

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

COLLEGE NOTES

Dean’s Lists announced

DEAN’S LIST
Ohio University
Athens, Ohio
Sierra Allen of Montgomery

St. Lawrence University
Canton, New York
Annika Jensen of Westfield, Class of 2026 and political science and global studies major
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, Rhode Island
Larissa Riley of Chesterfield
Delaney Cantwell of Cummington
Julia Langenheim of Cummington

Trevor Canon-Smith of Easthampton
Dylan McGinn-Stevens of Easthampton
Ally Burke of Westfield
Katie Burzynski of Westfield
Zachary Price of Westfield
Quinn Rowe of Westfield
Alana Guidette-Bocchino of Otis

University of Tampa
Tampa, Florida
Riley Marney of Williamsburg, a freshman majoring in nursing
Natalie Oleksak of Westfield, a freshman majoring in accounting

Local nursing students receive ‘Blessing of the Hands’ at Emmanuel College

BOSTON – More than 70 nursing students received the Blessing of the Hands on Friday, Feb. 6 at Emmanuel College.

Local students participating in the ceremony include Lydia Donatelli of West Chesterfield and Rowan McDonald of Westfield. This meaningful ceremony is a long-standing tradition at the Maureen Murphy Wilkens School of Nursing and Clinical Sciences for second-year nursing students as they prepare to begin their first clinical.

Hosted in collaboration with Emmanuel Mission and Ministry in the campus chapel, the Blessing of the Hands recognizes nursing students’ hands as instruments of care, comfort and respect. The ceremony affirms nursing as a commitment to skilled practice, compassion and respect for the dignity of every person as students enter clinical practice.

WILLAIMSBURG



Photo courtesy of Meekins Library

This collage featuring a moose is just one of the collages by artist Cyndy Sperry on display in the Neil Hammer Gallery at the Meekins Library, 2 Williams St., Williamsburg.

Meekins to host artist Cyndy Sperry

WILLIAMSBURG – Th Meekins Library, 2 Williams St., will host an exhibit by artist Cyndy Sperry in the Neil Hammer Gallery.

In this exhibit, Sperry translates small moments from different sketchbooks into large, tapestry-scale collages. The pieces incorporate woodblock prints, silkscreen imagery, charcoal figure drawings, painted papers and leftover student work from the summer program at Sugarhill Art. The New England boreal forest, rocky Maine Coast, paintings by Edward Hicks, the lions of the Ishtar Gate and Processional Way from Babylon and Piero Della Francisca’s Adoration weave into the work as well as many walks in the woods and river swims alone and in good company.

STCC hosts eighth annual Community Dental Day March 28

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Technical Community College Dental Sciences Department, in partnership with the Valley District Dental Society, will host the eighth annual Community Dental Day on Saturday, March 28 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., in Building 20 at STCC.

This free event provides an opportunity for area residents, who may not be receiving regular dental care to obtain necessary treatment at no cost. Licensed dentists from the Valley District Dental Society, along with STCC dental hygiene and assisting students, will provide a range of services, including patient education, health screenings, diagnosis, X-rays and limited treatments such as fillings, extractions, sealants and assessments of urgent issues. While cleanings will not be provided during the event, patients needing one may schedule a low-cost follow-up visit at STCC’s dental clinic.

“Community Dental Day plays an important role in helping meet the needs of our community while giving our students meaningful, real-world clinical experience,” said Christopher Scott, Dean of the School of Health and Patient Simulation at STCC. “We invite community members who need dental care to make use of this no-cost service. Through our collaboration with local dental professionals, we’re able to provide high-quality care while also equipping our students with the skills they need to succeed in their future careers.”

STCC offers pathways to dental careers through two programs. Students can seek a two-year associate degree in Dental Hygiene or a one-year certificate in Dental Assisting.

Dr. Michael Nardi, an event organizer with the Valley District Dental Society volunteer dentists, highlighted the impact of Community Dental Day. “Too often, people delay getting dental treatment because it can be expensive or difficult to access,” Nardi said. “This event allows us to offer timely care to individuals who need it most, while also helping them understand how to maintain their oral health in the long run. I’m proud to take part in an initiative that has such a positive impact on our community.”

Valley District Dental Society is a supporter of STCC through generous financial support for scholarships and dental kits.

The event is open to the public and no insurance is required. Patients can also return to STCC’s dental clinic for affordable follow-up care if needed. Community Dental Day is open to the public on a first-come-first-served basis. People may call 413-755-4900 if they have questions.

Taber Art Gallery features ‘River Valley Radical Futures’

HOLYOKE – A new exhibition at Holyoke Community College’s Taber Art Gallery asks visitors to imagine a future Pioneer Valley 100 years after the fall of capitalism.

“River Valley Radical Futures” runs through Thursday, March 12. The gallery will host a closing talk from project lead and curator Alix Gerber and book launch on Thursday, March 12 from 5-7 p.m.

The show features the work of eight area artists and has its origins in the Making Radical Futures Lab at Smith College in Northampton. Gerber is a post-doc fellow and associate director of Smith’s Design Thinking Initiative.

“The lab uses participatory and speculative design practices to explore collaborative ways of imagining futures without capitalism,” Gerber said in a statement about the show. “Worker co-operatives, mutual aid networks, and other community groups came together through a series of workshops throughout the Pioneer Valley to imagine how their values and current work might lead to future, alternative economic systems.”

Those sessions led to the creation of an illustrated map of the Connecticut River Valley 100 years beyond the fall of capitalism. In “River Valley Radical Futures,” the map is brought to life by paintings and sculptures and other artwork - “artifacts excavated from the future we imagined,” says Gerber.

Gallery visitors will see body extensions and creature masks, cow brushes and bells made from local materials, a floating house design, a tool sharing station, a secret-baring mural, a flood system made from local clay and an apothecary, among other pieces.

The exhibition includes the work of artists Sunny Allis, David von Dufving, Andrea Hairston, Mary Kate Cleary, Bo Kim, Sharon Leshner (a.k.a. Sharona Color), Michael Madeiros, and Laura Torracco.

“This is an exciting project that opens up the art-making process from what is usually a single artist materializing their thoughts alone in the studio into a collaborative effort between artists, educators, community workers, facilitators and organizers,” said gallery director Rachel Rushing. “By collaborating across disciplines and experiences the workshop participants were able to imagine the kind of future their work could make possible.”

“When visiting the Taber, you’ll see artwork that has begun the process of bringing those ideas to life,” Rushing said. “Imagination is at the core of this exhibition, and I hope visitors will be inspired and energized to continue imagining what kind of future we all hope to create, together.”

The Taber Art Gallery, located off the lobby of the HCC Library on the second floor of the HCC Donahue Building, is free and open to the public Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. during regular school sessions.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

PUBLIC NOTICES

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) will accept sealed bids on behalf of the Town of Blandford, MA for improvements to a portion of Russell Stage Road. Sealed bids marked “Russell Stage Road” will be received by FRCOG, 12 Olive St. Ste 2, Greenfield, MA 01301, until March 25, 2026 at 2PM when they will opened and publicly read. PREQUALIFICATION BY MASSDOT IS REQUIRED FOR THIS PROJECT.

The Class of Work is PAVEMENT SURFACING and the Total Project Value is estimated at \$54,076.

Wage rates for this bid are subject to MGL Chapter 149, Section 26 - 27f inclusive. This bid is being undertaken per MGL Ch 30 §39M requiring a 5% bid bond/deposit and 50% Labor and Materials Payment Bond.

Qualified bidders who are Minority/Women/Disabled Owned Business Enterprises are encouraged to apply. Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity, and Workforce Participation goals apply.

Specifications and bid instructions are available for download from <https://frcog.org/bids>. Downloading from this site will

allow for automatic notifications of any addenda or clarifications.

The Town of Blandford is the awarding authority and reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in total or in part as they may deem in the best public interest.

02/26/2026

Notice of Chester Special Permit Granting Authority Public Hearing Special Permit Review for Cell Tower Modifications at 65 Old State Highway, Chester, MA 01011

The Planning Board of the Town of Chester, as the special permit granting authority, will hold a public hearing to conduct a special permit review for a proposed modification of the cell tower located at 65 Old State Highway, Chester, MA.

The public hearing will be held as follows:

Place: Chester Town Hall, 15 Middlefield Road, Council on Aging room
Date: March 11, 2026
Time: 5:00 pm

The special permit review is for a proposed modification of the existing cell tower as follows: Remove fifteen antennas and six

1 5/8” coax cables. Install six antennas, four RRHs, two OVPs and one 1 1/4” 3 x 6 hybrid and one 1 5/8” 6 x 12 hybrid cable.

02/26, 03/05/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampshire Probate and Family Court 15 Atwood Drive Northampton, MA 01060 (413)586-8500 Docket No. HS23P07 44EA Estate of: Casimir R. Kazimierczak Date of Death: 10/05/2023 CITATION ON PETITION FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE BY A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

To all interested persons: A Petition for Sale of Real Estate has been filed by: **Jan M. Mastej of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the court authorize the Personal Representative to sell the decedent’s real estate at a private sale.

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 03/13/2026.

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.

Witness, **Diana S. Velez Harris**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 12, 2026

Mark S Ames,
Register of Probate

02/26/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampshire Probate and Family Court 15 Atwood Drive Northampton, MA 01060 (413)586-8500 Docket No. HS26P0083EA

Estate of: Mary Louise Wickland Also known as: Mary L. Wickland, Mary Lou Wickland Date of Death: 01/16/2026 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Matthew B Robbins of Carlisle, PA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Matthew B Robbins of Carlisle, PA** 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 03/31/2026. 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

A **Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised 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: February 18, 2026

Mark S Ames,
Register of Probate

02/26/2026