

"Old minds are like old horses; you must exercise them if you wish to keep them in working order," – John Adams

Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

Becket, Blandford, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Otis, Plainfield, Russell, Sandisfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Worthington

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HUNTINGTON

Details of Hutchins unsolved murder

subject of new book by Steven Cormier

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

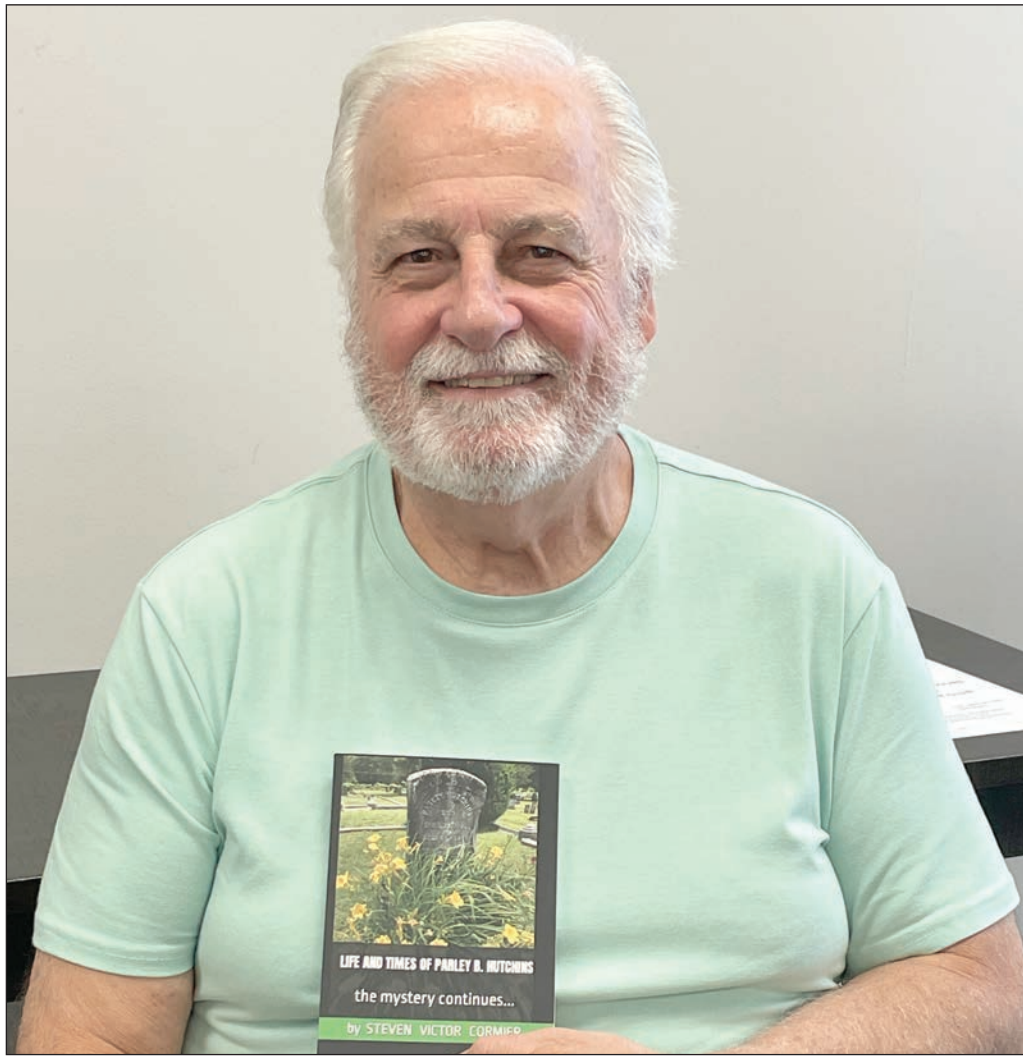
Parley B. Hutchins was a Huntington resident, an innovative wooden bowl maker, an inventor, an eccentric recluse and a wealthy man.

At the time of his murder in 1880, the mystery of the disappearance of an estimated \$100,000 in gold made national headlines. Local author Steven V. Cormier became interested in the story when he moved to Huntington six years ago and looked into the history of the land he had purchased, which was located on both sides of Littleville Road.

Cormier said that he had found some old timbers, metal hoops and an old foundation near the middle branch of the Westfield River, which borders his property. Intrigued, Cormier started his research in Chester, where he learned of a man in the area, who had made wooden bowls. Further, an old newspaper clipping said that Hutchins was known to carry his life savings and had been jumped, knifed and beaten to death.

Cormier cross-checked

BOOK, page 7



Local author Steven V. Cormier with his book: "Life and Times of Parley B. Hutchins: the mystery continues." The book details the mystery surrounding the murder of a Huntington resident and the disappearance of a small fortune. Photo by Wendy Long

BLANDFORD

Condition of Bicentennial Park causes concern

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

George Reichert discussed the maintenance of Bicentennial Park, which in his opinion, is lacking.

He provided pictures for the Select Board Monday night showing the existing conditions during the past week. "I've been watching the park since I was here last spring and was assured the park would be maintained," he added that he felt the condition of the park is "atrocious" especially since everyone sees it going to the Post Office and it is in the center of town.

"The park hasn't been swept," he told the board and that the tree in the center of the park needed to be assessed and pruned by an arborist. Chair Cara Letendre explained that funding was voted by the board "a little bit late," there is not sufficient money in the Bicentennial Park Trust Fund to cover the expenses of maintenance annually, but there is a plan to budget for more funding for next year.

Town Administrator Christopher Dunne and the select board is responsible for oversight. "The trust is no longer sufficient to support" work to be done in Bicentennial Park according to Letendre.

Dunne will be walking through Watson Park with members of the Historical Commission for grant consideration and hopes it may be possible to build in additional funding to include work in Bicentennial Park.

Roads

Ron Henrichon asked about maintenance for Julius Hall Road where there are now seven houses. He was the first new house on the road over 40 years ago and said that the school bus company has concerns about the condition of the road.

Highway Superintendent David Waldron has prepared for the culvert on Gibbs Road, He will discuss the plan for replacement with a contractor and the Department of Environmental Protection.

CONCERN, page 8

BLANDFORD

Many happenings going on in Blandford

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

It was a busy time in town Friday starting with a water service repair on Russell Stage Road.

The Council on Aging held its monthly luncheon at noon. That in itself was uneventful. However, at the same time, there was a car fire on the Mass Pike and the Ansul Fire Suppression System was set off, apparently inadvertently. There were also several miscellaneous medical calls the department responded to over the week-

end.

Saturday the weather held off altogether so the First Congregational Church could host its Community Day unhindered. Saturday evening was the spectacular technologically designed performance, The Dale Show, at The White Church, a free extraordinary musical event by Dale Buchannan.

Then Sunday the weekend culminated with the peaceful and restorative Old Time Hymn Sing by the Mennonite Chorus at The

HAPPENINGS, page 9



Water Department Steve Grondin, right and Water Department Superintendent Gordon Avery, left, wait for parts to be delivered for a water service repair on Kaolin Road. Photo by Mary Kronholm



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HILLTOWNS

MassDOT lists roadwork schedule in surrounding areas

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces crews will be conducting daytime and overnight hour pavement milling, slope stabilization, bridge and drainage repair operations on I-90 eastbound and westbound in Becket, Otis, Lee, West Stockbridge, Stockbridge, and Blandford.

The work will be conducted at various times and locations from Thursday, Sept. 14 through Friday, Sept. 15.

Lane closures will be in place during the construction operations and traffic will be able to travel through the work zones.

In Becket and Otis, slope stabi-

lization operations will be conducted nightly on I-90 eastbound between mile marker 21.0 and mile marker 22.0 from Thursday, Sept. 14 through Friday, Sept. 15 from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, Sept. 15 by 5 a.m.

In Lee, milling and paving operations will be conducted nightly on I-90 westbound between mile marker 8.2 and mile marker 13.2, from Thursday, Sept. 14 through Friday, Sept. 15, from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, Sept. 15 by 5 a.m.

In Stockbridge, bridge repairs

will be coThursday, Sept. 14 through Friday, Sept. 15, from 7 p.m.- 5 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, Sept. 15 by 5 a.m.

In Blandford, drainage repairs will be conducted daily on I-90 eastbound between mile marker 21.0 and 23.0. The work is expected to conclude on Thursday, Sept. 14 by 4:30 p.m.

Appropriate signage, law enforcement details, and messaging will be in place to guide drivers through the work area. Drivers who are traveling through the affected areas should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution.

All scheduled work is weather dependent and subject to change without notice. For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to: Download the Mass511 mobile app or visit www.mass511.com to view live cameras, travel times, real-time traffic conditions and project information before setting out on the road. Users can subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions.

Dial 511 and select a route to hear real-time conditions.

Follow @MassDOT on X, (formerly known as Twitter), to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

MassDOT announces funding program application deadlines

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation, through its Safe Routes to School Program, announce the launch of the 2023-2024 Signs and Lines Program and Infrastructure Funding Program grant opportunities.

Both programs seek to provide funding through a competitive application process to help facilitate the development of construction projects in areas immediately surrounding public elementary, middle, and high schools throughout the Commonwealth.

The application period opened for

both grant opportunities on Aug. 23. All SRTS partner schools, that have been a partner for at least six months as of Aug. 23, are encouraged to apply for both grants and must have a municipal contact as the primary applicant.

The SRTS Signs and Lines Program provides design services and up to \$10,000 to support the purchase of materials. The funding for the program, which has been increased from \$6,000 to \$10,000 this year, will be awarded to up to five municipalities for low-cost construction infrastructure projects within half a mile around statewide public

elementary, middle, and high schools. Eligible low-cost projects include signage and pavement markings to improve safety and accessibility along key walking and biking routes to a school. The projects are intended to be completed no later than June 30, 2024, and within the current school year.

Applications for the Signs and Lines Program are due on Friday, Sept. 22 by 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. The Signs and Lines Program Guidance Document and Application are available on the SRTS website under the Engineering section.

Applications for the Infrastructure Funding Program are due on Friday, Oct. 6 by 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. The program allows municipalities to conveniently use MassDOT's Massachusetts Project Intake Tool to submit information online at <https://gis.massdot.state.ma.us/mapit/>. MaPIT was developed to provide municipalities with more convenient access to transportation funding program opportunities available statewide. The Guidance Document and access to the MaPIT tool are both available on the SRTS website in the Engineering section.

Valley Eye Radio needs board members

SPRINGFIELD – Valley Eye Radio is the only accessible local news and information broadcasting service in the Pioneer Valley for those who can no longer read independently.

Today, Valley Eye Radio is using 21st century technology to be more accessible than ever and needs new

community members to join their board to help define what the future growth should be for the listeners and the growing numbers of people who will need assistance later. People interested in serving should call Executive Director Barbara Loh at 413-747-7337 or email bploh@valleyeyeradio.org.

State sponsored small business webinars

A collaboration with citizens and the Office of the Massachusetts State Treasurer and Receiver General is sponsoring small business financial empowerment four-week webinar series.

The second webinar is on Wednesday, Sept. 20 from 3-4 p.m. on business operations. Other seminars are Wednesday, Sept.

27 from 3-4 p.m. on financial management and Wednesday, Oct. 4 from 3-4 p.m. on communicating your business.

Small business owners are welcome to attend all four of the free webinars or choose the ones that best suit their needs. To register, they should visit <https://bit.ly/BusinessEmpowermentMA>.

Gas prices remain the same as last week

WESTWOOD – The average gas price in Massachusetts is the same as last week (\$3.74), averaging \$3.74 per gallon.

Today's price is one cent lower than a month ago (\$3.75) and 7 cents lower than Sept. 11, 2022 (\$3.81). Massachusetts' average gas price is 9 cents lower than the national average.

Northeast gas prices have managed to hold steady despite a recent surge in crude oil prices alongside robust gasoline demand ahead of the Labor Day holiday. Meanwhile, prices are above \$4 per gal-

lon in nine western states and are nearing \$4 across the Midwest as a result of decreased gasoline production with refineries undergoing seasonal and unplanned maintenance.

"Pump prices in New England appear to be defying the odds at the moment, despite the surge in the cost of oil," said Mark Schieldrop, AAA Northeast senior spokesperson. "Rising oil prices, higher demand and tighter supply could push pump prices higher at least until hurricane season is over."

AAA Northeast's Sept. 11 survey

of fuel prices found the current national average to be two cents higher than \$3.74 \$3.75 last week (\$3.81), averaging \$3.83 a gallon. Today's national average price is one cent lower than a month ago (\$3.84) and is 10 cents higher than this day last year (\$3.71).

AAA Northeast is a not-for-profit auto club with 67 offices in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, New Hampshire and New York, providing more than 6 million local AAA members with travel, insurance, finance and auto-related services.

Sen. Mark staff holds office hour

BOSTON – State Senator Paul W. Mark announces his staff will host office hour in Southwick on Monday, Sept. 25 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in Town Hall, 454 College Highway, Southwick. 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.

Consortium receives grant to deal with rural digital divide

The Northern Hilltowns Consortium of Councils on Aging (Chesterfield, Worthington, Plainfield, Cummington, Goshen, Westhampton and Williamsburg) received a grant award of \$299,738 from the Executive Office Of Elder Affairs to enhance rural older adult digital literacy and internet access in seven towns between Sept 2023 and December 2024.

The grant program builds on information gathered from the Aging and Digital Technology survey, conducted in early 2023. The Consortium Project goals are to provide Whip City or Comcast internet service to those households without; give people laptops/tablet devices to connect to the digital world; train older adults to use their new or existing devices; provide technical support either through face-

to-face appointments, by phone, at a drop-in center; through classes, workshops, Zoom and videos.

The consortium seeks volunteers for many tasks and plans to hire a few paid staff to help meet digital needs in the towns. People should watch for regular updates, volunteer opportunities, hiring announcements for web content manager, graphic designer and volunteer coordinator, schedules for tech support and training dates.

The consortium invites people to participate. Their involvement and support are essential for the success of this project.

The consortium will be promoting the program with a Digital Fair this fall. People should visit www.northernhilltownscoas.org for date and location or watch for flyers and lawn signs.

Heritage Walk takes place Sept. 23

MONTEREY – On Saturday, Sept. 23 at 1 p.m. the Bidwell House Museum, 100 Art School Road, will host its final Housatonic Heritage Walk of the 2023 season at the Monterey Library with Rob Hoogs.

Today, the village of Monterey is small and quaint, but from the 1740s through the late 1800s it was bustling with saw mills, grist mills, carding and fulling mills and a paper mill, as well as stores and other businesses. Rob Hoogs, a Trustee at both the Bidwell House Museum and the Monterey Historical Society, will present an illustrated talk and walk to explore the remains and history of these water-powered mills.

The presentation will start inside the Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, multipurpose room for a 30 minute talk, followed by a 60-90 minute walk along the Mill Brook, now called Konkapot River, to visit the foundations of the mills, dams and other features. The walk

will only be about one mile, but the footing in some places is rough and may be wet, so hikers should bring good hiking shoes and trekking poles if they use them; also bring bug repellent.

There is limited parking at the library. Attendees can also park in the public lot behind the Monterey Town Hall, a short walk from the library.

This walk is free and is being offered as part of the Housatonic Heritage Walk series. The walk is limited to 25 people and attendees are asked to pre-register by visiting the museum website at <https://www.bidwellhousemuseum.org/event/monterey-mills-an-exploration-of-water-powered-industry/>.

The walk will happen in light rain, but it will not happen if heavy showers or thunderstorms are forecast. For more information, people may call 413-528-6888 or visit www.bidwellhousemuseum.org.

HILLTOWNS

SNAP Gap Act to expand eligibility and increase benefits

WASHINGTON— Sen. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), a member of the Senate Health, Labor, Education and Pensions Committee, and Rep. Lori Trahan (MA-03) today introduced the Bridging the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Gap Act, legislation to expand SNAP benefits for young adults, families, and Americans with regular medical expenses by breaking down harmful rules that limit eligibility and benefit levels.

The legislation would ensure that working students ages 17 to 21 can continue to receive their families' benefits and extend existing rules for seniors and people with disabilities so that all SNAP

beneficiaries who spend at least \$35 a month on health-related expenses can receive higher monthly benefits.

"Nearly one-in-three college students are food insecure. Families across the country are seeing Congress cut their benefits as their medical costs rise. The Bridging the SNAP Gap Act will reverse this trend and help ensure that no student or family falls through the cracks," said Markey. "Families should be able to put food on the table, this shouldn't be controversial."

"For decades, working families have relied on SNAP to help make ends meet and get food on the table. I'm proud to be working with Senator Markey to

introduce the Bridging the SNAP Gap Act to strengthen the vital nutritional support that SNAP provides," said Trahan.

Specifically, the Bridging the SNAP Gap Act would; Raise the student income exclusion age from 17 to 21 to let young people receive SNAP benefits as part of their parent(s)' household without reducing the amount of SNAP benefits the family can get; Guarantee that all SNAP recipients can get additional benefits if they have at least \$35 of monthly medical expenses; and, Reduce and streamline paperwork for the medical expense deduction floor, currently at \$165 in 2023, with increases mirroring that of

Medicare Part B rates.

In April, Markey led his colleagues in a letter to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Social Security Administration urging them to make SNAP more accessible for Americans who are receiving or are eligible for Supplemental Security Income benefits, including low-income elderly and individuals with disabilities. In December 2022, Markey successfully advocated to insert a provision to ensure that victims of "SNAP skimming" would have their benefits repaid by requiring the USDA promulgate regulations to reimburse individuals and families whose SNAP benefits were stolen.

Dakin Humane Society holds adoption event, offering 50% off

SPRINGFIELD – Dakin Humane Society will be reducing adoption fees for all animals by 50% through Saturday, Sept. 30 as part of its "Summer of Love" adoption event.

Pets whose fees are eligible for this discount include cats, dogs, and a variety of other animals including guinea pigs, rabbits, ferrets, hamsters, birds, mice, gerbils, rats and more.

"Dakin's busiest season is always summer, and months before, we knew this summer was going to be exceptionally demanding," stated Meg Talbert, Dakin's executive director. "For example, we anticipated taking in 500 kittens this summer, and that's a higher-than-average number. By the end of August, we helped

592 kittens."

"So far this year, we've taken in over 60% more animals than in the same time frame last year. We have lots of wonderful pets looking to connect with people and families, and we're glad to offer our Summer of Love event to help some great matches happen by reducing our fees," said Talbert.

Pet adoption fees as listed on Dakin's website will be cut in half through Sept. 30. Dakin is open for adopters to visit Tuesdays through Saturdays from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., but they are advised to visit the website first to see which animals they are most interested in to help minimize their waiting time onsite. Adopters may also apply

to adopt pets online by visiting dakinhumane.org.

Adoption fees at Dakin include a variety of services and treatments including a veterinary exam, spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, microchip and registration, deworming treatment, a rabies vaccine (if pet is over 12 weeks of age), a behavior evaluation, access to behavior support, a free post-adoption veterinary exam at participating clinics, and a food starter pack.

Other features include a feline leukemia test, FIV test, flea and ear mite treatment for cats and a heartworm test, flea and tick treatment, and heartworm prevention for dogs. According to Talbert, the pre-adoption cost of care for each

adoptable animal that comes to Dakin averages \$705.

In a typical year, the organization shelters, treats and fosters more than 20,000 animals and has performed over 100,000 spay/neuter surgeries since 2009, making it New England's largest spay/neuter provider.

Dakin's Pet Health Center, a non-emergency veterinary resource for pet dogs and cats, opened in 2022 and has treated more than 2,500 pets. Dakin is a local non-profit organization that relies solely on contributions from individuals and businesses that care about animals to bring its services to the community. For more information, people may visit www.dakinhumane.org.

PVPC announces CDBG grants

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.

Clark offers free first Sunday program

WILLIAMSTOWN – The Clark Art Institute's, 225 South St., popular First Sundays free program returns on Sunday, Oct. 1 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Offering free admission to the galleries and special exhibitions the day also features a series of special activities from 1-4 p.m. and a pop-up display of works on paper on view from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. October's theme is "Grounding."

People will explore what it means to be grounded both inside and outside of the galleries. They will engage their senses through a guided forest bathing experience, the Japanese practice of con-

sciously connecting with nature in order to slow down and be present in the natural world around them.

They will learn about the geologies depicted in artworks in the Clark's collection and play with the ideas of foreground, middle ground and background, all used to create the illusion of depth or perspective in artworks). Then, they will design a take-home terrarium so they can stay "grounded" throughout the week.

For more information, people may visit clarkart.edu/events. Family programs are generously supported by Allen & Company.

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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



Why Is my age 70 benefit not higher than my January amount?

Dear Rusty

I plan to retire in 2025, the year I turn 70. Given that I'm still working, I'm delaying my Social Security until that year. I noticed on my Social Security statement that my payment in January of 2025 will not be much different than my age 70 amount in October of 2025.

If that is truly the case, would it not be better for me to start taking Social Security payments starting in January of 2025. Am I missing anything here?

Signed: Uncertain Senior

Dear Uncertain Senior

Your benefit in October 2025 at age 70 will be about 6% more than it will be in January 2025. If that isn't shown on your Statement of Estimated Benefits, it may be due to a particular nuance in Social Security's rules relating to Delayed Retirement Credits.

When benefits are claimed mid-year after full retirement age, the DRCs earned in that year aren't applied until the following January. Thus, someone who claims benefits to start mid-year will initially get the DRCs they've earned through the end of the previous year, but not immediately get credit for the additional DRCs earned during the claim-year. Those extra DRCs earned between January and the month benefits started will be applied the following January.

By way of example, if someone beyond FRA claims benefits to start in October 2024, their initial SS retirement benefit will be what they were entitled to at the end of 2023 and would not include DRCs earned between January 2024 and September 2024. They will collect that initial January 2024 benefit until January 2025 when the DRCs earned in 2024 are applied, at which point their benefit would increase by 6%.

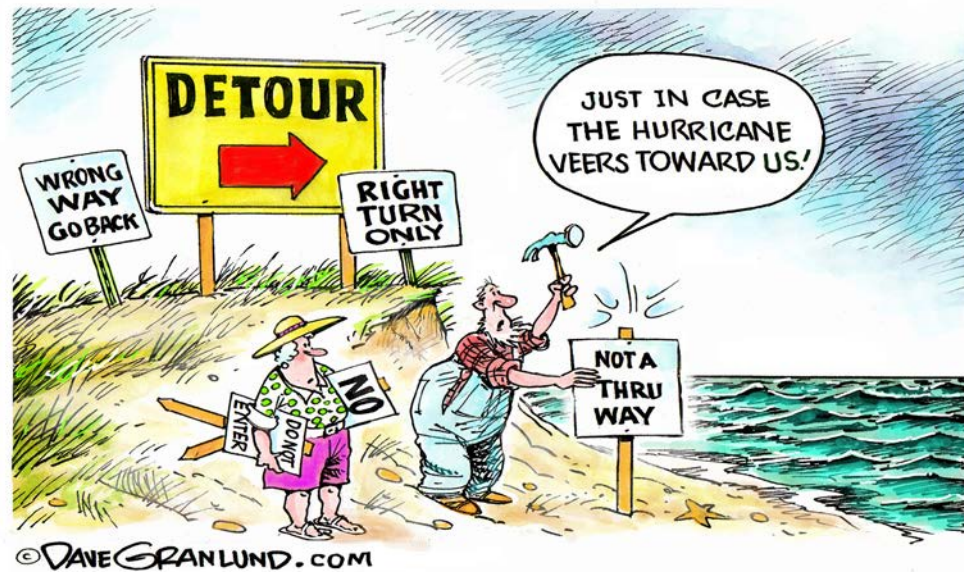
There is, however, one exception to this rule, which is that all DRCs are immediately credited when benefits are claimed to start in the month age 70 is reached, so despite what your Statement of Estimated Benefits might reflect, if you claim for benefits to start in the month you turn 70 (October 2025) you will get your maximum age 70 benefit immediately and won't need to wait until January 2026 for those extra DRCs to be applied.

Unfortunately, Social Security's benefit estimator doesn't explain how this nuance works and may show someone claiming mid-year receiving the same benefit as for the preceding January, without further explanation.

That is, in my opinion, a flaw in the estimator which may result in people making a wrong decision on when to claim their Social Security benefit. Nevertheless, rest assured that your benefit in October 2025, the month you turn 70, will be your maximum amount - 6% more than it would be if you claimed benefits to start in January 2025 and you won't need to wait until the following January to get the DRCs earned earlier in 2025.

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.



GUEST COLUMN

Overwintering your favorite herbs



It's getting to be "that time," where we must concede that summer is winding down. What comes next? Frost and then a season of rest!

But there is much to do before then, especially if you have herbs that you'd like to dig up and overwinter inside.

At Old Sturbridge Village we dig up Rosemary, Bay, Lemon Verbena and many more tender plants. At home I am getting my own collection of plants that I too must dig up if I want to save my investment.

Over time, I have ended up with some very good sized specimens. Overwintering these biggies can prove to be challenging space-wise, but they make such a statement in the garden I look forward to the hassle of digging them up and keeping them alive

during the offseason.

Before the interpreters dig up the plants, I always ask that they give the plants a good bath to cut down on the number of insects that will be brought into the greenhouse. For the home gardener this is equally important.

I say "bath" because my pesticide of choice is a natural and fairly benign one - made of potassium salts of fatty acids (soap) that weaken the insect's outer shell and cause dehydration. It is sprayed on leaves and stems until they are soaked, and can be reapplied every 7-10 days as needed.

This product is especially effective on insects that make their home on herbs and houseplants: whitefly, aphids and mealy bugs.

Once the insects have been eradicated, it is time to get out the shovel and get to work digging up and repotting the plants. As mentioned, it's amazing at how large some of them can become after only a few months in the ground.

It is important to salvage as much of the root ball as possible to minimize the shock of being potted up. To do this, position your

GARDEN, page 5

Woman went over Niagara Falls in a barrel

By J. Mark Powell
jmarkpowell.com

You're turning 63. How should you celebrate? With a cake with candles? A family get-together? Maybe a party?

How about crawling into a wooden barrel, having it screwed shut, then plunging 60-feet over one of the world's great natural wonders? Which, by the way, nobody else has ever lived to tell about.

A woman did that nearly 120 years ago, the crowning achievement in her quirky life. Here's what happened.

Annie Edson Taylor was a tomboy growing up. One of 11 children raised on a farm in upstate New York, she preferred outdoors and sports to dolls and dresses.

She was a dreamer whose imagination constantly sprouted new ideas.

She married at the age of 18. Annie quickly regretted it, but not for long.

Their only child died in infancy and her husband passed away soon afterward.

It was hard for a woman to support herself in the 19th Century. Annie bounced around the country from one job to another, with interesting experiences woven in between.

She survived a house fire in Chattanooga, a small earthquake in South Carolina, and even a stagecoach robbery out west. (Refusing to hand over the \$800 hidden in her dress - all the money she had - Annie told the robbers, "Blow away!")

She eventually settled in Bay City, Michigan and scratched out a living by operating a charm school where she taught kids table manners and dance basics. But soon pupils dwindled, along with her bank account.

Annie began worrying how she would support herself in old age.

Then, as she later wrote, "the idea came to me like a flash of lightning. Go over Niagara Falls in a barrel." At an age

when most people are contemplating retirement, she began contemplating a stunt the bravest daredevils

wouldn't attempt.

Her rationale wasn't as crazy as it sounds.

The Pan-American Exposition (a kind of World's Fair) was being held next door in Buffalo, New York. A large contingent of reporters was there.

If she survived, the news coverage would make Annie an instant celebrity. That could mean a book deal and lecture tours and enough money for her final years.

But there was a huge qualifier. "If."

If she survived the plunge. If she didn't, she wouldn't have to worry about anything ever again.

So, Annie headed to Niagara Falls. She designed a special white oak barrel and had it built by a company that made beer kegs.

Three feet at its widest part with tapered ends and metal hoops to secure it, plus a small anvil to keep it weighted down. An old mattress was the only padding.

Word of what she was attempting spread. A crowd gathered as she crawled into the barrel late on Thursday afternoon - her 63rd birthday (although she adamantly insisted to reporters later she was in her 40s).

At 4:30 p.m. the barrel was screwed shut and dropped into the water. Inside, Annie clung to her lucky heart-shaped pillow; and

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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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OPINION

HILLTOWN HISTORY

Who are the Stockbridge Munsee Band of Mohican Indians?

By Deborah Daniels
Correspondent

Taking advantage of the Indian summer we are enjoying, consider the Mohican Indians that lived all over the Hudson River Valley in New York to the Housatonic River Valley in Massachusetts.

People can visit the Mission House in Stockbridge, which was the home of John Sergeant, the first missionary to the Stockbridge Mohican Indians. The house was built in 1740.

The red building next door was where the Indian school stood. John Sergeant had a tall order to preach Christian values to the Indians. He was 24 years old, a graduate of Yale and he was funded by the Society for Propagating the Gospel. How well did he speak the language of the Mohicans?

Imagine the Mohicans who were used to roaming all over the land between the Hudson and Housatonic Rivers freely taking advantage of the woodland and rivers bounty want to sit down and learn about Christianity? They called the river Mahicannituck and referred to themselves as the people of the “waters that are never still.”

They fished herring, shad, trout and raided the oyster beds in the river banks for food. They hunted wild turkey, pheasant, deer, moose, beaver, otter and black bear as they needed food. They built wigwams and longhouses near the rivers and lived peacefully, sharing the land.

By 1734 their way of life was rapidly disappearing as white Europeans invaded with their notions of property rights. Several sachems (Chiefs) met in Stockbridge to consider whether to accept John Sergeant as a missionary. They held their council and after four days agreed to make Stockbridge their new headquarters and accept a missionary representative.

Was it the fact that many Indians used only one name, no last names that made it easy to spirit away the land that was theirs? Perhaps it was the fact that they never considered they owned the land in the first place.

Over the next several years the Mohicans were relocated to the Oneida Lake area of New York, then to Indiana, then to Wisconsin and ultimately to an Indian reservation in northeastern

Wisconsin, Red Springs and Bartelme, Wisconsin. This is where the Stockbridge Munsee Band of Mohicans finally settled.

There are approximately 800 hundred Mohican Indians living there today. There are another 700 Mohicans living in the state of Wisconsin. The culture is thriving there with schools, a tribal government, news and communication department, a golf course, sweat lodges and a casino. The Mohicans take pilgrimages to Stockbridge where they climb Monument Mountain, a place they consider sacred and visit the Mission House and burial ground to commemorate their history here.

Visiting Mission House you can't help but notice the Many Trails symbol created by Edwin Martin. He was born in Wisconsin in 1909. He worked as a machine operator for a construction company, raised nine children with his wife and became active in the Munsee Tribal Council. He learned silversmithing later in life and created the Mohican symbol. He explained that the parallel lines meant the river's waters are never still, the upraised arms represent a person in prayer and the circle was the Tribal Council's fire.

You can visit the room where John Sergeant met with the tribal chiefs to conduct business. The house is surrounded by a medicinal garden, vegetable and herbal patch and a grape arbor.

Now flash over to Canoe Meadows, 309 Holmes Rd. in Pittsfield to see 262 acres of wildlife sanctuary along the Housatonic River. This was a Hilltown Hike. It is called Canoe Meadows because the Mohicans beached their canoes here and lived along the river.

One Merle Graves bought the land and in 1932 developed it into an estate he called Gravesleigh. He cultivated the land to grow grass for livestock. He found pottery, arrowheads and axe heads while walking behind his plow. He also created a trout fishing pond with the help of local contractors.

The main trail through this Audubon sanctuary today is called the Sacred Way Trail. It is home to beaver, muskrat, otter, raccoon, fox, coyote, deer and at least 85 species of birds.

The land was given by Cooley Graves Crane in memory of her parents, Merle Dixon Graves and Clara Cooley Stevenson in 1976. Cooley was educat-



Mission House, 19 Main, Stockbridge, was the home of John Sergeant, a missionary to Stockbridge Mohican Indians.



The well is located behind the Mission House.



This plaque is at Canoe Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary, the former Gravesleigh estate located in Pittsfield.

ed at Vassar College and married Arthur Eaton Crane of the Crane paper making Company in Dalton. Yes those Cranes who make our paper dollar bills.

Gravesleigh estate was returned to its



The Many Trails symbol of the Mohican Indians designed by Edwin Martin, a Mohican.



Hitching post located outside the Mission House.

Photos by Deborah Daniels

original wild and free roots. Are we learning to share the world just as the Indians knew all along? Discovering history while hiking, ya can't beat it.

GARDEN

shovel along the “drip line” of the plant and dig straight down, completely around its circumference.

After you've made your way around, get your shovel underneath and lift. Have a pot ready - one that is an inch or two bigger than the root ball is sufficient, and will allow for minimal winter growth.

My container of choice is always plastic, but glazed pottery is fine, although it is heavy. I steer clear of clay; it dries out too quickly.

I usually put a couple of inches of moist potting soil into the container, set the plant and then fill in with more as needed before watering well. Oftentimes I leave the plants outside until a frost threatens, then I bring them in and back out until the weather turns decidedly cold.

Perhaps the most cherished of all tender herbs is Rosemary (*Rosemarinus officinalis*), the herb of remembrance. The key to growing it successfully indoors is “cool but sunny.”

My new old house affords me many such microclimates. If you aren't as lucky, try for a sunny window away from dry heat, in other words far from heat vents, etc.

My mudroom runs at about 50 degrees but has decent sunlight. Win-win!

Bay tree (*Laurus nobilis*) is another favorite and can be grown right through the winter with little or no coddling provided it is given medium to bright light and consistent watering. Do be on guard for the waxy-looking scale insect; one giveaway is leaves covered in a sticky, shiny sap called honey dew.

Try to “Q-tip” individual insects with rubbing alcohol or use insecticidal soap or horticultural oil to smother larger infestations. If the bugs have been active for a while, sooty mold may have formed.

This thick, black coating will likely need to be scrubbed off leaf by leaf to allow the plant to photosynthesize properly.

To have success overwintering scented geraniums (*Pelargonium* spp.) indoors, situate them in bright light where daytime temperatures are 65-70 degrees, and night temps are in the 50s. Fertilize every other month during the fall and winter.

Smaller leaved varieties will be easier to manage; large leaved cultivars will get top-heavy quickly- take terminal or “tip” cuttings of these instead.

Lemon Verbena (*Aloysia triphylla*)

NIAGRA

probably prayed.

In about 15 minutes, it was all over. The barrel went over the Falls, briefly submerged, then bobbed to the surface. Boatmen hauled it onto their vessel and unscrewed the lid.

A rescuer peered inside and then shouted, “Good God! She's alive!”

Annie had indeed survived the 167-foot fall. Her only injury was a cut on her forehead as she was removed from the

barrel.

She then told reporters, “I would rather face a cannon than go over the Falls again.”

Annie got the fame she desired. Her photo and story were in newspapers from coast to coast.

One admirer even wrote a poem called “Goddess of Water”.

“This great heroine of our nation has won both fortune and fame.

Now people all over creation will praise this illustrious dame.”

(Ok, Shakespeare it's not. But how many poems have been written about you?)

Then, as quickly as celebrity status arrived, the public forgot Annie. Her fifteen minutes of fame didn't even last fifteen minutes.

There was no fortune as she'd hoped. In a final insult, someone even stole her

most prized possession: her special barrel. Annie spent her last years selling a booklet she wrote about her adventure for a dime. She was impoverished when she died in 1921 at age 82.

So, when it comes time to turn 63, go with a birthday cake instead of a stunt. Trust me on this.

Holy Cow! History is written by novelist, former TV journalist and diehard history buff J. Mark Powell.

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.

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from page 4

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HUNTINGTON

Gray Catbird Pottery moves studio to Huntington

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – After three years in the Montgomery Marketplace, owner Dale Rogers has moved her artisan showcase and pottery studio to the Huntington Shops, located on Route 112.

Gray Catbird Pottery now occupies the former River Cafe and is scheduled to open on Sept. 13. One section of the store is a consignment retail space for local artists, and includes paintings, handcrafts, wood carvings, metalwork, jewelry, glassware and pottery. The rest of the site contains learning space and kilns for Rogers' pottery classes, which are already fully booked through October.

"I have beautiful gifts," Rogers said. "The work that my artisans do is very fine." Rogers showcases the work of about 65 local artists.

She also carries books, many by local authors and will offer fresh baked muffins, cookies and brownies baked by

Jeanne Arras of Montgomery.

Store hours are Wednesday from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Thursday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Friday from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday from 1-5 p.m. The store will be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Pottery classes are taught by Rogers and run 2-½ hours each. They are held 4-6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4-6:30 p.m. with on Saturdays and Sundays from 2-4:30 p.m. Students will learn both hand building and wheel throwing techniques. Classes runs for six sessions; the fee of \$225 includes instruction, clay, glazes and firing. Class sizes are small, four or five students to offer hands-on instruction.

Items are also available for sale online at etsy.com/shop/GrayCatbirdPottery. People may follow the store on Facebook at Facebook.com/GrayCatbirdPottery for information on featured artists and class openings.

People may call Rogers at 413-875-5205 or email graycatbirdpottery@gmail.com for more information.



Dale Rogers, Owner of Gray Catbird Pottery, in her new store in Huntington, which opens Sept. 13. Photo by Wendy Long

BOOK

from page 1

his hunch at the registry of deeds in Hampshire County and confirmed that Hutchins had once owned Cormier's property and his wooden bowl mill was likely located across the street, along the river. Cormier has written and self-published a book on this incident: "Life and Times of Parley B. Hutchins: the mystery continues..."

His research included meetings with local historians, John Garvey, David Norton and Bill McVeigh, writings by Pam Donovan Hall and Howard Mason (as published in prior quarterly issues of "Stone Walls"). He also used a search engine called Genealogy Bank to pin Hutchins' story together.

"He was a very intelligent guy," said Cormier. "He patented a couple of inventions: one to improve on making wooden bowls using an automated lathe, another was a ratcheting hand truck." The hand truck, he wrote, was likely used to lift manufactured bowls and platters onto wagons for transport to the train station, the presence of which had boosted the local economy in the Hilltowns.

Hutchins was also eccentric and definitely introverted. "I feel for Parley," Cormier said. "I think people just misunderstood him." Cormier added that Hutchins was smart in all of his dealings and made a lot of money. And the mystery of where it all went has not been solved-despite people digging holes on his property in the years immediately following his death.

Parley B. Hutchins was killed in 1880 at age 69. The murderer burned

his house to the ground and his body was found in the mill, which had also been set on fire but was saved by the local, horse-drawn fire department. The only item that survived the house fire was a safe, where most of his cash was believed to be kept.

When the local sheriff arranged for the safe to be opened, it was found to be nearly empty. Hutchins didn't have a will and his real estate holdings-valued at about \$7,750-were divided among 31 cousins, most of whom still lived in the region.

Cormier's book, which is rich in the history of settling the area that is now parts of Huntington, Chester, Montgomery, Middlefield and Blandford, presents the author's theories and evidence about who he believes murdered Hutchins and where the missing gold might have gone.

Most of the principal characters are buried in the area: Hutchins is in the Norwich Cemetery, the Eastman family-thought to be involved in the murder-were originally buried in Littleville and their graves moved to the cemetery on Bromley Road when Littleville Reservoir was created in the 1960s.

The book was released on Aug. 3. Cormier will have a booth at the upcoming Harvest Fall Festival on the Huntington Town Common, Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 where he will sell and sign, this book for patrons. This book-and a prior release entitled "Oil Change," are also available on Amazon.

Cormier will also arrange sales via email catcruze@gmail.com.

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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Job Connection

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Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteer Coordinator needed. The Digital Literacy program of the Northern Hilltowns Consortium of COAs provides digital support and training to older adults. We are seeking an experienced, rural community-oriented person to recruit and coordinate volunteers for technical support and technology training. PT, up to 64 hrs/month, \$25/hr, thru 2024. For details and to apply, email [Jan Gibeau, coa@townofchesterfieldma.com](mailto:Jan.Gibeau@townofchesterfieldma.com)

Web Content Manager

Web Content Manager needed. The Digital Literacy program of Northern Hilltowns Consortium of COAs seeks an experienced Web Content Manager for website dynamic content, enhancements, video posting to YouTube, and usage tracking. PT, 22.5 hrs/mo, \$25/hr, thru 2024. For details and to apply, email [Jan Gibeau, coa@townofchesterfieldma.com](mailto:Jan.Gibeau@townofchesterfieldma.com).

Graphic Designer & Digital Communications

Graphic designer / digital communications needed. The Northern Hilltowns Consortium of COAs Digital Literacy program is seeking an experienced graphic designer familiar with web and social media to implement our promotional plan. PT, 22.5 hrs/mo, \$25/hr, thru 2024. For details and to apply, email [Jan Gibeau, coa@townofchesterfieldma.com](mailto:Jan.Gibeau@townofchesterfieldma.com)

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Chef Kashouh to teach fall classes

HOLYOKE – Chef Nadim Kashouh, owner of the celebrated Springfield restaurant, Nadim’s Downtown Mediterranean Grill, will be sharing more kitchen secrets during a series of fall classes at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute.

Kashouh taught his first-ever classes at HCC this summer and will return to Holyoke Community College four times this fall on Thursdays, Sept. 28, Oct. 19, Nov. 16 and Dec. 14 from 6-9 p.m. at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St.

In each stand-alone class, participants will learn to cook and are encouraged to consume a different five-course meal right off the menu of Chef Nadim’s popular restaurant. “Each night’s meal will be different,” said Kashouh. “We bring in staples like the hummus and baba ghanoush and stews that pair very well with rice. It’s five courses. We do an appetizer, a salad, a meat, a starch and a dessert.”

Chef Nadim will also be sharing some of his favorite wines imported from his native Lebanon.

Here are the menus for each night: Sept. 28 Hummus, Baba, Tabouli, simmered chicken with Hashwee rice, Ismalia for dessert; Oct. 19 Hummus, Cheese roll-up, Mediterranean salad, simmered lamb with Hashwee rice, rice pudding for dessert; Nov. 16 Hummus, meat roll-up, Fattoush salad, Cannellini

lamb stew served with rice pilaf, Ismalia for dessert and Dec. 14 Hummus, Falafel, Tabouli, Green bean, and lamb stew served with rice pilaf and Rice pudding for dessert.

“I promise it will be tons of fun,” said Kashouh. “It’s a very interactive class. It’s hands-on, if you want it to be. If you don’t, it will still be three hours full of tasting, laughing, and enjoying what I’m putting together for them.”

The cost is \$189 per session. Beer and wine is included in the cost. Seats are limited. To register, people should visit hcc.edu/cookingfa23.



Chef Nadim Kashouh will be teaching classes this fall at Holyoke Community College. *Submitted photo*

Colleges, universities announces President and Dean Lists

Elmira College Elmira, New York Key Award

Taylor Mason of Worthington, Sophia Aquino of Easthampton, Thatcher Berman of Blandford, Quinn Rowe of Westfield and Grace Riga of Westfield

Holyoke Community College Holyoke Dean List

Corey Adam Armastus of Becket, Alan Martin of Easthampton, Laura Elizabeth McDermott of Easthampton, Devin James Reilly of Easthampton, Karina Vaid of Easthampton, Thomas James Geryk of Florence, Edward Charles Sarafin of Florence, Matthew Ryan Geary of Haydenville, Rebecca Thelma Boisseau of Huntington, Leah May Wilson of Huntington, Joshua King of Lenox, Dylan Thomas Cowart of Northampton, Jeronimo Fernandez of Northampton, Ryan Christopher Gerwe of Northampton, Madeleine Gerwie Wolfe of Northampton, Jaylynn Marie Grout of Southamton, Wilson Mark Heath of Southamton, Emily Yan of Southamton, Dawn Lynn Belows of Westfield, Alicia Carolina Booth of Westfield, Carissa

Jacqueline Childs of Westfield, Anna Catherine Collier of Westfield, Catherine Nicole Jones of Westfield, Katelynn Sullivan of Westfield and Alyssa J. Wiatrowski of Westfield

Southern New Hampshire University Manchester, New Hampshire President List

Emmelia Gardner of Westfield, Nicholas Gallaher of Westfield, Jason Ilnicki of Huntington, Doan Dulude of Chester, Hannah D’Amico of Chesterfield, Lisandra RiveraLucena of Easthampton, Taylor Amado of Easthampton, Amanda Gadaire of Otis, Michelle Rodriguez of Westfield, Dante Lee of Westfield and Mikaela Spence of Worthington

Southern New Hampshire University Manchester, New Hampshire Dean List

Dana Shambo of Westfield

State University of New York Cortland, New York Honor Roll

Abigail Bang of Montgomery

BLANDFORD

CONCERN

from page 1

Highway

Salt and Sand prices are \$72.60 for salt, \$93.60 for treated salt and \$18.75 for sand, all per ton.

He told the board that he is losing one employee and the position will be posted.

Reichert requested the ditches on Blair Road be cleared and Waldron assured him that they were fine. Reichert suggested the road be crowned more so the water would runoff better.

Waldron said the crown for now is “good.”

The roads were crowned until “we had all this rain,” he said, and this takes time. Time is the biggest thing and “when it rains, we have to do it again.”

Cousineau asked about the growth over the leaching field for the Town Hall, but Waldron was not concerned about drainage.

Henrichon asked about the weight on the Beech Hill Road bridge and was assured the bridge could handle the truck

traffic now traveling that road.

Town Administrator report

Dunne brought the board up to date on fire inspection service costs. He is looking at additional grant funds available potentially for tree maintenance. The Resilient Road grant is now in the beaver phase and he will be working with homeowners impacted by beavers’ dams.

He presented a draft of a snow and ice policy for review.

Lynn Kane, Treasurer/Collector, turned her resignation in to Dunne effective Thursday, Sept. 28. Dunne said he planned to have Sara Hunter back in the position in October.

North Blandford Cemetery

There was an incident at the North Blandford Cemetery on Blair Road with a driver who ran over new plantings and apparently tried to exit the cemetery via a non-existent exit. Cousineau said he checked with the State Police so he could have a report for his records, but was

referred to the Town Police.

Other business

Every five years each town’s select board has to locate the town’s corner markers. Blandford has not done this for some time and Dunne suggested making a scavenger hunt out of finding the markers, and involving residents. More information will be forth coming.

Letendre and Dunne will be advisory board members for the Franklin Regional Transit Authority.

The board then adjourned and moved on to the Public Hearing for a utility pole on Julius Hall Road across the street from the Henrichon home. Henrichon was concerned about the possibility of his power being off for any length of time, but Nicloe Scarbro of Eversource, who participated remotely said she thought the work would be done without having any loss of power.

The board approved the pole location and the hearing closed.

Submissions are always welcome.

Send us your engagement, wedding, baby, anniversary and graduation news and photos.

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AA/EOE

BLANDFORD

HAPPENINGS

from page 1

White Church.

The Fire Department, along with Massachusetts State Police were on site at the westbound service plaza to work the scene of the car fire. Apparently, the driver of the rental car and passengers realized there was a problem and moved the car to the side of the parking lot, but not before inside attendants disengaged the gas pumps and also hit the fire suppression button.

This caused huge billowing clouds of fine powder, which is baking soda, used to extinguish a gas or oil fire.

Rachel Dominique of Salt Lake City, Utah, who was outside her car when the powder suppressant was released, was treated for breathing issues. She was fine and did not require transportation to a hospital.

The driver of the car which was smoking, Linda Luciano of Troy, New York was returning from a Cape Cod stay and had friends and family with her.

Friday evening began the setup for the Church's Community Day. Saturday, dry weather encouraged the turnout and the bounce house and accompanying children's games and face-painting. Eve Droma watched over those proceedings and the children enjoyed themselves.

Anne Savery-Emo grilled burgers and Pastor Ciprian Droma produced trays of Bratwurst sausage. The picnic included all the accompanying sides, condiments and drinks. There were also set-ups for Cotton Candy, Popcorn and Snow Cones. Each treat readily enjoyed by all.

The Czjaja family band presented a number of songs and hymns. Granddaughter Elana Czjaja sang an original composition and the group was joined by grandson Jeremiah Smith on banjo and Polly the Fiddler. The fun and neighbor get-together continued through the afternoon.

Dale Buchannon's The Dale Show was another event in a separate non-definable category. He accompanied himself with three prepared video screens all in sync. Sometimes the videos represented guitars, drums and keyboard, other times vocalists, additional guitars and all synchronized. The videos were labeled California, Hawaii, Colorado and Arizona. All places Buchannon has performed.

There were multi-colored lights that played the venue; walls and ceiling. Better than a disco ball as the lighting could be directed. The range of tunes was all inclusive, suited to all ages; his specialty. He played the song, "When you Smile," which he wrote for his wife, Dale.

The enthusiastic audience actively engaged in seat dancing and toe-tapping. "Go Johnny Go" concluded the evening but cries for "one more" produced the encore "6 to 4" by Chicago.

It did not rain until late in the night. Sunday night's Hymn Sing was a welcome, peaceful and restorative ending to the busy weekend.

Ron Hess once again led the 100-voice choir for the greater part of the evening, with others leading the request period and the children's chorus.

The dinner afterwards was held in the gym at the Town Hall because of the rain.

The chorus is made up of Mennonite voices from all over and the Blandford event is somewhat of a rehearsal for the New York City trip to remember 9/11. Departure for the city was in the wee hours of Monday morning. The group has been doing this ever since to counsel and remember those who lost their lives that day.



Maddy Barney makes Cotton Candy treats.



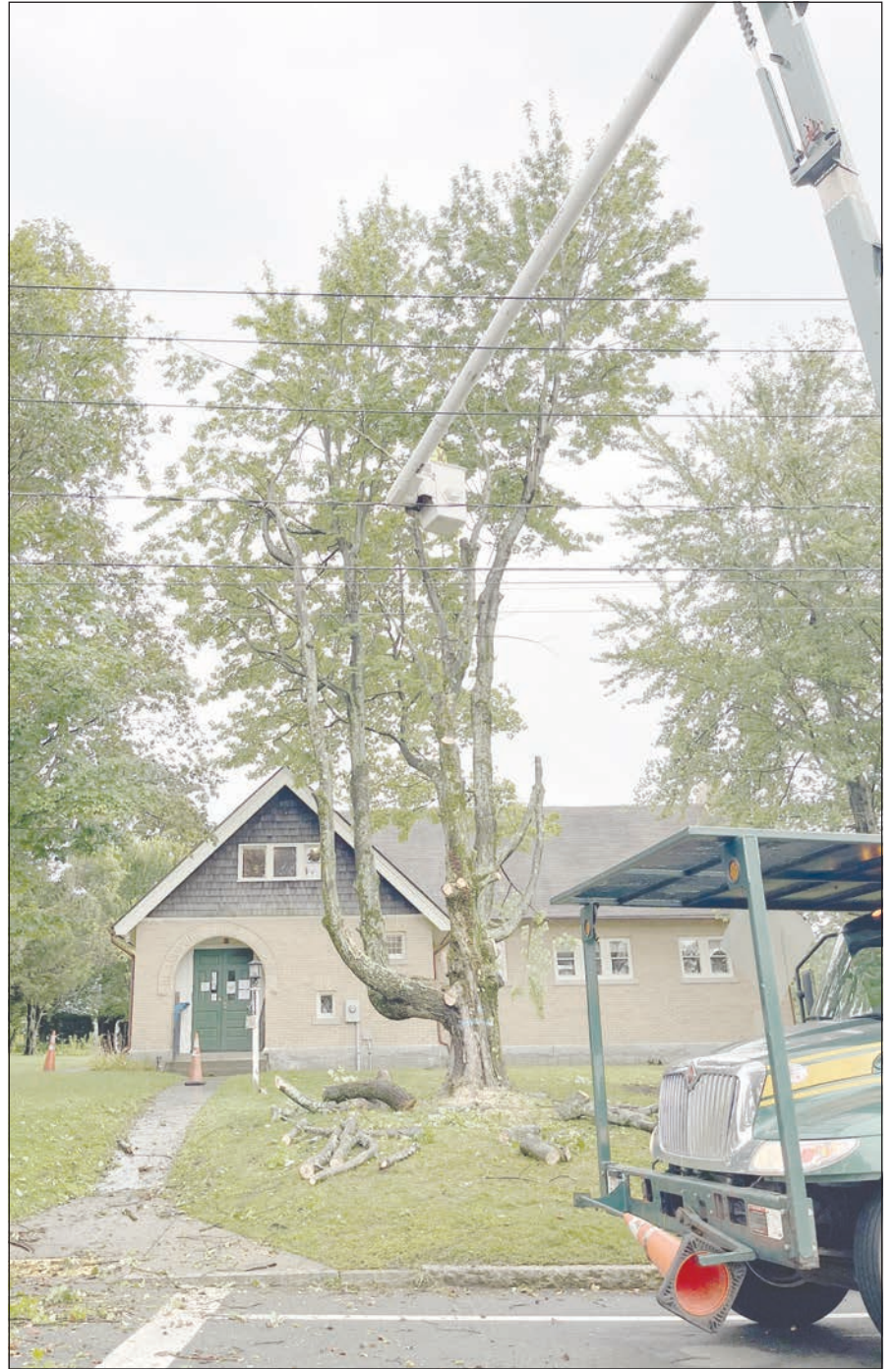
Ann Southworth attends the Mennonite Old Time Hymn Sing Sunday evening at The White Church.



Tiger, alias Patrick St. Jean, at the Community Day event.



Chemical suppressant residue, which is baking soda, is visible from the Mass Turnpike overpass on North Street Friday afternoon. Photos by Mary Kronholm



A tree company remove a maple tree in front of the Porter Memorial Library in Blandford.

Photo by Mary Kronholm

Library tree comes down

BLANDFORD – The maple tree at the edge of the sidewalk at the Porter Memorial Library was taken down Monday morning.

The tree posed a threat to the utility lines as well as the library, according to Eversource.

The tree had "many dead spots (branches)," according to Director

Nicole Daviau, "It needed to happen," she added.

There are limbs left on the lawn, which anyone can take for firewood.

The tree removal also marks the beginning of the installation of a Little Free Library on the stump and the new outdoor space, which will be a patio in front of the library.

NOTICE

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

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SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- Monday - Starting 9/11 Open for Football with 50¢ Wings
- Tuesday - Music Bingo 7-10pm
- Wed. - Karaoke - Henry 7-11pm
- Thursday - Karaoke - DJ PaPo 7-10pm
- Friday 8th - Shovelhead 7-11pm
- 16th - Paul's Music Show 7-11pm
- 22nd - Murphy's Law 7-10pm
- 29th - Faith Rheault Acoustic 7-10pm
- Saturday - Open
- Sunday - Starting 9/10 for Football 1-6pm

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CHESTER

CHESTER LIBRARY OFFERS ANCESTRY.COM



Director of Hamilton Memorial Library in Chester Tammy Merenda is shown at The Cliffs of Moher Ireland. Her ancestors lived only miles from here back in 1817. She discovered her lineage by utilizing Ancestry.com. Ancestry.com is available for free for all patrons of the Hamilton Memorial Library, 195 West Main St. to use. Submitted photo

Annual Hobo Harvest Dinner reservations now being taken

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

CHESTER – The Chester Railway Station will host its 14th Annual Hobo Harvest Dinner on Saturday, Oct. 14 at the station, located at 10 Prospect St.

Planners are expecting over 200 diners this year and reservations must be made before Wednesday, Oct. 11.

“We are largely returning to a traditional format,” reports Dave Pierce, President of the Chester Foundation, who added that to-go meals can also be ordered. Seatings will take place every 15 minutes for the convenience of patrons, beginning at 4:15 p.m. and continuing through 6 p.m.

The menu includes Hobo beef stew, corn (using a recipe from the New Haven Railroad Cookbook), side salad, rolls and

butter and a slice of apple or pumpkin pie. Water, cider or lemonade will be available.

“Melissa McAuliffe is our new in-house chef. She brings years of experience to the job,” Pierce said.

Prices vary for sit-down and to-go meals. Those dining in with choice of beverage will be charged \$14 for adults and \$10 for children under age 12. To-go meals without drinks will be \$12 for adults and \$8 for children under age 12.

Reservations are required. To place an order and choose a seating time, people may call 413-354-7878 or email dave@chesterrailwaystation.net. They should leave a message with their name, phone number, the number of people in their party and their preferred arrival time. Organizers will get back to them to confirm.

Western Mass Hilltown Hikers plans hiking tour in Chester

CHESTER – The Western Mass Hilltown Hikers will tour the Chester Historic Factory Village on Sunday, Sept. 17 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Participants may park at Housatonic Heritage Special Event

Parking and start of tour at the Chester Railway Station Museum, 10 Prospect St. Overflow parking is along Main Street, Prospect Street and at Chester Common Table, all located within the radius of the Railway Museum).

The group will start at the Chester Railway Museum for this easy, two-mile loop. The Hilltown Hikers will provide a

narrated tour by Dave Pierce of Chester Railway Museum and John Garvey of Chester Historical of the history of Chester Village.

Established in 1783, we will visit the historic buildings of early industry and railroad history including; the Chester Granite Company, Pratt Truss Bridge, Irish Dormitory, Jail, Feed Store, White’s Hotel (1850), Bevan’s Drugstore, Pease Dry Goods Store, The Chester Becket Railroad Trail including trestle, High School/Grammar School and more.

The Railway Museum and Historical Society will be open before the walk.

Heritage Areas around the U.S. have distinctive histories, geographies, natural resources and fascinating stories to tell. This heritage area comprises nine towns in Northwest Connecticut and 20 in Berkshire County.

There are 49 Heritage Areas in the U.S. U.S. Congress has designated these areas, which are funded through the National Park Service.

All ages and all people are invited to join in this hike. The Housatonic Heritage Walks are a partnership between the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area, the numerous heritage

organizations in the Upper Housatonic River Valley, the Berkshire Visitors Bureau and the National Park Service.

Participants should register per car load by visiting <https://westernmasshilltownhikers.ticketleap.com>. Maps and bottled water are provided. Hikers should be prepared for rocks, roots and some elevation. They will hike rain or shine. Friendly dogs are welcome. Suggestion donation is \$10, hike is volunteer lead. More details are available by visiting www.hilltownhikers.com. People may email westernmasshilltownhikers@aol.com or call/text 413-302-0312 if they have any questions.

BECKET

Becket Art Center lists events

BECKET – The Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, will present a speaker series on Sunday, Sept. 17 from 4-6 p.m. with a rare double billing of state Senator Paul Mark and Berkshire Immigrant Center’s Lorena Dus.

Sen. Mark represents Becket and 57 other towns and cities in Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire Counties. He previously served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives representing the 2nd Berkshire District.

He will be discussing his role as Senator, the committees on which he serves and how the state budget and legislation can impact the region in general and Becket in particular.

Lorena Dus is Director of Client and

Community Services of the Berkshire Immigrants Center, which she joined in 2017. A native of Venezuela, she assists clients in navigating the complex U.S. immigration system. She will speak about the challenges they face as well as the contributions they bring to the Berkshire community.

The event is free and open to the public. People may visit www.becketartscenter.org for more information

The Becket Arts Center will hold its monthly Music Circle evening on Tuesday, Sept. 19 from 7 -9 p.m. Musicians, music-appreciators and everyone else are welcome. For more information, people may visit www.becketartscenter.org.

Becket Art Center holds exhibit

BECKET – The Becket Art Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, will hold their last juried show of this year beginning with an artist reception on Saturday, Sept. 16 from 2-4 p.m.

This juried exhibit will run Thursday, Sept. 14 through Monday,

Oct. 2.

On Sunday, Sept. 17 at 4 p.m. state Sen. Paul Mark will speak as part of the center’s speaker series. Gallery and gift shop hours are Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays from noon-4 p.m.

BCC announces 2024 grant cycle

BECKET – The Becket Cultural Council provides grants to community-oriented arts, humanities and science programs that benefit the Becket community.

Priority is given to organizations, projects, event, and programs that support the local community, emphasize cultural diversity and offer experiences for local residents to enjoy.

They accept applications that spe-

cifically benefit the local Becket community, supported through local venues, have dates, times and local sponsorship already established. The Cultural Council will begin accepting grant applications for the 2024 cycle from Sept 1 through Tuesday, Oct 17.

The application process is via the Mass Cultural Council online or email Cathy Terwedow at cterwedo@gmail.com for more information.

MIDDLEFIELD

Council on Aging lists menu

MIDDLEFIELD – The Middlefield Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail on Wednesday, Aug. 20 will serve lunch at noon.

The menu is eat in or take out. The choice is tuna noodle casserole or savory meatloaf, mashed potatoes, peas,

diner roll and applesauce.

People should call 413-623-9990 to reserve a meal the previous Monday, Sept. 18.

Council on Aging Board will meet on Wednesday, Aug. 20 at 1 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Special Town Meeting on Sept. 30

MIDDLEFIELD – The town of Middlefield will be holding a Special Town Meeting on Saturday, Sept. 30 at 11 a.m. in the Middlefield Town Hall, 188 Skyline Trail.

The purpose of the STM is to acquire land on Skyline Trail for clos-

ing of the landfill and also to dedicate the Town Center Park for park and recreational use.

For further information, people may visit the town website at <https://www.middlefieldma.site> to view the STM warrant.

MONTGOMERY

Library offers concerts, book sale

MONTGOMERY – Music in Montgomery at the Montgomery Town Hall and Grace Hall Memorial Library, 161 North Main Road, will be held every Thursday at 3 p.m.

There is lots of room to dance. On Thursday, Sept. 14 is Peter Rzasza, Sara Miller and Barry Searle for sweet rock and country. On Thursday, Sept. 21 is Ron and Ronnie with heartsongs from the 1940s forward and on Thursday, Sept. 28 has Larry Southard: vocals and guitar.

People should contact Dale at the Gray Catbird Pottery and gift shop for more information at 413-875-5205.

“In the Wee small Hours” Cabaret Concert will be held at the Grace Hall Memorial Library on Sept. 16 at 1 p.m. It’s a movable feast of songs

from the Great American Song book with singer Mary Jo Maichack and the exciting keyboard accompaniment of Bob Shepherd. This is sponsored by the Montgomery Cultural Council, the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Grace Hall Memorial Library. For more information, people may call the library at 413-862-3894.

Book donations by appointment only for the Annual Fall Book sale will be throughout September and until Thursday, Oct. 5. People may call the library at 413-862-3894 or email montgomerylibrary@yahoo.com to make an appointment. The library does not accept any text books, Readers Digest books or encyclopedias. Books must be mold and water damaged free.

PITTSFIELD

Country fair returns to Hancock Shaker Village

PITTSFIELD – The 26th Annual Country Fair at Hancock Shaker Village returns on Saturday, Sept. 23 to Sunday, Sept. 24 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

The iconic autumn event in the Berkshires once again features a wide variety of activities and events across the village. Of the over 60 artisanal craft vendors, there are soap-makers, weavers, blacksmiths and metal forgers, jewelry-makers and woodworkers along with an array of fine other artists and craftsmen.

In addition, there will be musical performances each day along with food trucks and locally brewed beer and cider. On Saturday, Sept. 23, there will also be an antique car show to celebrate the 100th birthday of the Shakers' 1923 REO sedan.

"Country Fair has been a family tradition for generations in the Berkshires and marks the arrival of fall and one of the most beautiful seasons to visit the village. We are excited about the program this year which has something for everyone from early

American craft demonstrations including timber framing, to oval box making to broom making to pony rides and face painting as well as the Harvest of Quilts, where the Shaker tradition of fine craftsmanship is celebrated in this eye-popping display of historic and modern quilts in the Round Stone Barn" says Carrie Holland, Vice Chair and Interim Director, Hancock Shaker Village.

For more information on Country Fair, people may visit HancockShakerVillage.org/events. Country Fair is generously sponsored by Adam Community Bank.

Home to the Shakers for almost 200 years, Hancock Shaker Village is the preeminent Shaker living history museum in the United States. With 20 historic buildings on 750 acres, Hancock Shaker Village brings the Shaker story to life and preserves it for future generations. For more information about Hancock Shaker Village, people may email Michael Crotty at mcrotty@hancockshakervillage.org.

OTIS

Otis Library lists events

OTIS – The Otis Library, 48 North Main St., will feature the book "Different A Great Thing to Be" now through Friday, Sept. 29.

The story walk is located behind St. Mary's of the Lakes Church. The Lego Club will meet Saturday, Sept. 23

at 1 p.m. in the library.

The Otis Book Club meets Tuesday, Oct. 3 at 4 p.m. in the library. All are welcome. The book selection is "The Wind Knows my Name" by Isabel Allende. Copies are available at the library.

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.

GOSHEN

GCC to hold clothing exchange

GOSHEN – The Goshen Congregational Church, 45 Main St., will hold a fall clothing exchange at the church on Saturday, Sept. 30 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

People may drop off donations of gently used clothing for men, women and children on Wednesday, Sept. 27

from 6-9 p.m. and Friday, Sept. 29 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the church. Any fall and winter clothing, accessories such as shoes, boots and handbags will be accepted. Spring and summer clothing will be accepted as well.

On Saturday, Sept. 30 all clothing is free, but donations will be accepted.

Junior Olympics set for Sept. 17

GOSHEN – The Hilltown Junior Olympics will be holding its 42nd event on Sunday Sept. 17 from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Tilton Field in Goshen.

In 1979, a Cummington man had an idea that the youngsters of six hilltowns could get together for a day of races and games. Stanley Svoboda wanted children to experience the original Olympic dream and realize that the important thing is not to win, but to take part. This concept helped form the Hilltown Junior Olympics.

The games have grown from the first year, when 95 children from ages 5 – 14 participated. The number of participants in the September contests now hovers around 200 youth.

Individual contests at the games include a 40 or 70 yard dash (dependent on age), baseball throw, horseshoe toss,

standing or running broad jump, bean bag toss, soccer kick, shot put and basketball shoot.

The team events include a tug-a-war, relay race and an obstacle course.

Although the Hilltown Junior Olympics, from the lighting of the torch to the closing ceremonies, last only one day, preparation begins months in advance. Each hilltown takes turns hosting the Olympics on a rotating basis.

Participants each receive a memento for their participation, while event winners receive medals. All participants and volunteers receive a free lunch.

The Olympic Creed said, "The important thing in the Olympic games is not to win, but to take part. The important thing in life is not the triumph, but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered, but to have fought."

HAYDENVILLE

HCC to hold art show, auction

HAYDENVILLE – An art show and an online auction are on tap this month at the Haydenville Congregational Church, 143 Main St.

Bidding is now open for the auction, which has a big range of goods and services, including art work, jewelry, food, lessons and services, Native American crafts items, furniture, yard items, outdoor gear, dolls and toys.

According to church trustee, Megan Jewett, the online auction benefits the church and the Williamsburg "Take and Eat" program that supplies seniors with

weekend meals.

The auction ends Saturday, Sept. 16, which is the day of an Art Show and Sale held on the grounds of the church from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. More than a dozen artisans from the area will display their work.

Auction items will be on display in the church dining room during the Art Fair with bidding ending at the end of the fair. The fair will also feature a variety of based goods for sale.

More details and a link to the auction site can be found by visiting the church web site at haydenvillechurch.org.

RUSSELL

RCC seeks funding proposals

RUSSELL – The Russell Cultural Council seeks proposals from organizations, schools and individuals seeking funding to support programs in the arts and humanities in the community.

Applications may be submitted on-line only and must be received by Tuesday, Oct. 17. People should apply online at <https://massculturalcouncil.smart-simple.com>. Late applications will not be accepted.

According to Council spokesperson Lorrie Bean, these grants can support a variety of artistic projects and activities in the greater Russell community including exhibits, festivals, field trips or performances in schools, workshops and lectures.

The Russell 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 the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community. This year the Russell Cultural Council received \$5,500.

For more information, people may visit <https://massculturalcouncil.org>.

PARTICIPANTS PARTICIPATE IN FOREST ECOLOGY HIKE

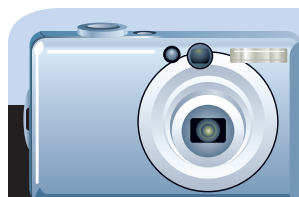


Noble View Outdoor Center of Russell sponsored a forest ecology hike to Sodom Brook by Dr. Tim Parshall from the Environmental Science Department of Westfield State University.



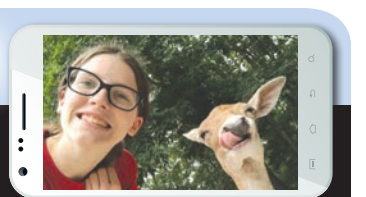
Dr. Tim Parshall demonstrated to participants how and why to core a tree.

Photos submitted



Send Us Your Photos!

countryjournal@turley.com



WESTHAMPTON

HRMC household hazardous waste set for Oct. 21

WESTHAMPTON – The annual Household Hazardous Waste collection will be held on Saturday, Oct. 21 from 9 a.m.-noon at the Westhampton Transfer Station, 58 Hathaway Road.

Pre-Registration is required and will be open from Sunday, Oct. 1 through Monday, Oct. 16. People can preregister by email ing_hrmc@hrmc-ma.org, or calling 413-685-5498.

They will need to provide their name, the town they reside in and their phone number. They will get confirmation and a pre-registration form.

They can also see the Hilltown Regional Management Cooperative Administrator in person on Saturday, Oct. 14, from 8 a.m.-2:45 p.m. at the Town of Chesterfield Transfer Station, 69 Willcutt Road, Chesterfield to offer pre-registration and distribute registration forms. This is open to all ten towns.

Items include pesticides, fungi-

cides, herbicides, insect sprays, small quantities liquid mercury products, rodent killers, muriatic acid, used motor oil, flea powder, no-pest strips, chemical fertilizers, lighter fluid, swimming pool chemicals, rust proofers, wood preservatives, wood strippers and stains, paint thinners, oil based paint, varnish, aerosol cans, sealants, adhesives, fiberglass resins, drain cleaners, oven cleaners, floor cleaners, toilet cleaners, carpet cleaners, metal polish, moth balls, chemistry kits, antifreeze, old gasoline, kerosene, brake fluid, transmission fluid, engine degreaser, carburetor cleaner, radiator flusher, roofing tar and non-latex driveway sealer. There is a 25 gallon limit

Empty containers, latex paint, pharmaceuticals, medical waste, fireworks, flares, propane tanks, lightbulbs and batteries are not allowed. For more information, people may call the HRMC at 413-685-5498.

Cultural Council seeks applications

WESTHAMPTON – The Westhampton Cultural Council invites artists, musicians, performers and community groups to submit applications for its 2024 round of grants.

The Cultural Council funds classes, presentations and performances in and near Westhampton, with a goal of supporting and broadening cultural and social awareness. In 2023, the Westhampton Cultural Council awarded \$6,500 in full or partial funding to 15 successful applicants. Grants ranged from \$250 to \$1,200, and supported a range of programs and events, including outdoor concerts, classical music concert

series, arts classes, local theater presentations and visual arts courses.

Funding is provided by the state via allocations from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Local Cultural Council members are Westhampton residents appointed by the Select Board.

The application deadline for 2024 programs is Tuesday, Oct. 17. Applications should be submitted online by visiting <https://massculturalcouncil.smartsimple.com/>.

More details can be found on the Westhampton Cultural Council page by visiting the Town's website at www.westhampton-ma.com.

STOCKBRIDGE

Congregational church to hold concert

STOCKBRIDGE – The First Congregational Church United Church of Christ, 4 Main St., announces a concert entitled “Soprano Riot” to take place on Saturday, Sept. 30 at 7:30 p.m.

Sopranos Nellie Rustick and Amy Shake will team up with pianist David Anderegg to present a concert of music for one and two sopranos. Repertoire to be performed includes Aaron Copland settings of texts by Emily Dickinson, Lori Leitman's settings of texts by Margaret Atwood and songs by Florence Price using poems of Langston Hughes. There will also be two world premieres: the complete “Songs from a Bad Year” and “Two Vocalises for Enrique” by David Anderegg.

Nellie Rustick is a versatile

Columbia County-based soprano and actor whose most recent appearances have been as Gerhilde in Wagner's Die Valkyrie in the Tundi Wagner festival in Brattleboro and as Eleanor Roosevelt in the musical Eleanor at the Strand Theater in Hoosick Falls. Amy Shake is a singer and voice teacher based in the Albany area. She has appeared in a wide variety of roles with the Hubbard Hall Opera Theatre, MosaicArts, Burnt Hills Oratorio Society, Hillman Opera, Western New York Chamber Orchestra, Octavo Singers and Lyric Arts International.

Suggested donation for the concert is \$20. The proceeds will support all the programs of the church. For further information, people may call the church office at 413-298-3137.

NORTHAMPTON

Cooley Dickinson Hospital receives \$100K gift from Greenfield Cooperative Bank

NORTHAMPTON – Cooley Dickinson Hospital announced it received a \$100,000 gift from Greenfield Cooperative Bank to support the expansion and renovation of Cooley Dickinson's emergency department.

The gift is the first of a new \$1 million fundraising challenge. “This incredibly generous gift in support of the Emergency Department is an investment in our shared commitment to a healthy Pioneer Valley,” said Dr. Lynnette Watkins, president and COO of Cooley Dickinson, “We are honored and grateful to Greenfield Cooperative Bank for this gift of support, which will benefit their customers, our

patients, and our collective communities by providing access to the region's top providers and leading health care services in a newly renovated and expanded space.”

The gift from Greenfield Cooperative Bank will support the hospital's \$26 million project, which will add 7,700 square feet, nine new patient rooms, eight behavioral health beds, and a family waiting area. The emergency room will also add a CT scanning machine, for more timely access to diagnostic imaging, and be reconfigured to an oval configuration. To accomplish this goal, the hospital has embarked on an ambitious and comprehensive fundraising campaign, raising nearly

\$7.2 million to date. The project, which will increase the current space by 40%, broke ground in July and is expected to be completed in 2025.

“Cooley Dickinson is a vital part of the health of our neighbors in the Valley and this donation is a way for us to show our support for the hospital and the people it serves,” said Tony Worden, president and CEO of Greenfield Cooperative Bank, “Many of our staff, family, and friends have needed to receive care at the emergency department. We are grateful for the work that the hospital does, and we are thrilled to help them continue their mission.”

Cooley Dickinson's Chief

WESTFIELD

Westfield Athenaeum plans trip to Clark Art Museum

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Athenaeum will host a trip for art lovers to the Clark Art Museum on Friday, Sept. 22.

Bus transportation, lunch at the Red Lion Inn in Stockbridge, entry into the museum, a docent tour of the Munch exhibit and all tips and fees are included in the price of \$125 per person. A bus lecture by Athenaeum Director Guy McLain will also be included in the day's activities.

The bus will depart from the Athenaeum at 11 a.m. and return at around 7 p.m. People can get their tickets in person at the circulation desk or by visiting online at www.westath.org.

The featured show at the Clark is a huge exhibit showcasing the Norwegian artist, Edvard Munch, famously known for his painting “the Scream.” Titled “Edvard Munch: Trembling Earth,” this is the first exhibition in the United States to consider how the noted Norwegian artist employed nature to convey meaning in his art. Munch is regarded primarily as a figure painter and his most celebrated paintings employ themes usually centered around love, anxiety, longing

and death.

This exhibit, featuring more than 75 paintings, explores Munch's use of landscape, most often the forests and fjords of his native Scandinavia, to create a mysterious world connected to dreams, nostalgic longing, and human anxieties. This show also draws on new research which shows that Munch was employing his art to address issues surrounding the interaction of humans with nature.

This exhibit also presents the viewer the opportunity to explore Munch's unique painting style. His work, bursting onto the art scene as early as the 1880s, employed an original combination of Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, and Symbolism. Early influences included Paul Gauguin, Vincent Van Gogh, and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. He was also influenced by the literary work of August Strinberg. Later in his career he employed many of the techniques of early Modernism, always with the goal of exploring the deepest recesses of the human psyche.

This show is a must see for anyone interested in the art of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

Artist Felice Caivano to exhibit at Westfield Athenaeum

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Athenaeum announces the opening of Labors of Love: Doilies and Lace Reimagined featuring the site-specific installation titled, “Uncredited” by the artist Felice Caivano.

The exhibition will be on view from now to Saturday, Oct 28.

An artist's reception will take place Thursday, Sept. 14 from 6-8 pm. The reception is open to the public and refreshments will be served.

Utilizing hundreds of doilies to cover the walls of the Jasper Rand Gallery, this site-specific installation, “Uncredited” employs the traditional needle art of doilies to draw attention to the anonymous and largely unappreciated creativity of ordinary women working with meticulous artisanship over the past century. This installation seeks to celebrate the makers of these intricate and imaginative designs that countless women have employed to decorate the home and create a space of comfort and dignity.

“I see the individual doily as a shared symbol of customs that suggest the transfer of material culture by the way of needlework practices,” says Caivano. “Each common doily serves as a reminder of the many hands of their makers and the varied traditions

they represent.”

A companion work of hand embroidered doilies titled, When, highlights the disparity of women's wages compared to men's income since the Equal Pay Act of 1963. Each of the hand-embroidered vintage doilies that make up this work represents the annual percentages women earned on the dollar as compared to men. The artwork is fashioned in the shape of a dollar sign with the individual doilies embroidered using metallic thread in copper, silver and gold, like coins or the subtle color of off-white to underscore the lower wage amounts women earned for their work.

Felice Caivano is a visual artist living in Western Massachusetts. She is chair of the Visual Art Department at Holyoke Community College and was the Fine Arts Curator at Trinity College for many years. Caivano has been a Visiting Artist at the American Academy of Rome, Italy, and an Artist in Residence at the Scuola Internazionale di Grafica in Venice. She also received a Fellowship in Sculpture from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. She earned a BFA from the Hartford Art School and an MFA from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Development Officer, Diane Dukette, said that the generosity of the bank will have an equally transformational impact as the kickoff gift for the \$1M Harold Grinspoon Foundation Challenge.

Cooley Dickinson is expected to serve 40,000 emergency department patients this year in a 1970s-era building that was designed for 17,000 patients annually. A shortage of space means that some patients are treated in hallways. The department also needs to expand its services to care for an aging population (triple what it was just 10 years ago) and provide additional beds for those experiencing mental health emergencies.

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THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES
Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, a goal you have been working toward is nearing completion. Take time to reflect on all it took to make the goal come to fruition.

CANCER
Jun 22/Jul 22
A partnership will get even stronger this week, Cancer. It could be a relationship with a spouse or even a business partner. You'll benefit from this added strength.

LIBRA
Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, even though you have been a veritable social butterfly lately, you may need to rest your wings for a little bit this week. Slow down and stick closer to home.

CAPRICORN
Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, get ready to take center stage these next few days and bask in the limelight. Everyone seemingly wants to get a piece of you and you might be pulled in different directions.

TAURUS
Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, try to get away on a vacation, even if it's just a weekend jaunt. There's never been a time you could use a little getaway more than right now. Push this into the priority zone.

LEO
Jul 23/Aug 23
You may take immense pleasure from doing mundane chores. Washing windows, organizing the garage, sorting through unused clothes ... these are all things to keep busy.

SCORPIO
Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, people might be quick to call you mysterious this week, but you just might be an open book. Share as much as you desire with others.

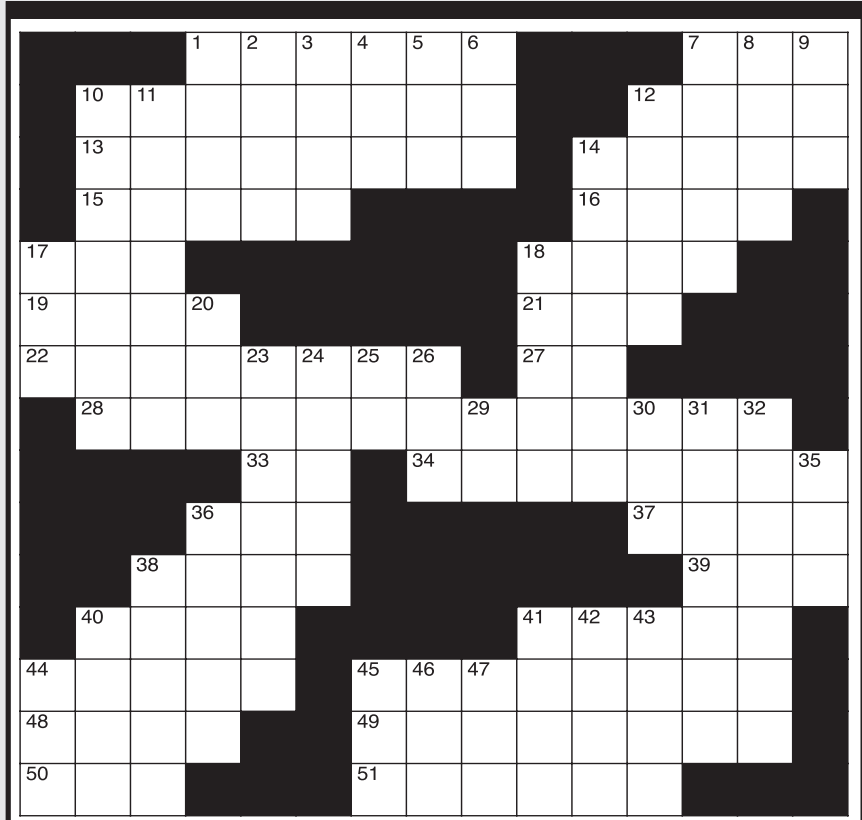
AQUARIUS
Jan 21/Feb 18
You are coming off of a season of easy living. But don't expect the apple cart to be upset. The times of smooth sailing have only just begun.

GEMINI
May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, it is time to get more movement into your daily activities. Don't you want to be in the best possible health? Incorporate more exercise gradually with activities you enjoy.

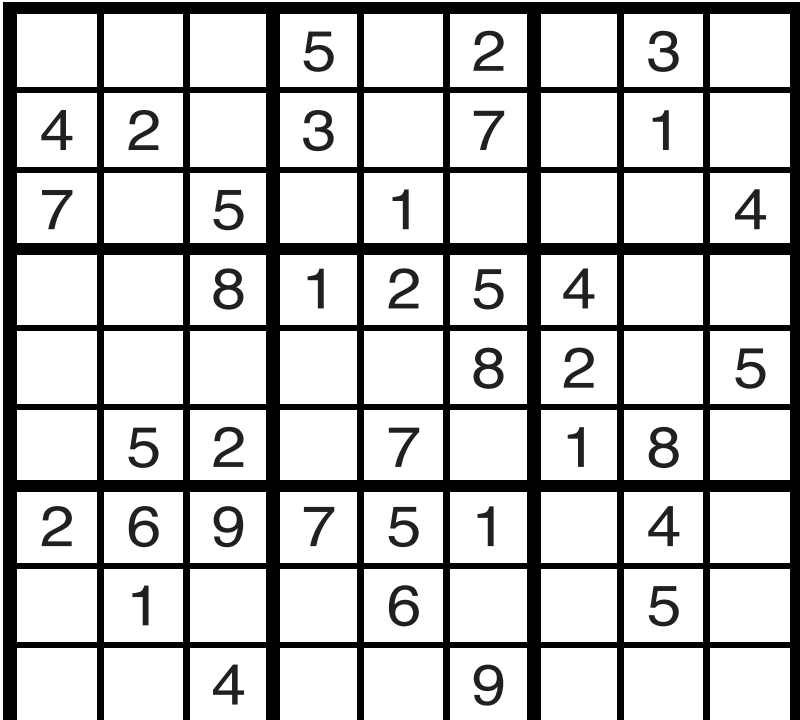
VIRGO
Aug 24/Sept 22
Your chart lands you in the sector of romance, creativity and passion this week, Virgo. Embrace all of these elements in your life to the fullest.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, define what you consider valuable, then do everything in your means to pursue those things. Setting goals can help.

PISCES
Feb 19/Mar 20
It's all about team spirit right now, Pisces. Don't do anything alone for the next several days. You need people in your corner cheering you and others on.



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Type of crayon
 - 7. Fashion accessory
 - 10. Most cerebral
 - 12. Incline from vertical
 - 13. Dependent on
 - 14. Broken in
 - 15. Strongly desires
 - 16. Mounted soldier
 - 17. Ad ___: when necessary
 - 18. Cattle
 - 19. Ottoman military commanders
 - 21. ___ student, learns healing
 - 22. Composed in poetic meter
 - 27. Promotional material
 - 28. Where people live
 - 33. Sodium
 - 34. Embarrassing
 - 36. Medical man
 - 37. Mother of Hermes
 - 38. One who saves the day
 - 39. Tooth caregiver
 - 40. Not clothed
 - 41. Slope covered with loose stones
 - 44. Used to cook
 - 45. Praises enthusiastically
 - 48. Rooney is a famous one
 - 49. Beekeeper
 - 50. Pigpen
 - 51. Potato chip brand
 - 5. Midway between east and southeast
 - 6. Confined (abbr.)
 - 7. Book of Esther antagonist
 - 8. Port in Yemen
 - 9. CNN's founder
 - 10. Type of bulb
 - 11. Prepare
 - 12. Promoted
 - 14. Dinner jackets
 - 17. Partner to cheese
 - 18. Nebraska city
 - 20. Human gene
 - 23. Pays no attention to
 - 24. Lowland South American plain
 - 25. Blood group
 - 26. Mauna ___, Hawaiian volcano
 - 29. Atomic #37
 - 30. Unit of electrical resistance
 - 31. Jeweled crowns
 - 32. Nastiest
 - 35. Traditional cars need it
 - 36. Bowler hat
 - 38. Robust
 - 40. Not straight matter
 - 42. Have an interest in
 - 43. Jacob ___, journalist
 - 44. Maintains possession of
 - 45. Swiss river
 - 46. Average cost of market goods
 - 47. Spanish soldier: El ___
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Living quarters
 - 2. Horizontal passage
 - 3. Attacks
 - 4. Vietnamese



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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OBITUARIES

G. Robert Mason

WORTHINGTON – G. Robert Mason passed on to our Heavenly Father on Aug. 16, 2023. Bob was a man imbued with transcendent knowledge, strength and an abiding faith in the eternal spirit. He will be deeply missed.

Bob was born in 1948 in Blandford. In an unfinished part-memoir, mostly instructional book to help a younger generation, he recounts an idyllic childhood on a dairy farm; his grandparents next door, letters to Santa, 1950's TV, his younger brother Jeff tripping and breaking a season's worth of maple syrup, delivering papers, a cross-country trip in a 1956 Chevy station wagon and playing on the machinery while they were building the Massachusetts Turnpike.

In 1955 his family moved to Worthington and at the early age of 10 "the party was over – there was real work to do." This became the driving force for the rest of his life.

Bob worked for Hillside Electronics in Worthington and Becton Dickinson in North Canaan, Connecticut, where he was proud of the enduring products that he helped engineer. He was a skilled carpenter and had an innate gift for making even the most overwhelming jobs, like raising a house, simple. He was always there when needed and his sage advice and rational competence eased the strain for countless friends throughout

the years.

Bob loved old records, westerns and instructional books on gardening, nutrition, finance, energy, conservation, the environment and spirituality. His true passion for over 60 years was gardening and he widely read, experimented with and applied ideas and principles that were successful in efficiently producing healthy foods.

He was a creative landscaper adept at fostering beautiful flower gardens. He once wrote "plants want to grow – help them." He was a dedicated, caring friend and his core nature was to help and enrich the lives of his loved ones through recommending the right minerals and vitamins for healing and wellness. He looked at both sides of an issue, enjoyed sharing his thoughts and had a great sense of humor.

Bob was predeceased by his father Robert E. Mason, his mother Esther (Bates) Mason and his brother Jeffrey L. Mason. He leaves his sister Linda Mason, his sister-in-law LeAnn Mason, his nieces Doreen Mollison, Stacy Litke and Melissa Mason and their families, including his great nieces and nephews and his great-great nephews, as well as many close friends.

In memory and to honor Bob's extensive legacy, donations may be made to The First Congregational Church of Worthington, 159 Huntington Road, Worthington, MA 01098.

Floyd S. Merritt, 94

Floyd S. Merritt of South Windsor, Connecticut and Goshen, age 94, passed away on Aug. 2, 2023. He was predeceased by his parents, Mabelle Howes Merritt and Samuel Merritt and his sister, Ruth Merritt Damon. He leaves his brother, Edward Merritt, his brother-in-law Roland Damon and eight nieces and nephews: Timothy Damon, Hope Damon and husband George Chait, Karin Damon and spouse Diane Pona, Kevin Damon and wife Kathy, Keith Merritt and wife Sherry Coelho, William Merritt and wife Tammy, Debra Merritt Ello and husband Greg and Anne Merritt.

Born in 1928, Floyd grew up on a 200-acre family farm in Goshen where he first learned about gardening, which influenced his interest in many kinds of horticulture. His first eight years of education were in the two room Goshen Center School followed by four years at Williamsburg High School, graduating as valedictorian.

He often credited the principal of the high school who taught him Latin as it was immediately useful in horticulture work where he worked every summer in a nursery specializing in plants using their Latin botanical names. He graduated from Amherst College in 1951



receiving a BA degree Magna Cum Laude in English literature. He was a member of Theta Xi, the Glee Club and the Philosophy Club and worked in the Amherst College Library.

After Amherst College he spent two years at Pembroke College of Cambridge, England on a Fulbright scholarship, receiving a second Bachelor of Arts and enjoyed some opportunities traveling to many European countries. Upon returning to the U.S., he studied at Harvard as a graduate student, receiving a master's degree, and worked as a teaching assistant. He then began a career at Amherst College as an apprentice reference librarian and spent his summers attending Simmons College where he received a Master of Library Science (MLS). He played a major role in the planning for the new Robert Frost Library at Amherst and remained there as Head of the Reference Department for over 25 years.

In retirement, Floyd volunteered at the Robert Frost Library and at the Goshen Library. He was passionate about bringing together students, faculty and books. He loved to read, garden and do local history research.

DEATH NOTICES

MASON, G. ROBERT

Died Aug. 16, 2023

MERRITT, FLOYD S.

Died Aug. 2, 2023
Memorial service Sept. 15, 2023

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 \$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.

He returned to live at the family farm while providing loving care for his aging mother, who lived to be 105 years old. He served actively in town affairs, including the Appeals Board, the Goshen Historical Society and the Goshen Historical Museum. As he liked to say "Life is Good!"

As his declining health required, he sold the farm and moved to South Windsor, Connecticut in 2018, living at The Village at Buckland Court, an assisted living facility near his brother and several of his nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at the Goshen Congregational Church, 45 Main St. Goshen on Friday, Sept. 15 at 1 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Floyd Samuel Merritt Endowment Fund c/o The Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, 333 Bridge St., Springfield, MA 01103 or using the "donate now" button on their website www.communityfoundation.org. Checks may be made payable to the Foundation with note that it is for the Floyd Samuel Merritt Endowment Fund. Floyd established and funded this Fund several years ago to support historic projects in Goshen.

For online condolences please visit www.carmon-funeralhome.com.

PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF BLANDFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC NOTICE DEER HUNTING PERMITS

The Blandford Conservation Commission will be available on **September 25, 2023 between 6:00 and 7:00 PM** at the Blandford Town Hall to receive deer hunting Permit Applications for Town-owned Conservation properties. The Conservation properties include the Knittel Conservation Area on Herrick Road, Shepard Farm Conservation Area on Route 23 and the Long Pond Conservation Area on North Blandford Road. If more applications are received than the allot-

ted number of permits for each area, the permits will be selected on a random basis. If additional permits are available after September 26, they will be issued on first come-first serve basis by contacting the Conservation Commission. Applications will only be accepted from those that present a valid Massachusetts hunting or sporting license at the time of application. Each applicant must personally submit his or her own Application. Successful Applicants will be issued a permit to hunt in only one of the above Conservation properties. Permits issued will only be valid for the 2023 deer hunting seasons. Permit Applications will be available at the Town Hall on September 25,

2023. For further information or questions, please contact the Conservation Commission at (413) 848-4279 x 202. 09/14/2023

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Town of Blandford Treasurer-Collector and Treasurer's Clerk Services

The Town of Blandford ("Town" hereafter) is seeking a consultant who is experienced, competent, and learned in public sector financial matters, and well qualified to advise and assist the Town in discharging Treasurer, Collector and Treasurer's Clerk services. A more detailed RFP is available at the Town Offices, 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA

01008. Electronic or hard copies may be requested by emailing administrator@townofblandford.com or call 413-848-4279 x502. The RFP will be available from the time of this notice until the due date specified below. The Select Board will be the awarding and contracting authority and reserves the right to reject any and all proposals if it is deemed in the best interests of the Town to do so.

Completed proposals are to be submitted electronically to administrator@townofblandford.com or via mail to the Town Office, 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA 01008 no later than 12:00 PM, Monday, October 2, 2023. 09/14/2023



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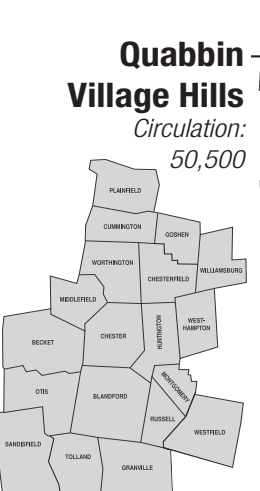


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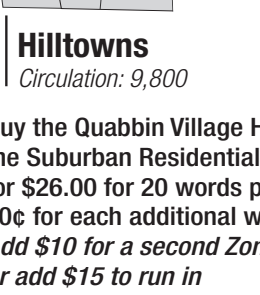
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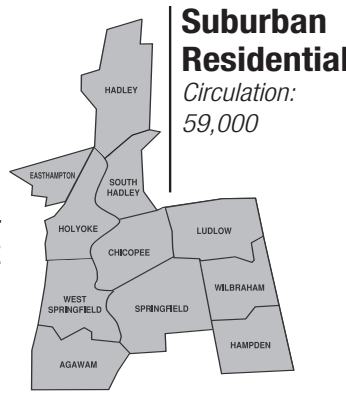
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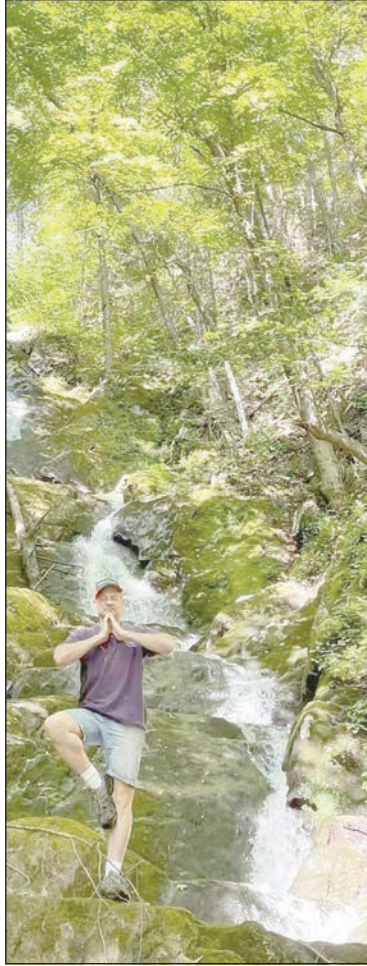
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HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



This hiker shows a standing meditation pose at Twin Cascade.



The two cascades are shown as they plunge some sixty to eighty feet.

Hilltown hikers cool off at Twin Cascade

FLORIDA – The Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers took a trip to the Twin Cascade to cool off.

Florida, tiny hilltown population under 700, is the highest point on the Mohawk Trail and it is full of hilltown history. Two waterfalls form a Y; to the right is a 60 foot multi-tiered plunge and to the left a staggering 80 foot or more.

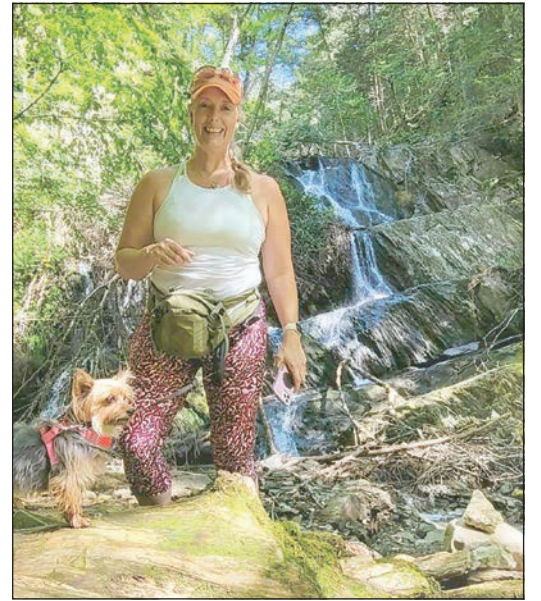
Located in Florida on River Road, a footpath from the East Hoosac Tunnel

portal to the right takes people up next to the sluiceway used to harness the water power. They followed a short half mile trail along the edge of the steep mountain ledge where the tunnel is bored through the mountain.

They came to the remains of the old dam built with rails and bolts right into the rock. This was history and nature in one easy hike to an ethereal paradise of zen.



Hilltown Hikers make their way up the many tiers of Twin Cascade.



This hiker stands by one of the twin cascades on a hike the Western Mass. Hilltown Hikers took to Florida. Submitted photos

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