

Country Journal

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CHESTER

Historic home gets demolished

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

A number of historic events took place in 1769.

The American colonists began to resist British rule by fighting against taxation without representation. Napoleon Bonaparte was born and Pope Clement XIII died just hours before he was expected to dissolve the Jesuits. Spanish monarch Charles III sent missionaries to America where they began to settle California.



The Bascom home on Skyline Trail is shown just days before demolition. Courtesy photo by John Nolet

The 1769 Reverend Aaron Bascom home in more prosperous days. The smaller building to the left was put up by Dr. Thaddeus Kingsley DeWolf in the 1840s to serve his medical practice. It became a business office when his son DeWitt Clinton DeWolf inherited the property in 1890.

Photo courtesy of Library of Congress

Inventor James Watts earned a patent for his improved steam engine design, which would over time lead to the Industrial Revolution. In Chester, a parsonage was built on Skyline

HISTORIC, page 6

BLANDFORD

STM set for Sept. 22

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

Select Board approved several actions at Monday, Aug. 25 meeting.

The board signed the warrant for the Special Town Meeting for Monday, Sept. 22, which includes 11 articles. Articles include asking if the town will authorize the Select Board to oppose the proposed expansion of the electrical substation at 79 North Blandford Road, as well as additional commercial-scale solar projects and Battery Energy Storage Systems, and to devote resources to restricting such facilities before regulatory authorities and appropriate \$200,000 for related engineering, legal, and expert expenses. Other articles are \$68,250 for a full-time assistant treasurer/collector; \$24,000 for a full-time water superintendent and \$92,000 for a prior year KP Law invoice. They also include \$342.55 for a prior year Palmer Paving bill; \$493.00 for reimbursement to Ryan Keach;

\$30.37 for a prior year Verizon bill and \$20,000 to upgrade the Town Hall gym and audio/visual systems for larger public meetings.

Appointments

The board appointed Amie McLaughlin to the Board of Registrars through June 30, 2028. They accepted the recommendation for the Board of Assessors to hire Paula Bilodeau as the assessors' clerk. Highway Superintendent

The six-month review for Highway Superintendent Ray Hultay was scheduled for 5 p.m. but Hultay was late. Instead, the board interviewed Clayton LaPointe for the position of Highway Department laborer. He was recommended by Hultay from applications reviewed by him.

LaPointe grew up in Huntington and is familiar with large equipment and has had experience, including plowing and

MEETING, page 7

MONTGOMERY

September Music in Montgomery lineup announced

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

The weekly "Music in Montgomery" program for September has been announced. It runs every Friday from 3-4:30 p.m. at Montgomery Town Hall, located at 161 Main Road. Organized by Dale Rogers of the Gray Catbird Pottery Studio, the weekly series is open free of charge to everyone. "You do not need to be a resident of Montgomery," Rogers said. "It's a wonderful sense of community."

The September lineup features Barry Searle, Sarah Miller and Pete Rzasa, Jerry and Kara Noble, Eva Cappelli and Friends and Larry Southard. The month opens with Barry Searle, guitar and vocals; Sarah Miller, percussion and vocals and Pete Rzasa, vocals, pedal steel and harmonica, on Friday, Sept. 5. The trio performs a variety of musical styles. Searle performs with several area musicians and released "The Awakening," his first album of original songs last February.

On Friday, Sept. 12, Jerry and Kara Noble take the stage. A husband and

wife duo, Jerry is a pianist, guitarist and composer; his wife Kara plays bass. They are known for great music and stories across the decades. Ten years ago, they formed the Bob Sparkman (clarinetist) Trio and released the CD "Tunes in the Key of Three" in 2018. Currently, the couple manages their company Artist Tec, which supports creative people in sharing their art through the use of technology. Their performances are dubbed, "We are the people our parents warned us about."

Eva Cappelli and Friends are scheduled for Friday, Sept. 19. Cappellis is a singer/songwriter, who has been likened to Bonnie Raitt and K. D. Lang. She has performed with groups Lil Eva and the Studebakers, Eva Cappelli and the Watersheds Band and Wild Heart, a Fleetwood Mac tribute band. She has been seen at the Hard Rock Cafe, Iron Horse, Big E and Majestic Theatre and was the Musical Coordinator for the Academy of Music's production of Sojourner Truth.

Closing the month on Friday, Sept. 26 is singer/



Eva Capelli will perform at Music in Montgomery on Friday, Sept. 19.

Submitted photo

guitarist Larry Southard, who organizer Dale Rogers says always brings "a heart-warming, singing along, tapping, clapping good time." He is also known to perform with Papa and Friends, a rock-country-folk band who include Lesley Friedman Rosenthal (violin, harmony), Terry AlaBery (Terrance Hall on drums), Mike Patoniac (bass and harmonica), and Andy Gordon (pedal steel

and banjo. Southard has also performed this year at the Knox Trail Inn and Chester Common Table.

As a heads up for October, the month opens with those "men of a certain age" Ed Bentley and Friends on Friday, Oct. 3. Covering country, rock and folk tunes, Bentley often plays with Jane Martin Pelletier and Ron Campagna, and may be joined by surprise guests in Montgomery. Bentley has

been seen at the Daily Grind in Southwick and also performs at open mics at Bright Ideas Brewing in Westfield, Shortstop Bar & Grill and the Southwick Inn, among others.

This series is co-hosted by the Montgomery Public Library and by Gray Catbird Pottery Studio. Attendees are invited to bring baked goods to share.

MUSIC, page 9

HAMPDEN COUNTY

Sheriff holds Cookout

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

On Aug. 20, more than 1,500 people gathered under the Elks lodge pavilion as Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi held his 8th Annual Cookout, which consisted of elected officials, friends and a plethora of community members.

Some notable names that were in attendance were Springfield Mayor Domenic Sarno, Chicopee Mayor John Vieau and Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia, along with State Sen. Adam Gomez (D- Springfield) and Hampden County DA Anthony Gulluni, and even the previous Hampden County Sheriff, Michael Ashe, who served 42 years in the role, who was known for his clam bakes back in the day stopped by

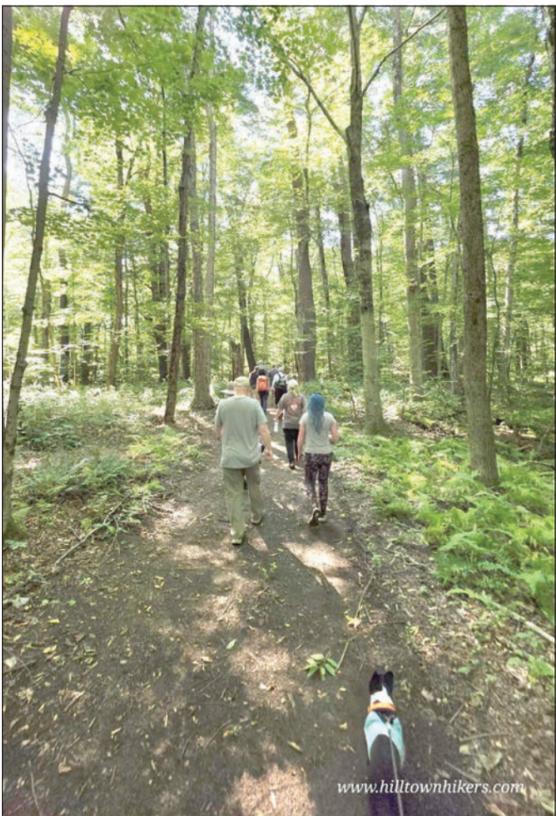
COOKOUT, page 5



Blandford.....7	Florence.....8	Northampton.....9	Schools & Youth.....9
Chester.....6	Great Barrington.....8	Obituary.....10	Stockbridge.....8
Chesterfield.....7	Huntington.....3	Opinion.....4	Tolland.....8
Classifieds.....11	Middlefield.....7	Otis.....3	Westfield.....7
Easthampton.....8	Montgomery.....9	Pittsfield.....8	Williamsburg.....9



HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



Big trees including black cherry welcome hikers along the wooded trails.

Sarah and Mark pose for a photo on the fire tower at Wild Acres. Submitted photos

The fire tower looks out over the Yokum Ridge where the High Road Trail goes across.

Hilltown Hikers go to Wild Acres

The Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers August group hike was at Wild Acres.

Jim Conant, Pittsfield City Councilor and Conservation Commission Chairman, gave the group some history on this "Hidden Oasis" in Pittsfield and its future improvements. The Hilltown Hikers look forward to volunteering with Conant and the city in any way they can to preserve and promote Pittsfield's wild and beautiful outdoor recreation.

It is a spectacular park, which includes a little bit of everything including a pond, views of planes taking off and landing up close at Pittsfield Municipal Airport, a fire tower, which is totally fun and of course, wooded trails. This is worth a trip with the family; it is a small place with lots to see.

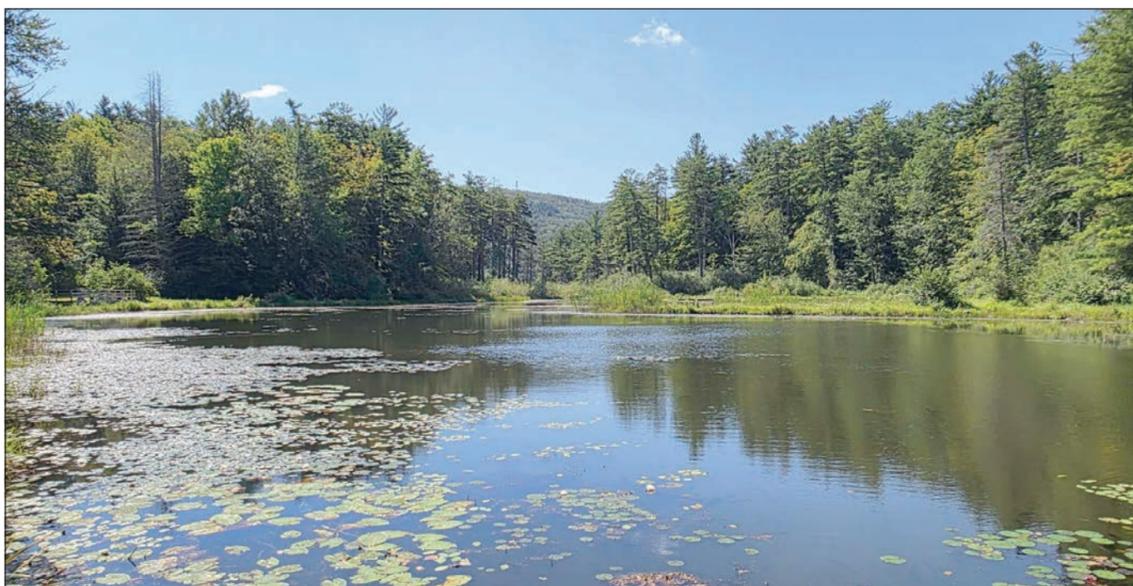
Wild Acres was once an 83-acre piece of land owned by the Shakers, who built its pond. After the 80-year tenure with the Shakers, it was sold to successful shoemaker, C. Dudley Holman. Avid birders, Holman and his wife Clementine added log cabins to the property, concrete dams to the pond and cordoned off a white-sand spring with water temperatures of 42 degrees.

After her husband's death in 1929, Clementine sold the property and it was opened as a private outdoors recreation and sportsman's club under the Walton League. The endeavors of the Walton Sanctuary were fraught with financial difficulties and eventually, the property was given to the city of Pittsfield in 1965.

It was during this time that 12-acres were whittled

off for an airport runway extension. With the help of the Young Adult Conservation Corps in the 1970s, the Conservation Commission oversaw extensive construction of buildings, recreational amenities and picnic areas. In 2007, 21-acres was again lost to the airport for expansion, this time replaced by an additional 84-acres of undeveloped forest and farmland acquired by eminent domain.

Conant told of the future expansion of Wild Acres making it even a larger parcel of outdoor recreation. In addition to everything else it also has restrooms, a pavilion, benches and a viewing platform at the pond. Thumbs up to Pittsfield for creating this outdoor oasis in a not so urban area.



The Shakers originally built this pond. Pittsfield has a fishing derby here every year.



The furthest edge of the property includes old farm fields and fruit trees with views of Mt. Greylock.



Jim Conant tells the group about the volunteers, who built the viewing deck at the Shaker Pond.

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HUNTINGTON

Opera arias and Broadway come to North Hall

HUNTINGTON – Accomplished NYC opera ensemble of tenor Antonio Abate, soprano Amy Orsulak and pianist Jerome Tan will perform various celebrated arias, art songs and Broadway music favorites at the opera arias and Broadway musical showcase on Sunday, Sept. 7 at 2 p.m. in North Hall, 40 Searle Road.

Admission is free; donations are accepted. Tenor Antonio Abate is a graduate of the Juilliard School of Music where he received both a bachelor's degree and a graduate diploma. Hailed for his diction, paired with his ability to sing in multiple languages, Abate is considered a go-to performer for some of the top religious institutions in New York and New England. In opera, his major credits include the title roles in Faust and Offenbac's Orphée Aux Enfers, Ottavio in Don Giovanni, Basilio in Le nozze di Figaro, Tamino in The Magic Flute, Andrew Johnson in The Mother of Us All, Sam in Street Scene and the Student Servant in the world premiere of Stephen Paulus's Heloise and Abelard. Abate has performed at the Ravinia Steans Institute; the Marlboro, Bowdoin, and Aspen Music Festivals and attended the young artist programs through Opera North and the Chautauqua Music School. For three summers, he studied and performed at the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, California, under the tutelage of world

renowned mezzo-soprano Marilyn Horne. A resident of Chatham, Antonio has most recently been heard in concerts in Brewster, Chatham, and Dennis. This fall will bring performances in western Massachusetts and South Carolina.

Soprano Amy Orsulak is a graduate of The Curtis Institute of Music. She has had the honor of singing on the stage of the Met, Chicago Lyric Opera, Carnegie Hall and Symphony Space. Hailed as "having the voice of an angel" by her mom, she is thrilled to be performing with her friends.

Pianist Jerome Tan, a native of Singapore, came to the U.S. on a music scholarship to the Peabody Conservatory of Music at Johns Hopkins University, where he earned master's degrees in piano performance and ensemble arts. He has served as a staff pianist at the Steans Institute of the Ravinia Festival. Since receiving the Marilyn Horne Foundation Award for Vocal Collaboration from the Music Academy of the West, he has become a regular collaborator with numerous singers. The seven program series is sponsored by the Westfield Bank, Easthampton Savings Bank, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and Cultural Councils of: Cumington, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Russell, Westhampton and Worthington.



Opera Arias and Broadway Musical Showcase will return to North Hall, Huntington on Sept. 7.

Photo courtesy of Rosario (Peri) Sossaman

OTIS

Library holds instant pot class

OTIS – The Otis Library, 48 North Main Road, will offer a program on "How to Instant Pot" on Thursday, Sept. 4 at 5:30 p.m. taught by E.A. Romann.

Participants will learn different uses of the instant pot, make a dinner and enjoy their cooking.

Space is limited and advanced registration is required by calling 413-269-0109. They should also make known any food allergies.

Intro to drawing class begins Sept. 9

OTIS – The Otis Library, 48 North Main Road, will be held Tuesdays Sept. 9 and Sept. 16 and Thursday, Sept. 25 held at 6 p.m.

The small class size is for ages 16 plus with Michael O'Rourke, professional artist and retired Professor of Art, Pratt Institute, New York City.

The three classes are one hour sessions and will include basic techniques, contour-line drawing, shading and improving observational skills.

Registration is required by calling 413-269-0109.



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GUEST COLUMN



I'm in poor health and need to know my Social Security options

Dear Rusty:

I plan to stop working very soon. My health is not good. I am 66 years old, born in June 1959, so my full retirement age is 66 years and 10 months. My wife passed away in March 2024 and she was collecting SS benefits when she died. I have no dependent children. In general, what benefits am I entitled to?

Signed: Unhealthy and Struggling

Dear Unhealthy and Struggling:

Sorry to hear that your health is failing and that you will need to stop working soon. But do not fear, Social Security will be there for you. Here is some info to help you decide your next possible steps:

Since you will not reach your full retirement age until next year in April 2026, your earnings limit from working for this year is \$23,400 or \$1,950/month. The earnings limit will apply only if you decide to claim Social Security early (this year).

If you decide to take Social Security this year, your earnings from before you take SS won't count, but your monthly earnings for the remaining months of this year will be subject to the 2025 monthly limit (\$1,950). If your monthly earnings exceed that amount, you won't be entitled to SS benefits for that month, unless your total earnings for 2025 are less than \$23,400. If you don't exceed the annual limit, your 2025 Social Security benefits won't be affected by your work earnings.

Next year, the year you attain your Full Retirement Age, your earnings limit will be much higher about 2.5 times more or something more than about \$63,000. If your 2026 earnings up through March do not exceed that limit, then you can claim your SS benefits a bit earlier in 2026 before your FRA and your benefits won't be affected, except that your monthly benefit amount will be permanently reduced by .556% for each month you claim before your FRA.

For example, if you were to claim for your SS to start in January 2026,

you would get 98.3% of your FRA amount. So, provided your work earnings won't exceed about \$63,000 between January and March 2026, you could claim effective January 2026 without worrying about Social Security's earnings test.

So, depending upon your health, you could claim SS to start in January 2026, likely without worry about the earnings test and would get about 98.3% of your FRA benefit. Or, health permitting, you could wait to claim SS starting in April 2026 to get 100% of the benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working. Point is, you just need to be careful not to exceed Social Security's earnings tests prior to reaching your Full Retirement Age or SS will take away some of your benefits.

They "take away" by withholding future monthly payments as long as needed to recover what you owe. Worse case penalty for exceeding the 2026 monthly limit would be no benefits for any month you exceed about \$5,300 or a penalty of \$1 for every \$3 over the limit if you exceed the 2026 annual limit before your FRA.

You do, however, have another option as your wife's surviving spouse: You can claim your benefit as a surviving spouse prior to claiming your own SS retirement amount. But the earnings test described above (if you claim before your FRA) would also apply to your survivor benefits. So, again, your plans for working enter this decision. If you decide to stop working this year, you could, for example, decide to claim your survivor benefit this year and collect that until you reach your FRA in April 2026 when you would get 100% of your personal SS retirement amount. In fact, you might even decide to collect your survivor benefit longer, allowing your own SS benefit to grow until you are 70, at which time you would get about 25% more than your FRA amount. Indeed, if your

SECURITY, page 5

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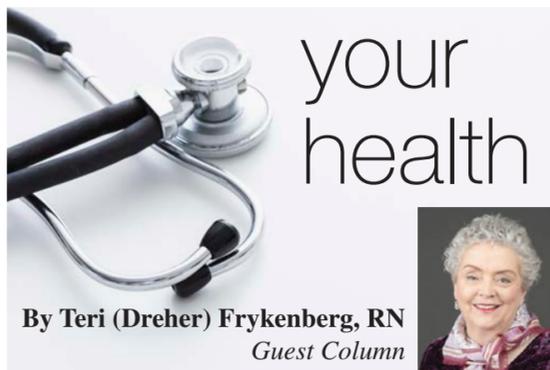
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OPINION



GUEST COLUMN

10 Ways to Prevent Medical Errors



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

You count on doctors and hospitals to protect your health. But unthinkable, sometimes the opposite happens. Medical error is now the third leading cause of death in the U.S., according to a study by Johns Hopkins Medicine.

Cancer and heart disease are still the leading culprits. But 250,000 Americans die each year as a result of preventable medical mistakes like post-surgical infections and medication mix ups. What can you do to make sure it doesn't happen to you?

10 Tips for Guarding Against Medical Errors

1. Prepare a proactive medical summary of your health conditions, allergies, physicians and all medications. Show your family where it's kept. In the event of an emergency or hospitalization, it can provide the medical staff with crucial information fast.
2. Consult a trusted healthcare professional for recommendations when looking for a new doctor. Don't rely on word of mouth, online reviews or advertisements. Your best path to a quality provider is another provider you know and trust.
3. Avoid hospitalizations if possible...really! Especially if you're elderly. Infections run rampant in hospitals. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), on any given day, one in 25 hospital patients has a hospital-acquired infection.
4. Organize shifts among relatives to ensure the patient is always accompanied if hospitalized. Don't let loved ones go it alone. But only enlist those who are observant and communicate well.
5. Pay attention, be observant, take notes and provide information readi-

6. Don't hesitate to "speak up for clean hands," to quote the CDC. Cleanliness helps prevent infection. Ask the medical staff to wear gloves or use foam hand sanitizer before touching you. Wash your own hands frequently; make sure visitors, too. And ask cleaning staff to regularly sanitize objects that others touch.
7. Speak up—politely—if you think something is wrong. Listen to your gut: doctors and nurses are human and can make mistakes. (If all else fails, go up the hospital food chain—ask for a meeting with "risk management" and a hospital care team to discuss your concerns.)
8. It's best not to chat with the nurse when he or she is dispensing your meds; distraction can lead to medication mistakes. Take care to know your pills in every way possible. Ask the nurse to review each pill with you before you swallow it.
9. Exercise vigilance especially during the admission and discharge process. The potential for errors is most likely to occur during the transition process to get you admitted or discharged.
10. Obtain copies of your written discharge instructions. Make sure you completely understand your follow-up plan after a doctor's visit, emergency room visit or hospitalization. Know what medications you'll be taking and how often, and when to follow up with your physician. It sounds obvious, but in one recent study, 54% of discharged patients couldn't accurately recall their follow-up instructions!

Why Medical Errors Happen

The modern healthcare system is remarkably complex, and patients are no longer held firmly at its center. Various factors have contributed to an environment where mistakes are more likely to occur.

For example, hospitals are trapped between tight financial constraints and attending to patients. Often, they're under pressure to discharge patients quickly—sometimes too early—to free up beds. Many hospitals are chronically understaffed with regards to nurses (the patient's primary point of contact!) and support staff (like janitors, charged with the very important job of keeping the hospital clean).

It's no better for physicians, who are continuously pulled in multiple directions. Today's doctor spends hours documenting health records and completing insurance forms—time that once was directly devoted to patients. At the same time, they're reimbursed by health insurers at ever-shrinking rates, even as their malpractice insurance premiums soar.

This is why many doctors are increasing their patient load or relying on less-qualified Physician Assistants to handle their caseload. End result: less one-on-one time with patients and a greater risk of something falling through the cracks.

For all these reasons, patients and their families need to take a more active role in managing their healthcare. They need to be informed and vigilant. They need to be ready to advocate for themselves whenever necessary.

Of course, it's impossible to eliminate 100% of your risk of becoming a victim of medical error. But by paying attention and speaking out, you can vastly improve your odds.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of Northshore Patient Advocates LLC (NShore). She is also founder and CEO of Nurse Advocate Entrepreneur, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com.

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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

newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election. For more information, call 413-283-8393.

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.

COOKOUT

from page 1

to greet Sheriff Cocchi, along with Springfield PD Commissioner Albert Tranghese.

Offering insight despite the rainy and inclement weather was Cocchi, who reflected on the chance to continue the legacy left behind by Ashe in the pursuit of bringing the community together.

“We do it in August, just before Election time, so a lot of people running for office come, which allows the public to express their concerns or interests to get to know who they will be potentially voting for, and it allows me to offer an ode of gratitude and just a thank you to the people who have been the Sheriff’s office,” Cocchi said. “I just feel this love and support from the community, but make no mistake about it, the Hampden County Sheriff’s Office is the people’s, and I’m very grateful to have the awesome responsibility to run day-to-day operations.”

Cocchi noted that the key to keeping the event fresh and unique as the years continue to pass, by summing it up to the fact of building relationships and staying true to what you mean.

“It’s about providing services to the people in the community who need help and support, to allow offenders who are incarcerated that opportunity for redemption, and give them a piece of hope,” Cocchi said.

Cocchi also discussed the overall elation of seeing familiar faces and the foundational pillars of colleagues who helped pave the way for him, such as a former Correctional Officer SGT. James Rooney, who was a mentor to Cocchi when he first started, back during the days of the old York Street Prison being in use.

“It was so great to see Jimmy (Rooney),” Cocchi said. “I have had so much respect for him, since the days of when I was a young CO, and he (Jim) was one of my mentors in one of the toughest areas in the facility.”

Cocchi was grateful to the community for their support.

“I’m just so grateful to see this level of support in 2025; it’s extremely humbling,” Cocchi said.

Providing similar comments to Cocchi’s gratitude was Springfield Police Commissioner Tranghese, who kept his thoughts simple, highlighting the support and unity from the community.

“This is a great function for all of Western Mass, and it brings us all together, and it’s always a big occasion,” Tranghese said.

Touching upon the resilience of the community, showing up strong, despite the rainy and wet conditions, was Mayor Garcia.



Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi doing a photo with supporters.



Former Springfield PD Superintendent Cheryl Ciaprood, Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi, and Anthony Cignoli, President of AL Cignoli CO.

“You would think with rain, you would expect low turnout, but that’s not the case,” Garcia said. “But this turnout is a testament to Sheriff Cocchi, and again, that has to do with good leadership, good direction, and I’m here to contribute and offer support, and everyone here in some way, shape, or capacity are doing important work in the community, and we show up to show support for each other, for the Sheriff to continue the good work of improving quality life of people.”

Offering similar sentiments to Garcia’s comments was State Senator Adam Gomez (D-Springfield).

“Even when it rains, people are going to come out and support Sheriff Cocchi,” Gomez said. “From the work he and his team have been doing, it shows that the public is still with him, and they enjoy this annual event.”

Gomez also noted the diversity and overall enjoyment of everyone in attendance.

“We have children here, grandparents, we have everybody, and everyone is enjoying good food and conversation, and just remember to stand tall and keep pushing our region forward,” Gomez said.

Following suit in the ode of gratitude centered around Cocchi, while branding a new name for supporters of

the Sheriff was Mayor Vieau, who attributed the ‘Cocchi army’.

“I’ll tell you that Sheriff Cocchi is just beloved by this community, and it’s not just Western Mass; it’s beyond,” Vieau said. “And Nick (Cocchi) is a great guy, and I’m grateful and thankful to call him a great friend.”

Gulluni also offered his initial thoughts about the event, sharing that the support from everyone was “phenomenal.”

“It’s a testament to Cocchi’s community outreach and engagement due to the credibility he’s achieved as Sheriff over these years, to bring out this number of people in a washout, and I’m happy to be here to support Nick(Cocchi) and his team,” Gulluni said.

He also talked about the passion for being in the position he is in.

“I feel privileged to have had this job for almost 11 years, and I worked in the office as an assistant DA, so I have a great appreciation for the impact that we can have,” Gulluni said.

Gulluni cited the success is due to his staff.

“I’ve been really fortunate to have great people around me through all the projects and the initiatives that we have, but particularly on unresolved cases, we’ve had a lot of success, and that is meaningful to the com-



Volunteers running the raffle table.

Turley photos by Brendan Rooney



Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi and Former Hampden County Sheriff Michael Ashe

munity, and it’s obviously tremendously meaningful to the families and loved ones involved who lost someone and never got answers and that is a trauma I can’t even envision, so if we can give back in that capacity, I’m really honored to do so,” Gulluni said.

The all-day event kicked off with a golf tournament in the morning, and for those in attendance, they were treated to grilled foods like Italian sausage, burgers, corn, grilled chicken and BBQ ribs, along with plenty of drinks, were provided to bring a classic cookout feel. The event also featured live music, cornhole and tons of raffle prizes.

All funds from the event went towards the Sheriff’s election committee.



Volunteers who cooked all the food.

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.



SECURITY

from page 4

survivor benefit is higher than your personal age 70 amount, you can just continue to claim the higher amount.

I suggest that when you decide that you must stop working full time, you contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to discuss whether it is best to claim your survivor benefit from your wife first and delay claiming your own until a later time to get a higher amount. You can make an appointment to discuss your options with SS over the phone, before deciding when (and what) to claim. And, of course, if you have any further questions, we are always here to assist you with your decision.

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 ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

SWINGING BRIDGE AUCTIONS

REAL ESTATE AUCTION AT 104 FRANKLIN ST., NORTHAMPTON MASS. 01060 SEPTEMBER 13TH 2025 AT 12:00 P.M.

DAVID BAILLARGEON AUCTIONEER MA. LIC AU0002755

AUCTION DAY:

Registered Bidders Only will be allowed on site during the auction at the request of the owner.

BIDDER REGISTRATION & PROPERTY VIEWING

- By Appointment Only
- Preview & Registration: Friday, September 12 – 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.
- Auction Day Registration: 10:00 A.M. to 11:45 A.M.

Walking distance to: Smith College, Northampton High School, Cooley Dickinson Hospital, and Downtown Northampton

FOR MORE INFO. CALL 413-207-1301 OR WEB SITE WWW.SWINGINGBRIDGEAUCTIONS.COM

TERMS:

PROPERTY IS BEING SOLD AS IS WHERE IS WITH NO CONTINGENCIES SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE SELLER. FOR MORE INFO ON TERMS PLEASE CALL OR GO TO WEBSITE WWW.SWINGINGBRIDGEAUCTIONS.COM. PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS ARE WELCOME TO HAVE INSPECTION AT THERE OWN EXPENSE AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRIOR TO AUCTION.

A FIVE THOUSAND DOLLAR CERTIFIED CHECK IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO REGISTER TO BID (please call for details of how to write the check out.) ALL BIDDERS ARE STRONGLY URGED TO GET FINANCING IN ORDER PRIOR TO AUCTION. Owner to provide Clear Title at time of closing. Winning bid is contingent upon SELLERS approval.



CHESTER

Hilltown Hikers offering a trek Chester and Becket Railroad route

CHESTER – Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers will hold a special Housatonic Heritage group tour on a section of the Chester and Becket Railroad on Sunday, Sept. 7 at 1 p.m.

They will park on Hampden Street at the Chester and Becket Trailhead in Chester. The hike is an easy two miles in and back on mostly flat terrain on dirt. There is an option to continue on the rail bed heading East to Route 20 connection with the Boston and Albany Railroad immediately following the first part of the hike; it adds an additional three miles.

This is an interpretive tour led by Liz Massa, President of the Hilltown Hikers. Built in 1896 as a 5.25-mile spur off the Boston & Albany Railroad to deliver granite from the Becket Quarries to the Chester finishing works. Both Chester and Becket issued bond stock in the quarry company to help in building this line because there was money to be made from the Chester Blue Granite for monuments and gravestones.

This railroad was blasted out of the steep and winding side of the Walker Brook Valley. The first locomotive to run on this line was a wood burner, eventually upgraded to a coal burning locomotive. Hikers will see the remains of a wooden trestle still standing on the trail and also learn how this route was used in Chester's Emery industry and how it con-



Remains of a railroad wooden trestle are visible along the trail. Hikers inspect some of the timbers still left.

Submitted photos

nects to the Granite Saw Property, owned by Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers. Additional option



This is one of the early locomotives on the Chester and Becket Railroad.

will be to hike more of the old railroad immediately following the main event. Donations for the newly conserved Chester Granite Company Finishing Works property are greatly appreciated.

The group will hike rain or shine. Registration is required. People may register per car load by visiting <https://westernmasshilltownhikers.ticketleap.com>. Maps and bottled water are provided. Well behaved dogs are allowed. The event is volunteer lead. Suggested donation is \$15. More details are on www.hilltownhikers.com.

People may email west-

ernmasshilltownhikers@aol.com or call/text 413-302-0312 if they have any questions. As always, hikers should be prepared for rocks, mud and roots and bring trekking poles.

People, who would like to hike year round, may become a Hilltown Hiker member. They can sign up on www.HilltownHikers.com. People may follow them on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. Tees, hoodies, hats, patches and bags will be for sale by donation at the event. People may see all events, maps, blog and photos by visiting www.hilltownhikers.com.

SHAEC lists schedule

CHESTER – The Southern Hilltowns Adult Education Center, 26 Main St., released their September class offering schedule.

SHAEC's classes are free and open to residents of Chester, Huntington, Russell and Middlefield, as they are funded by a Community Development Block Grant serving these four Hilltowns. SHAEC is an off-campus program of the University of Massachusetts Partnership for Worker Education program, serving the Southern Hilltowns since 1999.

Pre-registration for classes can be made by calling SHAEC at 413-354-1055 or emailing Southernhilltownsaec@gmail.com with name, class(es) they are interested in and contact information (phone number and email address). Pre-registration can also be done on SHAEC's website by visiting www.Umass.edu/shaec.

Since its inception, SHAEC has provided free classes and tutoring for the GED/ High School Equivalency Tests as well as computer and technology classes and assistance. Business assistance and sustainability classes were later added to SHAEC's offerings.

A series of classes on Organizing your Digital Life, taught by Stephanie Stoudenmire, will be offered on Mondays from 3-4:30 p.m. at the SHAEC classroom in the Village Enterprise Center, 26 Main St. Part 1 of the series: Too many emails? How to get them under control will be Monday Sept 8. Part 2 will be Finding and Organizing Photos and Videos on Monday Sept. 15. Part 3 is Google Drive and Google Docs: Personal file cabinet, is offered on Monday Sept. 22. The final class in the series is Google Sheets: Spreadsheets at your fingertips, offered Monday, Sept. 29.

Stoudenmire, who owns the Digital Consulting Business CodeForce, is also offering a class on Using AI tools for Fun and Everyday Tasks, also at SHAEC's 26 Main Street classroom. This class is being offered both in the daytime and in the evening, to accommodate the different tie constraints of Hilltown residents. The first session is scheduled for Thursday, Sept 18 from 2-3:30

p.m. The second offering of this class will be Thursday evening, Sept. 25 at 6 p.m.

SHAEC offers a series of classes this fall by local aromatherapist Kay Judge, of Blue Skye Wellness. September class: Intro To Aromatherapy: The Basics, will provide a basic understanding of the use of essential oils, their beneficial properties and safe use practices. Participants will have the opportunity to create a room spray to take home. There is a materials fee of \$10 for this class. There will be two class times offered: A daytime session on Friday, Sept. 26 is scheduled for 2 p.m. An evening session of this class will be Friday, Sept. 19 at 6 p.m. Kay's classes will be held in her Blue Skye Wellness classroom, also at 26 Main St., adjacent to SHAEC's classroom.

UMass PHD candidate Katy Dieber is leading up SHAEC's GED prep classes and tutoring for the fall, with mid-day math from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays throughout the fall at the SHAEC classroom. Dieber, a creative teacher that focuses on hand-on teaching methods to enhance understanding, will start at whatever level her students are at, building up to GED math concepts. Those interested in exploring GED topics are encouraged to call SHAEC program Director Michele Kenney at 413-354-1055 to discuss their academic goals.

SHAEC also offers free computer/ tech help at the area's local Senior Centers. SHAEC Computer Teacher Heather Morgan is at the Huntington Senior Center at Stanton Hall on the first Wednesday of every month from 1-2 p.m. She is at the Chester Senior Center, located in the basement of the Chester Town Hall, on the Second Wednesday of the month, from 10:30 a.m.-noon. She is at the Russell Senior Center, located on the second floor of the Russell Town Hall, on the third Wednesday of the month, from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The fourth Wednesday of the month she is at the Middlefield Senior Center, from 12:45-1:30 p.m. People can also call or email SHAEC to request individual computer assistance, either at the SHAEC classroom or virtually.

from page 1

HISTORIC

Trail in Chester, then called Murrayfield, to entice the Reverend Aaron Bascom to become the first minister in the frontier town and serve what later became the First Congregational Church of Chester.

Once a highly prized residence that had been updated and expanded for nearly two centuries, this historic home finally succumbed to rot and disuse. Despite the efforts of many local citizens over the past decades to restore it-including a new roof financed by Newman Marsh in the 1990s the home fell beyond repair and was demolished on Monday, Aug. 18 by the town.

Neighbor John Nolet watched the demolition, along with local historian John Garvey and Chester Historical Society President John Hultman. "This landmark house will be missed," Nolet said. "There is surely a lot of history that goes with this property." A joint statement was issued by two town organizations following the demolition. It read, "The Chester Historical Commission and the Chester Historical Society are devastated by the loss of the Reverend Aaron Bascom House on Skyline Trail. Shortly after its founding in the mid-1980's the Chester Historical Commission reached out to the owner to

discuss the historic importance of the house and options that may be available for the restoration of it. After that initial contact, all further attempts to communicate with the owner were not successful."

It went on, "When the Chester Historical Society formed in the mid-1990s another attempt at communication was initiated, but was also unsuccessful. In the early 2000s, at the urging of the Historical Commission, the Historical Society and other concerned citizens in the town inspected the property and found it unsafe. The owner was ordered to either sell it or make it safe, with the threat of daily fines if this was not done. The owner did what was necessary to secure the property, but nothing else. Since the building was not inhabited, this was the limit of the town's authority."

More recently, another couple purchased the property from the long-time present day owner. Garvey said that the contractor informed him that they did seek restoration quotes, but all were over \$1 million and out of reach.

Historic significance of house
According to Garvey, the home was originally built because the town could not raise enough money to pay Bascom, a graduate of Harvard, a full salary. Therefore, his annual com-



The historic home was deemed beyond repair and was demolished by the town of Chester on Monday, Aug. 18.

Courtesy photos by John Nolet

pensation included the house and his firewood, which was cut and split from a 100-acre woodlot that was granted to Bascom with the home. Firewood was stacked by parishioners outside the house each year.

Garvey reports that Bascom died in 1814 and the house was left to his oldest son James and his widow, Martha Bascom. It is believed that they sold it shortly after his death, although it is not clear who

bought it.

By 1841, however, it was owned by Dr. Thaddeus Kingsley DeWolf, who created an outbuilding next to the home to serve as his medical office. It is believed that some of the updates to the home from around this time were acquired by DeWolf and include Victorian period door knobs and modern fireplace surrounds. An early floor plan of the building shows two parlors, a summer kitchen and a buttry along

with five bedrooms and notes where additions were added in 1880.

Following his death in 1890, his youngest son, DeWitt Clinton DeWolf lived in the home until his death in 1935. "He used his father's medical office as his business office," Garvey explained, adding that a photo from that era shows his name over the door to the office. The son had made a fortune in the coal industry out west before return-

ing to Chester, where he became a political supporter of Joseph Ely of Westfield. DeWolf served as Ely's executive secretary when Ely was elected Governor of Massachusetts in 1930. Both served in those roles for two terms with DeWolf appointed Commissioner of Labor and Industries shortly before Ely's second term ended. DeWolf held that post until his death in 1935. Garvey said he believed that one of his unmarried daughters took over the house at that time.

In its conclusion, the joint statement said, "The building was listed in the Chester Center National Historic District but that designation gives no authority to the Historical Commission to force a private owner to do anything with their property. Chester does not have a Demolition Delay Bylaw, which could have been used to delay the demolition."

"With the help of the contractor and the home's newer owners, the Chester Historical Society was able to save some architecturally significant items from the house, including the front door assembly, wood panelling, a fireplace surround, two interior doors and multiple hinges and door knobs. Over the winter, these will be developed into a display in the Chester History Museum that will be ready for viewing in the spring.

MIDDLEFIELD

COA CELEBRATES CRYSTAL MAIN'S BIRTHDAY



Crystal Main of Middlefield celebrated her birthday with a cake at the Middlefield Council on Aging meal site recently. Submitted photo

Cultural Council accepting grant applications

MIDDLEFIELD – The Middlefield Cultural Council is accepting applications Tuesday, Sept. 2 through Thursday, Oct. 16 from organizations, schools and individuals for grants that support cultural activities in the community in 2026.

People may visit <http://www.massculturalcouncil.org/local-council/middlefield> for information and local guidelines. They may visit <http://www.massculturalcouncil.org/local-council/middlefield> to submit online applications. Projects must have an identified local venue and have a projected completion date to be considered.

The Middlefield Cultural Council is supported by an annual appropriation from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. The purpose of the local and regional cultural councils is to support public programs that foster a rich cultural life in communities across the commonwealth. Previously funded projects have included entertainment at the Middlefield and Littleville fairs, Becket Arts Center, North Hall Association, Sevenars, Mass MOCA trip for Gateway students and a watercolor class at the Senior Center.

its first ever quilt show on Thursday, Aug. 21. On display were quilts of all types from hand stitched to machine-quilted and everything in between including vintage, new and quilts in progress.



This quilt with a floral pattern was one of the quilts on display at the show at the Middlefield Public Library



This quilt was also on display at the recent library quilt show. Submitted photos

Middlefield Public Library hosts quilt show

MIDDLEFIELD – The Middlefield Public Library, 188 Skyline Trail held

its first ever quilt show on Thursday, Aug. 21. On display were quilts

of all types from hand stitched to machine-quilted and everything in between

including vintage, new and quilts in progress.

BLANDFORD

Porter Memorial library lists events

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – Porter Memorial Library Director Nicole Daviau announced library events for September.

Every Tuesday Afternoon at 4:30 p.m. there will be Sleepy Story Time with a story and free play.

This session is best for elementary students and their younger siblings at the library located at 87 Main St.

Every Wednesday from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Book Squirms meets with stories, songs and sensory play for preschoolers.

Saturdays, Sept. 6, 13 and 27 patrons can get Tech Help with Claire. They may call or come into the library to schedule a time slot to have our resident tech expert Claire help with their technology related questions.

Friday, Sept. 12 at 5 p.m., people may visit the

library for the monthly Pokemon event. There will be crafts, trade Pokemon cards and a trivia competition. This event is geared to children in elementary and middle school.

Thursday, Sept. 18 at 6:30 p.m. the Library Building Committee meets at Town Hall, 1 Russel Stage Road. These meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend to learn updated information on the expansion project.

Saturday, Sept. 20 library expansion activities RE at 9 and 10 a.m. At 9 a.m. there will be a tour of the existing library. Attendees will learn why more space and updates to accommodate for those with mobility issues are needed.

At 10 a.m. there will be a community meeting about library construction at Town Hall. Attendees will enjoy coffee and donuts while they learn, see the floor plan,

learn about the expansion and meet the team.

Communi-Tea Reads will be held on Saturday, Sept. 20 at 11 a.m. at the Town Hall. This month they will meet at Town Hall so book club members can also easily take part in the community meeting. The book selection is "The Sinners All Bow" by Kate Winkler Dawson.



from page 1

MEETING

he has had a Commercial Driver's License for six years.

When the board did get to Hultay, they reviewed his activities and member Jackie Coury will write up the review. Board member T.J. Cousineau reminded the board that he was troubled with the goal set up and said, "Ray has a good grasp of what needs to be done."

Department head meetings
The board then moved on to the first of what will be monthly meetings with department heads.

Those participating were representing the Board of Health, Town clerk, Fire, Highway and Water departments, the Board of Assessors and the Porter Memorial Library.

The group reviewed individually any ongoing or upcoming projects, any challenges, budget constraints and any support needed from

the board.

Every department mentioned issues with the accounting department, from bills not being paid, no updated financial information forthcoming or bills paid from incorrect account lines.

The clerk's office has issues with both appointed and elected town officials failing to get sworn in. The Fire Department has ongoing concerns for a new facility and new equipment.

Highway reiterated upcoming roadwork.

The Water Department discussed going forward with a federal earmark with the help of Rep. Richard Neal. Water would also appreciate having the Fire Department tell them if there is a fire so they can be sure of the water supply.

Assessors relayed that the revaluation of real estate has been completed showing an increase of eight per cent

across the board, and that the tax rate will go down. Tax rate is expected to be set early in October.

The library reported the building expansion project is on schedule and on target. The Highway Department has a storage unit which the library can use for its collection during construction.

Other business

A pole hearing for relocation and installation of utility poles for NSTAR (Eversource) and Verizon was set for Monday, Sept. 29 at 6 p.m.

The board approved an extension of the RRG Services contract for assessing services pending a new firm coming on board.

Fair President Matt Ripley gave the board an update on the Labor Day Weekend Fair.

The next department meeting was set for Monday, Sept. 29.

CHESTERFIELD

Chesterfield Cultural Council applications due Oct. 16

CHESTERFIELD – The Chesterfield Cultural Council seeks proposals for community-oriented science, arts, and humanities

programs for 2026. Grant applications opened Tuesday, Sept. 2 and are due by Thursday, Oct. 16 at 11:59 p.m. For more

information and to apply, people may visit <https://massculturalcouncil.org/local-council/chesterfield/>.

All community meeting on Sept. 27

CHESTERFIELD – The Chesterfield Planning Board will host the first of three all-community meetings on Saturday, Sept. 27 from 10 a.m.-noon at the town's Community Center.

With its partner, Pioneer Valley Planning Council, Planning Board members will review results of a recent survey of residents' priorities and facilitate small group discussions to begin to set land use priorities for housing, transportation and economic development among other important topics. A light breakfast will be provided and a drawing will be held for gift cards to two lucky

residents.

"Chesterfield residents cherish its extraordinary natural resources and rural character," says Planning Board Acting Chair Sarah Hamilton. Yet like many small towns, Chesterfield faces pressures for housing development, funding for schools and town facilities, and continued tax pressures. According to Hamilton "Active farms have decreased significantly since the town's last Master Plan in 2003." The Sept. 27 meeting is the first step toward updating the town's Master Plan, which was identified as a top priority in the Town's 2025 Open

Space and Recreation Plan.

The second meeting will be held on Thursday, Oct. 23 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the same location and child care will be provided. These meetings are supported by funding from the town of Chesterfield and the Commonwealth's District Local Technical Assistance program, which is administered by regional planning agencies like PVPC to provide support to communities on a range of planning-related projects. People may visit Planningboard@townofchesterfieldma.com for more updates and information.

WESTFIELD

St. Joseph's to hold pot roast dinner

WESTFIELD – St. Joseph's National Catholic Church at 73 Main St., will host a Yankee pot roast dinner on Sunday, Sept. 14 at noon.

This hardy dinner will feature tender pot roast served with a medley of Yukon gold potatoes, onions, and carrots. A fresh dinner role will accompany the entree.

Dessert will feature chocolate cake with vanilla whipped buttercream frosting. Beverages include hot coffee, bottled water and apple cider. Everyone is welcome.

Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. To purchase tickets and reserve a place, people should text or telephone Cliff at 413-

977-200, and if leaving a message, provide name and telephone number. Take-out/meals-to-go will be available for pick-up at 12:30 p.m. When ordering tickets, indicate if dinners are to-go. The deadline for purchasing tickets is Thursday, Sept. 11. This is a delicious, quintessential Yankee meal. There will be a fun raffle as well.

Alzheimer's Support Group meets Sept. 24

WESTFIELD – An Alzheimer's Association Support Group meet on Wednesday, Sept. 24 at Armbrook Village Senior Living and Memory Support Community, 551

North Road.

Caregivers and family members are invited to enjoy a light dinner and to share their personal experiences and strategies for communicating with their loved

ones. The public is welcome. To join this group, people should either call 413-568-0000 or email reception@armbrookvillage.com. Groups are held on the last Wednesday of the month.



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STOCKBRIDGE

Norman Rockwell Museum named honoree

PITTSFIELD – 1Berkshire announces the Norman Rockwell Museum, 9 Glendale Road, Stockbridge has been selected as the 2025 Putting the Berkshires on the Map honoree.

Annually, 1Berkshire presents this award to a project, initiative or organization that has left an indelible mark on the region and contributed substantially to the advancement of the public perception and overall image of the Berkshires. This recognition will be presented at the 12th annual Celebrate the Berkshires event on Thursday, Sept. 18. 1Berkshire invites the entire Berkshire community to join them as they honor the Norman Rockwell Museum for its extraordinary contributions to the Berkshire economy and the museum's

role in shaping the region into a nationally celebrated cultural hub.

"Over the past four decades, the Norman Rockwell Museum has grown from a small hometown museum into a nationally recognized center for American illustration," stated Jonathan Butler, CEO and President of 1Berkshire. "This transformation was a collaborative effort led with clarity and purpose by the Museum's Director/CEO, Laurie Norton Moffatt, and made possible by the trust, investment, and tireless support of board members, staff, volunteers, patrons, the Rockwell family, and the Berkshire community. 1Berkshire is proud to announce them as our Putting the Berkshires on the Map honoree."

From its home in

Stockbridge, the Museum has welcomed more than 6.7 million visitors and brought travelers from across the globe to experience the Berkshires. Through nearly 250 exhibitions-circulating to 47 states and seven countries-as well as cultural diplomacy partnerships with the U.S. State Department in Ethiopia, Russia, and Mongolia and collaborations with institutions including the White House and the United Nations, the Museum has expanded its reach far beyond the region. And yet, it has remained firmly rooted in the Berkshires, enriching the local economy and reinforcing the county's reputation as a world-class arts destination.

Together with staff, Board, and national partners, Moffatt helped to

shift the cultural narrative around illustration-from overlooked to essential. Initiatives like the establishment of the Rockwell Center for American Visual Studies and the Museum's robust traveling exhibition program have sparked new scholarship and public engagement, cementing NRM as a national leader in the field.

"On behalf of all of us at the Norman Rockwell Museum, I want to express our heartfelt gratitude to 1Berkshire for this meaningful recognition," said Moffatt "For over 50 years and especially throughout the past four decades, the museum has grown hand-in-hand with our Berkshire community. It has been an honor to help shape a cultural institution that not only preserves the legacy of

Norman Rockwell, but also uplifts the power of illustration to reflect, challenge, and inspire. As one of the cornerstones of the region's vibrant creative economy, the Museum has helped position the Berkshires as a nationally recognized destination for arts and culture. This award is a celebration of our shared commitment to creativity, storytelling, and place-and a testament to what can happen when vision meets community."

The evening will also feature the announcement of the 2025 Berkshire Trendsetter Award winners, recognizing individuals, businesses and organizations shaping the future of the Berkshires. Tickets available by visiting <https://1berkshire.com/events/celebrate-the-berkshires>.

People may view the 2025 finalists for the Trendsetter Awards and previous recipients by visiting <https://1berkshire.com/events/celebrate-the-berkshires/trendsetter-awards>.

1Berkshire is a county-wide marketing and economic development organization that works to simultaneously preserve, position, and promote Berkshire County's profound sense of place. Its mission is to advance Berkshire County's economy by advocating for the business community and attracting visitors. Powered by membership, 1Berkshire provides programs that connect businesses with resources and potential customers, as well as develop future leaders and support entrepreneurs. For more information, people may visit 1berkshire.com.

PITTSFIELD

30th Annual Jimmy Bernardo Memorial Motorcycle Ride set to take place Sept. 7

PITTSFIELD – Berkshire County Kids' Place and Violence Prevention Center, Inc., invites the community to join them for the 30th Annual Jimmy's Ride on Sunday, Sept. 7 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

This cherished tradition honors the life of Jimmy Bernardo and raises essential funds to help children and families heal from abuse and violence. The ride begins at Berkshire County Kids' Place, 63 Wendell Avenue, with registration starting at 8:30 a.m. and kickstands up at 11 a.m. Riders will travel a scenic 90-minute route through Berkshire County, ending at the Tavern at the A 303 Crane Avenue, for the after

party, which starts at noon.

The after party is open to the public and welcomes everyone, whether they ride or just come to celebrate. They may purchase food and raffles and enjoy music. In addition to supporting child abuse prevention and healing services, this year's event highlights a growing concern online child safety. Attendees receive free internet safety resource bags, filled with age-appropriate materials while supplies last.

"For 30 years, Jimmy's Ride has stood for protecting children and creating a safer community," said Mary, Ron, and Rob Bernardo. "This year, we're proud to honor that legacy by expanding the mission to include online safety, because today,

protecting kids doesn't end at the front door. It also means safeguarding them on every screen and device they use."

The event honors the life of Jimmy Bernardo, a beloved Pittsfield native whose life was tragically taken in 1990. For 30 years, Jimmy's family, friends and the broader community have come together in his memory to support the vital work of Berkshire County Kids' Place, the region's fully accredited Children's Advocacy Center, serving families from Berkshire County.

All proceeds from Jimmy's Ride support Kids' Place programs, providing free, specialized services to children and families

impacted by neglect, abuse, exploitation and domestic violence. They are especially grateful to our lead sponsor, Greylock Federal Credit Union, and to all the businesses, individuals and organizations whose generosity makes this event possible.

"Jimmy's Ride is more than a motorcycle ride; it's a powerful reminder of what our community can do when we come together to protect children," said Heather Williamson, Program Director of Kids' Place. "For 30 years, this event has honored Jimmy's memory by standing up for kids who need us most. 4098 We're proud to continue that legacy and to grow it in ways that meet today's challenges."

EASTHAMPTON

bankESB receives Corporate Citizenship Award

EASTHAMPTON – bankESB announces it has been recognized by the Boston Business Journal with the prestigious 2025 Corporate Citizenship Award, reaffirming its status as one of Massachusetts's most charitable companies.

This marks the 11th consecutive year bankESB has earned this recognition, an acknowledgment of the bank's deeply rooted commitment to community support through both financial contributions and volunteerism. Central to bankESB's philanthropic framework is its signature charitable giving initiative, The Giving Tree. Through this program bankESB champions a range of community needs-supporting food insecurity, affordable

housing, education, veteran services, youth sports and more throughout the cities and towns it serves.

"We're so proud to be recognized as a good corporate citizen, because that's exactly what we strive to be," said Matthew S. Sosik, president and CEO of bankESB. "We truly believe in unlocking the potential of the communities we serve and that we can enhance everyone's quality of life if we work to solve our biggest problems-together."

Over the past decade, The Giving Tree has donated more than \$4 million to area nonprofits. In 2024 alone, the program contributed nearly \$515,000, and this year's initiatives-including seasonal food pantry drives and local

education grants-continue to strengthen local institutions and impact lives

"It is with honor that we present our list of the Top Charitable Contributors in Massachusetts – companies who gave \$100,000 or more to Massachusetts-based charities in 2024. Collectively, they gave more than \$416 million in cash contributions – a true example of the business community coming together to help those in need. We are proud to celebrate these organizations who give both money and time to make our communities stronger and better places for all," said Boston Business Journal Market President and Publisher Carolyn Jones.

This year 99 compa-

nies have qualified for distinction by reporting at least \$100,000 in cash contributions to Massachusetts-based charities last year as noted above. The honorees this year include companies from such industry sectors as financial and professional services, health care, technology, retail and professional sports.

Founded in 1869 as Easthampton Savings Bank, bankESB is headquartered in Easthampton. Through their sponsorship and charitable giving program, The Giving Tree, bankESB and the Easthampton Savings Bank Charitable Foundation support non-profit organizations and causes throughout Hampden and Hampshire counties.

TOLLAND

Coffeehouse music event features Bruce Mandel

TOLLAND – Music in the Hills, a monthly coffeehouse style event features Bruce Mandel on Saturday Sept. 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Public Safety Complex, 204 West Granville Road in the Community Room.

Mandel will provide songs and conversation. On Saturday, Oct. 2 at 6:30 p.m. PaxSax Quartet will

perform classical jazz, swing and ragtime at the Tolland Congregational Church, 45 Tolland Green.

This is the final performance of the 2025 series. These programs are funded in part by a grant from the Tolland Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

FLORENCE

Walk to Defeat ALS happens Sept. 6

FLORENCE – On Saturday, Sept. 6, people living with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis along with their families, friends and caregivers will be coming together at the Frank Newhall Look Memorial Park, 300 North Main St. for the 2025 Walk to Defeat ALS Western Massachusetts.

All funds raised by the event provide help and

hope for those living with ALS by supporting patient care, advocacy and cutting-edge research to find treatments and a cure for this debilitating, always fatal disease. ALS, often referred to as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive motor neuron disease that gradually robs people of their ability to walk, talk, swallow and eventually breathe.

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a "people news" form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for the *Country Journal* please email countryjournal@turley.com.

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GREAT BARRINGTON

Nonprofit Center offers workshops

GREAT BARRINGTON – The Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires offers four workshops and webinars this fall focusing on fundraising, board development and wellness.

The first is presented in partnership with Berkshire Taconic Community foundation. "Empowering Berkshire Nonprofit Boards for Success" is a four-part webinar series led by Andy Robinson. The author of Train Your Board (and Everyone Else) to Raise Money, Robinson is well-known in the nonprofit world

as an expert on all things board-related. Staff and board are encouraged to attend, with a flat rate of \$275 per organization for unlimited attendance. The first webinar takes place on Friday, Sept. 5.

On Tuesday, Sept. 16, health and wellness coach Samantha Anderson will teach the art of energy management in "Balancing Your Inner Fire: Prevent Burnout, Sustain Your Energy and Lead with Confidence." Participants will leave this live workshop with a personal energy balance plan

designed to prevent burnout.

Two in-person, hands-on workshops focus on fundraising. On Thursday, Sept. 25, "Writing your Annual Appeal" with Liz Albert will give nonprofits a jump-start on the biggest task of the fourth quarter. On Wednesday, Oct. 8, "Asking without Anxiety" led by fundraising coach Jenn Hayslett is designed to build skills and confidence in donor relationships. For more details about these fall professional development programs, people may visit npberkshires.org.

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

COLLEGE NEWS

WNEU announces Dean's list

SPRINGFIELD – Western New England University (WNE) takes immense pride in recognizing the outstanding academic achievements of over 790 students who have been named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2025 semester.

Local students making Dean's list are: Matthew Armstrong of Easthampton, Elizabeth Baker of Westfield, Lauren Benoit of Russell, Anna Bouchard of Westfield, Kelsey Bouchard of Westfield, Alivia Brisson of Williamsburg, Maura Campbell of Westhampton, Brittany Cardoza-Rebollo

of Westfield, Emma Cassell of Westfield, Ryan Charland of Westfield, James Cloutier of Westfield, Jessica Cloutier of Easthampton, Zachary Cloutier of Easthampton, Brooke Darling of Westfield, Abigail Dean of Easthampton, Kailey Downs of Westfield, Jordan Dunham of Easthampton, Shawn Farnham of Westfield, Alison Goodreau of Westfield, Christina Harris of Montgomery, Allison Hauff of Westfield, Max Kusnierz of Westfield, Ryan LaPoint of Westfield, Colby LaPoint of Westfield,

Hadleigh Leclair of Westfield, Aiden Levesque of Westfield, Daniel McKellick of Montgomery, Casey Nothe of Washington, Jaiden O'Kane of Westfield, Sean O'Leary of Easthampton, Connor Perreault of Easthampton, Vasco Sardinha of Westfield, Alexandra Sienko of Westfield, Jeffrie Surgen of Easthampton, Zakery Thibodeau of Easthampton, Jordan Tomczak of Westfield, Jewelianna Walker of Westfield, George Wilensky of Easthampton and Leah Wilson of Huntington.

URI celebrates graduates

KINGSTON, RI – The University of Rhode Island held its 2025 Commencement during ceremonies which took place May 16-18.

Local graduates were: Zachary Baroux-Kroll of Westfield magna cum laude Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in accounting and Meghan Tobin of Westhampton cum laude Bachelor of Arts in gender and women's studies and a

Science in computer science, Jack DeMarinis of Montgomery summa cum laude Bachelor of Science in computer engineering, Brynja Miltimore of Russell cum laude Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in accounting and Meghan Tobin of Westhampton cum laude Bachelor of Arts in gender and women's studies and a

Bachelor of Science in early childhood education.

Students who received the honor summa cum laude graduated with a cumulative Grade Point Average of at least 3.7; students who received the honor of magna cum laude graduated with a GPA of at least 3.5 and students who received the honor of cum laude graduated with a GPA of at least 3.3.

WNEU announces President's list

SPRINGFIELD – Western New England University announces the President's list for the spring 2025 semester.

Local students making the President's list are: Alison Goodreau of Westfield, Ryan

Charland of Westfield, Colby LaPoint of Westfield, Emma Cassell of Westfield, Jessica Cloutier of Easthampton, Abigail Dean of Easthampton, Christina Harris of Montgomery, Brittany Cardoza-Rebollo of Westfield, Jaiden

O'Kane of Westfield, Kelsey Bouchard of Westfield, Alivia Brisson of Williamsburg and Brooke Darling of Westfield. Students are named to the President's List for achieving a semester grade point average of 3.80 or higher.

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NORTHAMPTON

Forbes Library holds grand opening

NORTHAMPTON – Forbes Library, 20 West St., announces the opening of the new Hess Performance Stage on the library's west lawn.

The library will be celebrating the new stage with a free grand opening on Saturday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m. with an event featuring the O-Tones playing Swing, Blues, Soul, Motown, Latin and R&B. The stage is open air with a covered roof and ramped handicap access. It has lights, electricity and soon will also have a sound system.

This project is many years in the making and is intended to provide the necessary infrastructure for outdoor programs and events as well as a new community gathering space. The library has a long tradition of outdoor programming with the first photographed event held

in 1918 when an overflow crowd got together on the library grounds to sing patriotic songs to celebrate the end of World War I.

The stage was designed by HAI Architects from Northampton and built by Campora Construction Incorporated from Ludlow. It has a steel structure and curved roof profile inspired by the arches of the library's building and featuring colors that also reflect the sandstone and granite of the building. The project was funded by substantial gifts from Marjorie Hess and Rudolph Talaber for whom the stage is named, along with additional support provided by the Friends of Forbes, city of Northampton, Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism, MassDevelopment, AARP Massachusetts and many individual donors.

Debin Bruce, Chair of the library's Building and Grounds Committee worked tirelessly to see the stage to completion. "We would not have this stage without Debin and all of the generous support of our community," Lisa Downing, Library Director.

Programs on the stage will continue into the fall with events that are free, open to the public and of interest to all ages. People may visit the library's event calendar for more information at forbeslibrary.org/ events. The stage and the library grounds are free and open to the public during daylight hours when not in use by library programming. Beginning in 2026, community groups will be able to book the stage for public events as they do with the library's meeting rooms.

WILLIAMSBURG

Grange Fair takes place Sept. 13



These are some of the fruits, vegetables and jellies exhibited at a previous year Williamsburg Grange Fair. This year's fair is on Saturday, Sept. 13 from 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

WILLIAMSBURG – There's fun for the whole family at the Williamsburg Grange Fair on Saturday, Sept. 13 from 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Williamsburg Grange, 10 Main St.

People can visit the agricultural, flower, craft and photography exhibits, peruse the craft fair on the lawn, take part in children's activities and purchase lunch and baked goodies as well. The Fair culminates with an auction at 6:45 p.m. It's a full day of old-fashioned fun. All are welcome. Schedule and premium list are available by visiting <https://burgygrange225.weebly.com/grange-fair.html>.



Knit and crochet exhibit table shown at a previous year Williamsburg Grange Fair. Submitted photos

MONTGOMERY

MUSIC

from page 1

Donations are accepted for the refreshments, with money split between the Montgomery Volunteer Firemen's Association

and the Town Library. Donations are also accepted to tip and thank the fabulous musicians who perform each week.

This event is open to all who are interested. For more information, people may call Dale Rogers at 413-875-5205.

REGION

Clark Art Institute holds symposium

WILLIAMSTOWN – The Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., presents a two-day symposium on Thursday, Sept. 11 and Friday, Sept. 12 in celebration of its current exhibition, A Room of Her Own: Women Artist-Activists in Britain, 1875-1945.

All events are free and open to the public and take place in the Manton Research Center auditorium.

This symposium hosts an international group of scholars to explore how select artists featured in the Clark's exhibition negotiated public and private spaces to establish professional careers as artists and thrive creatively. A keynote lecture on Virginia Woolf's essay, A Room of One's Own, begins the symposium Thursday, Sept. 11 at 6 p.m. Vanessa Bell, May Morris, Mary Lowndes, and Gwen John are the subjects of four in-depth talks by art historians on Friday, Sept. 12 beginning at 10 a.m.

On view through Sept. 14, the exhibition celebrates the achievements of twenty-five women across the fine and decorative arts and features paintings, draw-

ings, prints, stained glass, and embroidery. Inspired by Virginia Woolf's essay "A Room of One's Own" (1929), the exhibition examines the spaces in homes, studios, art schools, and exhibition sites that women artists used to produce their work and cultivate professional success.

All symposium events are free and open to the public. No registration is required for the keynote lecture on September 11, but advance registration is recommended for the program on September 12. Accessible seats are available; for information, people may call 413 458 0524. To register and view the program schedule, people may visit clark.edu/events.

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 Sobel, and the Tavolozza Foundation.

PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF BLANDFORD
NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to MGL, Ch. 40A Sec. 9 the Blandford Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing at the Blandford Town Offices, 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA 01008 at **6:05 pm on Wednesday, September 10, 2025**. This hearing is scheduled under the following Blandford Zoning By-Laws: Section VIII – Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations and Section IX – Site Plan Review and Special Permits. The Hearing is to consider the application for a request for a Site Plan Review and Special Permit for Gibbs Brook, LLC, solar photovoltaic installation with battery energy storage system, located at 30 Huntington Road and Huntington Road Off (Map 416, Parcels 10, 11 & 12) in Blandford, MA 01008.

The Applicant is proposing the installation of a large-scale ground-mount PV solar facility with Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and a gravel access driveway that would utilize an existing entrance from Huntington Road. The system will be rated at 2.8MW (DC) and will consist of PV modules attached to a Single-axis tracker racking system. This system slowly rotates the modules as they track the path of the sun during the day, allowing for greater efficiency and fewer modules.

The completed application and plans are available for public inspection at the Town Offices or on the Town of Blandford's website: <https://townofblandford.com/planning-board-project-details/>

You may also make an appointment to view a hard copy of these forms at the Town Hall by e-mailing the Planning Board Chair at planning@townofblandford.com.

Any person interested or wishing to be heard should join the virtual meeting as outlined above or e-mail the chair at: planning@townofblandford.com. Please submit comments, in writing, to the Blandford Planning Board at 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA 01008. Failure to make recommendations on the matter for review shall be deemed lack of opposition thereto.

Edna Wilander, Vice Chair, Blandford Planning Board
08/28, 09/04/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD25P1760EA
Estate of:
Teresa L Gloss
Date of Death: 06/24/2025
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:

A Petition for Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Shawna M Gloss of Westfield, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Shawna M Gloss of Westfield, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/19/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of

assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: August 22, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate

09/04/2025

TOWN OF BLANDFORD
NOTICE OF

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Blandford will hold a Special Town Meeting on Monday, **September 22, 2025, 6:00 PM** at Blandford Town Hall, 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA 01008. The purpose of this meeting is to act on matters as outlined in the official Warrant, which will be posted in accordance with applicable laws
09/04/2025

TOWN OF BLANDFORD
REQUEST FOR
PROPOSALS

Tax Assessment Services

The Town of Blandford is seeking sealed proposals from qualified firms or individuals to provide Tax Assessment Services in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30B. Bid documents are available at the Blandford Town Hall, 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA 01008, Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. **Proposals must be received no later than Tuesday, September 30, 2025.** The Town reserves the right to cancel this RFP, or to reject in whole or in part any and all proposals, as deemed in the best interest of the Town.
09/04/2025

DEATH NOTICE

HATHAWAY, PAUL MATHEW

Died Aug. 20, 2025
 Services on Sept. 6 at 11:30 a.m.
 at Pine Grove Cemetery, 21 Clark Wright Road, Middlefield
 Gathering following service at Azure Green, Middlefield

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.

OBITUARY

Paul Mathew Hathaway, 41

CHESTER – Paul Mathew Hathaway, 41, of Chester, passed away after his courageous, years long battle against colon cancer on Aug. 20, 2025 at the home he grew up in. Paul was born on July 13, 1984 in Dover, Delaware to William Henry Hathaway Jr., deceased 2011 and Nancy Louise Hathaway (Stenico) deceased 2017. At just the very young age of three years, Paul knew he wanted to drive trucks as he played with them in the sandbox and later rode around with his father. He received his CDL license in 2005 and drove them for many years. He later worked for the Chester Highway Department, but he loved trucks and cars and knew more than most on how they worked. He could figure them out with his special way of understanding mechanics without training. He always want-



ed to take care of everyone and was the strongest, smartest, funniest, most stubborn man at times, but he loved so much in life. Most of all he loved just being with his wife, who was his whole world, Sandra Hathaway, doing everything together and his best friend and youngest brother, John Hathaway.

He loved his family, adult RC cars, tools, claw machines, learning about everything and animals. He was known as "The Chipmunk Whisperer." He fed them, trained them, loved them, and they loved him right back. He is survived by his wife Sandra Hathaway, brother and sister-in-law Daniel and Sarah Fisher, sister Amy Fisher, brother Wayne Fisher, sister

Jean Hathaway, sister Jenna Hathaway and brother-in-law Shawn Jacobs, brother John Hathaway, nephews Tyler, Caleb and Brady, nieces Kendal and Chloe, father and mother-in-law Larry and Marie Pease, sister and brother-in-law Sue and Bill Roberts, brother-in-law James Pease and many other friends and family members, too many to name.

Services will be held Saturday, Sept. 6 at 11:30 a.m. at Pine Grove Cemetery, 21 Clark Wright Road, Middlefield, followed by a gathering at Azure Green, Middlefield, for friends and family. In lieu of flowers please donate to the Highland Agriculture Society, P.O. Box 217, Middlefield, MA 01243.



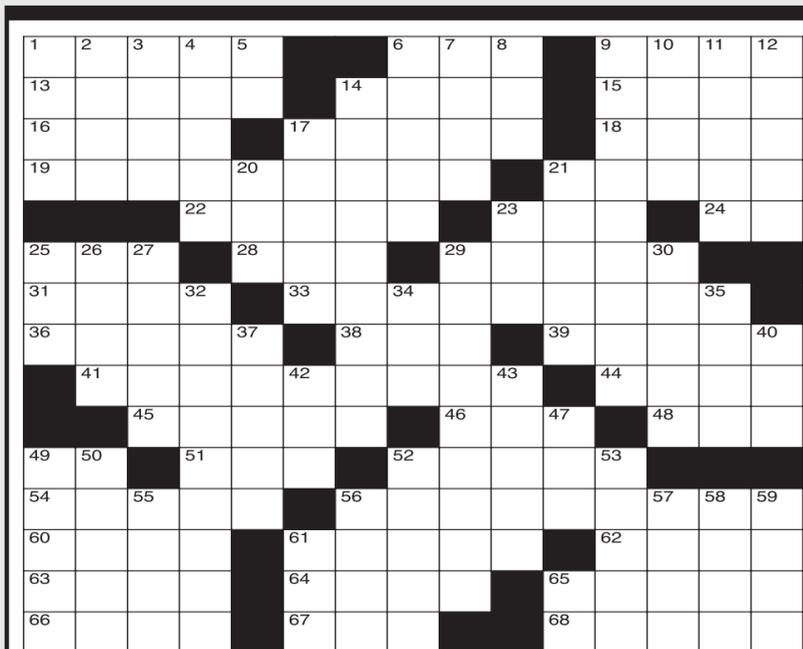
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Fairly large
6. Barrels per day (abbr.)
9. Cover the entirety of
13. Leafy appetizer
14. Showy ornament
15. Norse personification of old age
16. Athletes
17. Closes tightly
18. Attack via hurling items
19. Where the reserves stand
21. Sword
22. Begat
23. Damage another's reputation
24. Northeast
25. Turf
28. For each
29. Hours (Spanish)
31. Western state
33. One who offers help
36. Flanks

38. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
39. Free from drink or drugs
41. Tunnels
44. Mature
45. More dried-up
46. News organization
48. Steal something
49. Forms one's public persona (abbr.)
51. Female fish eggs
52. Small petrel of southern seas
54. Edible starches
56. Historical
60. In a place to sleep
61. Horse grooms
62. Off-Broadway theater award
63. Chinese dynasty
64. Resembling a wing
65. Small projection on a bird's wing
66. Of the Isle of Man
67. Derived unit of force (abbr.)

- ### CLUES DOWN
1. Vipers
 2. Ancient city in Syria
 3. Slog
 4. Emits coherent radiation
 5. "Pollock" actor Harris
 6. Bleated
 7. Monetary units of Afghanistan
 8. Tooth doctor
 9. One who takes apart
 10. Commoner
 11. Beat poet Ginsberg
 12. Cave deposit material
 14. Home energy backup
 17. Begets
 20. Face part
 21. Frocks
 23. Hill or rocky peak
 25. Giving the impression of dishonesty
 26. About ear
 27. Male parents
 29. Popular grilled food

30. Vaccine developer
32. Not conforming
34. Polite address for women
35. 1970 U.S. environmental law
37. Astronomical period of 18 years
40. One who fights the government
42. Center for Excellence in Education
43. Watches discreetly
47. An electrically charged atom
49. Hymn
50. Arabic given name
52. Popular pie nut
53. City in Zambia
55. Species of cherry
56. John __, British writer
57. Be next to
58. Make angry
59. Give birth to a lamb or kid
61. Unhappy

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20
 You're feeling bold this week, Aries. Use a surge of energy to speak out about something that needs to be said. Be mindful of how others may receive it.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21
 Stability and home life are in the spotlight, Taurus. You may be called to handle something domestic or financial. Use your natural patience to avoid impulsive decisions.

GEMINI

May 22/June 21
 Gemini, conversations will flow with ease this week, and you'll be a magnet for interesting ideas. If you have been waiting to pitch an idea, do it right now.

CANCER

June 22/July 22
 Cancer, you may assess your value right now, both financially and emotionally. An important decision requires you to have a level head. It's a great week to update a budget.

LEO

July 23/Aug 23
 Step into the spotlight, Leo. This is just where you like to be. Don't be afraid to own your power and reveal something personal to friends and family.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22
 Virgo, you are more introspective than usual. Take time to reflect and recharge this week. Old memories or unfinished business might resurface and you have to face it head on.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23
 Your social life picks up, and someone in your network may present a useful opportunity. Be open to collaboration, Libra. Just don't say yes to too many things at once.

SCORPIO

Oct 23/Nov 22
 Currently your ambition is in focus and others are noticing, Scorpio. A professional opportunity may come your way, but don't rush the details. Trust your intuition when negotiating.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21
 You are craving inspiration and something new, Sagittarius. This is the week to explore new ideas, travel or study something interesting. A philosophical discussion might come up.

CAPRICORN

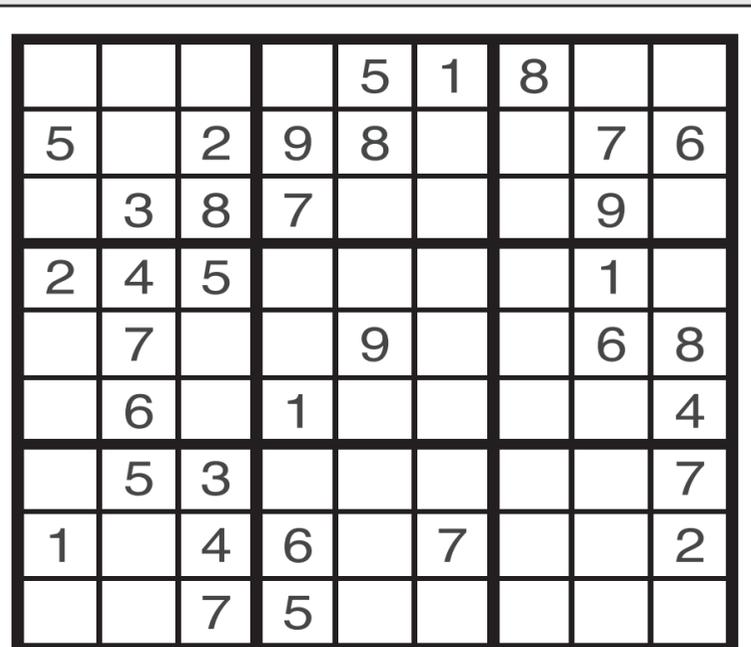
Dec 22/Jan 20
 Capricorn, change is in the air whether you invite it or it finds you. Emotional matters may require some extra attention right now.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18
 Aquarius, all of your partnerships are going smoothly right now. You may need to readjust your expectations to reflect your productivity. A turning point comes into play midweek.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20
 Think about looking at your daily habits, Pisces. Figure out if anything needs to be tweaked. You need to take care of yourself and prioritize your health.



SUDOKU

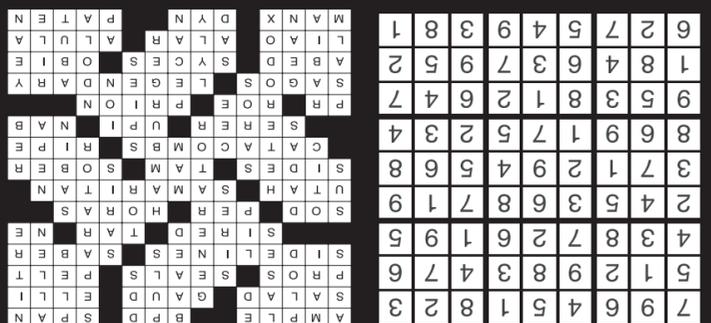
Here's How It Works:

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!

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answers



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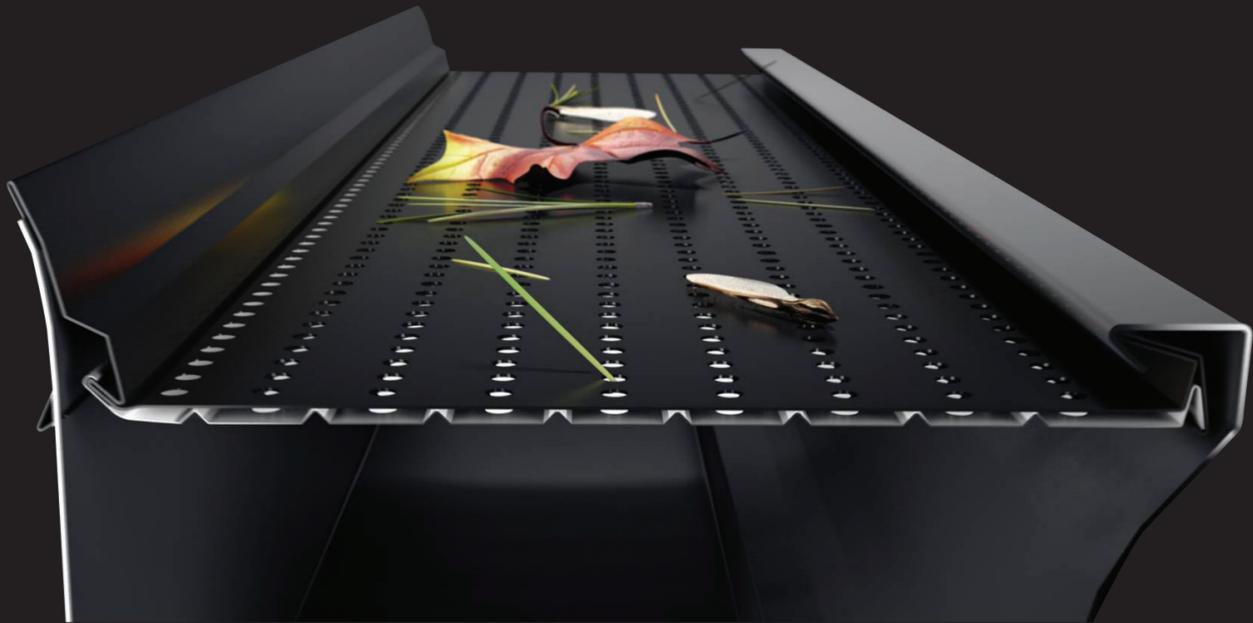
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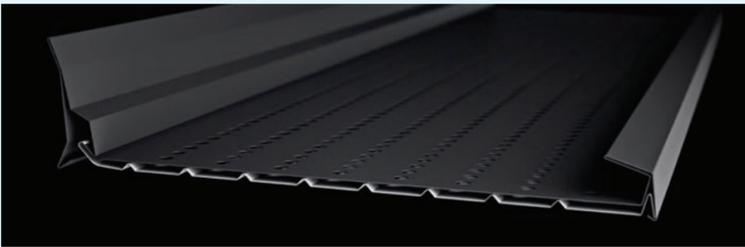
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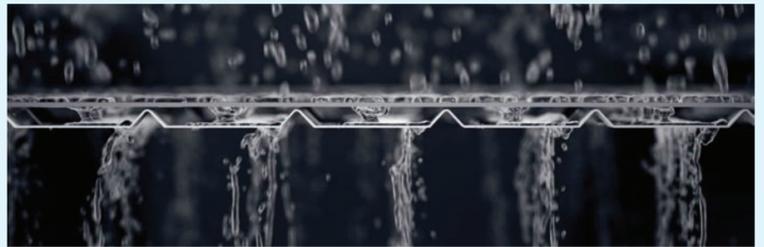
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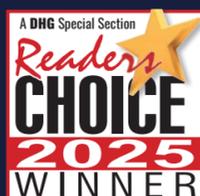
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