



In the news

"CBS This Morning" visits the Northfield Drive-In.

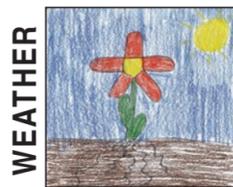
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County scenes

Photographs from the various celebrations around the county.

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MOSTLY CLOUDY

Jillian Apanell
Whately Elementary
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Recorder/Trish Crappo

A volunteer serves egg salad at the Free Harvest Supper on Sunday in Greenfield.

This meal's the real deal 'Local' key ingredient for Harvest Supper

By CHRIS CURTIS
Recorder Staff

GREENFIELD — The ninth annual Free Harvest Supper once again transformed Court Square and the Greenfield Town Common into an open-air restaurant with a menu including pork from local pigs, vegetables from local soil and eggs from local chickens, all donated by local people.

The annual meal aims to promote small farmers and local agriculture and support the hungry, with cash donations going to the Center for Self-Reliance Food Pantry's farmers' market coupon program and a menu packed with locally-grown, raised and donated ingredi-

ents.

There can't be many farms smaller than Firefly Farm in Montague, a perennial contributor to the meal.

"We're basically, no, literally, backyard chicken owners that got a little crazy," said part-time farmer Pinnie Sears.

Sears and partner Billye Davis both work full time in the animal science department at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and in their off hours oversee a large and varied collection of free-range chickens.

The eggs they sell on the honor system and mainly to a coterie of established customers, out of a refrigerator on the porch of their Dry Hill Road

home in Montague Center.

"When Billye first came here she had 38 chickens," said Sears, who built a backyard enclosure for the birds, but erred on the spacious side. "It can house 75 to 80, so it immediately did," she said.

Now, the couple has hundreds of chickens and a handful of turkeys wandering around the backyard, doing as they please while prize turkey Ed the Famous Turkey keeps an eye out for hawks.

"Free-range in the truest sense of the word," Sears said. "(200 chickens) out on the lawn fertilizing away and

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Egyptian military crackdown continues

By RAJA ABDULRAHIM
Los Angeles Times

CAIRO — Egypt's military declared Sunday that it won't tolerate violent protests as security forces arrested hundreds of Muslim Brotherhood members and some planned protest rallies were derailed.

The vow from military leader Gen. Abdel-Fatah el-Sissi came after days of demonstrations left about 1,000 people dead and the opposition pledged a week of protests against the bloody crackdown that began Wednesday.

The military presence throughout Cairo and its suburbs, already at a heightened level in recent days, swelled Sunday. Tanks could be seen throughout most neighborhoods and around squares. Tahrir Square was closed for a third day.

Supporters of deposed President Mohamed Morsi and those protesting the military coup that unseated him July 3 faced uncertainty Sunday as more leaders of his Muslim Brotherhood were arrested and demonstrations aimed at continuing the momentum

36 killed in prison truck escape attempt

By MAGGIE MICHAEL
Associated Press

CAIRO — Egyptian police fired tear gas Sunday in an attempt to free a guard from rioting detainees, killing at least 36 as the country's military leader vowed to tolerate no more violence after days of clashes that killed nearly 900 people.

The deaths of the prisoners, captured during the fierce fighting in recent days around Cairo's Ramses Square, came

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seemed to flounder.

The Anti-Coup Alliance, a coalition of groups against military rule, posted on Twitter that the protests in Roxy Square had been can-

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Political lobbying thrives in the state

By STEVE LeBLANC
Associated Press

BOSTON — It's one of Massachusetts' boom industries — a recession-proof, \$100 million-a-year enterprise that employs thousands of practitioners and support staff and shows no signs of waning.

Its product? The art of swaying the minds of lawmakers, candidates and the state's most powerful political figures.

Political lobbying has found fertile ground in

"The question that arises is what are these people doing? Are they being paid to prevent bills from becoming law?"

William Galvin
state secretary

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More than a fair education

By DAVID RAINVILLE
Recorder Staff

HEATH — Nearing 100 years old, the Heath Fair offers a wealth of knowledge and experience for those who seek it.

"The agricultural tent and the exhibit hall are my favorite parts of the fair," said Sue Wood of Rowe. "It shows you how people did — and still do — live a sustainable life."

Under the shade of the tent

■ Those attending the Heath Fair could learn about rope making and heirloom tomatoes to corn shucking and training herding dogs. They also could have a lot of fun.

Saturday, those at the 96th annual Heath Fair learned about rope making, corn shucking, woodwork and horticulture, just to name a few tasks.

Wood was stationed at the center of the tent Saturday, educating others on butter making, heirloom tomatoes and a variety of hot and mild peppers.

"Many people, especially those from the city, don't know what heirloom tomatoes are," she mused. Unlike hothouse and other popular hybrids, heirlooms are the purebreds of the tomato world, their lines carefully preserved through the years.

Another kind of purebred ruled the northwest corner of the fairgrounds.

"Border collies are closely

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Bringing back the 'mighty giant'

Ashfield man's goal: American chestnut tree that's blight-resistant

By DIANE BRONCACCIO
Recorder Staff

ASHFIELD — The chestnut blight fungus came in on Asian nursery plants shipped into New York harbor sometime around 1900 and it destroyed about 4 billion American chestnut trees over the next 50 years, according to the American Chestnut Foundation.

Before the blight, at least a quarter of all the trees in the New England/Eastern Appalachian Mountain Range were American chestnuts — the so-called "mighty

About Town
with
Diane Broncaccio



giants" that grew to over 100 feet tall, towering over other forest trees and providing wildlife with nutritious nuts that were more plentiful than acorns or beechnuts, according to Brian Clark, an Ashfield apple orchard owner who is working to



Recorder/Paul Franz

Brian Clark smiles as he shows off a bur cluster that will develop into chestnuts in his American Chestnut Breeding Orchard in Hawley. He is working to develop blight-resistant trees.

restore the tree.

Like an evil genie that couldn't be put back into its bottle, the chestnut blight fungus is still carried on airborne spores on the backs of birds and animals. Even the stump sprouts that occasionally blossom from American chestnut tree stumps

eventually die of exposure to blight, says Clark.

Clark is on the board of directors for the state chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation. For the last 10 years, he has been cultivating

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