in science and technology, would build models, draw, carve, and paint. He also enjoyed rebuilding motorcycles. He studied neural networks for years and anticipated the AI revolution. Chris was a vegetarian and loved animals, often bringing them home - including our beloved family dog. He traveled throughout the US, lived in St Thomas and later in Florida, eventually

returning to Florence. Chris was self-taught in metal works, painting, carving, engraving, and jewelry making. He ran jewelry businesses in Florence and Amherst and taught jewelry making. Chris had a sardonic wit, an artist’s personality and was never shy with his opinions. He was enthusiastic in conversation and was always full of ideas. He was a unique and memorable individual and will be missed. Chris is survived by his siblings, Glenn and his wife, Ilse, of Florence, and son Stuart of Woodinville, WA, as well as nephews Ian and Nathan Barron of Florence, Aunt Patricia Willis of Stowe, MA, as well as numerous other nieces, nephews and cousins. The family observed private services for Chris. Memorial donations may be made to local animal shelter or the ASPCA.

Ahearn
Cremation & Funeral Services
Celebrating Life...

Waino Tuominen

HUNTINGTON, MA — Waino Tuominen, in the words of his son, was a lifelong conservationist and do gooder. He died from complications related to cancer on May 11, 2025, after a full and colorful life. He was 82.

Born in Fall River, Massachusetts, Waino spent his young adult years roaming places like California and Mexico. But when he settled in Huntington in the early 1970s, it was clear that he’d found home.

He embarked on a life of stewarding land, caring for animals, and serving his community. Waino was drawn to labor; his varied jobs included work as a trail builder, farrier, stone wall builder, and dairy farm laborer. He called himself a large animal man and, besides milking the cows, he enjoyed tending horses for neighbors and friends. He also helped with seasonal work, preferably outdoors, close to home, and for people he liked to visit with.

Waino had a strong moral code that was deeply rooted in the environment. He lived by the tenets of “voluntary simplicity,” “small is beautiful,” and “think globally, act locally.” And he put these ideas into practice daily by encouraging recycling everywhere he went even, to the amusement of his friends, by separating out the component parts of used tea bags (compost, metal, paper, string) so that each element could be returned to the earth or reused.

At the family camp in Maine, Waino could live off the grid and enjoy being in nature with his partner Linda and their extended family and friends. Here, and everywhere, Waino walked gently on the earth. Younger people were drawn



to his principled practices and deep knowledge, joining a large community of local friends who regularly stopped by the Huntington house or gathered for seasonal bonfires.

In the community, Waino served for many years on the Huntington Conservation Commission, the Hilltown Land Trust Board of Directors, and the Goshen Food Pantry. He supported more conservation groups than there is room to name.

In addition to Linda Siska, his life partner of 48 years, Waino leaves his son Waino Tuominen III, his sister Linda Harris and family, sister-in-law Lois Siska, brother-in-law Bill Yamartino and his beloved nieces and nephews, Sheila, Jillian, Daniel and Gabriel Yamartino, their families and many good friends. If happiness is defined by the relationships one builds in one’s life, it is why Waino was a deeply contented man.

A small family service to honor him will be held soon. A larger celebration of life will follow at a later date. For those who would like to honor him, please plant a tree or make a contribution to an environmental organization of choice.

John C. Burns

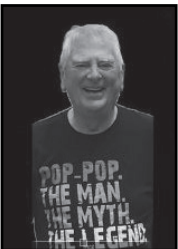
DENNIS PORT, MA — The Bear has left his den...

John C. Burns, July 28, 1947- May 19, 2025.

John was the son of Charles and Helen (Gradnitzer) Burns. He leaves behind a daughter, Barbara her husband, Doug, grandchildren Joey and Emily, in Florida and a granddaughter Ariel in New Hampshire and her family. He was especially proud of his cousin and lifelong friend Robert, his wife Norma, and their children and grandchildren.

He was a force of nature beloved by many for his huge heart, quick wit, golf swing, and mad cribbage skills. You would be blessed if you greeted the day with a bear meme, and if he turned a photo into a meme, it’s something to be treasured always.

His early life was spent in Easthampton MA. In later years, he lived in Westfield, MA, Wallingford, CT and he eventually retired to the family home on Cape Cod. He was a police volunteer, kept the grounds of his favorite golf course pristine, (And as the spirit moved him,



John held other jobs at various times such as a handyman, an analyst at Connecticut General,

one the management staff at Bradlees, Hinkley’s Hardware, and at Aluminum Products. He was always willing to lend a hand to his Cape Cod neighbors, whatever the issue.)

At his request, no funeral will take place. A party to celebrate his life will take place at a later date. Remembrances can be made in the form of a donation to either Freedom Ride: freedomride.com/donate or Cheyne Ranch: <http://chra.us/give>. Both are equine assisted therapy facilities that were near and dear to his heart.

He wanted everyone who knew and loved him to know that they were loved in return. For those who he was not in contact with, his wishes were clearly expressed by the instructions he provided. For online condolences, please visit www.hallettfuneralhome.com



Michael Link

WAYNESBURG, KY — Michael Link, age 81, passed Thursday, May 8, 2025.

Gathering of Family and Friends will be held on Saturday, June7th from 1-4pm at the

Funeral Home. The Graham Funeral Home, 18 Adams Street in Easthampton, has been entrusted with local services.

Nancy G. (Belcher) First

LEEDS, MA — Nancy G. First, age 95, passed Friday, May 23, 2025.

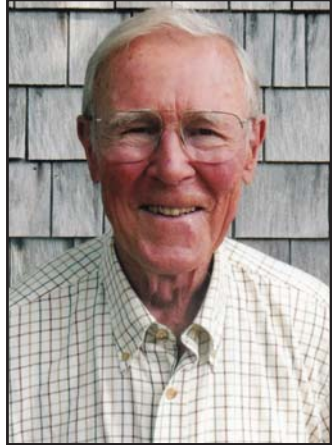
A Memorial Service to celebrate Nancy’s life will be an-

nounced and a complete obituary is forthcoming. AHEARN FUNERAL HOME is entrusted with arrangements.

Charles Longworth

CONCORD, MA — The family of Charles R. Longworth will celebrate his life at a memorial service on Saturday May 31, 2025 at 2 p.m. at the South Amherst Congregational Church, 1066 South East Street, Amherst, MA 01002, followed by a reception at the church. In addition, the service will be livestreamed in real time at amherstsouthchurch.org/recorded-worship.

For his full obituary, please visit www.DeeFuneralHome.com.



Mildred “Millie” Donahoe

AMHERST, MA — Mildred Donahoe, age 93, passed Thursday, March 20, 2025.

For those of you that knew and loved Millie, and/or her husband and children, please join us for a tribute to her on

Saturday, June 14th, in the Amherst Room at the UMass Campus Center from 3- 6pm. Please prepare to share any “Millie stories”. Refreshments and a cash bar will be provided. Pay garage parking available.

Deerfield Academy graduates 207

DEERFIELD FROM A3

“The courage to stand up for your beliefs, even when they’re unpopular. The courage to defend ideas that matter to you. The courage to explore the unknown and the courage to make difficult and personal decisions.”

Kravis shared a story of when he was a summer intern in 1967 working at the Madison Fund in New York. He was tasked to fly to Los Angeles by himself to meet with Roy Disney, the brother of Walt Disney. Kravis studied numerous financial statements to prepare for the meeting, which was planned to last one hour.

“Quite frankly I was nervous, intimidated and frighteningly scared,” Kravis said about the meeting. “But fear and complaining were not an option because I soon realized what a great opportunity I had been given.”

Kravis’ laborious preparation paid off. Halfway through the meeting, Roy Disney invited Kravis to shadow him for the rest of the day and join him for his next meetings.

Kravis said he shared that story because, “It shows that you get as much out of anything as you put in. It’s not a question of a glass half full or



Henry R. Kravis, co-founder and co-executive chairman of global investment firm Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co., speaks at Deerfield Academy’s commencement ceremony on Sunday.

half empty. Be grateful that you have a glass and make sure that you have the courage and the motivation to fill it to the brim.”

Head of School John Austin gave welcoming remarks to the audience.

“As I look out at you ... I see joy and challenge, resilience in the face of setback, openness and excitement for new adventure,” Austin said. “I see all the qualities of spirit and character and brilliance that have made this year such a great one, this

community such a strong one, and your class such a decisive and defining one.”

Senior addresses were given by graduates Kabir Sheth and Chloe Xue, who spoke about their love for Deerfield Academy and reminisced on fond memories they made with friends.

“Deerfield is special because it embodies a beautiful blend of both structure and spontaneity,” Sheth said. “The Class of 2025, seek out and foster this blend in your future en-

deavors — it’ll make a huge difference. Like any institution, like anything at all, Deerfield is imperfect but it is beautiful, it is real, it is ours.”

Franklin County graduates

Julian Abreu, Deerfield; Penley Day, Greenfield; Kiefer Ebling, South Deerfield; Evan Galli, Deerfield; Rowan Howes, Whately; Daphne Huang, Deerfield; MacGregor Hynds, Deerfield; Allison Kostiuk, Deerfield; Gunnar Moore, Conway; Benjamin Sackrey, Sunderland; Ari Santos, Greenfield; Gracie Spencer, Deerfield; Thomas Unkles, Sunderland.

Hampshire County graduates

Elannah Brennan, Amherst; Ava Carvel, Amherst; Sasha Diamond, Amherst; Casey Kittredge, Amherst; Luka Kokosadze, Northampton; Yoonsa Lee, Amherst; Xavier Salomon-Fernandez, Amherst; Cori Scagel, Hatfield; Jonathan Scagel, Hatfield; Jacob Sullivan, Northampton; Elena Tskhvitaria, Northampton.

Hampden County graduates

Thomas McMahon, Longmeadow; Connor Niemiec, Westfield; Janet Ogbeiwi, Springfield; Mary O’Shea, Longmeadow; Loulla Rousou, Longmeadow; Edward Woytowicz, Longmeadow.



Daniel Till pitches his business plan for Farm Plainfield LLC, a proposed outdoor marijuana cultivation space at his new property on 27 Broom St., at an open forum at Town Hall last week.

New pot cultivator pitches plans for site

POT FROM A3

that house down,” said Till. “In fact, I would like to fix up the roof to make sure that water stops getting into it so that, one day, it could be rehabilitated to a point of getting an occupancy permit.”

He also said he hopes to benefit the community, and one of these ways would be by an annual donation to the town’s Historical Society, “to help maintain whatever historical sites are within Plainfield and the neighboring communities,” he said.

The work involved in his process includes growing and processing the cannabis plants into rosin, an extract, which he in turn sells to manufacturers who infuse his product into vapes or other dispensary grade products.

Till grew up outside Detroit and attended Michigan State University, graduating in 2009 with degrees in both Mandarin and economics. He later studied abroad in Beijing.

“I was ready to stay there with the intention of importing stuff,” he said, adding that China’s excessive pollution “was a little too much for me.”

Till also owns a marijuana packaging company, selling glasses, containers and other supplies used by dispensaries. The business is based in Michigan, but the workshops for his products are in China.

He also explained how, in his searching around the country, Massachusetts eventually became his “No. 1 candidate” in which to start a new cultivation farm, which he said was an extremely difficult and competitive process.

After looking at local ordinances, available sites and state laws, and later making several visits to the state, he bought the listing at 27 Broom St.

The next step in the process before planting can begin will be to sign a community host agreement with the town, Till said.

Samuel Gelinas can be reached at sgelinas@gazettenet.com.

Amherst ES budget puts eight jobs in jeopardy

AMHERST FROM A3

proposal include some employees who work directly with students, including a kindergarten teacher at Crocker Farm School that had been added to this year’s budget, a kindergarten paraprofessional at Crocker Farm that also had been added to this year’s budget, a Caminantes paraprofessional at Fort River School and an English language learners paraprofessional.

But 3.4 full-time equivalents would be cut from the central office, as a result of restructuring, and there would also be a loss of a special education district secretary.

Bernacchia said if there is an influx of

new students in kindergarten it might be necessary to restore both the Crocker Farm paraeducator and a classroom teacher. Enrollment numbers for the fall semester are not yet known.

The 5% budget, though, does restore three special education academic teachers, one at each school, and reinstates full-time specialists at all three schools, meaning art, music, physical education and library will not face a reduction in hours.

“These would all stay the same for FY26,” Bernacchia said.

To maintain all existing services, the elementary schools would have needed a 9.3%, or \$2.51 million, increase to a \$29.48 million budget.

Chairwoman Jennifer Shiao read a statement about assessing needs of the school and the 6% was in line with that, even if over the 4% financial guidelines set by the Town Council and a later recommendation from councilors for a 5% budget increase. Shiao said she is concerned about the town’s Finance Committee members doing “budget second guessing” that undermines the role of the School Committee.

“This increase is not arbitrary, it is intentional and it is a direct response to rising costs, state-mandate requirements and the evolving needs of our student population,” Shiao said.

Scott Merzbach can be reached at smerzbach@gazettenet.com.

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GUEST COLUMN

TESTING: An invitation and challenge to the city

By CLAUDIA LEFKO

I had my own Officer Obie experience last week — as in Alice’s Restaurant Officer Obie. NPD Officer Jeff Staples knocked on our door: we’ve had a complaint about the street painting, he said.

Really, I replied, looking at the narrow, dangerously crumbling street and sidewalk in front of me. You’re telling me, that with roads and sidewalks in *this* condition, someone ... the DPW ... is concerned about some paint? When asked, I confessed that I’d painted “TESTING” and a few bright blue test squares on the street. We want to see if the acrylic house paint salvaged from a Williams Street giveaway will endure the weather and traffic, I explained. We want to use street art to calm traffic, brighten the neighborhood, build community spirit and connectivity.

Officer Staples was not impressed. It’s vandalism, he said and asked if I would promise not to paint again. You don’t want to end up in court, he said. I could not promise to not paint; it’s something our neigh-

borhood working group had (once again) agreed we wanted to do. It was, I said, at least for me, a kind of civil disobedience. One can carry out such deeds as littering (Officer Obie) and painting on a street (Officer Staples) if they’ve exhausted all other means of addressing a problem.

And we have indeed exhausted our options — trying for some 20 years to get the city to work with us to improve the walkability/moveability and traffic issues in Montview.

It’s been exactly 15 years since Montview Neighborhood Traffic Calming Request #5 was accepted by the Transportation and Parking Commission — May 19, 2009; the Engineering report on Nov. 17, 2009. The 45-page report/request was the culmination of three years of dedicated work by a neighborhood committee in collaboration with the city and DPW, to gather relevant information about traffic, speed and accidents. Also included were surveys of residents detailing concerns along with proposed solutions. The effort was precipitated by the construction

of 14 units — City View Apartments — built behind Williams Street with an entrance on Hockanum Road. There was some \$15,000 in traffic calming money attached to the project, which neighbors mistakenly thought was ours to be used to mitigate against the impact of the increased people, cars and traffic.

The original committee had five goals: lower traffic volume; encourage slower speeds; encourage/educate drivers to be more respectful; beautify the neighborhood; make the neighborhood safer; involve all neighbors in this and other projects to promote community, communication and solutions. After three years of substantive work, they submitted their ideas and a budget; it included among other things, \$2,800 for street/mural painting along with \$2,000 for upkeep of the painting and \$5,000 to paint on the railroad trestles on Holyoke Street and Hockanum Road. These ideas were rejected by the city, along with the idea to install a removable traffic circle at a dangerous intersection on Henry, Montview and Ventures Field Road

and the installation of two community bulletin boards. The painting would “not last,” the city said. And, the money wasn’t really ours to spend as it turns out. “The distribution of funds,” wrote Planning Director Misch (August 2024), “is based on data and need.” It “may” or, may not be used in the neighborhood where the project that generated the funds is located.

So, here we are, 15 years later and now in our third neighborhood working group: no farther ahead and with the real prospect that things will only continue to get worse for those of us living in this uniquely historic neighborhood — on the very edge of the city and yet also downtown. What is broken — our streets and sidewalks— it seems, will not be repaired, and “by-right” infill development, will put increasing pressure on that infrastructure, on our small meadow conservation land and on all things living here — plants, animals and people.

“TESTING” is a challenge and an invitation to the city to do what it has

not done in all these years: engage with the neighborhood(s), work with us. I suppose people could use their two minutes in public comment to sing a refrain from Alice’s Restaurant — whether its to resist house demolition in Bay State, development on View Avenue. or a 5-story apartment building in the small parking lot on Hawley Street. I think the council would get your intention. Or! You could paint TESTING on the street or sidewalk in your neighborhood. If enough people do it, as Arlo Guthrie says, they’ll think it’s a movement. And maybe the city’s planning department will abandon their top-down planning style and adopt what’s proven to be a more successful approach to planning: working with residents, taking advantage of the lived experience and expertise in the city.

“They’re going to send the DPW to paint over that with black paint,” said Officer Staples. Really? Maybe they’ll repave all of Montview.

Claudia Lefko lives in Northampton.

COLUMN

Smith College violated its own honor code, owes Evelyn Harris a public apology

My alma mater Smith College betrayed its own professed love of its honor code by writing and then publicizing its letter accusing Evelyn Harris of plagiarism in her acceptance speech for her honorary doctorate. Smith College hastily, with a singular goal toward shuffling unwanted negative publicity away from itself, chose to deliberately humiliate Evelyn by telling the world that she violated Smith’s academic standards by borrowing some of the words of others to encourage the new graduates to live their lives authentically. But Smith College deliberately and hypocritically omitted facts that would have painted a very different picture.



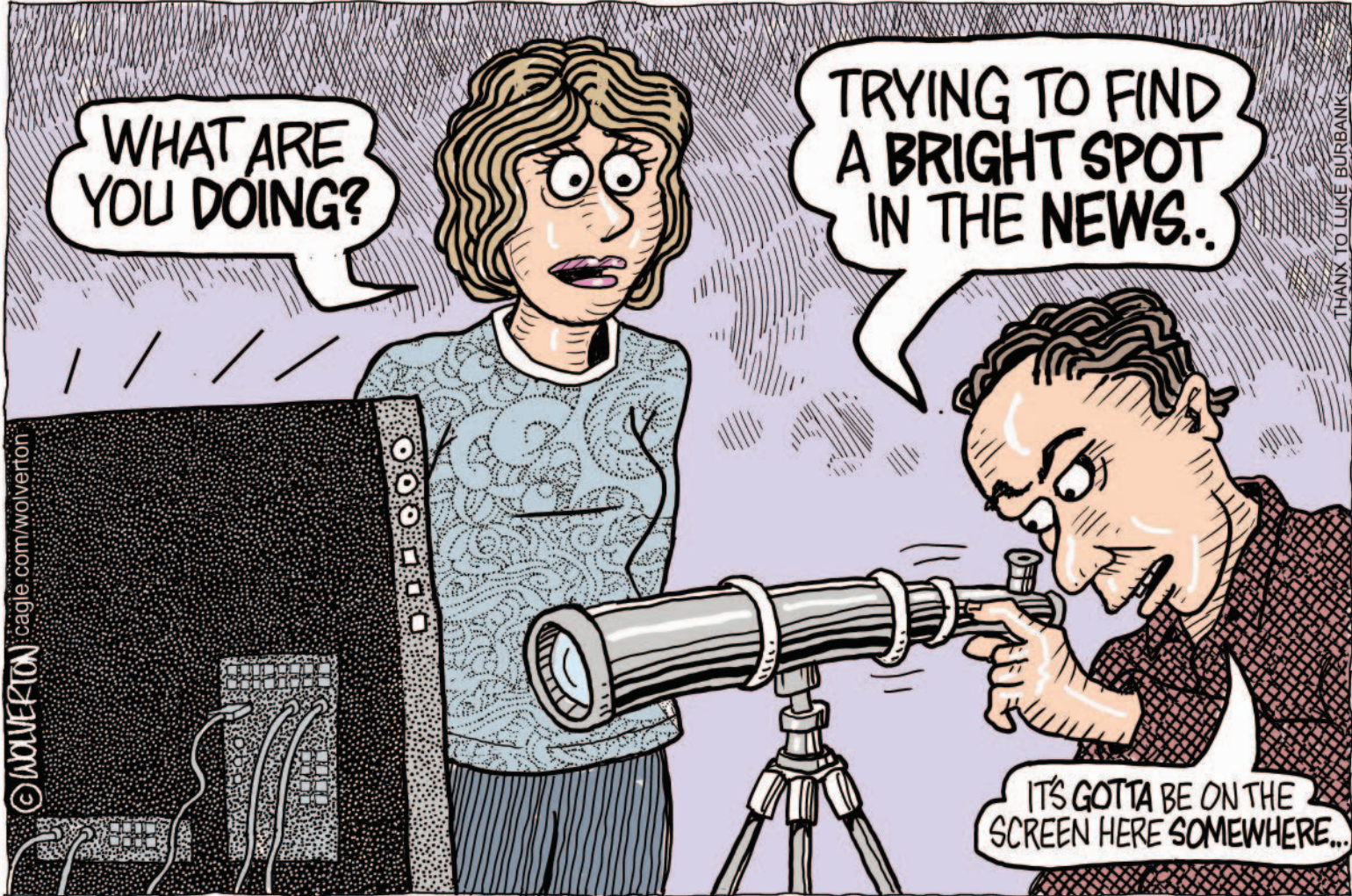
TOLLEY JONES

I personally know Evelyn not only submitted her speech for approval to Smith College weeks in advance and received an edited version back from them in tacit and overt approval for her to give that speech, but she also asked them for guidance or restrictions for what she could say and write before she even began the process of composing her speech, thus giving respect and sensitivity to Smith’s public reputation. I have yet to see Smith clarify these critical details to the public at all in their haste to shift blame onto Evelyn. That is hypocrisy. Smith College claimed to the public a moral high ground of honesty, but lies of omission about its own responsibility in this situation are still, in fact, lies. And these lies are not without consequence because Evelyn’s legacy is her reputation.

Evelyn did not earn her honorary doctorate as an accomplished and published scholar, because she is not an academic. She was honored for her many years of transformative activism, inspiration of others, and international acclaim to her own established truth-telling about the very real history and power of music in the face of oppressive systems. Evelyn’s entire career is based on honoring the words and music of others through repetition and performance, without the academic rigors of citation. She absolutely earned this honorary degree which had nothing to do with academia, and her speech had nothing to do with how she earned that honor.

Smith College owes Evelyn an apology as public as they chose to humiliate her. And Smith College needs to immediately return her well-deserved and well-earned honorary doctorate because they made the right decision to honor her with it in the first place. Her speech was and is irrelevant to her honorary degree. I imagine, however, that Smith’s shrugging cruelty and own academic dishonor in this situation tarnishes the sheen on that degree, much in the same way that it tarnishes the sheen on mine.

Tolley M. Jones, Smith College Class of ‘95 and a Gazette columnist, lives in Easthampton.



LETTERS

Remembering George Floyd

May 25th: We remember George Floyd, murdered in Minneapolis at the hands of four police officers. Only because of Darnella Frazier do we know the truth. That 17-year-old courageously videoed Derek Chauvin as he brazenly knelt on Floyd’s neck, while the other cops stood by. On Darnella’s video we watched and heard George Floyd call out “I can’t breathe” while Chauvin choked the life out of him.

When prosecutors announced they might not bring criminal charges, they set off the biggest nationwide uprising since the 1960s, shutting down cities across the U.S.

Chauvin is in jail for 22.5 years for murder and deadly use of force. The other three, served 3.5 years in prison; all have been released, serving state and federal time concurrently.

Today we continue the struggle for racial equity. Sadly, the “George Floyd Justice in Policing Act” failed to become law. The “John Lewis Voting Rights Act” has also failed.

This week, Trump’s Justice Department lifted the dissent decrees on Minneapolis and Louisville calling them “government overreach.”

The decrees called for accountability, reform and transformation of police engaging in unconstitutional policing practices.

Trump and Project 2025 insist on erasing Black history, making inclusion illegal; undoing DEI to further their racial agenda, rolling back historic advances with their “Equality of Opportunity & Meritocracy,” a euphemism for white people advancing, while Trump “crushes and kills our enemies” whether overseas or at home.

Parents of Black children still must “have the talk” with their kids, trying to keep them out of the system, or being killed by cops.

Black Lives Matter continues growing the movement, resisting Trump’s efforts to silence and erase us. Police brutality continues, and we stand together against oppression.

We remember George Floyd, five years later, continuing to say his name and lift up



AP PHOTO/ABBIE PARR

People visit George Floyd Square in Minneapolis on Sunday on the five-year anniversary of Floyd’s death.

our constitutional right to life, liberty and pursuit of a diverse, inclusive and equitable society.

SUSAN TRIOLO
Sunderland

State commission’s interpretation of antisemitism shows bias

I appreciate the Special Commission on Combatting Antisemitism’s desire to combat antisemitism in Massachusetts, but am troubled by the bias shown by the commission’s noticeable deference to a Zionist-leaning/Israel-promoted interpretation of what constitutes antisemitism. There are many Jews in Massachusetts who are not Zionists, and the assumption that equates Israel and Zionism with Jewish self-identity is itself antisemitic. (Also, some Jews consider themselves Zionists without meaning it politically, i.e., not as followers of nationalist Zionism and its state, Israel.)

According to Kenneth Stern, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)’s guidelines to its 2016 antisemitism definition include antisemitism resulting from

associating all Jews with the state of Israel, which is different from saying all anti-Zionism is antisemitic. Stern, director of the Bard Center for the Study of Hate, has expressed deep concern over the way the IHRA definition is being used today (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wyjYk8bsYT8>).

I’ve watched the commission, with not a single pro-Palestinian or anti-Zionist Jew among its members, come very close to fully equating anti-Zionism with antisemitism. A local Jewish leader and a local Jewish columnist have both cautioned, and I agree, antisemitism could well increase rather than decrease if the commission’s bias continues.

DEB FRIEDMAN
Easthampton

Inspired by Memorial Day

On this Memorial Day, I think back 80 years to my military service in World War II. I was a young infantry combat soldier in France, Netherlands, and Germany and was proud of my service to my country. At age 100, however, I wonder what lies before America at this most dangerous time. We soldiers risked our lives for freedom so long ago, and I’d like to feel that freedom, the rule of law, and liberty matter now as much as ever as we struggle to preserve and strengthen our democracy. I have to think that these are eternal American values and that we will have the strength and courage to overcome what looks like a powerful current toward authoritarianism. I only hope that people today will be willing to put themselves on the line to defend the essential freedoms that we have taken for granted in our country for so long, to guarantee that democracy and our way of life will be preserved so that future generation will also benefit from these safeguards of liberty.

SIDNEY MOSS
Northampton



Bradley Krupski and Melina Menard, students at East Meadow Elementary School in Granby, during a flute class taught by Bob Castellano.

STAFF PHOTO/CAROL LOLLIS

Granby music program revived

MUSIC FROM A1

pandemic, hindered student’s interest in music.

“Doing instrumental music, particularly winds, was impossible. It was like choral programs. One person had the disease and someone spread it and they lost half their choir,” Castellano said. “If the kids don’t see a band, and you can’t explain what it is to them, the culture of music just dissolves.”

After students returned to classes in person, East Meadow’s administration struggled to find a replacement music teacher, often placing a teacher or paraprofessional with no formal music training in the classroom. While Lynch acknowledges the efforts of Principal Lisa Desjarlais and Brad Rosenberg to preserve the designated music classroom, it was clear on his first day in September 2024 that even the foundations of the music program were gone.

“The older students who are here are very unused to music class, as in terms of singing, playing instruments and dancing, which I consider kind of the basics,” Lynch said. “A big piece of my job this past year is to just sort of reintroduce these basic things of, just like you draw and paint in art class, just like you run and throw balls in gym class, you sing and dance and play instruments here in music class.”

While the classroom remained, the other key piece of a strong music program, performance, no longer existed, Lynch said. This first concert is optional but strongly encouraged for students rather than mandatory as a way to gently demonstrate how “performance and creativity can be a positive force in their own lives, and how it can contribute to bright, self actualized, awesome future,” Lynch said.

Determined to rebuild the program, Lynch and Castellano decided on a cohesive curriculum approach to lay the foundation for a new program. Everyone, Lynch said, started with keeping a steady beat, matching pitch and basic singing patterns. Castellano visited the elementary school students in the afternoons with recorders and rhythm games to bridge the classroom music and instrumental music.

With the older elementary students, Lynch leans into music history and popular culture, turning a more abstract concept of music into something familiar. Castellano, meanwhile, offers small group lessons. Sometimes, students venture across the parking lot to play with the junior high school band.

“The fourth graders had never played in an ensemble before, but they really got tuned in and said, ‘Wow, this is great. It’s loud!’” Castellano said. “They realized it was supportive. They said, ‘Well, I hear other people playing my part, so I know where I’m at.’”

Despite hesitation from some students, the response to the new music program has been overwhelmingly positive, Lynch said. His informal estimate suggests a majority of each grade opted into the concert. Castellano said he has 48 students in the program, plus 11 in the junior high school band.

“You’re not training musicians, you’re training music consumers,” Castellano said. “They’re going to go to concerts. They’re going to buy recordings and become parents and have their children take lessons. So it’s trying to develop that culture.”

Emilee Klein can be reached at eklein@gazettenet.com.

Summer concert lineup set

BRIEFS FROM A5

students,” Trobaugh said from the stage of the Leslie Phillips Theater. “I know the work that you do is what enables me to do the work I do that gives me so much pleasure and the opportunity to see students succeed, and that is the biggest gift. I am grateful to my students, who, over these 20-plus years, continuously, perpetually inspire me to do my best for them, because they are working hard and pursuing something so valuable and noble.”

The Marieb Award, endowed by the late HCC professor emeritus Elaine Marieb ‘80, recognizes a full-time member of the faculty for outstanding classroom teaching. Award recipients serve for one year, receive a small stipend for professional development, lead the procession at commencement, and give the keynote graduation speech.

Trobaugh has been teaching at HCC since 2003. She has a bachelor’s degree from Tufts University and a master’s degree and PhD from the University of Massachusetts. Her three children — Hannah, Tess and Gabe — and son-in-law all attended HCC.

The college also presented the Christina Royal Equity in Action Award to Adina Gianelli of Conway, assistant professor of criminal justice; the Idelia Smith Adjunct Faculty Award to Erin Jackson of Glastonbury, Conn., an instructor in the veterinary technician program; the Outstanding Professional Staff Award to Allison Wrobel of Holyoke, HCC registrar; the Outstanding Classified Staff Award to Lindsey Providenti of Granby, administrative assistant in the BSTEM division; and the Outstanding Part-Time Staff Award to Lucien Dalton of South Hadley, a math tutor and engineering pathways coordinator.

Bands on Brewster summer concert series kicks off June 5

NORTHAMPTON — The city of Northampton and Northampton Brewery present the return of Bands on Brewster, the outdoor concert series set in Brewster Court — the walkway connecting the E.J. Gare Parking Garage to the Northampton Brewery.

The 2025 season kicks off Thursday, June 5, and continues every Thursday evening through June, July and August. The shows start at 6 p.m. and end at 8 p.m. Perfect for post-work or post-dinner plans, this series features performances from local and regional talent.

The lineup includes June 5, The Classics; June 12, Norma Dream; June 19, Wallace Field, Brittany Brideau; June 26, Avery Joi; July 3, The Greys; July 10, Simple Friend, Rib-

boncandy, King Radio; July 17, Hannah Mo-han, Stefan Weiner; July 24, Lucia Dostal; July 31, The Hendersons; Aug. 7, Temporary Friends, Jeff Coyne; Aug. 14, Gold Dust; Aug. 21, Ruby Lou; and Aug. 28, Prewn

All shows are weather-dependent. For updates on inclement weather, check @no-hoarts on Instagram by 10 a.m. the day of the show. For more information, contact Steve Sanderson at 413-587-1247 or by email at ssanderson@northamptonma.gov.

Williamsburg to hold arts and culture celebration

WILLIAMSBURG — The Williamsburg Cultural Council will host the 2025 Celebration of Arts and Culture on Wednesday, Jun. 11, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., at Meekins Library, 2 Williams St., in Williamsburg.

The celebration honors fiscal year 2025 cultural grant recipients. There will be performances and presentations from funded artists, musicians and environmentalists.

This spring the Williamsburg Cultural Council awarded 19 artistic and educational grants totaling \$5,700 for cultural programs in Williamsburg and neighboring towns. Grant awards range from \$200 to \$400 and recipients include school programs such as the Hampshire Regional High School and Anne T. Dunphy School annual musicals and the publication of Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School’s literary magazine, The Viking Rune-stone.

Environmental programs also received grants, including exploring the fauna, flora and cultural history of the Historic Dam Trail with a Tamarack Hollow naturalist; animal tracking with Anne T. Dunphy Family Outing Club; and holiday crafts with goats at Pause and Pivot farm.

Musical events receiving grants include KlezCummington, La Música Latin for Students at Hampshire Regional, Berkshire Hills Music Academy Intergenerational Performance at Anne T. Dunphy School, Plainfield Concerts at 7, Caregiver and Child Music Class for Hilltown Families at Meekins Library, Friday Night Café in Cummington, and a Community Square Dance at Ashfield Town Hall.

Projects also included nature poetry, Shakespearean theater, a writing workshop, and the Chesterfield July 4 Parade.

Decisions about which activities to support are made at the community level by a board of municipally appointed volunteers. The members of the Williamsburg Cultural Council are: Lauri Munroe-Hultman, chairperson, Louise Coombe, treasurer, Terry Tangredi and Donna McGill co-secretaries, Lesley Ham, and Rob Longley.

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WHAT DOES IT DO?


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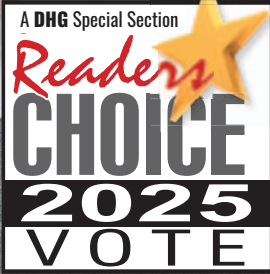
- Food pantries
- Free tax clinics
- Information & Referral line
- Financial coaching
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President Trump’s proposed budget ELIMINATES these funds.

KNOW THE FACTS.
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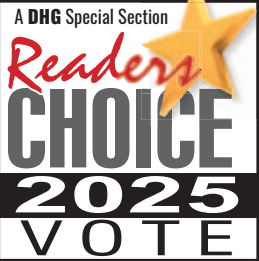
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ABORTION



AP/DAVID A. LIEB

People in support of abortion rights protest outside the Missouri Senate chamber after it voted to approve a referendum to repeal an abortion-rights amendment earlier this month in Jefferson City, Mo.

Mo. Supreme Court reopens ban potential

Voters struck down state's previous ban in November

The Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — The Missouri Supreme Court opened the door Tuesday to abortions being halted again in a tumultuous legal saga after voters struck down the state's abortion ban last November. The state's top court ruled that a district judge applied the wrong standard in rulings in December and February that allowed abortions to resume in the state for the first time since they were nearly completely halted under a ban that took effect after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in 2022. In Tuesday's two-page ruling, the court ordered Judge Jerri Zhang to vacate her earlier orders and re-evaluate the case using the standards the court laid out.

The state emphasized in their petition filed to the state Supreme Court in March that Planned Parenthood didn't sufficiently prove women were harmed without the temporary blocks on the broad swath of laws and regulations on abortion services and providers. On the contrary, the state said Zhang's decisions left abortion facilities "functionally unregulated" and women with "no guarantee of health and safety." Sam Lee, director of Campaign Life Missouri, said he was "extremely excited" by the Supreme Court order. "This means that our pro-life laws, which include many health and safety protections for women, will remain in place," Lee said. "How long they will remain we will have to see. But for right now, we would expect that Planned Parenthood would stop doing any abortions until the court rules otherwise."

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