



TODAY'S QUOTE

"A man's ruin lies in his tongue."
— Egyptian saying

TOMORROW'S WEATHER



Chance of Showers
High 72
Low 54

WINNING LOTTERY NUMBERS

MASS. DAILY NUMBERS drawn Friday afternoon were: 5-5-9-9

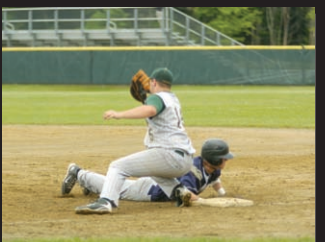
MASS DAILY NUMBERS drawn Friday night were: 9-4-3-0

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File photo/Shawn Kelley

Webster's Pulaski Brass Band marches down Main Street during last year's annual Southbridge Fest. This year, the event's theme is the American Family.

All-American weekend fun

SOUTHBRIDGE FEST IS JUNE 6

BY GUS STEEVES
NEWS STAFF WRITER

SOUTHBRIDGE — The town has come again for Southbridge Fest.

On Saturday, June 6, the Common will be covered with booths, tents, games and people, and music should be audible for some distance in any direction.

"It's a celebration of the American family," said Sue

Pelletier, one of the organizers. "In years past, it's been a celebration of our ethnicities, but this year's it's more, 'Let's celebrate that we're all American.'"

This will be the third "official" year, although Pelletier said she "did two little ones before that."

As in the past, many local

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Visions of past ... and future

AO DISPLAY SHINES IN HOTEL'S SPOTLIGHT

BY GUS STEEVES
NEWS STAFF WRITER



Gus Steeves photo
Former AO employee Don Nicholson, now with Aero, looks over some of the old lens measuring devices, some of which he helped design.

SOUTHBRIDGE — For Larry Enright, last weekend's optical conference at Southbridge Hotel was a stroll down memory lane.

"It's neat," he said. "I love coming back here, love the nostalgia of it all."

Enright, an officer of Perferx Optical Co. in Pittsfield and this year's president of the Optical Labs Association, was particularly speaking about the display of nearly a century of optical machinery and related materials decorating the hotel's lobby. Coordinated by Southbridge historian Dick Whitney and Donna Silverberg, it includes old lens measuring equipment, spectacles of various eras (the oldest being c. 1825), advertising

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BAY PATH '09



Walter Bird Jr. photo

Two Bay Path graduates share an emotional hug in the moments after receiving their diplomas.

'Ready for the real world'

BY WALTER BIRD JR.
NEWS STAFF WRITER

WORCESTER — Dave Matthews wowed thousands in separate concerts at Fenway Park Friday and Saturday. Hundreds of school kids around the state whooped it up at proms over the weekend,

too. They all might have come close to matching the excitement inside the DCU Center Friday night, where a graduating class of 200-plus young men and women turned their backs on high school, and stared hopefully, if somewhat

nervously, into the future. Save for a somber moment when the graduating class remembered classmate Kayla M. Christian, who would have graduated, but died earlier in the school year in a car

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Courtesy photo/AI Ferreira

The Tantasqua Trailblazers Special Olympics team is seen stretching before a May 7 competition. They were honored for their accomplishments at a ceremony at Tantasqua Regional High School Friday.

Team blazing new trails

TANTASQUA HONORS REGION'S SPECIAL OLYMPIANS

BY CHRISTOPHER TANGUAY
NEWS STAFF WRITER

STURBRIDGE — Some people are natural born athletes. For those who are not, the thrill of the game, and the camaraderie and accolades sports participation brings, is far sweeter.

On Friday, May 29, the Tantasqua Regional School District honored the 29 members of the

Trailblazers Special Olympic team with trophies for their accomplishments.

"It's a culmination of a year-long training," said Brenda Looney, coach of the Trailblazers.

Looney, the school district coordinator for autism spectrum disorders, said the district got involved with the Special Olympics

program about six years ago as a means of emphasizing social skills and community involvement in children with mental and physical handicaps.

From its beginning as a summer camp for intellectually disabled adults and children hosted by Eunice Kennedy Shriver in 1962, Special Olympics has

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Residents work on revitalizing Sturbridge center

BY CHRISTOPHER TANGUAY
NEWS STAFF WRITER

STURBRIDGE — As the Sturbridge Planning Board prepares to address revitalization of a certain area of town later this summer, a handful of hometown initiatives aim to make that process a little easier.

The Downtown Revitalization Plan will address concerns in the town's commercial tourist district — Route 148 to approximately Old Sturbridge Village — ranging from storefront vacancies to ways of making the town more appealing to prospective businesses.

"Central Mass Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) will be working with the board to prepare that plan," said Town Planner Jean Bubon.

Bubon explained that state approval was required by CMRPC before any official work could begin on the plan. With that approval just recently granted, Bubon



Jean Bubon

expects the first meeting regarding the revitalization plan to be held at the end of June or beginning of July.

In the meantime, a number of concerned citizens have already started different programs with a similar goal of townwide revitalization in mind.

"Any time that you have various groups working for common goals, they can all serve to benefit each other

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Display focuses on founding industry

DISPLAY
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posters and even big chunks of the glass they used for lenses — almost all of them made right here, when American Optical was in business.

Enright has a family connection to AO — his father once ran the company's lab in his hometown before opening his own. Although AO ultimately moved from Pittsfield to New York, Enright followed dad's footsteps.

"You've almost got to be born into this business," he said. "Who in the world would come into it from outside?"

Whitney has been an insider 44 years at AO and now with Carl Zeiss Vision, initially working in precision lens-making, mostly for cameras. Later, he served in quality control and research and development, working on several of the machines he was displaying. After leaving them at the hotel a while en masse, he plans to parcel out the pieces to various storefronts downtown.

"The lensometer is close to my heart," Whitney said. "I spent a lot of time on that — seven hours a day, and that tires your eyes out."

While some things haven't changed much — he still uses a "tumble test" to see how lenses scratch; it simulates "a year's wear in 20 minutes" — technology has greatly changed other things.

"Things are much more automated," Whitney noted. "There were tests that took weeks to evaluate, but now you can do it in minutes."

James Schafer, technical sales support manager for Transitions Optical Inc., agreed, but noted that one key product has been an industry standard for decades — a plastic called CR-39, which comprises about 45 percent of all lenses. First made in the 1930s, it saw



Local historian Dick Whitney explains a point about one of the devices on display.

Gus Steeves photo

numerous uses (including as an epoxy and in fighter jet cockpits) before being patented for lenses after World War II.

Other machinery and testing practices go back farther. The Snelling chart, which is still used to test eyesight, has been the same since the late 1800s, and lensometers were first marketed in the 1400s, among other things. Lenses themselves, of course, are much older still.

"You're always going to need eyewear to improve or protect people's vision. It's been around since the 1400s, and I don't see it going away," Schafer said. "Our industry is pretty healthy compared to everything right now."

Excluding contacts, but including industrial and other safety lenses, about 80 million lenses sell every year, he estimated. On average, people start wearing them by age 45, and "Everyone will eventually need to get them," he predicted.

Medical technology may

change that, as more research goes into how the eye works and makes intraocular surgery easier. Today, such surgery is often used for cataracts, and using lasers has become a common way to correct near- and farsightedness caused by cornea problems.

Enright said a lot of lens research is now focused on a technology called Freeform, a medium enabling most kinds of lenses to be made from one standard shape. Today, there are around 300 such designs, and he predicted the change, if it becomes widespread, "should [cause] some significant savings" in both industrial and personal uses.

Other technologies coming into use are electronic lenses, which subtly alter the focus when needed (for reading and similar uses) without needing bifocals, and lenses that can change color when exposed to sunlight. (The company most

famous for that, Transitions, was the conference sponsor.)

Enright added that the industry as a whole seems to be headed toward a period of greater consolidation, but that's cyclical. Whitney noted a federal antitrust lawsuit forced AO to break up its lens lab (which then had 360 branches) in 1964.

Since then, AO spun off several of its businesses, moved its lensmaking operations to Tijuana, Mexico, in 1992, and relocated the company headquarters to San Diego in 1997. Today, four "daughter" businesses still exist in Southbridge — AO Safety became Aero, AO Fiber Optics was sold to Schott, AO Sunwear became AO Eyewear, and AO Lens merged with SOLA and Zeiss and is now Carl Zeiss Vision.

Gus Steeves can be reached at 508-909-4135 or by e-mail at gusteeves@stonebridgepress.com.

THIS DAY IN THE SOUTHBRIDGE NEWS JUNE 1

Editor's Note: The information featured here is taken from archived issues of the Southbridge Evening News and is not current. The bound issues have been borrowed from the Jacob Edwards Library.

1957

Rexford Kidd, local manager of the Southbridge-Webster branch of the Worcester County Electric Co., explained today that the company's request for an increase in rates would average only 2 cents a day more for the average Southbridge family.

The Rev. William J. Cox, pastor of the Elm Street Congregational Church, will deliver the Baccalaureate Address at the Baccalaureate Service to be held for the Wells High School graduates tomorrow evening.

According to the management of the Hunt Bros Circus coming to town July 4, there is nothing haphazard about booking a circus into a town.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY JUNE 1

Today's Highlight in History: On June 1, 1813, the mortally wounded commander of the U.S. frigate Chesapeake, Capt. James Lawrence, said, "Don't give up the ship" during a losing battle with a British frigate, the HMS Shannon, during the War of 1812.

On this date:

In 1533, Anne Boleyn, the second wife of King Henry VIII, was crowned as Queen Consort of England.

In 1792, Kentucky became the 15th state of the union.

In 1796, Tennessee became the 16th state.

In 1868, James Buchanan, the 15th president of the United States, died near Lancaster, Pa., at age 77.

In 1909, the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition opened in Seattle. (The fair closed the following October.)

In 1943, a civilian flight from Portugal to England was shot down by the Germans during World War II, killing all 17 people aboard, including actor Leslie Howard.

In 1958, Charles de Gaulle became premier of France, marking the beginning of the end of the Fourth Republic.

In 1979, the short-lived state of Zimbabwe Rhodesia came into existence.

In 1980, CNN made its debut.

In 1989, former Sunday school teacher John E. List, sought for almost 18 years in the slayings of his mother, wife and three children in Westfield, N.J., was arrested in Richmond, Va. (List was later sentenced to life in prison; he died March 21, 2008.)

Ten years ago: An American Airlines MD-82 landed off-center during a severe thunderstorm in Little Rock, Ark., and barreled off the end of the runway, breaking apart and catching fire; 11 people, including the captain, died. President Bill Clinton ordered a government investigation into whether — and how — the entertainment business was marketing violence to children. (In a report released in September 2000, federal regulators said the movie, video game and music industries aggressively marketed to underage youths violent products that carried adult ratings.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Richard Erdman is 84. Actor Andy Griffith is 83. Actor Edward Woodward is 79. Singer Pat Boone is 75. Actor-writer-director Peter Masterson is 75. Actor Morgan Freeman is 72. Actor Rene Auberjonois is 69. Opera singer Frederica von Stade is 64. Actor Brian Cox is 63. Rock musician Ronnie Wood (Rolling Stones) is 62. Actor Jonathan Pryce is 62. Actor Powers Boothe is 61. Actress Gemma Craven is 59. Blues-rock musician Tom Principato is 57. Country singer Ronnie Dunn (Brooks and Dunn) is 56. Actress Lisa Hartman Black is 53. Singer-musician Alan Wilder is 50. Rock musician Simon Gallup (The Cure) is 49. Country musician Richard Comeaux (River Road) is 48. Actor-comedian Mark Curry is 48. Actor-singer Jason Donovan is 41. Actress Teri Polo is 40. Basketball player-turned-coach Tony Bennett is 40. Model-actress Heidi Klum is 36. Singer Alanis Morissette is 35. Washington Redskins wide receiver Santana Moss is 30. TV personality Damien Fahey is 29. Pop singer-songwriter Brandi Carlile is 28. Actor Taylor Handley is 25.

— Associated Press

OBITUARIES

Irene A. Bundeff, 86

SOUTHBRIDGE — Irene A. (LaPlante) Bundeff, 86, of Litchfield Ave., died Friday, May 29, in the Harrington Memorial Hospital, Southbridge, after an illness.

She leaves her husband of 58 years, George F. Bundeff; a son, John Bundeff and his wife, Susan of Southbridge; a daughter, Diane Dionne and her husband, Paul of Brimfield; five grandchildren, Catherine Dionne of Brimfield, Daniel Dionne and his wife, Jennifer of Monson, Thomas Dionne of Lowell, David Dionne of Sterling, and Maryanne Grippoback of West Springfield. She was born in Southbridge, the daughter of George J. and Exelia (Tremblay) LaPlante.

Irene worked for Delehanty's Furniture Store in Southbridge,

Southbridge Savings bank and Southbridge Co-Operative Bank for many years before retiring several years ago. She was a volunteer for many years at the Harrington Memorial Hospital. She was a member of St. Mary's Church. She enjoyed embroidery and was an avid reader.

Her funeral will be held on Monday, June 1, at 10 a.m. in St. Mary's Church, 263 Hamilton St., Southbridge. Burial will be in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Southbridge. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to St. Mary's Church, 263 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA 01550.

The Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, is directing arrangements.

Nancy A. Beaupre, 72

STURBRIDGE — Nancy A. (White) Beaupre, 72, died Wednesday, May 27. She leaves her husband of 31 years, Raymond C. Beaupre; two daughters, Deborah J. Higgins of Oxford and Heidi A. White of Spencer; a step-son, Richard R. Beaupre of Worcester; two brothers, Frederick White of Cape Cod and Ronald White of Auburn; sister, Lynn Badger and beloved friend, Judith LaBrie; five grandchildren, Nicole, Justin, Matthew, Samantha, and Alexa.

She was born in Worcester, daughter of Frederick and

Charlotte Schaefer White.

Nancy was a life-time member of the Germania Social Club.

She loved her family very much. She loved retired life with her husband and going for rides looking at wildlife. She enjoyed her computer and going to restaurants. Funeral services were held Monday, June 1 at Nordgren Memorial Chapel, 300 Lincoln St., Worcester. Burial was in Rural Cemetery, Worcester.

For on-line condolences, please visit NordgrenMemorialChapel.com.

NEWS BRIEFS

Animal rights workshop slated for W. Brookfield

WEST BROOKFIELD — Would you like to learn more about the plight of birds in captivity or chained dogs? Have you ever been concerned about the greyhound racing industry or circus animal captivity? Did you know that you could be wearing real dog fur trim or contributing to plastics killing our oceans? Could you envision our cousins, the chimpanzees, no longer used in research or see the demise of large New England laboratory animal suppliers? Do you know what Foie Gras or veganism mean?

Find out at the second New England Animal Rights Workshop, to be held June 13 in the Grand Ballroom of West Brookfield Town Hall. There is also an After-Hours Wine and Un-Cheese Tasting starting at 5:30 p.m. being held just three doors down following the workshop.

The workshop has a nominal fee, which welcomes folks to all the open discussion and special guest speaker sessions, networking and socializing, all the exhibits and cruelty-free shopping area, plenty of free literature, the concurrent educational videos area and, of course, a vegan breakfast and lunch.

For more information, visit www.nearw.org or contact Jamie at (978) 265-9503 or jamie@dlmmasolutions.com.

Five artists 'On Target' this month

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Massasoit Art Guild is continuing its Five Artists series of exhibits with a display of artwork at the River Run Gallery at 12 Crane Street in Southbridge.

This exhibit starts June 1, with an opening reception from 3-5 p.m. Saturday, June 6, and will run throughout the month of June. All are invited to this free reception in a most interesting setting.

The five artists are Linda Bourie of Leicester; Loretta Medeiros of Brimfield, Gerald LeBlanc of North Brookfield, Linda Spencer of Spencer and Michel Trzcinski of Worcester. Their artwork ranges from oil paintings, watercolors, acrylics and mixed media works to digital photography and computer generated images.

For directions and more information, go to www.12crane.com or www.massasoitartguild.com.

Kathryn A. Brown, 62

WESTMINSTER — Kathryn A. (Plumley) Brown, 62, of Westminster was called home by her Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ on Friday, May 29 after a courageous eight-year battle with cancer.

She leaves her husband, Delos "Dee" Brown of Westminster; one son, Michael R. Barre and his family of Northfield; one daughter, Lynn M. Landry and her family of Westminster; four stepsons, Chris Sinkus of Fitchburg and Thad, Peter and Adam Brown of Templeton; one stepdaughter, Carrie Sinkus of Lunenburg; her mother, Evelyn A. Plumley of Gardner; two sisters, Sharon E. Bradley of Princeton and Susan P. West of Jamesville, N.Y.; one brother, Bruce Plumley of Holland; 10 grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Her father, Ralph M. Plumley, died December 2006.

Kathryn was a faithful member of the First Baptist Church of



Westminster, where she served as a deaconess and was very active in many of the ministries of the church. Kathryn worked for more than 20 years with local insurance

companies as an insurance agent and will be deeply missed by all.

Calling hours for Kathy were held Sunday, May 31 in the First Baptist Church of Westminster, 117 Main St. The funeral service was Monday, May 1 in the church, followed by a graveside service at Brimfield Cemetery at 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to the church.

Pillsbury Funeral Home of Barre is in charge of arrangements.

E-mail obituary notices to atremblay@stonebridgepress.com