

Country Journal

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HUNTINGTON

Hamlin publishes travel book

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

Steve Hamlin, Huntington resident, has published his second book "Travel on \$50/day (or less): Camping in the U.S. and Beyond."

The book chronicles lessons from his transition from tent to van camping and the challenges and rewards of seeing the country on a budget. This new tome is available in ebook and paperback form from Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

Hamlin's first book, "Birds of Eastern North America: An Adult Coloring Book" came out in 2017. The full version is available at the Gray Catbird Pottery Studio, and is spiral bound with perforated pages for easy removal, allowing artists to remove pages and complete them using Hamlin's color photographs for context. A smaller version is available through Amazon.

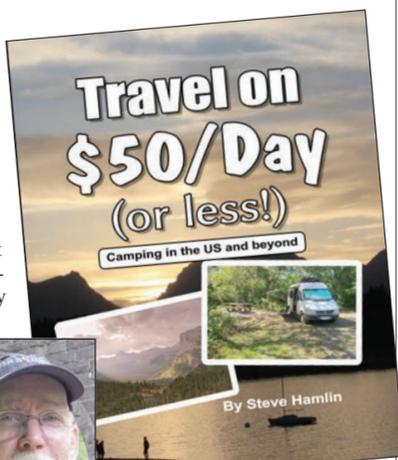
While the new book focuses on their mode of travel—using a small, nimble and fuel economical van; it may also be of interest to tent campers and even applied to

RV camping.

With his wife Linda, Hamlin decided to take a camping trip to Yellowstone in 2015. In their planning, they quickly realized this would be very difficult to do as tent campers due to the daily set up and tear down, as well as the risks of tenting in grizzly country. "It was a prudent concern," Hamlin chuckled.

After further research, they bought a Dodge 2001 high top conversion van, turning it into a camper to try out for three years to see if they liked it.

After some shorter shake down trips to test and modify the equipment, they set out for Yellowstone in 2015. On their return trip, they began checking out other van options and discovered,



Local author Steve Hamlin has published his second book, "travel on \$50/day (or less): Camping in the U.S. and Beyond." Submitted photo

maybe ogled is a better term, a Ram Pro Master van at a rest stop. The owner caught them at it and gave them a tour of the more finished model, giving them ideas for their next sprinter van.

"One of the big drawbacks to van camping is you

HAMLIN, page 3

HUNTINGTON

Summer concert series continues to heat up

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

The town of Huntington's summer concert series continues with The Hellcats on Thursday, July 31 and The Hot Shot Hillbillies on Thursday, Aug. 7 from 6:30-8 p.m.

Concerts are free of charge and take place on the town green on Thursday evenings. Area organizations will have refreshments for sale during these events. The Hellcats are a newly formed group of three talented musicians, who hail from different bands. Drummer Bruce Mikuszewski can also be seen throughout the area performing with local party dance band, Relentless. Guitarist and singer B.J. Korona sits in with a variety of area musicians and can be seen performing at times with the Korona Music Trio. Bassist Harry Harison also performs with the bands Inside Out and

East Coast Cowboys. The trio have performed recently at the Westover Air Force Base NCO Club, the Bull & Brew Wing House and at Old Orchard Beach. They will offer rock tunes and originals on the green.

That week's bake sale

will be provided by the Hilltown Hikers, who organizer Vicki Mayhew says can always be counted upon for a good selection of treats. They will also have their upcoming hik-

CONCERT, page 3



The Hot Shot Hillbillies will perform in downtown Huntington on Thursday, Aug. 7 at 6:30 p.m. as part of the town's summer concert series. Submitted photo

GOSHEN

Williams House once served as tavern and general store



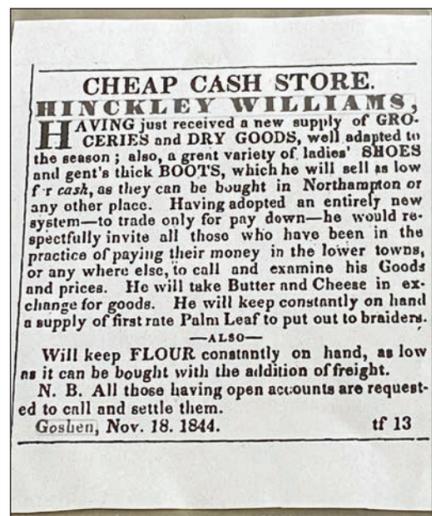
This is the entryway into Williams House in Goshen. Note the wide floorboards.



This area was used as a storage room for the general store. The Williams House was used as a general store at one time.



Here is a tankard and bottle from Williams tavern.



This broadside was posted in the general store role dated 1844. Turley photos by Deborah Daniels

BLANDFORD



With Maestro Eve Queler center, performers for Saturday's performance of Bel Canto Opera, from left, Madison Marie McIntosh, Catherine Wethington, James Parrish, Shelen Hughes, Douglas Martin and Solene Le Van. Turley Publications photo by Mary Kronholm

Operatic performance benefits church preservation

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

This year proved to be another triumph for Maestro Eve Queler along with Douglas Martin and the annual Bel Canto operatic performance which benefits the preservation of The White Church.

This year means 30 years of commitment to the town and its single building on the National Register of Historic Places. Maestro

Queler brings back the sense of times past that defies age, playing with the spirit of a virtuoso with extraordinary precision, class and style.

The audience was witness to astonishing previews of careers to come. Returning vocalists Solene Le Van and Madison Marie McIntosh along with first appearances by Catherine Wethington, Shelen Hughes and Joseph Parrish presented heart-stopping arias which highlighted vocal agility,

charismatic enthusiasm and their musical ability and skill.

Singing Ah, forse lui from Verdi's La Traviata Ms. Le Van demonstrated her talent with vocal runs and many high notes. Sung just prior to intermission, Ms. Le Van accompanied by Douglas Martin, prepared the audience for the second half of the program with this show-stopper.

Hughes singing Mascagni's Son pochi Fiori

from Amico Fritz showcased her technical finesse and depth of feeling.

McIntosh, a mezzo-soprano, brought her remarkable vocal range forward in all selections, but capped her performance with Rossini's Di tanti palpiti from Tancredi with musical precision and stylized finesse.

Donnizetti's aria, Regnava nel silenzio from Lucia da Lammermoor sung

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BLANDFORD

Blandford Cross-Pike Nature Conservancy purchases 578 acres

BLANDFORD – To create the new Blandford Cross-Pike Nature Connector, The Nature Conservancy in Massachusetts recently purchased 578 acres of land in Blandford.

The large-scale forested land includes several streams, trails and habitat for animals critical for connecting resilient, diverse land along the Massachusetts Turnpike between the Springfield area and the Berkshires. It connects nearly 40,000 acres of permanently protected land north and south of the Mass Pike in the Appalachian region of the state.

“This is a big win for nature,” said Richard Cavanaugh, the Land Protection Manager for The Nature Conservancy in

Massachusetts, which will eventually sell the land to the state’s Department of Conservation and Recreation and Department of Fish & Game. “The Mass Pike is a significant barrier to wildlife’s ability to move safely across the landscape, impacting their populations and creating a safety hazard for people. These 578 acres are an important connecting piece contributing to The Nature Conservancy’s vision for the Appalachians as a continental-scale network of connected, resilient lands and waters – a 2,000-mile biodiversity superhighway enabling plants and animals to adapt to a changing climate. By connecting these protected lands, we will be working to enhance critical passageways

for wildlife across the landscape and even beneath the Mass Pike through culverts. It also presents a significant step forward in helping to reach the Commonwealth’s biodiversity goals.”

And this project now guarantees that acres of trees can sequester carbon; waterways in the Westfield River Watershed will be protected as part of the City of Springfield’s water supply; and more plants and animals can thrive.

Consisting of uplands, grasslands, young and old forests, the land is located on the west side of Chester Road in Blandford and runs on the south side of the Mass Pike near the Chester, Becket and Otis town lines. Potential improvements to

the culverts that run underneath the Mass Pike by the state’s Department of Transportation would promote safe passage for wildlife below the highway and therefore protect vehicular travelers from animal collisions. Stormwater management would also be improved with any future culvert upgrades.

About 70% or 413 acres of the Connector are part of the state’s BioMap Critical Natural Landscape, which identifies important wildlife and habitats. It also includes Sanderson Brook, Cushman Brook, Finley Brook, and Peebles Brook, all cold water fisheries and three vernal pools. Peebles Brook is part of the city of Springfield’s primary public water supply.

About 300 acres within the Connector provide a critical protected area for the vulnerable New England Cottontail rabbit, which is threatened with habitat loss and other factors.

The Connector ties into lands to the east that are owned by the state’s Department of Conservation and Recreation, land to the west owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Trustees of Reservations, as well as parcels dedicated to the city of Springfield’s Water District, creating nearly 40,000 acres of now contiguous, permanently protected land.

In Blandford, the Connector will provide western access and a 218-acre addition to the Chester-

Blandford State Forest along with new trail linkages for recreation. The Department of Fish & Game will hold the other 360-acres as a Wildlife Management Area available for recreational use, including walking, hiking, hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing.

“The Blandford Cross Pike Nature Project offers the rare opportunity to protect a diversity of habitats including fields, forest, water access, and ridge top vistas,” said Cavanaugh. “Permanently protecting this land is particularly significant in Hampden County where public access opportunities are increasingly more limited as properties are purchased for residential development, private estates, and second homes.”



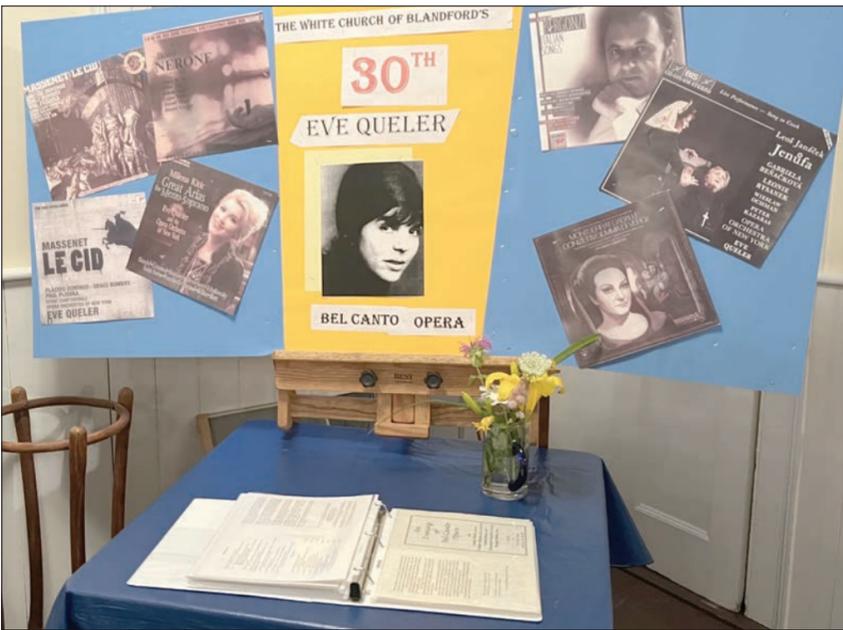
Area musicians and music enthusiasts socialized Saturday before the Bel Canto Opera performance, from left, Michael Marcenkewich, Dick Holcomb, Robert Louder, Newell Murri, Larry Picard, Tim Moriarity and Nancy Robinson.



Curtain call for the Bel Canto Opera, from left Douglas Martin, Catherine Wethington, Madison Marie McIntosh, Solene Le Van, Maestro Eve Queler, Shelen Hughes and Joseph Parrish. Women took long-stemmed red roses from their bouquets and presented them to the men, a long-standing Blandford tradition.



Picnicking Milton Reach, Heidi Hughes and Crystal Diamond enjoyed Blandford weather prior to Bel Canto Opera performance. Turley Publications photos by Mary Kronholm



This display commemorates the 30th Bel Canto Opera assembled by Historical Society President Chips Norcross.

MUSIC at White Church

OPERATIC

from page 1

by Ms. Wethington presented the soprano’s vocal ability and expressive nuance. This aria is a highlight for a soprano’s repertoire.

Mr. Parrish’s vocal performances clearly showed not only his vocal range but also his dramatic ability to infuse his selections with visible emotion. His musical ability belies his 27 years. Solo aria Vas tabar spit from

Rachmaninov’s Aleko highlighted his ability to convey emotion as well as his bass-baritone range.

The final selection, the familiar duet La ci darem from Mozart’s Don Giovanni, by Ms. Hughes and Mr. Parrish blended their voices and dramatic skill to conclude the evening’s program.

All the performers were equally at home in the intimate venue of the White Church. Maestro Queler and Mr.

Martin shared accompaniment with the performers.

Floral arrangements by Magdalena Zajko and Ruth LaPrise prepared the audience with an expectant tone for the setting. Jennifer Girard provided refreshments from the Blandford Bistro during intermission.

The Blandford Historical Society is responsible for the restoration and now preservation of The White Church. And the weather could not have been better.

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HUNTINGTON

COA to host Grandparents Day

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Council on Aging will be hosting their annual Grandparents' Day Celebration on Saturday, Sept. 6 from 1-4 p.m. on

the Town Common, 24-26 Russell Road.

The event will feature a bounce house, craft activities, ice cream and snacks. The event is free and open

to all ages from all communities. For more information, people may call Crystal Wright-Partyka at 413-685-5283.

CONCERT

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ing schedule available for those interested.

The Hot Shot Hillbillies return to Huntington on Thursday, Aug. 7. In fact, the final three bands this year all come from the Berkshires with the Hillbillies marking the first of these. This country and rock and roll band has had gigs at the Chatham Brewery, Country Fest in New Lebanon, New York and locally at Listons and the Knox Trail Inn. Mayhew

says this band is always a treat when Jim Digmun picks up the fiddle.

The Thursday, Aug. 7 bake sale will be provided by the Southern Hilltown Domestic Violence Task Force, whose role is to raise awareness of and prevent domestic violence, as well as provide resources to the community.

The gazebo, located at the intersection of Routes 20 and 112, serves as the venue. People should bring their lawn chair. They

should leave pets at home.

Huntington's summer concert series is sponsored by the Huntington Community Events Committee and supported by the Huntington Cultural Council. HCC is a local agency that is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

In the event of rain, performances will be moved indoors to Stanton Hall, which is wheelchair accessible and air conditioned.

GOSHEN

Council on Aging announces events

GOSHEN – The Council on Aging annual appreciation picnic is on Tuesday, Aug 12 at noon at Tilton Town Field.

It is time for the annual picnic to honor and celebrate Goshen residents, who are 90 and older. There will be special presentations and gifts for each of these seven residents, who live in the community. There will be a lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, pasta salad, grilled zucchini and summer squash, tossed salad and chips. They will have ice cream sundaes with all the toppings for dessert. This is always a special and meaningful event. Everyone who has helped the COA this year will also be recognized.

On Friday, Aug. 1 Community Connections meets from 10-11 a.m. outside at the new accessible picnic table that sits in the shade in the park across the street from the Town Hall. The COA will have snacks and drinks to share and some fun conversation. They will bring a croquet game and play a modified version of the

game together.

On Wednesday, Aug. 6 crafts group meets this month meets in the library. Participants may bring their own craft project to work on in community with others. There are a lot of talented crafters, who love to share ideas. If people have an idea for a craft or art project they like to try, they should let the COA know so they could gather the supplies and learn together.

On Thursdays, Aug 14 and Aug. 28 Tilton Treks continue every other week in August from 9-10 a.m. at Tilton Town Farm for a walk around the grounds and/or on the trails for a bit of exercise. Walking is great for our physical and mental health. Participants should bring their own water bottle. Rain or extreme heat will cancel. It will be a great way to begin the day.

On Tuesdays, Aug 19 and Aug. 26 Highland Valley Elder Services delivers grab and go lunches to Goshen COA on the third and fourth Tuesdays of the month. Participants pick up their hot lunch at the

Goshen Town Hall from 12:30-1 p.m. The lunch for Aug. 19 is a choice of ham salad or tuna salad and the choice for Aug. 26 is roast pork with gravy or sausage and cheese quiche. The meals also include milk, vegetables and dessert. There is a suggested \$4 donation given to Highland Valley Elder Services to offset the cost of the meal. Seniors should call Kerry at 413-268-9354 if they would like to sign up to get these nutritious and delicious meals.

On Wednesday, Aug. 20 Games Group will meet in the library from 2-4 p.m. They have a variety of games to choose from and they will also have cards. Some weeks, if there is the right number of people, they play the card game Pitch. It's really fun.

On Thursday, Aug. 21 Technology Help in the library will be available from noon-2 p.m. People can ask questions regarding their computer, phone, tablet or any other technology related question and someone will do their best to help.

HAMLIN

from page 1

are constantly driving your house," Hamlin explained. "If you need ice, you have to break camp." He went on to describe coming back from a grocery shopping trip, returning to their site, and starting the set up-only to find they had forgotten ice and had to go back out. Now, they have a frig in the van so this, at least, is no longer a problem.

Disbursed (off the grid) camping is done without electrical or water hookups. Hamlin's van is self-contained and its solar power has been augmented with a DC to DC smart charger converter, which charges the "house" battery. He has a simple plumbing system and can carry 30 gallons of water plus 6 gallons of gray water, water that is left after washing dishes or clothing. He has also built an electric-powered water heater for the unit.

Hamlin said they are often busy all day and rely on really simple dishes when they are camping. They cook outdoors and clean up as quickly as they can because the mosquitoes come out once the sun goes down. He said they stow all of the galley items in the van by dark, because they are often in bear country.

In the book, Hamlin illustrates a lot of his topics by using stories from their experiences. A self-described data junkie, he says he keeps an extensive spreadsheet tracking mileage, fuel, accommodations,

food and miscellaneous expenses. Surprisingly, one of the biggest and most expensive challenges is finding a place to shower. While Steve has rigged up a shower system to use at the back of the van, Linda is not a fan. Unlike typical campgrounds, the free sights used by them do not offer any amenities. At times, they have bought day passes to a YMCA in order to shower; other times they've stopped at truck stops both options can cost up to \$15 per person and really cut into the goal of \$50/day. Out west, even when staying at a campground, free showers are unheard of.

Another challenge is disposing of gray water. In Colorado, for example, it is absolutely illegal to dump gray water. Sometimes they can find a dump station to dispose of gray water that they've kept collected in folding gallon bottles.

Hamlin explained that out West dispersed camping, also known as boondocking, usually means on Bureau of Land Management or forest service lands. "Virtually camping along any road out west is legal, he said. "With a much denser population, dispersed camping in the Northeast is more difficult. There are designated sites that are free, primitive and hard to come by during high season. But when you find them, they're magical," he said.

"It's our favorite thing

to do and our rig is perfectly suited for it," Hamlin explained. "When conditions cooperate, there's hardly anything better. The downside is you're completely on your own. There is no one to help you. Bad conditions can be really miserable and even dangerous."

Their longest trip was six weeks and they covered Colorado, Glacier, Yellowstone, Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming. They don't make reservations; they just hunt down sites. This makes them spontaneous enough to be able to stay an extra day or two without worrying about missing their next reservation. They have a National Parks Senior Pass and, when necessary, book sites on federal land at recreation.gov. While those cost around \$10 per night, they can come with a \$7.50 transaction fee.

Topics in the book include outfitting the vehicle, camping set up (theirs and others), food, hygiene, comfort, power, entertainment, planning and safety. Hamlin said this lifestyle isn't for everybody. "We've had some brushes with hazardous situations," he admitted. "My philosophy is 'live your life but keep your eyes open.'"

The book includes photos from their travels. Linda, he said, was an invaluable editor.

"I'm really quite proud of it," Hamlin said. "I enjoyed writing it. I think the content is really high value."

OTIS

MassDOT temporarily closes Route 8

OTIS/SANDISFIELD – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces a temporary closure of Route 8 at mile marker 7.6.

The closure is required for crews to allow crews to make utility repairs to downed wires and is expected to remain in place until repairs are completed. Route 8 northbound traffic is being detoured to follow Route 57 to

Route 23 and Route 8 southbound traffic is being detoured via Route 23 to Route 57. Temporary signs and variable message boards are being deployed to advise drivers to seek alternate routes.

Drivers traveling through the affected areas should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution. For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to: Download the Mass511

mobile app or visit www.mass511.com to view live cameras, travel times, real-time traffic conditions, and project information before setting out on the road. Users can subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions. Dial 511 and select a route to hear real-time conditions. Follow @MassDOT on X, formerly known as Twitter, to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

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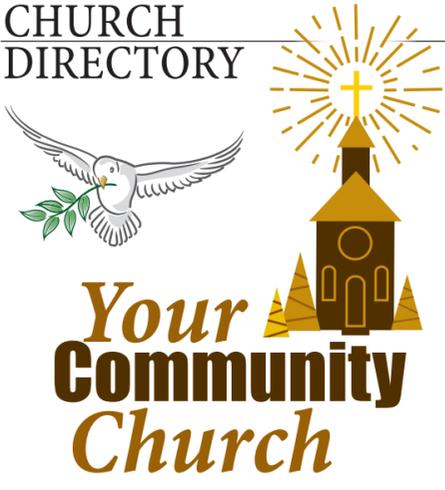
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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor



I'm turning 70. When should I apply for Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

I have a very simple question: I will turn 70 on Sept. 20 and want to start my Social Security benefits in September.

What month should I file my claim? Have there been delays with the reductions in SSA staff? Thank you for your help.

Signed: Ready to Claim

Dear Ready to Claim:

Social Security allows you to submit your application for benefits up to four months prior to the month you wish benefits to start (you will specify your desired benefit-start-month on the application).

Thus, to have your benefits begin in September (the month you turn 70), you can submit your application as early as May 2025. That will give SS plenty of time to get your benefits started on time.

Remember, though, that SS pays benefits in the month following the month earned, so if you start benefits in September, you will receive your first SS payment in October on the third Wednesday.

And, since you will be turning 70 in September you are entitled to full benefits effective from the first of that month. Congratulations on choosing a strategy, which maximizes your monthly payment. By claiming at age 70, your monthly SS benefit will be about 31% more than it would have been at your Full Retirement Age and you will get that higher monthly amount for the rest of your life.

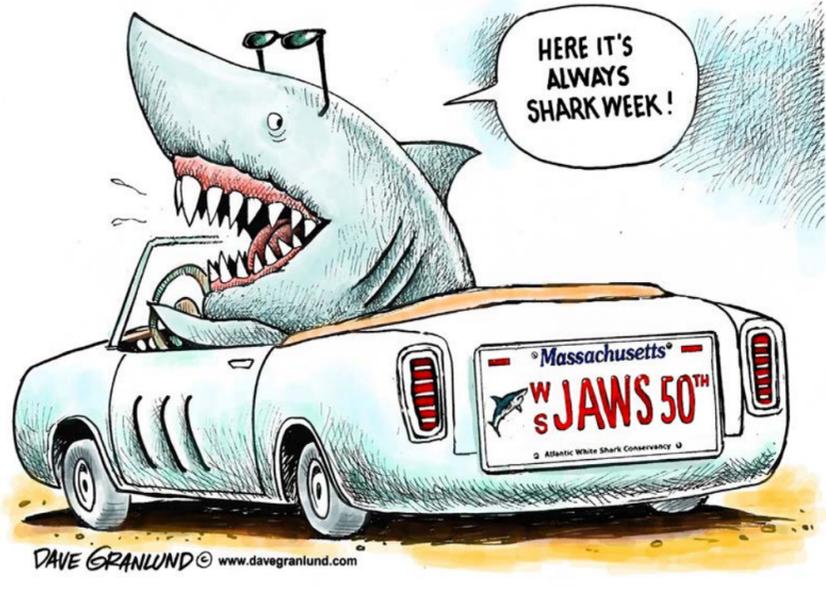
Re your question about possible delays, Social Security staff reductions have not included "front line" agents, those who handle applications, so the SS recent staff adjustments should not likely delay processing your application.

Although some back-office staffing turmoil currently exists at SSA, they have been moving more people to front-line positions to try to improve their service. Just be aware, however, that it normally takes the SSA about two to three months to process new applications, which is why they allow applications up to 4 months in advance. You will specify the month you wish benefits to start on your application. In any case, although your application should be fine if you submit it this month, rest assured that they will pay you starting with the month you requested, even if they must do so retroactively.

FYI, people can apply for Social Security in person by making a telephone appointment to do so at 1-800-772-1213 or they can apply online at www.ssa.gov/apply. To apply online, they need to have first created their "my Social Security" online account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Here is a video which explains the online application process: www.ssa.gov/hlp/video/claim_r01.htm.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisory@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Massachusetts White Shark lic. plates ...



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

GUEST COLUMN



Male common yellowthroat

in my

BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

A Brimfield resident reported a common yellowthroat in his yard.

The common yellowthroat as its name implies has a yellow throat. It also has a long tail and round belly. The males have a black mask with a whitish line above, olive upper parts, yellow throat and yellow under its tail. Females are brownish olive above with a yellow throat and breast. They lack the distinct, black mask of the male.

Yellowthroats are small

songbirds about 4 to 5 inches long. The males sing a "wichety-wichety-wichety" song. Both sexes give a full sounding "chuck" note. During migration, the yellowthroat is the most common warbler found in fields and along their edges.

These warblers live in open areas with thick, low vegetation ranging from marsh to grassland to pine forests. The females select a nest location, near or on the ground supported by sedge, reeds, cattails, briars and other low plants. Nests

in marshy areas are usually higher off the ground where they are safer from flooding. Sometimes the nest has a roof like the ovenbird nests. They are one of the species that cowbirds lay their eggs in their nests.

People may designate an area of dense or tangled low-growing grasses and other vegetation to attract common yellowthroats to their yards. Yellowthroats prefer larger yards of at least half an acre or more.

BACKYARD, page 5

The Pemi Loop at 60

By Julie Midura
Guest Columnist

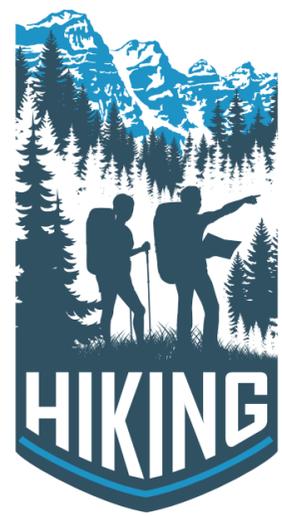
Last December, I got this harebrained idea to do something crazy for my birthday this June. It would be my way of proving to myself that 60 isn't as old as it sounds in my head.

The Pemi Loop – called "the second hardest day hike in the United States" by Backpacker Magazine – is a

32-mile hike that encircles the largest wilderness area in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

With 10 summits and 10,500 feet of elevation gain along with technical climbs and descents-completing this rugged hike in one day would be the hardest endurance challenge I had ever attempted. As such, it would require significant training.

But in January, just one



Julie Midura celebrated her 60th birthday on the Pemi Loop. Submitted Photo

HIKING, page 5

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Corrections will be printed in the same section where the error originally occurred.

Country Journal welcomes Election letters to the editor

The Country Journal welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Country Journal, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to countryjournal@turley.com.

Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by **noon Friday** to be considered for the following Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the

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Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's

Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Country Journal.

Country Journal TEAM



EDITOR
Ellenor Downer
countryjournal@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

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CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President


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OPINION

HILLTOWN HISTORY

Stagecoach travel was not a luxury journey

By Deborah Daniels
Correspondent

When one hears the word stagecoach, the wild west comes to mind with the driver urging the horses faster to outrun the Indians or highwaymen chasing them with evil intent.

Well, New England was being criss-crossed by stagecoaches by 1744 and earlier carrying passengers and freight. This was the means of travel for those who didn't own a horse and wagon. It was called stagecoach travel because passengers traveled between stops or stages where the horses or mules were changed for fresh horses every 12-15 miles.

Levi Pease, a Connecticut native and tavern owner, established the New England stagecoach travel with a New York to Boston route that took six days and cost 4 pence per mile. There was also a New York to Hartford, Connecticut route. Many roads are called Stagecoach Road throughout New England. Their origin was as a stagecoach road. It has to be noted that the stagecoach was the only means of communication and commerce between towns in the late 1700s and early 1800s.

There would be taverns on the stagecoach road that would provide fresh oats and hay for the horses and stable hands to care for them. The tavern also provided lodging for passengers, a blacksmith for coach repairs and a place to eat a meal and share the news of the region.

For saddle sore, make that bench sore passengers, a tavern was a welcome sight. The ride in a stagecoach was primitive indeed with a coach riding on iron clad wheels and iron suspension struts on roads that were dirt and stone laden and a rocking motion that threw their occupants into the passengers beside and in front of them made any chance to get out and walk a picnic.

In fact passengers were also required to help push the stagecoach uphill to spare the tired horses. Passengers, who elected to stay longer and recover at the tavern, could not be guaranteed a seat on the next stagecoach. So that was how the New England stoic nature was born, continue the coach journey, persevere and suffer.

Stagecoaches allowed

15 inches for a seat on three hard benches where people would sit with their knees touching the passenger's knees facing them. Imagine traveling with a large passenger or a mother with her four year old on her lap and luggage stored close overhead? Invasion of personal space was a fact of life on a stagecoach. People were a way passenger if they traveled part of the route, a wayfarer and a through passenger if they had the true grit to make the whole journey. Oh and they could expect dust, dirt, insects and unwashed passengers. Highwaymen attempts to rob the coach and horror of horrors a driver, who mistook a quart bottle of alcohol for his water supply.

The packing list for stagecoach travel across the west on John Butterfield's mail stagecoach, a journey of 25 days covering 2,800 miles advised passengers to bring a revolver or knife as well as wine to mix with water. Was he trying to help passengers withstand the journey or purify the bad drinking water?

Having an adequate water supply was always a problem on coach travel. Having weapons was a must. Butterfield Overland Mail Stagecoach service carried passengers and mail between eastern U.S. and San Francisco, California from 1858 to 1861. They advertised stagecoaches as travel on "flying coaches," need I remind you there was no such thing as airplane travel then.

The heyday of stagecoach travel was 1820 to 1840. Boston had 77 stagecoach lines to Hartford, Connecticut, New York, Philadelphia and further points south in 1829 and 106 stagecoach lines by 1832. Levi Pease was awarded the U.S. Mail contract for all of New England in 1789. The mail contract was the most lucrative coach business. These coaches had a driver and a conductor or guard that sat up front on an open bench.

The guard carried a gun for protection, hence the term riding shotgun came about. Highwaymen were known to hold up and rob stagecoach passengers particularly the Boston and New York routes. There was a so-called tavern of the damned frequented by highwaymen on the Boston Post road in Sudbury. You can still hike to see the colonial remains of this tavern.

However Black Bart a.k.a. Charles Boles, the gentleman bandit is the highwayman most people are familiar with. He was memorialized on television westerns, as the bandit who stepped out from behind a boulder, brandishing a gun and proceeded to rob the mail stagecoach. Incidentally the Wells Fargo Stagecoach was robbed 347 times between 1870-1884.

Concord, New Hampshire was the center of stagecoach production. Wheelwright Lewis Downing and expert coach builder J. Stephens Abbot manufactured 3,000 stagecoaches between 1827 to 1899 in Concord. They invented the biggest improvement to coach travel, leather braces made from the hides of a dozen oxen instead of iron braces. Leather braces helped the coach to swing back and forth like a cradle and were much better at absorbing the shock of the road, sparing horse and passenger. They also made all the coaches for Wells Fargo. They created the iconic red and yellow Well's Fargo stagecoach. The back wheel is larger than the front wheel on a stagecoach to allow for easier turning and adds a bit more stability on rough roads.

One more bit of history: the yard of ale at taverns was for the coach driver. It is a tall glass of ale that was a yard long to help the driver recover. This guy often had to drive through the night regardless of the weather to keep to his schedule. Levi Pease kept his stagecoach drivers traveling at a punishing pace with posted time schedules.

Alas the iron horse, railroads, was conquering travel across America in 1840. They replaced the stagecoach routes with faster service and could boast travel that was more comfortable riding and unhindered by the weather. The taverns and blacksmiths would mourn the loss of business. The two stones located outside the front door at the Williams house in Goshen are said to be the stones a passenger stepped out upon to get off the stagecoach back in the 1790s. This house built in the 1770s has served as a tavern as well as a meeting place, post office, boarding house and general store. It is being restored and the project is the Williams Boltwood Project. Historic preservation is taking place now.



Williams House in Goshen shows the larger stone for stepping out of the stagecoach onto and the smaller stone as the second step down onto the ground.



The Williams House is being restored hopefully to become a Goshen community center.

Turley Publications photo by Deborah Daniels



A barn is next door to the Williams Boltwood house.



The fireplace inside the house has the original andirons.



This stagecoach would be much fancier than one that would have driven the Boston to Albany route in colonial times.

Submitted photo

BACKYARD

Phoebe nest

I received an email containing a photo of an Eastern phoebe nest filled with phoebe nestlings. Eastern phoebes nest near humans often selecting a spot over a door or in a shed.

Wild turkeys

My grandson and I had to stop and wait for several hen turkeys with their poults to move them along a backroad in Barre. The largest hen led the way, walking down the middle of the road. Three other hens took up the rear with the poults walking all over the place. Some even stopped to explore the edge

of the road, but then ran to catch up. Finally, they headed into the grass and woods on the edge of the road.

More Brimfield birds

The Brimfield resident said he has seen more birds in his yard since his last email. "Baltimore orioles have been seen more often at the birdbath, probably because of the warm weather we have been having." On a recent day he had a robin, three orioles, cardinals, a titmouse, a chipping sparrow, blue jays, catbirds and a common yellowthroat all stopped by the birdbath and a black and white war-

bler was seen in the yard.

He said he took down the bird feeders because of bears. "We had a bear make a daytime visit. It was not seen, but we discovered that it had cleaned out the feeding station. All the black oil sunflower seed, two suet cakes, a "log" of compressed seeds and fruit and suet pellets were all gone. Fortunately the bear didn't damage anything or steal any of the feeders which they often do."

His wife checks a town Facebook page and has seen many reports of bears in town and many of them are in the daytime so he figured it was time to take the feed-

ers down. He still throws a seed mix around in several places like he always has and only put handfuls of black oil and whole peanuts in a small tray hanging from a Shepard's crook.

He said, "I've started to see young of the year around the yard. Several days ago two juveniles were following an adult male red-bellied woodpecker around, two juvenile Baltimore orioles were seen at the bird bath and I also saw a juvenile chipping sparrow take a bath."

Bobolinks

He said, "A few years back I took part in a citizen

science project monitoring bobolinks at Moore State Park in Paxton. Because the Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation has failed to maintain two large fields at the park for the benefit of grassland species the bobolink population at the park has declined. Milkweed, multi flora rose, bindweed, crown vetch and other non-grass type vegetation is slowing invading the once grass fields. The first year I monitored the park there were 149 bobolinks seen in the largest field in August but unfortunately the numbers declined every subsequent year."

Osprey

This Brimfield resident visits a pond in Warren often to check on an osprey nest. He said, "The osprey nest in Warren may have only produced one young this year. The nest has gotten bigger over the years so I hoping that there are more young in the nest that have been unseen because the nest is deeper now."

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

from page 4

HIKING

and was forced to deliver the baby five weeks early. (Mom and baby are now doing well.)

Over the last six months, our family has needed us, and my time has been better spent being there for the people I love, rather than spending my weekends training for an epic endurance hike.

So I shelved the idea of a solo, single-day Pemi Loop

in favor of completing a 'leisurely' three-day Pemi Loop backpacking trip with my husband instead. After all, we wouldn't really need to train for it...would we?

The short answer, as we discovered last weekend, is "Yes, you did need to train for it, you fools!"

Although our bodies most definitely took a beating, weary legs and several

falls were a small price to pay for admission.

Because I have no desire to carefully preserve this now 60-year-old body. I prefer to use it up until there is nothing left. To wring out every last bit of my youth on adventures and experiences such as this.

You see, although our bodies most assuredly have a shelf life, there are parts of

us that will forever remain ageless. And I plan to carry the best parts of my younger self into my older years.

I plan to worry less about "acting my age" and spend more time celebrating it. I plan to scramble up steep rock ledges. Watch the sun rise and set from mountain-tops. Sleep in the wilderness. Slow dance on summits. Kiss...even when someone is

watching.

I plan to slide into the next decade, battered, bruised and bandaged, all while yelling, "Dang, what an amazing ride!"

So on our final day of the trip, I was disappointed to hear Tom say, "I hate to tell you this, but this will be my last Pemi Loop."

However, he said the same exact thing two years

ago when we completed our fourth Pemi Loop. I'm secretly hoping that hiker amnesia kicks in again in two years when he turns 70. Because don't you agree that there's no better place to become a septuagenarian than on a walk around the largest wilderness area in New Hampshire?

See you in the wild places, my friends.

CHESTER

Chester High School Alumni and friends holds reunion

CHESTER – As Chester High Alumni and friends gathered in the town, a picture of history, nostalgia and community/school spirit developed.

The annual reunion and meeting always draws many people associated with the former Chester High and Gateway Regional Schools, including Chester Residents who attended or graduated from Gateway after Chester High School closed in 1968. This year's meeting was held on Saturday, June 28 at the restored Chester Train Station with arrangements by the Chester Foundation.

Special recognition was given to Harriet Kelso Gilman from the class of 1939, who recently celebrated her 104th birthday and was celebrating the 86th anniversary of her high school graduation. Sybil Mizejewski from the class of 1949 was also recognized as one of the oldest alumni

present. Tom Boyer received applause after traveling the furthest from Florida to attend.

Scholarships presented to graduating seniors included Evan Fogue, Kalee Connor, and Isabella Le Barron. Alumni continuing their education Grace LeBarron, Dalton Savoy, Jackson Harding, and Sean Savoy had their scholarships renewed. Scholarship Custodian Diane DeMoss noted that it was great that several recipients attended the reunion, and all recipients are now considered life members of the association.

Association President Walter Boomsma noted that these reunions are "drifting in the direction of becoming as much a town event as a school reunion." Boomsma also pointed out that the Historical Society supports the occasion by offering special hours for alumni to visit the museum



Chester High School Alumni Association 2025 officers are, from left, Robert Goewey, treasurer; Donna Willadson Harris, secretary; Kate Blanchard, vice president and Walter Boomsma, president.

Submitted photo

during reunion weekend. "I think this is proof that small-town America is alive and well, at least here in Chester," he said.

The Association reelected Walter Boomsma as President for his twentieth year.

Treasurer Robert Goewey also returned to the office. Kate Blanchard was reelected Vice President, and Donna Willadson Harris was elected secretary.

The Association's Board of Directors includes Janice

Leone Brown, Jack Young, Jackie DeMoss Conklin, Brenda Budreau, Judy Olson, Bruce Cooper, Edith Whitaker and Robert Broga. Scholarship Custodians are Diane DeMoss, Linda Casper and Annette LaMountain.

The Chester Foundation hosts the annual event at the restored Train Station. Dave Pierce, President, noted that the annual reunion is "one of our favorite traditions" and that the Foundation appreciates and supports more than the tradition of railroading in Chester.

The association has already started planning for the next annual meeting, scheduled for June 27, 2026.

Those associated with or connected to Chester or Chester and Gateway Regional High School are encouraged to ensure that the Association has current mailing information. The association also maintains a website (<https://chesterhigh.wordpress.com/>) and Facebook presence (@ChesterMassachusettsSchools) where alumni can gather information and post comments.

FLORENCE

Florence Bank to build new branch

FLORENCE – The Florence Bank will take the next step in its expansion into Hampden County in August, when it breaks ground on a 2,500-square-foot office at 1504 Northampton St. in Holyoke.

The full-service Holyoke branch is expected to open in the spring of 2026 and will be the bank's fourth in Hampden County. In August 2017, Florence Bank opened its first branch in the county in West Springfield, followed by a branch opening in Springfield early in 2019 and in Chicopee in the spring of 2021.

"We're thrilled to be able to provide our current and future customers in Holyoke with a convenient way to bank with us and look forward to serving the people, businesses and organizations in the Paper City," said President and CEO Matt Garrity. "Our focus is on providing great customer service and helping to reinvigorate the community, and we are proud and committed to be meeting the banking needs of more residents of Hampden County."

An invitation-only ceremonial groundbreaking event is planned for Friday, August 22 at 10 a.m. at the site of the new branch. Garrity will address an audience that is expected to include bank employees, board members, Holyoke Mayor Joshua A.



Florence Bank will break ground on a new branch in Holyoke in August. The office will be the bank's fourth in Hampden County and is slated to open in the spring of 2026. This is an architect's rendering of the building.

Submitted photo

Garcia, and other community leaders and elected officials.

The new branch, designed by HAI Architecture in Northampton, will provide a spacious lobby, traditional teller stations, five offices, a drive-up teller window and a drive-up ATM. Six employees will staff the branch, where customers can be assisted by tellers, meet with a customer service representative or apply for a mortgage or commercial loan. The bank's Spanish-speaking mortgage originator will also be based in the new branch.

Florence Bank has over 1,200 retail and business customers in Holyoke, and Garrity said the bank looks forward to deepening its impact in the region. Florence Bank, chartered in 1873, is unique in that it

is a mutually-owned savings bank, meaning it does not need to pay dividends to stockholders. Garrity said that mutuality allows the bank to make decisions about what's best for customers and the community.

Florence Bank is a mutual savings bank chartered in 1873. Currently, the bank serves the Pioneer Valley through 12 full-service branch locations in Florence, Northampton, Easthampton, Williamsburg, Amherst, Hadley, Belchertown, Granby, Chicopee, West Springfield and Springfield. Additionally, it offers 23 ATMs and a wide range of financial services, including investment management through Florence Financial Group to consumers and businesses.

RUSSELL

Western Mass Council of Scouting America appoints new leaders

HOLYOKE – The Scouting America Western Massachusetts Council, 850 High Street, Suite 1B, announces its new leadership team.

Craig Sims was recently hired as the Council's professional Scout Executive and CEO to manage the day-to-day operations of the Council. Sims comes to the Western Massachusetts Council from Colby College where he was associate director of class philanthropy and engagement and brings more than 35 years of proven leadership in the areas of organizational fundraising, sales and business strategy and operations management. Sims is a former Senior District Executive in Scouting America and served with both the Del-Mar-Va Council in Delaware and in the Chester County Council in Penn. for 10 years.

In addition to Sims, L. Scott Rice has been elected to the position of council president and chairman of the board of directors. Rice is a retired lieutenant general and former director of the Air National Guard for more than 108,000 Air Guard members and civilians in 175 geographically separated units in 213 locations throughout 54 states, territories and the District of Columbia, with an annual budget of \$11.5 Billion. He brings significant leadership, strategy and organizational management skills to the council. Rice is an Eagle Scout and holds both Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in

Troy, New York.

Rounding out the Council's "Key Three," who collectively 'manage' the organization is Richard Belford, elected to the position of council commissioner. Belford is a retired chief master sergeant with the U.S. Air Force and has more than 35 years of leadership and management experience in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Belford is an Eagle Scout, holds two MBA degrees from Salem University in West Virginia and is a certified non-profit professional.

For the coming year, the council is focused on growing its membership and units comprised of Cub Scout Packs, Scout Troops, Venturing Crews, Sea Scout Ships and Explorer Posts. Currently the Council has nearly 1,500 youth members and adult volunteers across the four Western Massachusetts counties. With this growth goal in mind, the council has recently secured funding to hire two additional recruiting professionals, for the next two years, to augment the current recruiter focused primarily on the Explorer Program.

Scouting America offers youth programs for boys and girls from kindergarten to age 20 and both traditional Scouting and 'specialty' programs such as Venturing, Exploring and Sea Scouts. In short, there's something for everyone in the Western Mass. Scouting America program.

The Western Mass. Council kicked off its summer camp program on July

6 at the H.A. Moses Scout Reservation in Russell. The council operated an overnight camp through July, offering a wide variety of fun activities, merit badges and rank advancement opportunities to the participants. Camp activities include archery, rifle/shotgun shooting, all-terrain vehicles, camping, campfires, camp songs and skits, nature and conservation, group sports and games, arts and crafts, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics skills, as well as swimming, canoe/kayaking, sailing and fishing.

Denis Gagnon, president and CEO of Excel Dryer in East Longmeadow and a former president of the Western Mass. Council, Scouting America has said that the scouting program is "the most effective character development, citizenship engagement, personal fitness, and leadership program in America for our youth and parents."

As one of the nation's largest and the most effective youth development organizations, the BSA (now Scouting America) has served young men and women for more than 100 years. The mission of Scouting America and the Western Massachusetts Council is to inspire young people to make ethical and moral choices, become self-reliant and take a prominent role in civic engagement over their lifetimes. For additional information, people may visit www.wmasscouting.org, or call the Western Mass. Council at 413-594-9196.

EASTHAMPTON

bankESB announce two promotions

EASTHAMPTON – bankESB recently announced the promotions of two long-time employees, Katherine Sordillo and Susanne deVillier, to vice president, regional branch manager.

In this newly created position, deVillier and Sordillo will provide leadership and support to regions of bankESB's retail banking network, working closely with retail branch staff in several communities to deliver exceptional customer service, drive performance, and uphold the bank's commitment to community banking. They will also play a key role in supporting strategic initiatives focused on growth, operational excellence, and employee development.

deVillier of Agawam, has more than 30 years of banking experience and has played a vital role in bankESB's growth and success, particularly in Agawam, where she's led the retail banking team at the Main Street, Agawam office since

it opened in 2011. She joined bankESB in 2010 as a branch officer and over the years has been promoted to senior branch officer; assistant vice president, branch officer; and vice president, branch officer. As VP, deVillier also served as retail sales coordinator, lending her leadership experience to other branch managers. In her new role, she will oversee the bank's Agawam, Amherst, Hadley, Northampton, Southampton and Westfield branches, while maintaining a presence in the Agawam community, where she actively volunteers.

Sordillo of Chicopee, brings three decades of leadership experience in retail banking and customer relationship management to her new role. She joined bankESB in 2001 as branch officer of the Granby Road, South Hadley office and over her tenure has been promoted to senior branch manager; assistant vice president, branch manager; and vice

president, branch officer and retail sales coordinator. She is a passionate community leader and has served as president of the South Hadley/Granby Chamber of Commerce and chairperson for Loomis Communities. In her new role, she will oversee the bank's Belchertown, Holyoke, South Hadley and two Easthampton branches, as well as the retail branch float team, while maintaining a presence in South Hadley.

"These promotions reflect our continued investment in leadership from within," said Matthew S. Sosik, president and chief executive officer of bankESB. "Kay and Sue have demonstrated a strong track record of success, a dedication to a customer-first experience, and team leadership. We are excited to see the impact they will have in unlocking potential across a broader region." Founded in 1869 as Easthampton Savings Bank, bankESB is headquartered in Easthampton.



Scouting America Western Massachusetts Council's new leadership team are, from left, Richard Belford, council commissioner; L. Scott Rice, council president and Craig Sims, scout executive. The Key 3 are shown under a painting of Horace A. Moses, at the HA Moses Scout Reservation in Russell.

Submitted photos

PITTSFIELD

BCDA announces 2025-2026 Chairs

PITTSFIELD – Founded over two decades ago, the Berkshire County Development Alliance is an informal group of 150 plus development professionals, who represent Berkshire area nonprofit organizations in a fundraising capacity.

Members gather up to a half-dozen times per year to share information and engage in meaningful dialogue about advancement issues affecting the industry. There are no fees to join and the group is open to all interested parties.

This year, the group will be led by a group of tri-chairmen: Kate Gigliotti, CFRE, Jackie Kelly-Olson and Miranda Meyers, who will oversee group programming and operations for the 2025-2026 program year. BCDA thanks outgoing chairs Sheila Levante and Molly Merrihew for their leadership and continued commitment to the advancement community.

“As I step down from my role as co-chair of BCDA, I feel deeply proud of what we’ve accom-

plished together,” said Molly Merrihew. “This group continues to be an incredible resource and support system for nonprofit professionals across the county. I’m excited to see Kate, Jackie and Miranda bring their energy, creativity and shared vision to the role and Sheila and I look forward to continuing to be a part of the BCDA community going forward.”

Kate Gigliotti, CFRE is an experienced non-profit leader with a background in program-building, volunteer activation and fundraising. In her current role as Senior Associate Director of Priorities and Initiatives at Harvard University, she serves as a fundraising planner and strategist for university-wide priorities, partnering and collaborating across schools and stakeholders to maximize fundraising success across the institution. Previously, Gigliotti worked at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, where she most recently served as Chief Advancement Officer.

Before MCLA, she worked at the University of Houston, Albany Law School and two regional non-profit performing arts organizations. She is a graduate of the State University of New York at Potsdam with a Bachelor’s Degree in vocal performance and arts management and holds a Master’s Degree in non-profit management from the University of Houston-Downtown. She is active in Lions Club International, ProAdams and Literacy Network of South Berkshire.

Jackie Kelly-Olson is a dynamic professional with extensive experience in communications, advancement and administrative roles. Currently serving as the director of advancement at Montessori School of the Berkshires, she leads comprehensive fundraising strategies and cultivates relationships with donors, alumni and corporate partners. With strong skills in project management, fundraising and special events, Kelly-Olson demonstrated her ability to

support organizational goals through strategic planning and relationship building. She has experience coordinating complex logistics, managing communications, and supporting executive leadership. A graduate of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts with a background in English, communications and business administration, she brings a versatile and collaborative approach to her professional endeavors.

Miranda Meyers is originally from New Jersey and grew up visiting the Berkshires regularly. Two years ago, she decided to take a job in the area and call the Berkshires home and boy is she glad she did. She went to college at Rochester Institute of Technology and went into political fundraising right after graduation. It was a natural transition to fundraising and communications in the nonprofit sector. Meyers lives in Lenox and in her free time, she is likely on the pickle ball courts.

BEAT removes invasive hardy kiwi

PITTSFIELD – Berkshire Environmental Action Team will hold a work morning on Saturday, Aug. 9, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Onota boat launch at Burbank Park, Lakeway Drive, to remove invasive hardy kiwi.

Hardy kiwi is an ornamental plant known for its fast and dense growing patterns that has become a significant issue in Berkshire County. The dense curtains can smother native plants, creating a monoculture that threatens biodiversity and ecosystem resilience.

Extreme heat or wet weather cancels this event. Participants will pull and cut kiwi vines specifically removing fruit to keep wildlife from eating it and spreading the plant further.

Participants should come prepared to walk approximately 10 minutes into the forest and spend an hour pulling hardy kiwi.

Wearing long pants, long socks, and closed toed shoes is important. Additionally, participants should bring a full water bottle and any equipment, such as gloves, shears, loppers they possess. If not, BEAT has equipment participants can borrow. Before the pulling begins, BEAT will direct volunteers to sections of hardy kiwi and provide any necessary instructions. This event is open to everyone, regardless of previous experience.

This event is an opportunity to get outdoors and connect with others. All efforts will be directly supporting native wildlife habitat and the health of the ecosystem. With more volunteer participation, the more successful this event will be.

People may visit <https://tinyurl.com/BEAT-kiwi-pulling> to register. For more information, they may visit thebeatnews.org or call 413-464-9402.

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

HBRAWM announces Trade School Tool Stipend Awards

The Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Western Massachusetts announce the recipients of the 2005 Trade School Tool Stipend Awards.

Each year HBRAWM honors outstanding students from local vocational and technical schools with a \$750 stipend to assist in purchasing the tools need to succeed in their chosen trade careers.

This year’s awardees represent the region’s brightest and most dedicated future tradespeople.

Local students receiving stipends are Blake Rahilly of Pittsfield High School, Madison Faulconer of Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School in Northampton and Lilly Boucher of Westfield Technical Academy.

The stipend program is part of HBRAWM’s ongoing efforts to promote workforce development in the construction industry by empowering and encouraging young talent across Western Massachusetts.

Colleges, universities announce President’s, Dean’s Lists

Goodwin University
East Hartford, Connecticut
PRESIDENT’S LIST
Lisa Neveu of Blandford

Clark University
Worcester
DEAN’S LIST
Samantha G. Adamtsev of Westfield, first honors
Kelly E. Burns of Westfield, first honors.

Goodwin University
East Hartford, Connecticut
DEAN’S LIST
Brook Russo of Westfield

Hartwick College
Oneonta, New York
Maya Lieberman-Bachman of Huntington, art major

UMass Amherst
Amherst
DEAN’S LIST

Nicole Hannigan of Chester
Liliana Manley of Chesterfield
Greta Muellner of Chesterfield
Ori Sussman of Chesterfield
Jeremy Dus of Cummington
West Williams of Cummington
Kailyn Cabrini of Easthampton
Emmalee Connly of Easthampton
Elleana Denis of Easthampton
Janine DiCarlo of Easthampton
Maxwell Dopp of Easthampton
Rosemary Follet of Easthampton
Meagan Gravel of Easthampton
Hailey Higgins-Figueroa of Easthampton
Elijah Howe of Easthampton
Michaela Kelley of Easthampton
Deidre Kelly of Easthampton
Ashley LeBlanc of Easthampton
Devin Lemay of Easthampton
Alexander Major of Easthampton
Makenzee Martin of Easthampton
Evan Omalley of Easthampton

Sonam Ottaviani of Easthampton
Cameron Powers of Easthampton
Justice Rogers of Easthampton
Ethan Silluzio of Easthampton
Melanie Smith of Easthampton
Jenna Wooster of Easthampton
Syeda Uswa Yasir of Easthampton
Benjamin Hyjek of Montgomery
Rowan Boyer of Otis
Mya Martin of Otis
Elizabeth Sarnacki of Otis
Mia Gozgit of Russell
Kota Rinaldi of Sandisfield
Cadence Loven of Westhampton
Kira French of Williamsburg
Mikayla Joyner of Williamsburg
Isabella Kosiba of Williamsburg
Charles Por of Williamsburg
Shane Prusak of Williamsburg
Johnathan Santiago of Williamsburg
William Towler of Williamsburg
Matthew Wilhelm of Williamsburg
Joanna Davis of Worthington
Hannah Matica of Worthington
Olivia Millis of Worthington

Send Us Your Autumn Event Information

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Autumn Fest Supplement** which will be published **September 10, 2025.**

Total circulation of 85,000 reaching over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley.

Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 11.

Community Autumn Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO:

Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
or email* them to: jamie@turley.com

***Be sure to indicate "Autumn Event" in the subject line of your email.**

NORTHAMPTON

Hampshire Sheriff's Office recognized for opioid treatment

NORTHAMPTON – On Wednesday, July 23 and Thursday, July 24, Dr. Lawrence Mendel and Donna Mayne, BSN, surveyors from the National Commission on Correctional Health Care, an organization recognized as one of the strictest of the many oversight agencies that monitor correctional practices in the country, conducted a stem-to-stern audit of the

Hampshire Sheriff's Office's Opioid Treatment Program, the second such audit since earning federal OTP license in 2021 and the first since earning NCCCHC accreditation in 2023.

During their exit interview, Dr. Mendel and Mayne made special note of the teamwork and spirit of camaraderie they experienced during their visit, stating

that the audit for them was a "wonderful experience," adding that they had "no concerns and many more compliments" about the opioid treatment program.

From the positive responses they received from the men in the program, to the excellence of the documentation, to the overall commitment of the medical and security teams to make the OTP

work efficiently and safely, Mayne said "you're only as strong as your weakest link, and I don't think we found a weak link."

Dr. Mendel added that the OTP "is the best program I've seen in quite some time."

Dr. Mendel and Mayne will file their preliminary report with the NCCCHC Accreditation Committee early next week and by

September they should receive a renewed accreditation for their OTP.

"The goals of our Opioid Treatment Program are saving and improving lives, reducing crime and recidivism, and helping our clients re-enter their communities and re-join their families in better health than when they arrived at our facility," Sheriff Patrick J. Cahillane said. "I appreciate the meticulous review of our program and thank Lawrence and Donna for their efforts and kind words. And I am enormously proud of all our staff, but especially the members of our OTP Team for their outstanding, and life-changing, work. Our success requires teamwork. I believe the preliminary results of this re-accreditation audit demonstrate that."

Promotions, unit changes at the Northwestern DA's Office

NORTHAMPTON – Northwestern District Attorney David E. Sullivan announces several promotions, reassignments and new hires within the DA's office.

Northwestern Assistant District Attorney Erin Aiello was promoted to Chief of the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Unit and ADA Thomas Robinson in May was promoted to Chief of the Elders and Persons with Disabilities Unit.

Meanwhile, former DVSAU Chief Sandra Staub transitioned to the Juvenile Justice Unit filling the vacancy left when ADA Robinson moved to the Elders and Persons with Disabilities Unit.

Aiello has worked for the Northwestern District Attorney's Office in the DVSAU since February of 2019 after working previously in the Plymouth and Bristol County district

attorney's offices. Robinson joined the office in 2023 after working for years in various positions with the Committee for Public Counsel Services and in private practice.

Also this month, Ingrid Frau joined the office as an Assistant District Attorney in the DVSAU after a 19-year tenure in the Hampden County District Attorney's Office, including many years as a domestic violence prosecutor.

"ADA Aiello is a dedicated and talented prosecutor and I am pleased to promote her to be the chief of the DVSAU. The former director of the unit, ADA Staub, set the bar high and I have no doubt the unit will continue its excellent work under Erin's leadership and with the addition of a prose-



Erin Aiello



Thomas Robinson



Ingrid Frau



Jared Hirsch



Elayna Bartolomeo



Mailande Dewitt



Kyle Stublen

curator as experienced as ADA Frau," said Northwestern District Attorney Sullivan. "The juvenile unit will be well served by the experience and compassion of ADA

Staub."

DA Sullivan noted that in the two years ADA Robinson has been with the office he distinguished himself as a skilled litigator in

juvenile courts as well as in district and superior courts. "Tom's prior experience and passion for helping victims of crime will serve him well in this new position," said DA Sullivan.

Other recent staff changes include: ADA Jared Hirsch, who has worked at the office since January of 2023 after previously working as an ADA in Suffolk County was named Attorney-in-Charge of the Northampton District Court, replacing former ADA Veronice Santana, who left in June to take a position with the Massachusetts Parole Board.

ADA Elayna Bartolomeo was promoted to Attorney-in-Charge

of the office's Greenfield District Court staff. Bartolomeo joined the office in December 2022 after previously working as an ADA in Berkshire County. She replaces ADA Ryan Scott, who will continue prosecuting cases in

Greenfield District Court while also working alongside Superior Court ADA Aidan Lanciani handling investigations and cases from the Northwestern Anti-Crime Task Force.

Other recent new hires as assistant district attorneys were Mailande DeWitt and Kyle Stublen who joined the office in March and May respectively. ADA Stublen, who previously worked as a prosecutor in Florida and at the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, is working in the Child Protection Unit. ADA DeWitt, a new member of the bar, is a prosecutor in the district courts.

REGION

State Senate passes FY 26 budget

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Senate approved a \$61.4 billion state budget for Fiscal Year 2026.

Over three full days of debate, the Chamber adopted 493 amendments, adding a total of \$81.1 million in spending for statewide initiatives and local priorities for communities throughout the Commonwealth to the Senate Ways and Means Committee's originally proposed budget.

The final budget, which safeguards the state's financial health, protects the state's most vulnerable residents, and makes investments that reinforce the Commonwealth's economic vitality in the face of mounting federal threats, was passed with bipartisan support by a vote of 38-2. It neither raises taxes nor spends dollars from the state's stabilization fund, also known as the "Rainy Day Fund," which currently stands at a historic \$8.1 billion.

"This is a challenging budget year due to the uncertainty we face in cuts from the federal government, but in spite of that, the

Massachusetts Senate presented a strong, balanced budget with targeted investments in so many important state and local programs and projects," said Senator Paul Mark (D-Becket), Chair of the Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development. "I am happy to report that money was secured for several vital local organizations who had recently lost previously promised grants or funding sources and that the Berkshires and Western Massachusetts are receiving more and more attention from the rest of the state as we fight to guarantee that we receive our fair share in each budget."

State Senator Paul W. Mark secured \$1,050,000 in local funding earmarks in the Fiscal Year 2026 Senate budget in key educational, cultural, and public safety sectors. These investments help ensure that western Massachusetts continues to have a seat at the table and does not go overlooked.

Local investment includes \$16 million for Rural School Aid. To support

schools across the state, the Senate follows through on the commitment to fully fund and implement the Student Opportunity Act by Fiscal Year 2027 and invests \$7.3 billion in Chapter 70 state aid to public schools, an increase of \$460 million over FY25. Further, the budget increases minimum Chapter 70 aid to \$150 per pupil, delivering an additional \$39.6 million in resources to school districts across the state.

Other education investments include: \$492 million for the Special Education Circuit Breaker, in addition to the \$190 million included in the Fair Share supplemental budget recently passed. Together with Fair Share supplemental funding, the Senate's FY26 budget fulfills the promise of 75% reimbursement for eligible tuition and transportation costs, recommending \$682 million in total to reimburse school districts for the cost of educating students with disabilities.

It also includes \$103.7 million to reimburse school districts for regional school

transportation costs, including \$53.7 million in

The budget establishes a special commission to study how local aid is distributed, evaluate its effectiveness and equity, and make recommendations to maximize the equity of the distribution. In addition to traditional sources of local aid, this budget also increases Payments In Lieu of Raxes for state-owned land to \$54.5 million. PILOT funding is a source of supplemental local aid for cities and towns working to protect and improve access to essential services and programs.

Other local investments include: \$52.9 million for libraries, including \$19.5 million for regional library local aid, \$20 million for municipal libraries and \$6.2 million for technology and automated resource networks; \$29.9 million in grants to Councils on Aging, increasing assistance per elder to \$16 from \$15 in FY25 and \$26.2 million for the Massachusetts Cultural Council to support local arts, culture, and creative economic initiatives.

Clark Art Institute hosts lecture by Rebecca Birrell

WILLIAMSTOWN – On Saturday, Aug. 2 at 2 p.m., the Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., presents "Corruptive... Destructive:" Women Artists Paint the Nude, 1875-1945, a lecture by author and art historian Rebecca Birrell.

This free lecture is given in conjunction with the Clark's exhibition A Room of Her Own: Women Artist-Activists in Britain, 1875-1945 and takes place in the Clark's Manton Research Center auditorium.

In 1930, writing about her sister Vanessa Bell, Virginia Woolf describes how "it was held, until sixty years ago for a woman to look upon nakedness with the eye of an artist, and not simply with the eye of mother, wife or mistress, was corruptive of her innocence and destructive of her domesticity." In this lecture, author and art historian Rebecca Birrell explores how Bell, among

others including Evelyn de Morgan, Gwen John and Winifred Knights, overcame moral and pedagogical constraints to produce nudes that reflected new ideas about women's ambitions, desires and social roles.

Accessible seats are available. For more information, people may call 413 458 0524. A 3 p.m. tea party hosted by the Clark and Wild Soul River, featuring British teas and light bites, follows. For more information, people may visit clark-art.edu/events.

The exhibition is on view through Sept. 14. A Room of Her Own: Women Artist-Activists in Britain, 1875-1945 is organized by the Clark Art Institute and curated by Alexis Goodin, associate curator. Generous support for A Room of Her Own is provided by Joanne Barker, Carol and Bob Braun, Richard and Carol Seltzer, Denise Littlefield Sobeland the Tavolozza Foundation.

SCJC to rally against gas pipeline

SPRINGFIELD Eversource Gas is holding an open house and listening session at UMass Center at Tower Square in Springfield on Thursday, Aug. 7 at 6-8 p.m. to take a concrete step towards getting permits and building a pipeline.

Springfield Climate Justice Coalition is calling on people in Western Massachusetts and beyond to send a powerful message to the Healey administration, elected officials and Eversource Gas. They do not want Eversource to build a polluting pipeline that would run through environmental justice residential neighborhoods and dangerously close to schools and community hubs in Springfield.

The Eversource Open House on Thursday, Aug. 7 will include a short presen-

tation followed by question and answer, food, child care and language interpretation (Spanish and Russian). SCJC hopes to pack the space with opponents of this dangerous project, raising the questions Eversource wants avoided.

SCJC is organizing a dynamic outdoor event before the Open House, calling public attention to the dangers of this project and Eversource's deceitful and self-serving intent in building it. They will gather at 5:15 p.m. sharp in Stearns Square for a street theater performance and call to action, followed by a mini-march to the Eversource Open House at Tower Square.

It is time to rise up and take power back from energy corporations who profit

while poisoning communities, polluting air and pocketing more of people's hard earned money. The future lies in a rapid and just transition to clean electric heat and cooling powered by clean, renewable energy.

People should wear something red. They should RSVP by visiting <https://bit.ly/InPersonRSVP> if they are coming in person. They should RSVP if they joining online by visiting <https://bit.ly/ZoomRSVPAug7th>.

Climate Action Now is a people-powered, grassroots Western Mass organization dedicated to building a powerful, unstoppable and just climate movement. We work in our communities and in collaboration with partners across the region to educate, advocate, and mobilize for climate justice.

Clark Art Institute presents discussion

WILLIAMSTOWN – On Saturday, Aug. 2 at 1 p.m., the Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., presents the next installment in the Ground/work 2025: A Close Look discussion series.

Through guided conversation and reflection, participants consider how each artist's work is in active dialogue with the Clark's natural environment. On Aug/ 2, a Clark educator leads a close examination and in-depth discussion around the outdoor sculpture Bana Yiriv ni Shi Folow (Trees and Seeds of Life) by artist Aboubakar Fofana. The artist, who has redefined and reinvigorated West African indigo dyeing techniques includes spirals of handwoven, hand-dyed cloth made from plants grown on his farm in Mali in his sculpture, a "tree of life."

The next Ground/work 2025: A Close Look discussion takes place on Saturday, Aug. 9 at 1 p.m. and examines Milena Naef's Three Times Spanning. Ground/work 2025 is a year-long exhibition of monumental sculpture featuring specially commissioned works located across the Clark's campus. Through the work of six international artists, the exhibition explores global conceptions of craft, defined as the physical process by which artists transform the world around them. Each of the participating artists exemplifies how artisanal traditions can be reinvented to generate contemporary form and meaning. The Ground/work 2025 artists are: Y Akiyama (Japan), Laura Ellen Bacon (United Kingdom), Aboubakar Fofana (Mali), Hugh Hayden (United States),

Milena Naef (Germany), and Javier Senosiain (Mexico).

Ground/work 2025 is organized by the Clark Art Institute and curated by independent scholar Glenn Adamson. Ground/work 2025 is made possible by Denise Littlefield Sobel. Major funding is provided by the Edward and Maureen Fennessy Bousa Fund for Contemporary Projects, Karen and Robert Scott, and VIA Art Fund, with additional support from Thomas and Lily Beischer, Girlfriend Fund and Agnes Gund.

This free event requires a moderate hike on uneven and occasionally steep terrain. It will be held rain or shine; extreme weather cancels the event. For more information and individual meeting sites, people may visit clarkart.edu/events.

STOCKBRIDGE

Berkshire Art Center announces upcoming classes

STOCKBRIDGE – Berkshire Art Center is wrapping up a vibrant summer filled with creativity, community and hands-on art-making.

As the season winds down, the art center announces two end-of-summer specials and a dynamic lineup of fall classes and workshops for all ages across its Stockbridge and Pittsfield locations. They have just a few spots remaining in their “Summer in the Studios” program and summer classes and the don’t want people to miss out. For people, who sign up now through Friday, Aug. 1 will get a \$25 credit towards a class this fall at BAC to keep the creativity going.

For those who sign up for the fall young artist or

adult classes by Friday, Aug. 8 and be entered into a drawing to win a free art party or art class for up to 10 people. It’s a perfect way to gather friends, family or coworkers for a one-of-a-kind art experience.

Starting in early September, BAC launches its Early Fall Session with a wide range of courses for teens and adults in ceramics, collage, drawing, mixed media, painting, printmaking and photography. All adult classes are open to students ages 14 plus.

Smoke and Gold – Adding Metallic Accent to smoke fired pinch pot with Paula Shalan starts Tuesday, Sept. 2 and The Clay Box focusing hand building metallic finishes begins Wednesday, Sept.

3. Ingrid Raab leads Slab Handbuilding Techniques, guiding students through nesting bowls and sculptural forms, starting Wednesday, Sept. 3. Hunter Cady’s Soda Surfaces dives into wheelthrowing with an emphasis on soda-fired textures, starts Tuesday, Sept. 9. Lauren Skelly Bailey, one of BAC’s current artists-in-residence, will teach Cold Glaze Applications, a workshop on surface decoration techniques on Saturday, Sept. 20.

Marilyn Orner kicks off Friday Morning Painting Studio on Friday, Sept. 12, welcoming all skill levels with personalized instruction. Later in the fall, Wednesday Sorokin takes the reins with Friday Afternoon Painting Studio on Friday, Oct. 31. She’ll also teach Painting

Basics, starting Tuesday, Oct. 28, Abstract Painting: Color, Design and Spirit, starting Wednesday, Oct. 29 and Drawing for Everyone, starting Thursday, Oct. 30.

The Figure Drawing Group continues to meet on first and third Mondays 6-8 p.m. at BAC Pittsfield, 141 North St. Pittsfield starts Monday, Sept. 15.

Jody King Camarra will be back with two fun classes: Print Lab on Mondays, starting Monday, Sept. 8 and Intuitive Collage on Wednesdays, starts Sept. 10. The popular Collage Club hosted by the 97 Collage Project, a relaxing, virtual event, is back on the first and third Thursday of each month starting Thursday, Sept. 4. Diane Firtell will be teaching Image Transfers and Mixed

Media on Fridays, starting Oct. 3 at BAC Pittsfield, 141 North St..

Thad Kubis for a special two-hour outdoor photography workshop at Canoe Meadows on Saturday, Oct. 18, one of the most scenic spots in the Berkshires. Learn tips and techniques for photographing the magic of autumn light and landscape.

BAC’s Afterschool Art Club returns on Fridays, starting October 10th in Stockbridge for elementary-aged students, with this fall’s theme: Art on the Move! Young artists will explore modes of travel-from ships to spaceships-through imaginative, hands-on art-making. Ideal for homeschoolers, students in schools without art programs, or any young creative looking for

more art activities.

For toddlers and their caregivers, BAC introduces Mini Makers-a joyful, multi-sensory art experience launching Saturday, Oct. 4. This program offers playful, process-based projects designed for little ones to explore alongside a grown-up. To view the full schedule or register for any classes or events, people may visit www.berkshireartcenter.org.

Berkshire Art Center is a nonprofit community art school with a mission to make art accessible to all through hands-on learning, collaboration, and community engagement. With locations in Stockbridge and Pittsfield, BAC offers year-round classes, workshops, and events for youth and adults.

REGION

Gas prices down a penny this week

WESTWOOD – Gasoline prices are experiencing a summer swoon as fuel inventories swell and demand continues to fall below seasonal expectations.

After a strong start over Memorial Day weekend, demand for gasoline has since fizzled. Demand over the past four weeks is trending 149,000 barrels a day below the same period last year, according to data from the Energy Information Administration. Last week, the EIA reported demand settled at a lackluster 8.48 million barrels a day, a decline of 670,000 barrels a day from the previous week and 300,000 lower the comparable week of 2024.

The weak demand has contributed to a notable buildup in gasoline inventories. Nationally, inventories climbed 3.4 million barrels last week, the EIA reported, and regional supplies in the Northeast climbed 300,000 barrels to 63.1 million barrels in total, 6.7 million barrels above last year.

Supply and demand dynamics are keeping fuel prices in check even as markets react to geopolitical events around the world that typically put upward pressure on prices. Last week, the European Union said it will impose stricter sanctions on Russian oil exports amid the ongoing war in Ukraine and drone attacks targeting oil fields in Iraqi Kurdistan disrupted more than half of the country’s oil production.

“The dog days of summer are delivering lower gas prices this year,” said Mark Schieldrop, senior spokesperson for AAA Northeast. “Pump prices across the Northeast are nearly 50 cents cheaper than last year and in a price range we haven’t seen for this time of year since 2021.”

The average gas price in Massachusetts is down a penny from last week (\$3.06), averaging \$3.05 per gallon. Today’s price is two cents lower than a month ago (\$3.07) and 45 cents lower than this day last year (\$3.50). Massachusetts’

average gas price is nine cents lower than the national average.

AAA Northeast’s July 21 survey of fuel prices found the current national average down a penny from last week (\$3.15), averaging \$3.14 per gallon. Today’s national average price is seven cents lower than a month ago (\$3.21) and 36 cents lower than this day last year (\$3.50).

Today, Mississippi and Oklahoma have the lowest prices in the nation at \$2.71 and \$2.74, respectively. California and Hawaii hold the highest prices in the nation this week at \$4.49 and \$4.46, respectively. Massachusetts holds the 25th place on the list of highest gas prices in the nation.

AAA Northeast is a not-for-profit auto club with offices in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, New Hampshire and New York, providing nearly 6.8 million local AAA members with travel, insurance, financial and auto-related services.

Hank O’Neal lectures on Berenice Abbott

WILLIAMSTOWN – On Sunday, Aug. 3 at 2 p.m., the Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., presents a lecture on Berenice Abbott presented by photographer Hank O’Neal in conjunction with the Clark’s exhibition Berenice Abbott’s Modern Lens.

This free lecture takes place in the Clark’s Manton Research Center auditorium.

Few people knew Berenice Abbott better than fellow photographer Hank O’Neal, who worked with her for the last nineteen years of her life. In this lecture, learn more about the fascinating woman behind the images from a man who knew her not only as a towering figure in the history of photography, but as a friend and mentor.

O’Neal has authored several books about Berenice Abbott’s life and photography and will soon release a memoir titled “You’ve Got to Do a Damn Sight Better than That, Buster: Working with Berenice Abbott 1972-1991.”

Accessible seats are available. People may call 413-458-0524 or visit clark-art.edu/events for more information.

MIDDLEFIELD

Town clerk lists Special Election results

MIDDLEFIELD – Town Clerk Suzanne C. Lemiux announced the results of the Special Election held on Saturday July 19.

The Special Election

was called due to a tie vote at the Annual Town Election, which resulted in a Failure to Elect. Louise Harlow and Karri Trask came forward to fill the vacant three year

position on the Finance Committee. A total of 75 voters elected Harlow to the Finance Committee position and 49 votes. Her opponent Trask received 26 votes.

MIDDLEFIELD COA ANNOUNCES EVENTS



Another year has gone by real fast for these birthday buddies, Sharon Barry and Wayne Main. On Wednesday, Aug. 6 the Middlefield Council on Aging is serving egg salad or turkey sandwich along with two slices of oat bread, lettuce and tomato, broccoli slaw, pickled cucumber and assorted yogurt. They will hold a blood pressure clinic and will have a talk regarding how meds and heat interact. Submitted photo

TOLLAND

Ozone Pete to perform at Music in the Hills

TOLLAND – Ozone Pete, intense accosutics, will perform on the Town on Saturday, Aug 2 at 6’30 p.m. on the Town Green in

front of church.

Rain date is Saturday, Aug. 16. This program is funded in part by a grant from the Tolland Cultural

Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

News, photo publication policy

As a community newspaper our focus has always been local news. While we try very hard to run upcoming events as a public service whenever space allows, space does not allow us to run an upcoming event repeatedly. Our policy is to limit publication of upcoming events to one article in advance of the event and, space permitting, a second brief reminder article the week prior to an event, and to run those articles in only one section of the paper, and not in multiple sections simultaneously.

All such public service announcements and photos are subject to space limitations and deadlines, therefore publication cannot be guaranteed. Whenever copy for the week exceeds allotted space, news copy will take priority, and public service copy is the first area to be cut. We also reserve the right to edit for style and space, and are under no obligation to print lists of sponsorships, or articles that arrive after deadline, unless time and space allows.

Deadline is Friday at NOON.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

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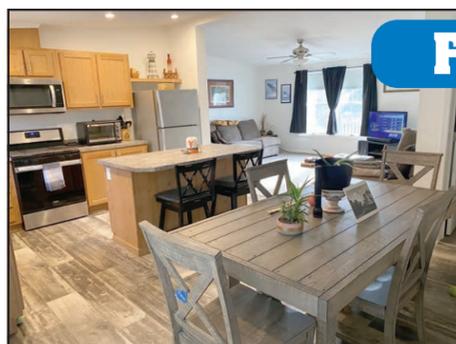
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LINE COOK. Fast order wanted for fun, busy family Breakfast and Lunch Restaurant. Good pay, weekends and weekdays. Fulltime. Please come by and fill out application. **Partners Restaurant 485 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills.**

NEIGHBORLY CLEANING & CARE is looking for mature, responsible adults with own transportation, experience and references for a housekeeping position. Hours 7:30- 2:30. Call Nancy today (413)267-4297 or (413) 544-0864.

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Inquire at **Girly's Grill, 1315 Park St., Palmer, MA 01069** or call 413-284-0005.

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
FRIDAY AT NOON

HELP WANTED

THE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON IS SEEKING A **PART-TIME TREASURER.**

\$20,384 - \$23,110 annual salary based on experience. Approximately 16 hours per week. Application and complete job description are available online at www.huntingtonma.us or by emailing admin@huntingtonma.us. Position is open until filled. *Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON HIGHWAY POSITION OPENING

The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest and resumes from qualified candidates for a **full-time Equipment Operator/General Laborer** position within the Highway Department. Valid MA CDL operator, Hydraulic Hoister's licenses and OSHA-10 certification is preferred.

More in-depth information can be found on the Town's website: www.worthington-ma.us
Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday - Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; the telephone number is 413-238-5830 or send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to highway@worthington-ma.us and sboard@worthington-ma.us. This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled. *The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

TRUCK DRIVER/LABORER

The Town of Peru Highway Department is now accepting applications for the position of **Truck Driver/Laborer.** Preferred applicants will have a valid Class B CDL, Class 2A Hoisting license, and a current DOT Physical card. Construction and mechanical experience preferred. Must be able to work in all weather conditions. Position is full time 40hrs/week with mandatory overtime during snowstorms. Excellent benefits.
Email resume to: townadmin@townofperu-ma.com or mail to **Town of Peru, Board of Selectmen, 3 East Main Rd. Suite 107, Peru MA 01235.** For additional information contact the Highway Superintendent at (413) 655-8224. *(The Town of Peru is an equal opportunity employer).*

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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

FOR RENT

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Goshen Conservation Commission Request for Determination of Applicability
 The Goshen Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting under the provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Chapter 131 Section 40) on **August 18, 2025 at 6:10 PM** at the Goshen Town Offices to review a **Request for Determination of Applicability** filed by Amy Woolf for proposed outdoor renovations at 2 South Washington Road in Goshen, MA (Map 10A Lot 30). The proposed work is located within Buffer Zone to the Bank of Hammond Pond
 07/31/2025

NOTICE OF DESTRUCTION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION RECORDS
 Notice is hereby given that Gateway Regional School District Office of Pupil Services will be destroying the special education records of students who graduated or left school in 2018. If you or your child received special education services and you wish to obtain the special education file, please call 685-1017.

Records will be destroyed on August 6, 2025.
 07/31/2025

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON
 Notice is hereby given under Chapter 140, Sections 57 through 59 of Massachusetts General Laws that the Huntington Selectboard, as Local Licensing Authority, has received an application from Jonathan Groff of Integrity Trailer Sales and Repairs LLC for a Class I dealer's license to sell new and used trailers and vehicles at 38 Russell Road, Huntington, MA.

A public hearing will be held on **Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.** before the Selectboard at Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road, Huntington, MA.

The public is invited to share questions, comments, or concerns.

Jennifer Pelouquin
 Town Administrator
 07/31/2025

Town of Worthington Conservation Commission Notice of Public Hearing
 In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, the Worthington Conservation Com-

mission will hold a public hearing in response to a **Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA)** regarding the proposed work associated with the replacement of a failed septic system within 50 feet of Bronson Brook. A new system is to be installed

outside the riverfront zone.
 The Hearing will be held **Thursday, August 7, 2025, at 7 PM** in the Selectboard meeting room at Town Hall, 160 Huntington Road.
 07/31/2025

Country Journal
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

ADVERTISING SALES

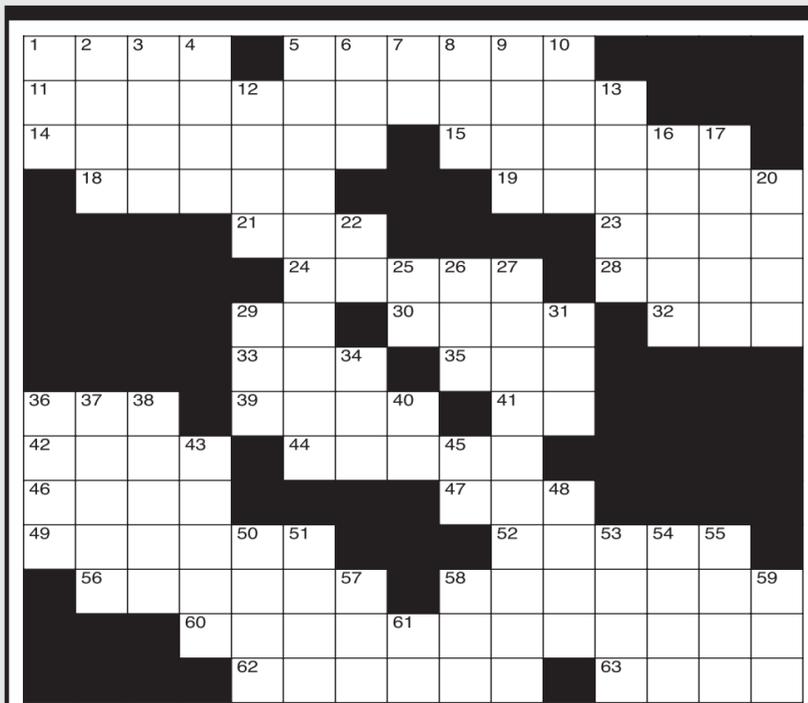
HELP WANTED

- Do you want to work in your community helping local businesses connect with their customers?
- Do you want a career supporting local journalism, which tells the unique stories of our communities?
- If so, then join our team! Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers. The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills. Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

Turley Publications, a locally owned family business, offers a competitive commission structure, 401k, and health plan.

Send resume & cover letter to:
 Jamie Joslyn
 24 Water Street
 Palmer, MA 01069
 Email: jamie@turley.com

CLUES ACROSS

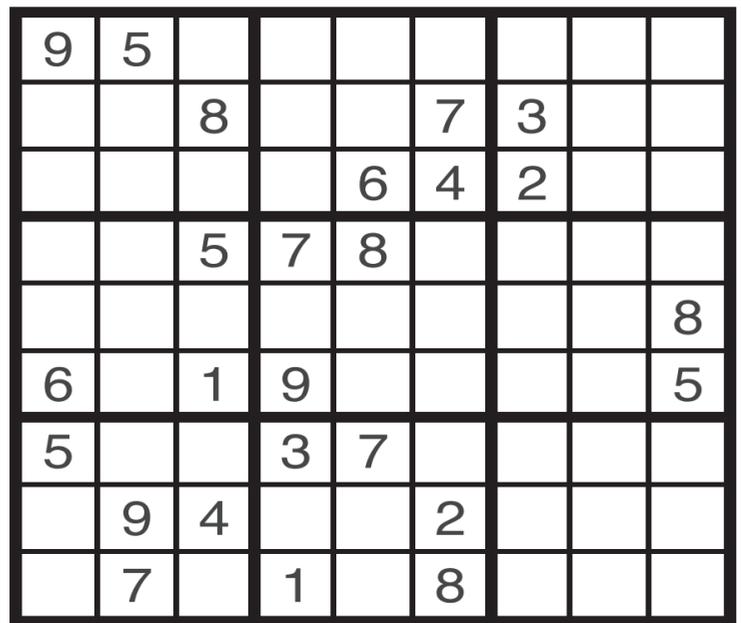
- 1. Popular potato snack
- 5. Guards the Pyramids
- 11. Furnish anew
- 14. Herb
- 15. Preoccupy the mind continually
- 18. The lowest adult male singing voice
- 19. NATO commander (abbr.)
- 21. A major division of geological time
- 23. New Zealand parrot
- 24. Notions
- 28. Lump in yarn
- 29. Indicates position
- 30. Lose hold of
- 32. Hindu honorific
- 33. Former OSS
- 35. Electronic data processing
- 36. Cost per mile
- 39. Snake-like fish
- 41. They start the alphabet
- 42. Taylor Swift's tour
- 44. Intermediate ecological stage
- 46. Scarlett's home
- 47. Of he
- 49. Ohio city
- 52. Breakfast item
- 56. An evening party
- 58. ___ Falls
- 60. Linked together
- 62. Mythological spirits
- 63. Small Eurasian deer
- 4. Bundy and Fenwick (abbr.)
- 5. Qualities of sound
- 6. One who gets paid
- 7. Expresses surprise
- 8. O.J. trial judge
- 9. Pointed ends of pens
- 10. Shield bugs genus
- 12. Container for shipping
- 13. Upper body parts
- 16. Closes tightly
- 17. Nigerian World Heritage Site
- 20. Volcanic island in Fiji
- 22. Commercial
- 25. - ___: denotes past
- 26. They ___
- 27. Confraternities
- 29. A way to gain a point
- 31. Parts per billion
- 34. Brew
- 36. Badgers group
- 37. Sailing boat
- 38. ___ Polo, explorer
- 40. Elder citizen (abbr.)
- 43. Frankish law code
- 45. Exclamation of surprise
- 48. Groan
- 50. It presses clothing
- 51. Do not allow
- 53. Gelatinous substance
- 54. Common Japanese surname
- 55. Present in nature
- 57. Electronic countermeasures
- 58. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
- 59. Commercials
- 61. News agency

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Earliest human form: ___-Magnon man
- 2. Flavoring
- 3. Notion

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

- ARIES**
 Mar 21/Apr 20
 You're on fire this week, Aries. Ideas are sparking left and right. Don't forget to slow down before you burn out. You want to showcase energy without creating chaos.
- CANCER**
 Jun 22/Jul 22
 It's not a bad thing to have so many emotions flowing right now, Cancer. This week is ideal for reconnecting with your intuition or redecorating your space.
- LIBRA**
 Sept 23/Oct 23
 Your charm is turned up to 100 percent right now, Libra. A chance encounter could ignite something sweet this week. Weigh your options regarding which path to pursue.
- CAPRICORN**
 Dec 22/Jan 20
 Capricorn, you might be plotting your next power move, and this week the stars are backing you. You could be giving off boss energy, but don't forget to take care of yourself, too.
- TAURUS**
 Apr 21/May 21
 This week is ideal for treating yourself to something great, Taurus. Money and love are both flowing in a way that is to your liking. The universe delivers for you right now.
- LEO**
 Jul 23/Aug 23
 Get ready to shine again, Leo. You could be the center of attention and those around you love the show. You may also enjoy some career wins this week.
- SCORPIO**
 Oct 23/Nov 22
 Scorpio, this week you're serving up mysterious mastermind energy. People want your attention, but you are playing it really cool. Money or career secrets may come to light.
- AQUARIUS**
 Jan 21/Feb 18
 You're cool, quirky and full of surprises this week, Aquarius. Others are finally catching on to your appeal instead of trying to go up against you. A collaboration could spark genius.
- GEMINI**
 May 22/Jun 21
 Gemini, your words have power this week, so use them wisely or go wild. It's a great time to network, flirt or finally send that romantic text you've been thinking about.
- VIRGO**
 Aug 24/Sept 22
 Virgo, you're crushing your to-do list this week while others seem to be snoozing. Midweek brings you a curveball, but you can handle it with signature grace and organization.
- SAGITTARIUS**
 Nov 23/Dec 21
 Adventure doesn't have to translate to a far-off trip, Sagittarius. It could mean a new idea or even a flirty conversation. If you're in the mood to explore, bring someone along.
- PISCES**
 Feb 19/Mar 20
 Listen closely to your dreams this week, Pisces. They are trying to tell you something. A creative streak could hit hard and it might lead to something truly magical.



SUDOKU

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

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

answers

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HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



The flowers planted along the bridge are exquisite.



An overhead view of the truss and flower bridges.



Stephanie and Valerie take their first stroll on the Bridge of Flowers in Shelburne Falls.

Hikers visit Bridge of Flowers

The Hilltown Hikers ventured out to Shelburne Falls on Saturday, July 12 for a group tour of the Shelburne Falls Trolley Museum.

Day trips, which include adventure, nature and history, are offered to its members year round and are usually very unique. This trip was a “two-fur” because the famous Bridge of Flowers announced just days before it would have its grand re-opening that same day, so the group went in the afternoon so see this historical bridge of wonder.

The bridge connects the towns of Shelburne and Buckland in Hampshire County. It was built for \$20,000 in 1908 by the Shelburne Falls and Colrain Street Railway as a trolley bridge, so that freight could be picked up and dropped off directly from the railroads and brought to Colrain. This concrete bridge was necessary because the nearby iron truss bridge built in 1890 had a twenty-ton weight limit.

The iron bridge is still used today, both the truss and concrete bridges end on almost the same spot on the banks of the Deerfield River.

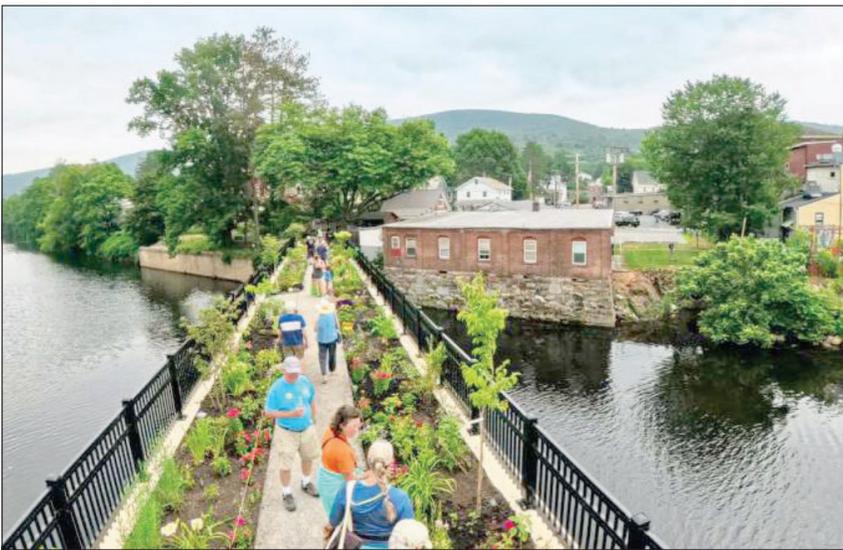
But how did the trolley bridge get covered with flowers? In 1929, with the bridge covered in weeds, a local housewife, Antoinette Burnham, came up with the idea of transforming the bridge into a garden. Since it was not needed as a foot-bridge and could not be demolished because it carried a water main between the two towns, the community agreed to her idea. The Shelburne Woman’s Club sponsored the project in 1928.

In 1929, eighty loads of loam and several loads of fertilizer were brought to the bridge. Then again in 1975 the bridge was deteriorating and studies were done as how to make the repairs. In 1981, funds were raised and a study was commissioned, which determined that \$580,000 in repairs should be made to the bridge.

Local organizations raised money and repairs began on May 2, 1983. During the restoration, every plant that was removed was cared for in private. The restoration replaced the eight inch water line, which carries up to half a million gallons of water a day. The bridge contains two and a half feet of soil at the top of the arches and nine feet deep at the piers.

On June 21, 2024 the bridge closed to the public for a \$3,194,314 restoration and repair project. All the bushes and trees that could be saved were removed for future replanting. The Bridge of Flowers Committee deserves many thanks for their devotion to this iconic piece of Western Mass history.

People may catch the official ribbon-cutting ceremony on Monday, Aug.18 at 2 p.m. To read much more about this iconic bridge, which covers the history and all the repairs and people who have volunteered to keep history alive visit <https://www.bridgeofflowersmass.org/>.



This is an overhead view of the Bridge of Flowers.



Hilltown Hikers posed for a picture after crossing the beautiful bridge of flowers.

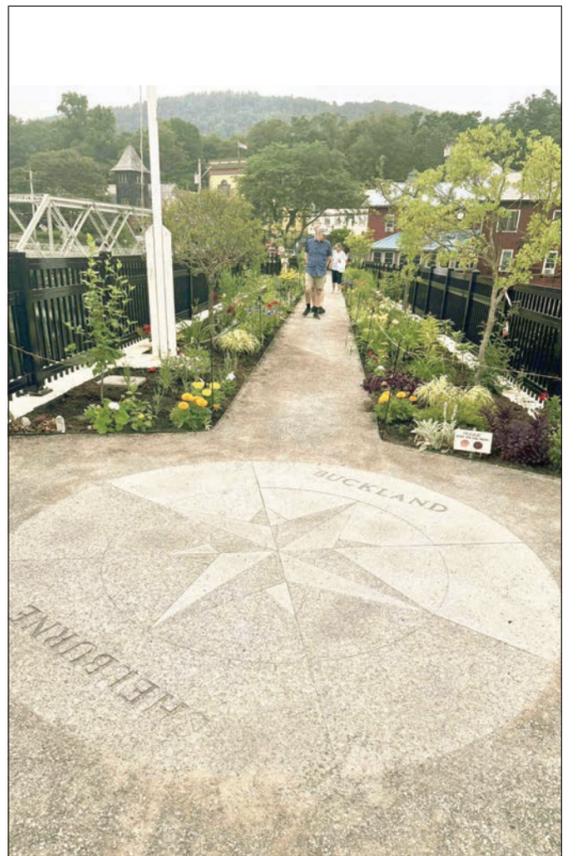
Submitted photos



Many of the flowers and tree shrubs have labels.



This photo shows one side of the entrance complete with guest book and informational panel.



The centerpiece of the new bridge is Justin Bardwell’s rose compass.