

*"If we learn nothing else from this tragedy, we learn that life is short and there is no time for hate."
 - Sandy Dahl, wife of Flight 93 pilot Jason Dahl*

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BLANDFORD

Sun shines on Blandford Fair

By Mary Kronholm
 Correspondent

The 154th Blandford Fair Labor Day Weekend was very different this year.

Bruce Wyman, who was Fair President for decades, was not present. His familiar face, stern stance and eagle-eye no longer prowl the fairgrounds, looking, asking, directing. He passed away June 21.

Matt Ripley was elected as the new Fair President on Wyman's passing. With the changing of the guard, there have been changes at the fair. After a lengthy span, a beer garden once again appeared. Located immediately adjacent to Center Stage, it was convenient and all the performers noted its presence.

Eagles Experience drew a big crowd Saturday evening, Blandford's Jon Berman entertained Sunday afternoon and Roots of Creation was successful Sunday night. Pine Hills Band with Blandford native Martha Moscowitz sang Monday afternoon.

The Skyline Beer Company from Westfield ran the beer garden and Master Brewer Dana Bishop touted the craft beers available on tap. They included Raspberry Jam, Summa Slammah



Two-year-old Fiona Bromberg held by mom, Christina Bromberg, meets the mustang and the horse's trainer, Meg Deitner.

Photos by Mary Kronholm



This goat and handler prep for judging at Monday's goat show at the Blandford Fair.



Terri and Greg Garfield of Blandford tend the South Gate at the Blandford Fair this past weekend.

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HUNTINGTON

Age, Dementia-Friendly listening session set for Sept. 13

By Wendy Long
 Correspondent

The first listening session by the Age and Dementia-Friendly Working Group, in concert with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 13 at Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road.

Transportation for older adults will be the topic for this session. A listening session will be held from 1-2 p.m., with a discussion about Franklin Regional Transit Authority Access from 2-3 p.m.

This is part of a grant-funded project to look at priorities for the town to be a community where senior citizens-and those with dementia-could age. At this session, area residents are invited to weigh in on issues such as whether or not the town needs more sidewalks and crosswalks and whether or not to join the FRTA Access program.

Two more listening sessions will be held in October and November. On Wednesday, Oct. 11, the working group will take input from area elders about Housing and Aging in Place, from 1-2 p.m. On Wednesday, Nov. 15, the final listening session will cover topics related to health and

DEMENTIA, page 3

HUNTINGTON

Boaters advocate for rest area near health center to reopen

By Wendy Long
 Correspondent

At the Aug. 30 meeting of the Select Board, officials from several town and state agencies met to discuss the reopening of the pull-off rest area opposite the Huntington Health Center.

According to the American Whitewater Northeast Stewardship and Legal Director Bob Nasdor, whitewater boaters have complained to his organization about the recently enforced "live parking only" signs by the river on Route 20. As

explained on the signs, unattended vehicles will be towed after 20 minutes.

Whitewater canoeists and kayakers are therefore unable to leave a car in the area and paddle the expert course that starts on the river below Knightville Dam and ends at the pull off. As a result, Nasdor had requested the meeting with the Huntington Select Board, Huntington Police Chief Robert Garriepy, Mass Department of Transportation District 1 Highway Director

REST AREA, page 3



New signage at the rest area on Route 20 in Huntington announced the now-enforced policy of live parking only.

Photos by Wendy Long



Bob Nasdar, Francisca Heming and Mike Fabiano met with Police Chief Robert Garriepy, the Huntington Select Board and Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin to discuss river access on Route 20 for whitewater boaters.



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HILLTOWNS

Berkshire Pulse announces fall classes, programs

HOUSATONIC – Berkshire Pulse, South County’s dynamic dance and performing arts education center located in the heart of Housatonic, announces fall classes and programs for all ages.

Registration is open at berkshirepulse.org and classes begin Monday, Sept. 11. Berkshire Pulse is a dance and performing arts education center with youth, teen and adult classes, in-school programs, community programs, residencies and rentals. They offer a range of music, dance and movement classes for all ages and levels.

Berkshire Pulse’s Youth Performing Arts Program provides dance and performing arts instruction after school

and during summer breaks. The Youth Performing Arts Program’s creative youth development model feeds the creativity of youth while building self-confidence, increasing social skills like collaboration, and encouraging responsibility and community engagement.

In addition, the Community Class Program provides opportunities for teens and adults to pursue their creativity in intergenerational classes and workshops. In-studio classes for youth, teens and adults are offered six days a week with beginner through advanced levels in ballet, modern, choreography, musical theater, tap, African, dance for boys, flamenco, jazz, hip hop, acting, drum-

ming and more.

Berkshire Pulse’s In-School and Community Programs bring creativity and innovative learning directly to schools and community spaces throughout the county and beyond, providing students with free access to dance and world music.

Berkshire Pulse has never turned away a student for an inability to pay. Tuition assistance is available for all regular classes, including an ongoing 100% discount for Performing Arts Program Enrollments and Community Classes to families with a valid Massachusetts EBT, WIC or ConnectorCare card. The Card to Culture program is a partnership between Mass Cultural Council, the Department

of Transitional Assistance, the WIC Nutrition Program and the Massachusetts Health Connector.

Berkshire Pulse brings people of all ages together to learn new skills, express themselves, connect, have fun, and lead healthier lives. To learn more, people may visit berkshirepulse.org, call 413-274-6624 or email berkshire.pulse@gmail.com.

Berkshire Pulse is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to building and strengthening community life through diverse and accessible programming in performing, movement and creative arts. For more information, people may visit berkshirepulse.org.

Clark Art Institute presents L.A. Rebellion film series

WILLIAMSTOWN – On Thursday, Sept. 21 at 6 p.m., the Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., kicks off its free four-part film series with “Killer of Sheep” in the auditorium of the Manton Research Center.

Directed by Charles Burnett, *Killer of Sheep* (1977; 1 hour, 21 minutes), became one of the L.A. Rebellion’s most widely celebrated films for years. The focus is slaughterhouse worker Stan (novelist, playwright, and actor Henry Gayle Sanders) whose dispiriting job wears him down, alienates him from his family and becomes an unspoken metaphor for the ongoing pressures of

economic malaise. Drawing inspiration from Jean Renoir’s sun-dappled and racially sensitive *The Southerner* (1945) as well as the poetic documentaries of Basil Wright (one of Burnett’s teachers at UCLA), such as *Song of Ceylon* (1934) and *Night Mail* (1936), “Killer of Sheep” achieves a deeply felt intensity with non-professional actors and handheld location shooting.

The next screening in the RAP/Clark Conference Film Series is “Bless Their Little Hearts” on Thursday, Sept. 28 at 6 p.m. in the Clark’s auditorium. For more information, people may visit clarkart.edu/events.

Clark Art Institute plans to kick off fall concert series

WILLIAMSTOWN – On Sunday, Sept. 17 at 5 p.m., the Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., kicks off its three-part fall concert series with performances by Senseless Optimism and Wendy Eisenburg on Moltz Terrace, Lunder Center at Stone Hill.

People should bring a picnic and their own seating for this free, outdoor concert. This program is presented in

collaboration with Belltower Records. For more information, people may visit clarkart.edu/events.

The next concert in the series features the Gelineau-Baldwin-Corsano Trio with Marie Carroll and Rebecca Schrader Duo. The performance takes place on Sunday, Oct. 15 at 4 p.m. on the Moltz Terrace, Lunder Center at Stone Hill.

Sen. Paul Mark announces local staff office hours

BOSTON – State Senator Paul W. Mark announces his staff will host office hours at locations in Berkshire County in September.

On Monday, Sept. 18 from 9 a.m.-noon, staff will be at the Town Hall, 334 Main St., Great Barrington.

On Thursday, Sept. 14, Wednesday, Sept. 27 and Thursday, Sept. 28 from 9

a.m.-noon each day, staff will be at the District Office, 773 Tyler St., Pittsfield.

Residents of any of the 57 municipalities in the Senator’s Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin, and Hampshire District are encouraged to ask for assistance with issues involving any state agency or to share ideas on current or potential state legislation. Appointments are not required.

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission announces grants

HILLTOWNS – Recently representatives from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission’s Community Development Department joined Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll and Secretary of Housing and Livable Communities Edward Augustus Jr. in Gardner to announce \$64.9 million in Community Development Block Grants across Massachusetts including over \$9 million for local communities as a result of PVPC’s grant writing efforts.

Awards resulting from PVPC’s Community Development Department’s work include:

Russell, Huntington, Chester and

Middlefield are awarded \$1,700,000 to support housing rehabilitation for six units, Valley View infrastructure improvements and to support various social programs including healthcare services, food pantry support, adult education, and domestic violence survivor services.

Southwick is awarded \$1,120,548 to support infrastructure improvements on Bungalow Street and to support a local food pantry.

The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission is the state-designated regional planning agency for the 43 cities and towns of Hampden and Hampshire Counties.

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HUNTINGTON

Council on Aging announces upcoming news and events

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Council on Aging will host the following events at Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road.

The annual Grandparents' Day celebration will be held on Saturday, Sept. 9 at 1 p.m. and will feature Forest Park Zoo's Wildlife on Wheels. On Wednesday, Sept. 13 at

1 p.m., Age and Dementia Friendly Huntington will be hosting a listening session on transportation services and sidewalks.

"The Purpose of a Dog" movie will be shown on Thursday, Sept. 14 at 1 p.m. On Wednesday, Sept. 20 at 1 p.m., Jim Arnold will present a program on Healthy Sleep.

Musician Aidan Valliere will entertain seniors on Wednesday, Sept. 27 from 2-3 p.m. The annual health fair will be held on Saturday, Oct. 14 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The fair will feature many vendors, a flu vaccination clinic and a food truck from 11 a.m.-1 p.m..

The Hilltown Memory Café is

held weekly on Wednesdays from 2-3 p.m. and provides seniors with activities while their caregivers participate in a support group. The café is open to all with and without memory issues.

All events are free of charge. For more information, people may call the COA at 413-512-5205 or email coa@huntingtonma.us.

BOATERS

Francisca Heming and Mass DOT Assistant Maintenance Engineer Michael Fabiano, among others.

According to Nasdor, DOT had placed a live parking restriction on the rest area at the request of the town. "Generally speaking, our organization advocates for greater access," said Nasdor. "When there are problems for us, the solution is finding access elsewhere that provides for greater use." He added that he has seen this issue arise on other rivers.

Chief Garriepy said that the DOT restriction came about at his request, stating that summer after summer 100-300 people used the pull off as a weekend recreation area. Every Monday, DOT, Mass State Police, Garriepy and volunteers had to pull out huge amounts of trash that included needles, diapers, human feces and general debris.

The community outcry had been growing over the past few years. "All we did was enforce the rules that were already in place," Garriepy noted that there is an additional boat pull out less than a quarter mile downstream, but requires hauling boats up an embankment.

With the high rainfall and dam releases, water was too high for safe recreational use this summer, but brought the boaters back. Typically, the water is too low in the summer to paddle on this branch of the Westfield River. The annual canoe races and the canoe race novice clinics are held by special permit in the spring when the water is high due to snow melt.

The area has also been favored by fishermen and ham radio operators,

Garriepy said. "We were trying to cut every break that we could, but it is a parking area, not a parking lot." The area has no sanitary facilities, so visitors were using the woods and water as bathrooms.

Heming affirmed that Massachusetts law prohibits parking along state highways, like Route 20. "The purpose of these rest areas is for a tired driver to have a break. They are to remain in or near their vehicle. This is not a park," she said.

"Even if the Department of Conservation and Recreation wanted to take this over as a park, it might not be possible due to the source of Federal funding that was used to create the pull off area," Heming said.

Nasdor asked if there was any indication that boaters had contributed to the trash issue at the pull off. Garriepy and Selectman Roger Booth affirmed that boaters and fishermen weren't entirely blameless in this matter, as evidenced by floating styrofoam coffee cups during boating season and items like tangled fishing line and bait boxes left onshore by some fishermen.

According to Garriepy, the pull off had become overused and misused, during Covid, when the state shut down Gardner State Park and the Knightville Dam picnic area. People, looking for a place to cool off in the summer heat, gravitated to the rest area, which offered easy access to the water. When Gardner and Knightville, which have trash barrels and staff supervision reopened, people were encouraged to return to them.

Nasdor responded that people have been accessing this area for the last ten years. "It may be classified as a rest area

by DOT, but it's perceived as a recreation area by the public," he said.

Garriepy reiterated that his primary concerns were public health and safety. Nasdor agreed, adding that other rivers like the Housatonic and Deerfield had encountered similar issues such as underage drinking, trash, general overuse and boat/ inner tube use without life jackets.

"In each of these cases, there was the perception that the problem came from outsiders: people who listened to different music, who look a little different. My concern is that everybody should have access to the outdoors, whether they came from Huntington or Springfield," Nasdor said.

Booth pointed out that DOT had taken the stance that it doesn't matter who you are, why you are using the river or where you come from. They are enforcing the policy equally for everyone.

Select Board Chair Ed Renaud affirmed that if it were to open up for recreational use, it would have to be opened up for everybody. "There are other areas that are staffed and supervised," Renaud said. "We're not the right body to decide this."

Booth agreed, suggesting that the group meet with other officials from DCR, and Mass and U.S. Fish and Wildlife. Nasdor said he planned to meet with other state officials.

Other Business

Other business included a Change Order Request on the Crescent Street Improvement Project. The bill for \$13,228.88 included \$11,000 charged for lost time due to water main breaks.

Tighe & Bond is recommending payment, but Town Administrator Peloquin has asked the water and sewer department to confirm those dates and hours for the breaks first. In addition, she said, there is no money in the budget to cover this overage.

It was felt that the contractors hit the water main because the Water and Sewer Department files were not up-to-date; the contractors also had to scramble for equipment to deal with the break. Peloquin noted that the water and sewer department has applied for grant funding to complete asset mapping that would prevent this problem in the future. Selectman Bill Hathaway said the town needs to negotiate with the contractor on these costs.

The board discussed updates to the town hall ramp project, which has been repeatedly beset by problems over time. Only one contractor bid on the project, at a cost well above the funding earmarked for this.

Currently \$59,000 short, Peloquin advised the Select Board they are not obligated to accept this bid. One option would be to scrap the project altogether and have the funding cover the overages on the Crescent Street project.

But Renaud was concerned that, if they don't move forward on the new accessible ramp, they would have to start the planning process and design phase all over again. The Board reviewed the remaining ARPA funding for the town, which has to be spent by the end of 2024. The \$200,000 remaining in ARPA was more than sufficient to get the ramp done. Booth moved to use ARPA funds for the ramp, which was unanimously approved.

DEMENTIA

from page 1

community services, communications and public safety.

Members are still sought for the working group; please contact the Council on Aging if you are interested (coa@huntingtonma.us) or would like more information.

This work is being led by Becky Basch at PVPC and will result in a plan to improve resources for Huntington's senior citizens and those who have dementia. People may email her at bbasch@pvpc.org for more information.

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 Monday at NOON, on holidays it is Friday at 2 p.m.




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The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, 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.

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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



I'm 64. When should I claim my Social Security?

Dear Rusty

I am 64 years old and still working full time. My question is - when should I start my Social Security? I would like to start it in January 2024 and go part time at work, but would I be losing much Social Security by not waiting until full retirement age?

Signed: Trying to Plan Ahead

Dear Trying, to Plan:

You are smart to evaluate the impact of claiming your Social Security benefits early. First, be aware that your full Retirement Age for Social Security purposes is 66 years and 8 months and that is when you get 100% of the SS benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working.

It appears you already know that if you start benefits before your FRA, you'll be subject to Social Security's "earnings test," which limits how much you can earn from working before they take away some of your benefits. But if you go part time at work you can mitigate the earnings test and claim your benefits early - just understand that your payment will be permanently reduced by doing so.

If you claim your benefits to start in January 2024, you'll be taking your Social Security about 18 months early, which means that instead of 100% of your FRA entitlement you'll get about 90% (a reduction of 10%).

The earnings test will still apply and we don't yet know what the 2024 earnings limit will be, but it will be something more than the 2023 limit of \$21,240. If your 2024 earnings exceed the annual limit, SS will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. They "take away" benefits by withholding future payments until they recover what you owe for exceeding the limit.

If you work part time and don't exceed the 2024 annual earnings limit, there will be no penalty and you will get every month's SS payment. If you find you will exceed the annual 2024 earnings limit, you can call Social Security and inform them of that and by how much, and they will suspend your benefits for the number of months necessary to avoid overpaying you.

If you don't inform them and you exceed the annual 2024 limit, they will catch up in 2025 when they get your 2024 earnings information from the IRS and issue an Overpayment Notice requiring you to pay back the amount owed, half of what you exceeded the 2024 annual limit by. As you likely know, the earnings test no longer applies after you reach your full retirement age.

So, the decision on when to claim your Social Security benefit is yours to make, and you are smart to consider your work plans - but should also consider your life expectancy and marital status. If you are married and eventually die before your lower earning

SECURITY, page 5

Corrections policy

If you notice a factual error in our pages, please let us know, so that we can set the record straight. Email information to countryjournal@turley.com, or call us at 413-283-8393.

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



GUEST COLUMN

Fall plants extend the season



Over the last few days, I have heard the same sorry statement again and again: "I can't believe summer is over."

I am not sure if this is because school has started, or if honestly, folks feel cheated out of summer because of all the rain and overcast skies we had. Probably it's a little of both!

There have been a few coldish mornings, enough to make me get excited about all that is fall. Pumpkins, crisp apples, beautiful foliage and you guessed it, autumn plants!

Read on for a column from the archives, one that will inspire you to add some late season color to your landscape.

It is always fun to freshen up the garden with new plants. I think of adding a splash of color at this point in the season as a last hurrah before old man winter sets in.

GARDEN, page 5



The Massachusetts Audubon Society reported the sighting of a black-crowned night heron in Pittsfield.

The black-crowned night heron is about 25 inches long and is gray and white. It is a stocky heron with pale yellow legs, which turn reddish in the breeding season.

The immature is brown with white streaks below and large, buff white spots on its back and wings. It keeps its immature plumage for two years. The immature black-crowned night heron is distinguished from the yellow crowned night heron by its greenish-yellow lower bill. The yellow-crowned has a dark bill.

Although the night heron will feed by

day, as its name implies this species feeds mostly at night or at dusk. They roost in trees.

It feeds on fish, amphibians, insects and small mammals. It also will eat the young of other bird species such as terns, herons and ibises. They inhabit freshwater streams, lakes, rice field, dry grassland and salt marshes.

These herons nest either in colonies or singly. The female lays three to five pale blue green eggs in a nest of twigs, reeds and finer material placed against a tussock or in the reeds, shrub or trees up to 160 feet.

When greeting other black-crowned night herons, they stretch their necks horizontally with breeding plumes on the head raised and they touch bills. They make a low, hoarse "quok" sound often heard at dusk. During nesting, they make a "rok rok."

Red-winged blackbirds

I received an email this week from someone who lives in the West Springfield Agawam area. She said, "Red-winged blackbirds are one of my favorite birds, but I

BACKYARD, page 5



The black-crowned night heron



Red-winged blackbirds

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor should be 500 words or less in length. We require letter writers to include his or her name, town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

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WESTHAMPTON

Westhampton Public Library lists September programs

WESTHAMPTON – The Westhampton Public Library, 1 North Road, is open for in-person browsing and materials pickup as well as curbside pickup.

To place a request for curbside pickup, people may email westhampton@cwmares.org or call 413-527-5386. The library is open Monday and Thursday from 2-8 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m.-noon and from 1-5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Recurring programs include: Council on Aging computer class

with Bob Miller the second and fourth Mondays from 10 a.m.-noon, knitting group Mondays at 6 p.m., yoga with Brian fourth Monday, Sept. 25 at 6 p.m., Scrabble group Tuesdays at 2 p.m., CFCE playgroup Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. and walk-in wellness clinics with Westhampton's Public Health Nurse first and third Wednesdays from 10-11:30 a.m. a.m.

Other programs are coffee and chat Wednesday from 10 a.m.-noon and after school homework help will resume in October. Cindy Chandler-Guy presents

"One artist, two mediums" with an opening reception on Thursday, Sept. 7 from 5-7 p.m.

An outdoor movie, "Sky High (PG)" will be held Friday, Sept. 8 at 7 p.m. People should bring lawn chairs or blankets. In the case of rain the movie will be screened in the community room. All ages are welcome.

Russ Cohen will give a wild edibles walk on Thursday, Sept. 14 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Massachusetts Audubon Lynes Woods. No foraging is allowed on any Mass Audubon sanctuaries and the

event will be People may call Meaghan at 413-527-5386 or email westhampton@cwmares.org to sign up.

Story time is back on Wednesday, Sept. 27 at 10:30 p.m. for children ages 0—5 years old and their caregivers. Children will meet in the children's room for a story and then move to the Community Room for a craft.

On Thursday, Sept. 28 from 6:30-8 p.m. Alexis Doshas will talk about slow gardening. He is a conservation biologist, plant ecologist and soil enthusiast.

OPINION

SECURITY

from page 4

spouse, your spouse's benefit as your survivor will be based on your benefit amount at the time of your death.

Thus, your age when you claim your benefit may also affect your spouse's benefit as your survivor; the longer you wait up to age 70 the more your spouse's survivor benefit would be. And if you enjoy at least average longevity, which is about 84 for a man your

current age, then by waiting until your FRA or later to claim you'll not only get a higher monthly payment but also get more in cumulative lifetime benefits.

If, however, your financial circumstances are such that you need the SS money sooner, then claiming earlier may be the right decision, provided you don't substantially exceed the annual earnings limit prior to reaching your

full retirement age. I hope the above provides what you need to make an informed 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 finan-

cial 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.

GARDEN

from page 4

If you notice that your plant has wilted before you have had a chance to plant it, submerge the pot in a bucket of water- the shrunken soil ball will soak up water like a sponge!

Although mums can stand temperatures a few degrees below freezing, it is still a good idea to cover them if an early hard frost is in the forecast. Try using bushel baskets, old sheets or blankets, etc.

It is a nuisance, but so many times I have been grateful that I went through a bit of work to be able to enjoy my mums for weeks longer than if I hadn't.

If you are hoping that your mums will return for another season, cut them back to "fist height" in November, and provide them with a loose mulch after the ground freezes. The term "hardy mum" doesn't always prove true, but planting them properly, providing ample water and mulching for the winter will increase your odds of a repeat performance.

Remove the winter mulch around the time forsythias bloom. Prevent gangly growth by pinching them back to a manageable height two or three times prior to mid-July. Expect blooms this time next year.

Flowering kale and cabbage can add nice texture to the fall garden. The same planting instructions apply here,

but I have found that they can be finicky about water.

Consistent overwatering and they rot; giving them too little and they wilt. The best advice: test them before you get out the hose by inserting your finger into the top couple inches of soil.

Kale and cabbage need little in the way of grooming other than an occasional bottom leaf removed. Slugs do tend to enjoy the foliage, however, so set up some traps or barriers nearby.

The color on cabbage and kale will intensify as the weather gets colder, and the plants will continue to look good well into December, provided we don't get an early long standing snow- it will eventually make the leaves mushy. While it's tempting to leave them in your containers and add greenery and such for the holidays, it's not recommended unless the planters are in a protected spot. Plant now for your garden's last hurrah of the season- you'll be glad you did!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

BACKYARD

from page 4

always wondered why they leave the area so early?" She also said, "I go to areas where I know they nest, but never see them after mid-July or so."

Red-winged blackbirds are one of the first to arrive in early spring with the males coming first, then the females. They migrate anytime from late August to early October and gather in flocks for the trip south.

Audubon Society sightings

Other Audubon Society sightings reported for August in Berkshire include an alder flycatcher in Washington and a yellow-bellied flycatcher at the Jug End State Reservation in Egremont. In Hampshire County, four sandhill cranes were at East Meadows in Northampton and four more sandhill cranes at the Arcadia Sanctuary.

Migrants tallied at Quabbin Park in Ware included four common nighthawks, two yellow-bellied flycatchers and four Cape May warblers. In Worcester County 14 Common Mergansers were seen near fishing area #3 at Quabbin Reservoir in Petersham and four Bonaparte's Gulls were tallied along the Dana shoreline in Petersham.

Two black vultures were seen soaring over Mt. Wachusett in Princeton and in Paxton there was a Cerulean warbler. Mount Wachusett is a popular spot for



Black vulture

birders to view hawk migrations during September and October. Two Cape May warblers were seen at the Moose Hill Wildlife Area.

Wild turkeys

It seems wild turkeys are everywhere. I have seen groups of three or four Tom turkeys and much larger groups of hens and their poults. Several times I stopped while a large flock of hens and youngsters crossed the road.

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

Town Of Goshen Conservation Commission Notice Of Public Meeting

The Goshen Conservation Commission will hold a Public Meeting under the provision of the Wetlands Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131, Sec. 40) on **September 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** at the Goshen Town Offices, 40 Main St., Goshen, MA to review a **Request for Determination** filed by Thomas and Janine Nye. The work to be reviewed is: build a single family home with well and septic for property located at 154 West Street, Goshen, MA. 09/07/2023

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING WILLIAMSBURG CONSERVATION COMMISSION, Williamsburg MA 01039

The Williamsburg Conservation Commission, in accordance with MGL Chapter 131, Section 40, the Wetlands Protection Act, will hold a public meeting on: 14 September, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. zia zoom (access link available on agenda, www.burgy.org) to review a: **Request for Determination of Applicability** submitted by: **The Town of Williamsburg.** The subject area or activity is located at: Adams Road, Haydenville, MA 01039. 09/07/2023

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) of the Town of Huntington will hold 2 public hearings on **September 19, 2023 beginning at 7:00 pm** in Stanton Hall.

The first Public Hearing is scheduled for 7:00 pm for the Special Permit Application of Dale Rogers DBA Gray Catbird Pottery & Gift Shop, under several Huntington Zoning Bylaw Sections including IV.D.: Use Regulations; Non-Residential Uses on Lots Not Also Used

for Residence, IV.I: Signs, and V: Special Permits at 22 East Main Street, Assessors Map # H-2, parcel 101-0 in a portion of the Huntington Shoppes complex.

The second Public Hearing is scheduled for 7:30 pm for the Special Permit Application of David Baillargeon under Huntington Zoning Bylaw Sections IV.J: Earth Removal and V: Special Permits to operate an Earth Removal Operation at 3 Thomas Road, Assessors Map # H-3, parcel 4-0 at the site of his former Earth Removal Operation.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS TOWN OF HUNTINGTON 08/31, 09/07/2023

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

CHESTER

Car show set for Sept. 16

CHESTER – Car enthusiasts are invited to cruise on over to the Littleville Fairgrounds, 15 Kinnebrook Road, for a car show on Saturday, Sept. 16 with gates opening at 9 a.m. for show cars and 10 a.m. for spectators.

The entry fee for show cars will be \$10; general admission is \$5 per car. Fair volunteers promise great food and super vendors, with music and

announcements by D.J. Gary/Back in Time-an Affiliate of the Westfield Cruisers. There will also be raffles. Trophies will be given to the top 20 cars.

All proceeds will go to supporting the Littleville Fair Building Fund, which is currently raising funds for the new ADA Accessible bathroom. The event is sponsored by L. P. Adams lumber and building supplies in Dalton.

Library to host exciting events

CHESTER – The Hamilton Memorial Library, 195 West Main St., will host three events in September.

The first is a free talk, which will take place Saturday, Sept. 9 at 10 a.m. and is called Introducing NextGen Careers Initiative, which helps individuals with disabilities ages 18-30 to explore the world of work.

The second event is a free talk about a time banking/community sharing exchange on Tuesday, Sept. 12 at 5 p.m. a talk about establishing a free Community Sharing Exchange in Chester.

People exchange their time, talents, skills and services with each other for free. All exchanges are recorded in a “time bank account.” In TimeBanking everyone’s “time” is equal.

For example, a one hour dental appointment is 100% equal to one hour of babysitting. Every hour participants give, they receive a “time credit.” They then spend their time credits with other members in the Community Sharing Exchange.

For more information, people may call Veronica Marr, TimeBanking co-coordinator, at 413-207-1828 or visit either <https://timebanks.org/> or <https://cse.timebanks.org/>.

The third is a free Paint and Snack event on Saturday, Sept. 16 from 10



On Saturday, Sept. 16 from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., the Hamilton Memorial Library will host a Paint and Snack event. Space is limited to ten participants and they will paint a peacock. Submitted photo

a.m.-12:30 p.m. Space is limited to ten participants so people should RSVP by calling 413-354-7808. They will be painting a peacock.

The library parking lot is under construction, but people can park in the lot across from the Chester Town Hall on Middlefield Road.

Historic Pease Store undergoing renovations

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

CHESTER – The Pease Store on Main Street store is currently in the process of completing renovations and liquidating stock, which has been around for some time. They are bringing in new stock of tee shirts, sweat pants, and pajama pants, along with some colorful hats boasting the names of favorite local towns, extending as far as Otis, East Otis and Westfield.

The Pease Store closed in mid-August for renovations and is slated to reopen on Saturday, Sept. 16. It is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays, when traffic picks up downtown and many are running errands such as going to the dump. Sister Judith also tries to be at the store when big events are going on in town, such as Chester On Track or the upcoming Group Hike Through the Historic Chester Factory Village on Sunday, Sept. 17.

Built by Frank Fay in 1896, the store has retained many genuine architectural features such as original hardware, embossed ceilings, and antique oak cabinets. It originally housed two businesses: a clothing and shoe store operated by William M. Mullen and a household furnishings store-including crockery and stoves-operated by Fay.

The top two floors were used as a furniture showcase. An article published in 1896 called the structure “the strongest and most substantial built building of the kind in Western Massachusetts.”

Fay was also the town undertaker and lived in the home to the left of the store. Sister Judith, a lifelong Chester resident, recalls that her mother reported sneaking upstairs in the store as a child and checking out the caskets that were stored there.

After his death in 1940, Charles Pease rented the entire building and converted it into a single dry goods store. The business was taken over by his son Hewitt, who owned and ran it until 1982.



An array of the new, colorful town hats are displayed outside of the Pease Store.

Turley Photo by Wendy Long

The store was then purchased by Diane and John DeMoss, who ran it for 40 years. In 2022, the store was purchased by current owner Lois Sturm, who already owned the Fay homestead next door, where they run Drowsy Dragon Kitchen.

The Drowsy Dragon Kitchen is a professional commercial kitchen available for rent from 6 a.m.-9 p.m., seven days a week. It is licensed by both the state and the town and is fully insured. It is able to accommodate two client groups at a time, although state law requires that wholesale and retail products be produced at different times.

It is open in all weather conditions and offers dry, refrigerator and freezer storage at reasonable rates. The base price for using the kitchen is \$15/hour.

As for the store, there is still a lot of clothing stock to sell off, and there are more items coming in. It is unclear if it will hold to its roots as a dry goods store or evolve into something new.

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WILLIAMSBURG

Grange to hold Fair Sept. 9

WILLIAMSBURG – The Williamsburg Grange Fair will take place on Saturday, Sept. 9 from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Williamsburg Grange Hall at 10 Main St.

There will be agricultural and craft entries as well as a flower show and bake

sale. In addition craft vendors will be set up on the lawn from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and lunch will be available for purchase.

An auction for fair items will take place at 6:45 p.m. and all are welcome. For more information, people may visit burgyrange.weebly.com.

Cultural Council seeks proposals

WILLIAMSBURG – The Williamsburg Cultural Council has set Tuesday, Oct. 17 as the deadline for organizations, schools and individuals to apply for grants that support cultural activities in the community.

According to Council spokesperson Lauri Munroe-Hultman, these grants can support a variety of artistic projects and activities in Williamsburg including exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies, or performances in schools, workshops, and lectures.

The Williamsburg Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences

and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

This year, the Williamsburg Cultural Council will distribute about \$7,000 in grants. Previously funded projects include: Anne T. Dunphy School Spring Musical, Native American Storytelling, The Power of the Protest Song program and Hilltown Theatre Anonymous 2023: Hamlet.

For local guidelines and complete information on the Williamsburg, MA Cultural Council, people may email Lauri Munroe-Hultman at burgycc@gmail.com. Application forms and more information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available by visiting massculturalcouncil.org/local-council/williamsburg/.

Sen. Mark lists hours for Williamsburg

BOSTON – State Senator Paul W. Mark announces today that his staff will host office hours in Williamsburg for two days in September.

Staff office hours are Tuesday, Sept. 12 and Tuesday, Sept. 26 from 1-3 p.m. both days in Town Offices, 141 Main St., Haydenville.

Residents of any of the 57 municipalities in the Senator's Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin, and Hampshire District are encouraged to ask for assistance with issues involving any state agency or to share ideas on current or potential state legislation. Appointments are not required.



Louise Bacon, of Williamsburg, is holding the queen-sized quilt she made called "Exploding Heart." Standing beside her husband, Alden Bacon.

Photo by Jenn Burdick Photography

Church to host yearly quilt raffle

WILLIAMSBURG – Louise Bacon donated a beautiful quilt to the Williamsburg Congregational Church for the raffle at their yearly fair on Saturday, Nov. 4 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

She is also submitting it for the Williamsburg Grange fair for ribbon consideration. The Grange fair is this Saturday,

Sept. 9 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Raffle tickets are just \$5 and a check or cash can be bought in-person at the Grange Fair. People may also send a check to the church: Williamsburg Congregational Church, P.O. Box 306, Williamsburg, MA 01096 or purchase ticket in person at the church located at 4 North Main St.

WESTFIELD

Two men charged in connection with Westfield railway fire

WESTFIELD – Two men have been charged with breaking into a railway freight car, burning its contents and destroying nearby property, said Westfield Police Chief Lawrence P. Valliere, Westfield Fire Chief Patrick M. Egloff and State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine.

Johnny Hundley, 23, of Southwick was arrested on Aug. 23 based on evidence gathered in a joint investigation

by the Westfield Police Department, Westfield Fire Department, and the State Police Fire and Explosion Investigation Unit assigned to the State Fire Marshal's office. He is charged with breaking and entering into a railroad car, burning a railway car, malicious destruction of property worth more than \$1,200, and trespassing on railroad property.

A second suspect, Brandon Jasorkowski, 25, who has addresses in

Chicopee and Connecticut, was arrested in Connecticut on Aug. 25 and is expected to face extradition to Massachusetts on the same charges.

Investigators received valuable information and assistance from the community in the course of their efforts, officials said.

Both men are charged in connection with the fire and vandalism that damaged railway cars just north of Notre

Dame Street on the evening of Tuesday, Aug. 15. The Westfield Fire Department responded to the area just after 6:45 p.m. and observed a freight car with its doors open and heavy fire showing within.

Firefighters had to cut their way into the car to fight the fire; they were able to contain its spread, but the contents were destroyed. Investigators found signs of forced entry and further property damage elsewhere at the scene.

WORTHINGTON

COA to host potluck honor Veterans

WORTHINGTON – The Council on Aging will host a September Potluck luncheon to recognize Veterans, their spouses, partners or caregivers on Monday, Sept. 11 at noon in the Town Hall, 160

Huntington Road.

Dan Nye from Central Hampshire Veteran Services will be the guest speaker. Mary Kane, R.N. will also be available for a blood pressure clinic.

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SCHOOLS & YOUTH

School District offers another year of free meals

WESTHAMPTON – Hampshire Regional School District will be participating in the National School Lunch Program and/or the School Breakfast Program.

As part of this program, Hampshire Regional High School, Westhampton Elementary, New Hingham Elementary, Anne T Dunphy, Wm. E. Norris and R. H. Conwell will offer healthy meals every school day. The Massachusetts legislature has provided funding to make meals available at no cost to all students during school year 2023-2024, regardless of household income. However, families should still complete a Meal Benefit Application as this provides data for key funding for academic resources and may also connect families to additional benefits. This data will also support the additional funds provided by the Commonwealth for this pilot.

Household size and income criteria are used to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price benefits if the household does not receive assistance or the children are not in the other categories mentioned above. Children can get free or reduced-price meals if the household's gross income falls at or below the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guideline chart.

To apply for free or reduced-price meals, households can fill out the application and return it to the school unless the household has already received notification that their children are approved for free meals this year. Application forms are being distributed to all households with a letter informing households of the availability of free and reduced-price meals for their children and what is required to complete on the application. Applications also are available by contacting principals office at each school or by going online at each school or going to the cafeteria website of each school.

Only one application is required for all children in the household and the information provided on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and verification of data. Applications may be verified at any time during the school year by the school or other program officials. An application for free or reduced-price benefits cannot be approved unless it contains complete eligibility information as indicated on the application and instructions. In the operation of child feeding programs, no child

Household size	Maximum Household Income Eligible for Free Meals			Maximum Household Income Eligible for Reduced Price Meals		
	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$18,954	\$1,580	\$365	\$26,973	\$2,248	\$519
2	\$25,636	\$2,137	\$493	\$36,482	\$3,041	\$702
3	\$32,318	\$2,694	\$622	\$45,991	\$3,833	\$885
4	\$39,000	\$3,250	\$750	\$55,500	\$4,625	\$1,068
5	\$45,682	\$3,807	\$879	\$65,009	\$5,418	\$1,251
6	\$52,364	\$4,364	\$1,007	\$74,518	\$6,210	\$1,434
7	\$59,046	\$4,921	\$1,136	\$84,027	\$7,003	\$1,616
8	\$65,728	\$5,478	\$1,264	\$93,536	\$7,795	\$1,799
<i>Each additional:</i>		<i>+\$6,682</i>	<i>+\$557</i>	<i>+\$129</i>	<i>+\$9,509</i>	<i>+\$793</i>
<i>person</i>						<i>+\$183</i>

will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, age or disability.

Families can apply for benefits at any time. If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the Federal Guidelines. Contact Carol Inman 413-437-5631 at any time to request an application.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price policy, Carol Inman/Renee Harvey/Kathleen Keedy will review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling of the official may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. Parents wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing to Lauren Hotz, Principal 19 Stage Road, Westhampton, MA 01027 413-437-5594

When known to Hampshire Regional School District including Worthington households will be notified of their children's eligibility for free meals if they are members of households receiving assistance from the:

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP);

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR); or

Temporary Assistance for Needy

Families (TANF), if the State program meets Federal standards.

An application is not required for free meal benefits for Assistance Program participants and all the children in the household are eligible for free meal benefits. If any children were not listed on the notice of eligibility, or if a household does not receive a notice of eligibility, the household should contact the school to have free meal benefits extended to them. Participants in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals, but they will need to turn in an application including household size and total income.

When known to Hampshire Regional School District/R.H. Conwell households will also be notified of any child's eligibility for free meals if the individual child is considered "Other Source Categorically Eligible", because the child is categorized, as defined by law as: Foster, Homeless, Migrant, Runaway,

Enrolled in an eligible Head Start or Enrolled in an eligible pre-kindergarten class.

If any children were not listed on the notice of eligibility, the household should contact the school about their eligibility through the list above, or should submit an income application.

Households notified of their children's eligibility must contact the school

if the household chooses to decline the benefits.

For more information, people may call Carol Inman at 413-437-5631 or e-mail at cinman2@hr-k12.org

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mail:

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Office of the Assistant Secretary
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SHHS Class of 1961 to hold reunion

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley High School Class of 1961 is planning a get-together in South Hadley on Thursday, Oct 5.

Members of the Class of 1961 are encouraged to attend. Organizers do not have everyone's contact information,

so they most likely did not receive the email sent about this event. Members of the class, who wish to attend, should email Judy Mitrolka Izatt at jizatt@charter.net and put "get-together" in the subject line and she will get back to them with more specific information.

Students enroll at Holy Cross

WORCESTER – The College of the Holy Cross announces the members of the Class of 2027.

The following local students are enrolled in the Class of 2027: Samuel Fortier of Easthampton, Bansri Patel of

Easthampton and Jayden Clerveaux of Easthampton.

Hailing from 38 states and territories and 12 different countries, more than 15% of Holy Cross' Class of 2027 are first-generation college students.

NORTHAMPTON

Forbes Library announces Sept. upcoming events and events

NORTHAMPTON – Forbes Library, 20 West St., will have a team in the DoozyDo parade on Saturday, Sept. 23 at 11 a.m.

The theme for the library parade team is "Forbes for All" with a fun aquatic twist: they will create large and small flying fish puppets. Patrons are welcome to help with some puppets, banners, swirling streamers or props. Crafting dates and times for the parade will be Thursdays, Sept. 14 and Sept. 21 from 3-6 p.m. on the Forbes library lawn.

People may also help by donating

acrylic paint, fabric, bamboo or other material for long, light poles. Donations should be brought to the Children's Department during library hours.

People are welcome to march in the parade with the library parade team. They should meet at the Northampton Center for the Arts at 33 Hawley St. on Saturday, Sept. 23 at 10 a.m.. They should bring their puppets, noisemakers and big energy. The march will begin at 11 a.m. For those who do not want to march, but would like to cheer the parade on, find a spot anywhere along the parade route.

Other programs

The Northampton Jazz Festival and Forbes Library present on Thursday, Sept. 7 at 5 p.m. "I Could Write A Book," an early evening jazz concert and community sing-a-long with Evan Arntzen, winds and vocals; Paul Arslanian, keyboard, Fumi Tomita, bass and Richie Barshay, drums on the library lawn. It is free and open to the public. Rain date is Tuesday, Sept. 12.

On Thursday, Sept. 7 at 7 p.m. there will be a virtual author talk "Life, Love, Family, and Food: An Author Talk with Lidia Bastianich." People

should register to attend this author talk by visiting www.forbeslibrary.org or call 413-587-1011.



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THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES
Mar 21/Apr 20
Get outside and enjoy as much fresh air and exercise as possible this week, Aries. A weekly outdoors excursion can recharge the batteries and provide some time to reflect.

CANCER
Jun 22/Jul 22
Start conversations with all of the people you meet so you can learn about different backgrounds or cultures. You might learn something you didn't know.

LIBRA
Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, after a whirlwind adventure, you may be glad to be back home. Vacations are nice and relaxing, but soon enough you may crave the familiarity of your own space.

CAPRICORN
Dec 22/Jan 20
Take stock of where you want to go in the future and start putting those plans together. You don't have to figure everything out, but try to map out an outline.

AQUARIUS
Jan 21/Feb 18
You can quickly see when someone is putting on an act. They may say one thing but mean another. This duplicity can be off-putting, but try to get along with others.

TAURUS
Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, it's not possible to have everyone like you all of the time. Emotionally it can be difficult to accept that not everyone agrees with your point of view. Be who you are.

LEO
Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, try to work the room when you are thrust into a social situation. You need to be a diplomat or politician if you want to be in good standing with as many people as possible. Put your best face forward.

SCORPIO
Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, you a calm energy around you this week. You can rest assured that the people you are dealing with have everything handled. They take care of business.

GEMINI
May 22/Jun 21
Someone from your past might come back into your life, Gemini. Keep a lookout for someone who seems familiar, as it can be a way to reminisce for a bit.

VIRGO
Aug 24/Sept 22
You know who you can trust, Virgo. Stay close to those people for the time being. Some difficulties with family members will arise and you may need to pick sides.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23/Dec 21
There is a great opportunity knocking at your door, Sagittarius, so why not seize it? New things can be scary, but you have to dive in right now.

PISCES
Feb 19/Mar 20
You are in no danger of not being popular right now, so continue to enjoy all of the invitations you receive. You also can be proactive and throw your own party for friends.

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| <p>CLUES ACROSS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Second sight 4. Standard electrode potential 7. Type of gibbon 8. John Joseph ___: American industrialist 10. Manning and Whitney are two 12. Abrupt 13. Baroque musical instrument 14. Post-burning residue 16. When you hope to arrive 17. Sign up (Brit. Eng.) 19. Sun up in New York 20. Employee stock ownership plan 21. Where people live 25. Method to record | <p>an electrogram</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 26. Angry 27. No longer living 29. Simple 30. Swiss river 31. Portion of a play 32. It's under the tree 39. Wood sorrels 41. No (Scottish) QB 42. Dialect of English 43. Former Steelers' QB 44. Popular beer 45. It can make you sick 46. Tropical tree and fruit 48. Company officer 49. Contact lens term 50. Your consciousness of your own identity 51. "Ghetto Superstar" singer 52. Piece of turf | <p>CLUES DOWN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of players on each side in a football game 2. Containing salt 3. Reasoning or knowledge: a ___ 4. Car mechanics group 5. Leave a place 6. Southern Colombian capital 8. Old English letter 9. Tide 11. Walk heavily 14. Chemical compound (abbr.) 15. Artificial openings 18. Luteinizing hormone 19. Unit of energy 20. Circular movement of 22. A way of holding 23. Popular book of words (abbr.) 24. States' group 27. Dashes 28. Body part 29. Electronic countermeasures 31. Consumed 32. Small bird 33. Unhappy 34. Football's big game (abbr.) 35. Valued object offered in good faith 36. Wild goats 37. Precede in place 38. Small edible fish 39. Notice of death 40. Body cavity of a metazoan 44. Partner to cheese 47. Not around |
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BECKET

RARE MOON LIGHTS THE NIGHT SKY



Taken Wednesday evening shortly after peak of closeness to the earth Aug. 30 on Route 20 in Becket. Photo by Mary Kronholm

Becket Art Center lists upcoming news, events

BECKET – The Becket Art Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, will hold an arts and craft marketplace on Saturday, Sept. 9 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. in the Becket Firefighters' Pavilion, 108 Washington St., North Becket Village.

There will be open studios on Sunday, Sept. 10 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Art Alpert – photography – 98 Access Road, Becket Woods; Olwen Dowling – monotype, drypoint and watercolor – 322 East River Road, North Chester and Judith Koppel –

ceramics and drawings – 215 Bonny Rigg Hill Road, Becket.

On Sept. 9 from 5-7 p.m. there will be a performance by Bobby Sweet Band on the lawn of the Becket Art Center. Rain location is the Becket Federated Church. Donations are welcome and this concert is supported in part by the Mass. Cultural Council.

The Becket Arts Center will hold a Fall For Oysters Fundraiser on Sunday, Oct. 1 from 1-4 p.m. at 7 Brooker Hill Road, Becket.

LENOX

Downtown Lenox hosts art walk this weekend

LENOX – On Saturday Sept. 9 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 10 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., the town of Lenox will host the seventh 2023 Fall Art Walk event.

The event is a collaboration with the Lenox Chamber of Commerce, the Lenox Cultural District and Gordon Fine Arts.

The Art Walk is a curated show of artists and artisans who showcase their work throughout downtown Lenox. The artists' tents will be set up along the Main Street sidewalk and into Lilac Park. A wide range of Artists representing various mediums are invited to display their artwork and artisan products over the two day event. Offerings include paintings, drawings, photographs, ceramics, fiber arts, jewelry and clothing.

The event, which began in Fall of 2020 in an effort to introduce high end artists to the residents and visitors of

Lenox has grown to upwards of 50 artists with over 3,000 attendees.

"Our goal is to continue merging Art and Commerce in a beautiful setting like the Berkshires that attracts people who have a great appreciation for what is offered at our shows. For this Spring Art Walk, we are having to turn Artists away because the event has become so popular. We want all of the Artists to make money, so it is important to maintain a show size that allows that," said Sue Gordon, Gordon Fine Arts.

Also as part of the Lenox Art Walk festival there will be live music performances on Church Street booked by Berkshire Busk as well as food vendors on Main Street. The event kicks off Saturday, Sept. 9 at 10 a.m.

For more information, people may email Jenn Nacht at jenn@lenox.org or call 413-637-3646. For more general information, people may visit <https://lenox.org/event>.

The Mount to host CATA poetry and prose reading on Sept. 27

LENOX – Community Access to the Arts poetry and prose, a free event, will be hosted at The Mount, Edith Wharton's home, 2 Plunkett St. on Wednesday, Sept. 27 at 5 p.m.

This is a new date. Readings will

take place at the Stable from 5-6 p.m. followed by a reception from 6-7 p.m.

Space is limited so people must register for this free event. For more information and how to register, people may email kelly@cataarts.org.

Writers Guild, The Mount accepting applications for residencies

LENOX – The Mount, Edith Wharton's Home, is once again collaborating with Western Massachusetts' Straw Dog Writers Guild to offer a unique residency experience for nine emerging writers.

Genres include poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, and plays. Residencies will be for one week and include lodging at a neighboring inn, a workspace at The Mount, breakfast, lunch and a \$500 stipend. The residencies run weekly from March 3 - March 17 and three writers will be selected for each week. Applications opened on Friday, Sept. 1 and are limited to the first 270 submissions. People may visit EdithWharton.org for more information and to access the application form.

This will be the tenth year The Mount has offered writers an opportunity to create at The Mount and its third year partnering with Straw Dog Writers Guild. The revamped residency now focuses on writers, who are developing their craft. There is no prerequisite for being published.

"Entering our third year in partnership with Straw Dog Writers Guild, the increasing number of applications from emerging writers interested in visiting The Mount as residents is inspiring. Because of this, we decided, with difficulty, to limit the applications to the first 270 applicants," says Patricia Pin, Director of Public Programs at The Mount.

Jacqueline Sheehan, author and president of SDWG, adds, "The collaboration between Straw Dog Writers Guild and The Mount is designed to support emerging writers as they begin their writing

careers. This residency has already made a huge difference as writers begin their journey. I can imagine Edith Wharton nodding her approval as her home fills with writers."

Additional information, including the online application, is available by visiting EdithWharton.org. Applications will close when 270 applications have been submitted. The \$25 application fee will be waived for financial hardship and for Mount and Straw Dog members. Submissions are reviewed anonymously and ranked based on the following criteria: quality of writing, originality of voice, the potential for growth as a writer and strength of the statement of purpose.

For additional information about the residency, people may email Patricia Pin at PPin@edithwharton.org.

The Mount, Edith Wharton's Home is a National Historic Landmark and cultural center dedicated to the intellectual, artistic, and humanitarian legacy of Edith Wharton (1862-1937), one of America's greatest authors. Wharton wrote over 40 books in 40 years, including the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, "The Age of Innocence."

The Mount presents Wharton's life and achievements through tours of her house and gardens, and programming. The Mount is the literary hub of the Berkshires and hosts lectures and panels by national authors and scholars both on-site and online. Seasonal cultural offerings on property include an annual outdoor sculpture show, music and children's programming.

STOCKBRIDGE

TurnPark Art Space holds exhibitions

WEST STOCKBRIDGE – TurnPark Art Space, 2 Moscow Road, the sculpture park and contemporary art center recently opened two new exhibitions: Vladimir Zimakov: Random Turns in the Gatehouse Gallery and Gerald Wolfe: Still-full-ness in the Garage Gallery.

Both exhibitions will continue through the close of TurnPark's 2023 season, Tuesday, Oct. 31. Additionally, TurnPark presents its latest site-specific installation, Erika Zekos's It's Time, also on view through Oct. 31.

There will be a reception and artist talk for Random Turns Saturday, Sept. 16 from 4-6 p.m. with Zimakov. On Saturday, Sept. 23, a joint reception and artist talk will be held for It's Time from noon-2 p.m. with Zekos and for Still-full-ness from 2-4 p.m. with Wolfe.

Founded in 2017, TurnPark Art

Space is a cultural and recreational space located in West Stockbridge. Spread over 16 acres of a former quarry, the diverse and stunning landscape incorporates hills, meadows and a dramatic 65 ft. vertical-drop, with breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside. The grounds feature a natural park, an outdoor sculpture collection, two galleries, an outdoor amphitheater and a gift shop, as well as ongoing exhibitions, a live performance

program, and site-specific children's areas.

The Park is open Wednesday through Monday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is \$10 (admission to scheduled events, including the Annual Summer Festival and Comedy Night, separate). TurnPark Art Space is free to members, residents of West Stockbridge and children 12 and under. People may visit turnpark.com to learn more.



Grange hosts community dinner

STOCKBRIDGE – The Stockbridge Grange, 51 Church St., is having a community dinner Sunday, Sept. 10, with take out pickup only from noon-1:30 p.m.

The menu feature roast pork, mashed potatoes, vegetable, with dessert choices of chocolate cream pie or lemon meringue pie. Dinner is \$15 per person. Orders may be made by calling 413-243-1298 or 413-443-4352. Reservation deadline is Thursday Sept. 7. Grange community dinners are designed to raise money for non-profit projects and building maintenance.

GREAT BARRINGTON

BAV receives USDA grant

GREAT BARRINGTON – Berkshire Agriculture Ventures announces it has been awarded two Rural Business Development Grants from the United States Department of Agriculture to provide the business planning technical assistance that farms and local-food businesses across the Berkshire-Taconic region need to thrive.

A combined \$50,000 has been awarded; \$30,000 to be deployed for business planning technical assistance projects in Berkshire County and \$20,000 for Litchfield County, Connecticut. These grants enable BAV to continue its impactful work in strengthening the agricultural sector and fostering sustainable growth in the region. The grants empower BAV to extend its successful track record of offering one-on-one tailored business planning consulting with high level experts to local farms and food businesses within its service area.

The technical assistance provided by BAV and the cadre of consultants they enlist goes beyond providing a simple service, cutting a one-time check, or even signing off on a loan. Business assistance provides continued guidance for our farmers to ensure that

they not only continue to farm, but that their farms thrive as businesses, ensuring the longevity and robustness of our local food system.

Participating farmers may uncover complex challenges during the planning process, necessitating deeper and more sustained assistance. To ensure the continued success of the participants, BAV will maintain an ongoing relationship, providing support and guidance in the implementation of their business planning. This commitment underscores BAV's dedication to nurturing and sustaining the progress of these agricultural endeavors long after the initial consultation phase.

Berkshire Agricultural Ventures is a 501(c)3 nonprofit founded in 2016, working to support the development and viability of local farms and food businesses, to build a thriving local food economy, improve access to fresh food for everyone and address climate change through regenerative agriculture.

For more information about BAV, people may visit www.berkshireagventures.org, email Patrick Grego, Communications & Development Associate, at patrick@berkshireagventures.org or call 413-248-6156.

Performing Art Center to host Festival Latino

GREAT BARRINGTON –The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center will present comedian Alfredo Campo and Mariachi band Embajadores de Puebla as part of Festival Latino on Saturday, Sept. 30 at 7 p.m.

Admission is free, but reservations are requested at mahaiwe.org, or by calling or visiting the Box Office, 413-528-0100, Wednesday through Saturday, from noon-4 p.m.

Mariachi band Embajadores de Puebla will open the evening with beautiful and classic Mariachi songs well known in Latin American culture. Audiences are encouraged to sing along and dance.

Chicago-based Latin-American actor and comedian Alfredo Campo will follow with stand-up comedy in Spanish, Spanglish and English. Campo's show "I just arrived" or "Recién llegado" is full of entertainment and humor.

The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center is the year-round presenter of world-class music, dance, theater, classic films, Live in HD broadcasts and arts education programs for the southern Berkshires and neighboring regions. For more information, people may visit mahaiwe.org.

The Festival Latino of the Berkshires is a non-profit organization created in 1995 to promote and develop Latino cultural heritage events in Berkshire County. The Festival Latino of the Berkshires occurs annually in observance of National Hispanic Heritage Month with a unique event providing high-quality folkloric performances and fantastic community spirit. The festival is fun for the whole family, exciting for foodies interested in authentic Latino/Hispanic cuisine, and a one-of-a-kind way to get transported to the diverse corners of South America.

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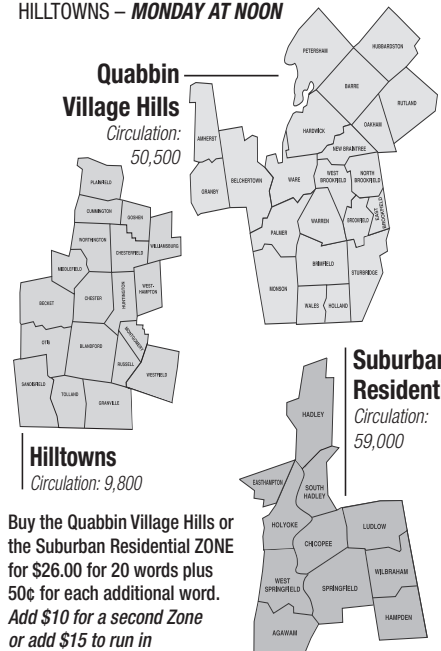
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BLANDFORD

Blandford Fair lists Art Show winners

BLANDFORD – First second, third and fourth place entries for **Oils and Acrylics** went to Janet Jasicotra of Springfield, Melvgn Feldman of Otis, Joyce Belliveau of Springfield and Kristine Crimmins of Wilbraham.

Theme of the year

First, second, third and fourth place entries went to Judy Bolio (first and second) on Westfield, Elizabeth Massay of Chester and Linda Hamlin of Huntington.

Pastels

First, second, third place entries went to Joan Nelson of Westfield, Noreen Aconcuui and Joyce Belliveau both of Springfield.

Drawings

First, second and third place went to Roger Duffy (first and second) of Belchertown and Janet Masciotry of Springfield.

Photography awards

First, second, third and fourth place entries went to Kimberly Seaver (first and second) of Granville, Judy Bolo of Westfield and Melanie Morrison of West Springfield.

Color photography

First, second, third and fourth place entries went to Robert Watrobry of Becket, Fary Senecal Jr. of Oakdale, Conn., Linda Hamlin of Huntington and Robert Watroba. Digitally manipulated photographs, first and second place went to Mary Jeanne Tash of West Spingfield and Gary Senecal Jr.



This painting by Joyce Belliveau won the People's Choice Award at the Blandford Fair Art Show held Labor day weekend.

Photo by Mary Kronholm

Water color paintings

First, second, third and fourth place entries went to Joyce Belliveau of Springfield, Sandra Hayslett of Feeding Hills, Joyce Belliveau and Donna Lee Lustowski of Huntington.

Judges' Choice award went to Judy Bolio; **Director's Choice** went to Roger Duffy and **Peoples' Choice** to Joyce Belliveau.

Congregational church to host Community Day Sept. 9

BLANDFORD – The First Congregational Church of Blandford's Community Day returns Saturday, Sept. 9 from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on the parsonage lawn.

There will be hamburgers, hot dogs, a bounce house and lots of activities for children.

Deacon Stepen Hart said, "Everyone is welcome to come and have fun and socialize."

New pastor Ciprian Droma, his wife Eve and their three children will be on hand.

There is no charge to attend.



ART SHOW FEATURES LOCAL ARTISTS



Local artist Jeri Hamel tells Blandford Historical Society President Chips Norcross about her commissioned historical portrait of Lt. Falley.

Photo by Mary Kronholm



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FAIR

from page 1

American Opal3e Ale with pineapple, two IPAs and additional ales.

The Heritage Farm Mustangs with Meg Deitner, new to the fair this year, was another hit. Horses only a few months out of the wild demonstrated what the training Deitner and her associates accomplished. The horses walked a seesaw, rolled over, stood on a cube on all fours, all done with a very calmly administered directive given with a very gentle touch of a whip.

Deitner explained the whips were not to administer force or punishment, but a charge to do something specific.

Myriad kid-oriented events, lots of different foods on the midway, Agriculture Hall exhibits all stood out and were well used and viewed. Premiums were increased this year, which was a benefit for the animal shows and draws.

The weather could not have been better. Three perfect fair days, although it did get warm on the grounds on Sunday.

According to Fair Director Bruce Cooley, attendance was good; very busy Friday night, steady on Saturday and Sunday and Monday was Blandford Day

– admission free for local residents. The fair is still recovering from the Covid-19 hiatus.

The Blandford Fair Preservation Association is on track to help refurbish the Agricultural Hall as a new, 501 C3

entity.

Ripley was pleased with the event overall and said, "We are happy with how this year went and are looking forward to what we can do at the 2024 to continue improvements to the fair."



John Strattman with his team, Odin and Junior, participate in the ox draw.

Photos by Mary Kronholm



This wild mustang, 90 days out of the wild, responds to trainer Meg Deitner, and step on the cube.