

# 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

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

October 16, 2025 | Vol. 47, No. 25 | 75¢

www.countryjournal.turley.com

## BLANDFORD



Jethro Jones family descendants gather round as the Historic Marker is unveiled. Turley publications photos by Mary Kronholm

## NSDAR dedicates Jethro Jones historic marker

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

The Jethro Jones Historical Marker was officially dedicated Saturday, Oct. 11.

The event was well attended with a rough count of 80 people which included town officials Select Board Chair Cara Letendre and member T.J. Cousineau, Margaret Superneau, Regent of the Mercy Warren Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the William G. Pomeroy Foundation. The Jethro Jones marker is part of a multi-year "Revolutionary

Chapter Registrar Mary Hull, who applied for and received funding for the marker through the Historian General's Office of the National Society

America 1775-1783" road-side marker series, which draws attention to people and places of interest significant to Revolutionary America, including the contributions

**"Jethro was a free Black man living in a time when freedom itself was fragile and uncertain. He was a master toolmaker, a man of remarkable skill and quiet strength, who chose to fight for a country that had not yet chosen him."**

– Jennifer Jones Arnold

Daughters of the American Revolution and the William G. Pomeroy Foundation. The Jethro Jones marker is part of a multi-year "Revolutionary

of less well-known patriots, who helped secure the nation's independence.

Hull cited Jones' history and his life before settling

in Blandford in the early 1800s. Her talk included the following information about Jones and his military service: He first served with the colonial militia in the French and Indian Wars. When he was 44, he enlisted in the Continental Army, serving a total of six years, much longer than the typical length of service for either white or black soldiers in the American Revolution. The average length of service for African American soldiers in the Revolution was 4.5 years, eight times longer than the average period for white

JETHRO JONES, page 7

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## BLANDFORD

### Board considers moratorium

Town Counsel Mark Reich and his associate Jonathan Eichman met with the Select Board at the Monday, Oct. 6 meeting.

They discussed considering a moratorium for solar projects.

Eichman's specialty includes land use and real estate law. Considering the area of land use, he "counsels municipalities on the interpretation and application of zoning by-laws, subdivision control regulations, and wetlands statutes and by-laws, with particular emphasis on the analysis and handling of zoning nonconformities..." according to the KP Law website.

A member from the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Planning Board attended this session.

According to Eichman, the recent impacts (of solar installations) have raised concerns suggesting a look at the zoning bylaws and consider making them more specific. He said it is possible for the town to "limit the area" used for solar power. He posed the question, where do we want to allow these facilities.

He provided the legal format for an article for a temporary moratorium on the construction of large scale ground mounted solar photovoltaic installations based on the information that there is "an unexpectedly high demand for large scale solar facility special permits and together with the emphasis being placed

BOARD, page 7

## SWEET TREATS



Gateway seniors Lily Peloquin and Eliza Mueller man the class bake sale at the Harvest Festival on Oct. 4 and 5. See more photos on page 5.

Turley Publications photo by Wendy Long

## WORTHINGTON

### HCHC honors health care key contributors

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

Friends, current and former staff, patients and well wishers gathered at the Worthington Historical Society on Saturday, Oct. 4 to celebrate the Hilltown Community Health Center's 75 years of providing quality health care in Western Massachusetts, as well as 55 years as a Federally Qualified Community Health Center.

As was pointed out by Chief Executive Officer Dr. Michael Purdy in his opening remarks, HCHC's Federal designation predated the national health center movement by 15 years. Dr. Purdy thanked Board President Nancy Gilbert, a number of staff members and a number of elected officials including State Representatives Lindsay Sabadosa and Jo Comerford, State Senators John Velis and Paul Mark, U. S. Congressman James McGovern and U. S. Senator Elizabeth Warren-for their

tireless work and ongoing support.

He expressed appreciation for the health centers' exceptional staff, who he said are constantly adjusting to changing circumstances, no matter what is thrown at them. He also thanked numerous partners includ-

ing It Takes a Village, the Gateway Regional School District, and area colleges among others.

HCHC can trace its earliest beginnings to the arrival of Red Cross Nurse Florence Bates in 1930, who also became Worthington's first town nurse. At a Town

Meeting in February 1950, Bates advocated for a health center in town and the people voted to form an exploratory committee. By Oct. 3 of that same year, the Worthington Health Center was incorporated. Other historic nota-

HCHC, page 11



Florence Bates Staff Award recipients Shelley McCleod, Debbie DiStefano and Dr. Alice Rudin. Turley Publications photo by Wendy Long



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# HILLTOWNS

## Hilltowns celebrate spooky season with Halloween events

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

**HILLTOWNS** – There are several Halloween programs scheduled for Halloween weekend and beyond.

### Chester

Visit the Sinister Saw Haunted Trail on Saturday, Oct. 25 starting at 5 p.m. Parking is available at 47 Emery St., across from the Chester Ball field.

All the ghouls come will out with no holds barred for the Sinister Haunted Trail Halloween Event. The trail will be lighted selectively; the rest is dark scary haunted woods.

Then join the Hilltown Hikers and volunteers at the Granite Saw property for a walk on a haunted trail complete with a 12-foot diameter cutting saw, real tombstones, haunted gags, bloody ghouls, skin crawling sound show, zombies and more.

For the younger set, there will be pumpkin painting and face painting, followed by a rag-shag parade.

Cheer or compete in the inflatable race at 5:30 p.m. Then sink your fangs into Trunk or Treat, live music, beer tent and a food truck feast while spooky spirits roam the grounds. Dress to impress or terrify for the costume contests, followed by an award ceremony with trophies and prizes for trunks and costumes. No dogs please on the haunted trail. Donations are welcome to support the historical renovations to the Chester Granite Saw. Please wear sturdy shoes and be prepared for uneven ground.

According to Select Board Chair Cara Letendre, Blandford is partnering with Chester for this event.

Sponsors are: The Town of Chester, Western Mass Hilltown Hikers, Chester Rec Committee, Chester Fire Department, Chester/Blandford Police Department, Our Mother's Kitchen, Kosinski Farms in Westfield, Mel's Kitchen in Chester, Hamilton Memorial Library, Chester Council on

Aging and The Pease Store. Please call Jessica for a trunk or to compete in the inflatable race at 413-207-4152 or email jsakaske@live.com.

The Hamilton Memorial Library will be sponsoring an inflatable costume race as part of the town's Halloween celebration on Saturday, Oct. 25 beginning at 5 p.m. at 47 Emery St. (Emery

Park). Enjoy a variety of activities and events designed to bring neighbors together and make Halloween memorable for



everyone. Grab your friends and family for some laughs. The race will begin after the costume contest parade. Registration is helpful by calling 413-354-7808.

### Huntington

Huntington's "trunk or treat" will be Saturday, Oct. 25 from 5-6 p.m. at the Huntington Public Library on East Main Street. Kids come in costume with an empty goody bag. Trunks of cars are loaded with candy for them. While supplies last, they can go to the library vestibule for a treat, picture book and Lego kit, again, while supplies last.

Then, at 6 p.m., the Huntington Fire

Department will have a bonfire, weather permitting, with live music and food vendors. Co-sponsors are the Huntington Public Library, Huntington Fire Department and Huntington Recreation Committee.

### Otis

Trunk or Treat event at the Otis Ridge on Saturday, Nov. 1 from 5-7 p.m. sponsored by the Otis Recreation Department, Farmington River Regional School District Parent Teacher Association, Otis Police and Otis Ridge.

### Russell

The Russell Police Association for the fifth consecutive year sponsors Haunted Strathmore at Strathmore Park on Route 20. Police Chief Kevin Hennessey said, "This spooktacular event is open to all Hilltown area residents."

Because the crown was so great last year, this year will be a two-night event. The first night from

5 p.m. on features the Haunted Hayride, geared for older children and adults. Children 12 and under free and \$10 for adults. If an adult brings a non-perishable food donation the adult price is \$5. There will be food vendors and a DJ complement night one.

The Haunted Hayride continues for the second night along with the trunk'r treat.

Starting at 5 p.m. a children's rag shag parade sets off the program with a children's haunted pumpkin patch/cemetery. There is a jack o lantern contest, food vendors and a DJ again. Rounding out the program will be awards for the best costume, trunker and more.

The Cobble Mountain Critter Project will be there with spooky, but true stories. Interested volunteers may email Officer Hess at chess@townofrussell.us. As always, volunteers are welcome to play characters and to help with the event. If interested email officer Hess at chess@townofrussell.us

## MassDOT lists I-90 roadwork

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces it will be performing daytime bridge work on I-90 eastbound and westbound in the towns of Becket, Montgomery, and Russell.

All work is weather dependent and will take place at the following locations and times:

In Becket bridge work with lane closures will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 18.4 now through Friday, Oct. 17 from 7 a.m.-4 p.m.

In Montgomery and Russell bridge repairs with a lane closure will be conducted on I-90 westbound from mile marker 35.9 to mile marker 36.5 now through Friday, Oct. 17 from 6 a.m.noon.

Appropriate signage and law enforcement details will be in place to guide drivers through the work area. Drivers traveling through the area 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.

## HUNTINGTON

### Library announces October calendar

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

**HUNTINGTON** – October got off to a roaring start at the Huntington Public Library, with a used book sale and gift basket sale, sponsored by the Friends of the Huntington Public Library on Saturday Oct. 4.

Award-winning storyteller Jonah Knight also brought true historical ghost stories from throughout New England to life on Tuesday, Oct. 7, which was recommended for ages 13 and up. And crafter noon was held on Thursday, Oct. 9 at 4 p.m.

But there are still plenty of activities coming up to round out October. A special "Skills Share Series," tied to the community garden located next door to the library, will be held on Saturday, Oct. 18 at 11 a.m. Dr. Kim Skrym, Ph. D. will present on the importance and vital impact of pollinators on hilltown food systems.

Skrym is the Chief Apiary Inspector for the Massachusetts Department

of Agricultural Resources and East Director of the Apiary Inspectors of America. This free event is provided by the Hilltown Food Policy Council, Hilltown Cares and the Huntington Public Library. All ages are welcome. Weather permitting, this event will take place in the community garden.

The library is also taking part in the town's annual Trunk or Treat event, sponsored by the Huntington Recreation Committee, Huntington Fire Department and the library. Children should come dressed in their Halloween costumes and bring a bag for their treats. There will be live music and a bonfire following. Children may stop by the library's front vestibule to pick up a treat, picture book and Lego kit while supplies last on Saturday, Oct. 25 starting at 5 p.m.

"The Book of Delights" by Ross Gay is the book club read for the month of October. Copies may be picked up at the library while available, ordered via inter-

library loan or borrowed through Libby. This New York Times best selling book of essays is a celebration of ordinary delights and the importance of not overlooking them. This book will be discussed on Thursday, Nov. 6 at 4 p.m.

For recurring monthly events, story hours are held Mondays and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. Game Night will take place on Thursday, Oct. 16 at 4 p.m. Participants may bring their own game or play one of the library's. The Cookbook Club meets on Thursday, Oct. 23 at 5 p.m.

For more information, people may call the Huntington Public Library at 413-512-5206 or email library@huntington.ma.us. People can also visit the library's website at Huntingtonpubliclibrary.org for information on these and other upcoming events, as well learn more about items in the "Library of Things" that are available to borrow, see what museum passes might be available to borrow and learn more about the latest books on library shelves.

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# HUNTINGTON

## Hilltown trio restore Flag rock

By Magdalene Taylor

HUNTINGTON – For the last several years, a century-old Huntington landmark known simply as “flag rock” sat faded and covered in brush along the banks of the Westfield river.

Last month, however, three Hilltown natives restored the rock to its former glory in celebration of the forthcoming 250th anniversary of the United States.

Marie Wheeler Pease, Jeff Penn and Joy Smith Taylor, all born and raised in Huntington, gathered together on Wednesday, Sept. 17 to begin re-painting the rock, a process that took four river crossings to complete and wasn't finalized until Tuesday, Sept. 30. The trio previously requested permission from Dave and Lori Baillingeron, upon whose property the rock sits.

“I've always been very nostalgic,” says Taylor, who spearheaded the revival. Driving around the area, she missed being able to see the rock from the road as she could for most of her life. “Recently, I've also been interested in all of the developing activities surrounding the coming 250th anniversary of this country and the Revolutionary War. It occurred to me that unveiling the flag on the rock would be a perfect way to honor this milestone.”

According to documents shared by local historian and archivist Bill McVeigh, the rock was first painted via boat by John O'Connell in 1920, who maintained the rock for years and then passed the duty on to friends and family. At the time, the area of the river where the rock sits was called “Mirror Lake.” The rock went neglected for a period until 1955, when Explorer Scouts, a tier of the Boy Scouts of America for older teenage boys, took up the task.

It was forgotten and faded again until 1971, when Penn's father, John, learned of the existence of the rock when town visitors had

parked across from his barbershop on Route 112 to look for it. Unable to find it, John scoured the riverbank himself to locate it. Once he did, he decided to repaint it himself with the help of his two sons, then six and nine. In the fifty-plus years since, several other locals have helped keep the rock painted red, white and blue, including Pete Webb, Kat Pauline Grant and her father, Mark Burgess. Into the 21st century, nature obscured the rock from view until this fall, when Taylor endeavored to renew the rock to its familiar patriotic state.

“I lived across the river from the flag rock until I was 12 years old,” explains Pease. “It was the first thing we saw when we went out the front door in the morning, and when Joy said she wanted to find it and paint it, I was happy to bring back a small part of Huntington history”

“Joy organized everything here and we reminisced a lot, we laughed a lot, and it was a fun project,” says Pease. “I was really happy to help Joy and Jeff bring the rock back to life and to see that everybody's so positive about it.”

While images of the repainted rock have been shared on social media, it hasn't been entirely visible from the road due to heavy overgrowth obstructing the view. “With the leaves coming off the trees, mother nature will make the rock visible again in the next few weeks,” says Taylor.

“Right now, it really is beautiful,” says Penn. “I can't wait till we open it up so people can see from the riverside again.”

“It's going to be there for a long time, and now, because we've resurrected it and kept it going, somebody else will,” he continues. “We're going to send this off into the future. That gives us great pride, too, to be a link in this chain. That is true patriotism. I think the idea of just loving your town, caring for your neighbors, talking to people, helping when you can all of that, that's what

America is.”

“The flag means Huntington,” says Penn. “It means all of us community members that drive by it and smile, because we don't think about strife, we don't

think about war, we don't think about taxes. We look at that flag and we think Huntington.”

“And it means freedom,” says Taylor, the author of this article's mother.



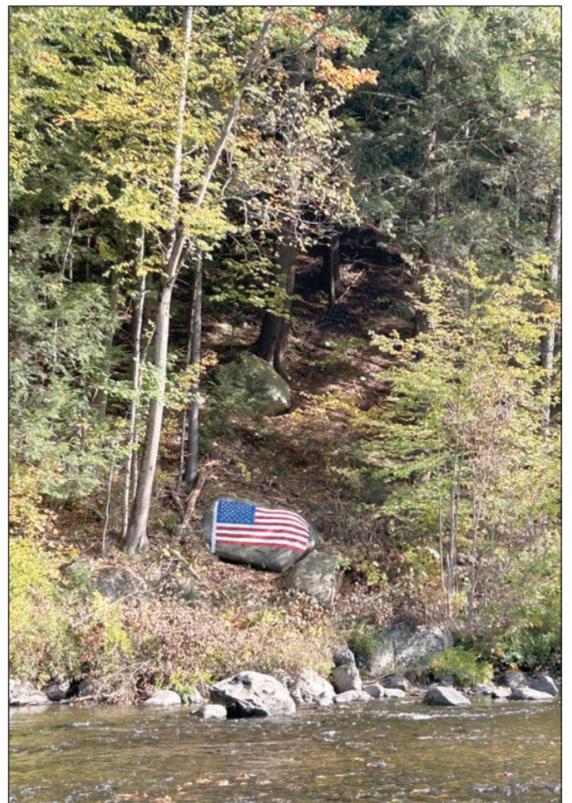
Joy Smith Taylor and Marie Wheeler Pease paint the stripes on the American flag.



The painting crew are front, Joy Smith Taylor; middle, Marie Wheeler Pease and rear, Jeff Penn.



Jeff Penn, from left and Marie Wheeler Pease put the finishing touches on Flag rock.



This offers a great view of Flag rock along the banks of the Westfield River in Huntington.



A close up view of the newly painted Flag rock.



Flag rock before it got painted and was covered in vegetation making it barely visible.

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## GUEST COLUMN



## Should I take Social Security now or at age 70?

Dear Rusty:

I was born in April 1958 and my plan has been to take my Social Security at age 70.

However, my sister-in-law says that it is smarter to take it now while I am still working. I will be 70 in 2.5 years. Her husband collects his SS and has kept working. She believes their strategy will net more money than mine due to the fact he has continued to pay into the system and she believes it has super boosted his monthly benefit. What say you? BTW, Lord willing and the creek don't rise I plan on living at least till 87.

**Signed:**  
**Questioning My Plan**

Dear Questioning:

You have already reached your SS Full Retirement Age, so you can earn as much as possible without your SS benefit being negatively affected by Social Security's Annual Earnings Test. In fact, if your current earnings are among the highest over your lifetime, your SS benefit amount will continue to increase because of your higher current earnings. You are now also earning Delayed Retirement Credits, which will improve your monthly amount by .67% for each month (8% for each full year) you delay. That means that if you wait and claim at 70 you will get about 127% of what you would have gotten had you claimed at your FRA of 66 years and 8 months plus you'll also get all COLA increases which occur between now and then. So your life expectancy is key.

It usually takes about 12 years to break even money wise by claiming at age 70 vs. at FRA. In other words, if you claim at 70 instead of FRA, you'll have received the same amount of SS money after you are 82. Thus, if your life expectancy is greater than age 82, you'll get more in cumulative lifetime benefits by waiting until 70 to claim. Of course, no one really knows how long they will live, so it is a judgement you need to make. "Average" life expectancy for a man your current age is about age 84, but if you'd like to get a more personalized longevity estimate you can use this tool we use here at the AMAC Foundation: <https://socialsecurityreport.org/tools/life-expectancy-calculator/>

Another thing to keep in mind is whether your wife will get a widow's benefit if you die first. A widow will get the higher of either her own SS retirement benefit or the husband's benefit amount

when he died. So, if you claim at age 70, your surviving spouse will benefit if her own SS is smaller because you waited until 70 for your higher SS amount. Just something else to keep in mind.

Yet another is whether your wife will be entitled to a higher benefit as your spouse while you are both living. FYI, a spouse will get a "spousal boost" if her own SS retirement benefit at FRA is less than 50% of her spouse's FRA entitlement. If so, your wife cannot claim her spousal benefit until you take your own SS retirement benefit. If your wife will be entitled to more as your spouse while you are both living, then delaying until age 70 means your wife cannot collect her higher spousal amount until you claim. Depending on your financial needs as a couple, that may affect your decision as well.

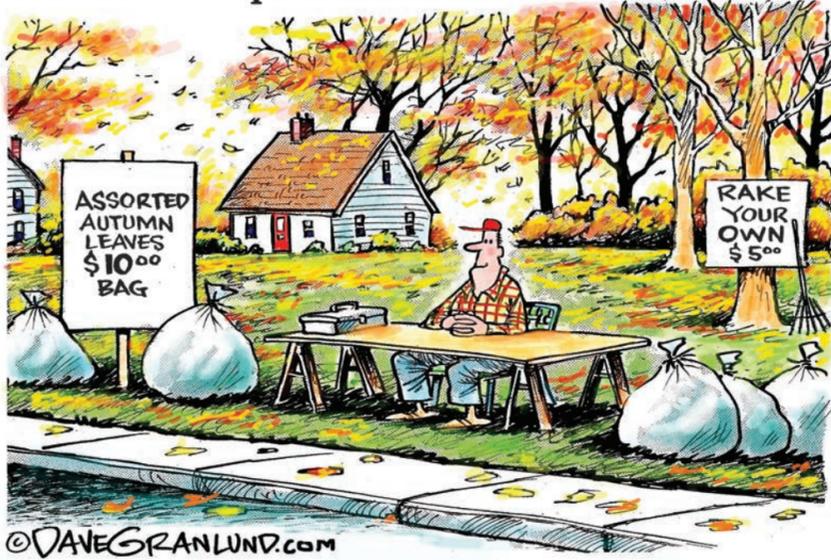
When to claim is always a judgement call which should consider your life expectancy, your financial needs and your marital status. If you don't need the SS money now while you are working and believe you will, indeed, live "at least till 87," then waiting would likely be your best long-term decision. If you have doubts about your life expectancy, and/or if your wife will substantially benefit from a "spousal boost" if you claim earlier, then claiming now would also be a wise choice.

Finally, it's also important to understand that your SS benefits may be taxable by the IRS and, if you are still working, your IRS tax rate will likely be higher now than it would be after you retire from working. Note: The so-called "one big, beautiful bill" provides only temporary tax relief (thru 2028) on SS benefits - the IRS will still tax SS benefits but also allow a separate tax deduction to offset those SS taxes you pay.

*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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

## OPINION

### Fall entrepreneur...



## GUEST COLUMN

## Jack Frost has come and gone; time to review

Usually we have a few nights that teeter around the freezing mark each fall, giving us an advanced warning of sorts, before a real deal killer frost strikes. Not so this year.

I tuned into the weather last Tuesday night and to my shock, we were expecting temperatures to dip into the mid to high 20s Thursday night into Friday morning! That meant going into extreme harvest mode to get everything indoors that needed to be and trying to cover what I couldn't get to.

I was trying to hold off on harvesting my Butternut winter squash, hoping for the green tinges of the skin to fade to a warm buff color, but by the time Wednesday rolled around I had to give in and pick them. I think they are mostly ripe.

I grew three total hills this year, two of a variety Mom had saved the seeds of and one of a highly touted, powdery mildew resistant F1 hybrid by the name of "Little Dipper." I was lured in by the catalog description that promised seven plus fruits per plant.

From my two plants in that one hill, I harvested 15. Pretty good, I'll say! They range in weight from just about a pound and a half to over five pounds, with most around the 3.5 pound mark.

I already cut into one, and roasted it. Not being used to such a dry texture, I added a little water when I whipped it up and it was flavorful enough. And true to its description in the Fedco catalog ([fedcoseeds.com](http://fedcoseeds.com)) it

removed the seeds and roasted it cut side down until fork tender. To me, acorns are on the blah side but all that changes with the addition of some maple syrup. As far as the vine borers go, the plants were early to bear and quick to ripen. By the time the borers discovered them most fruits were curing right on the plants. I'll definitely be growing them again.

Mouse Melon, also known as Cucamelon was a newbie as well, and one that I was not sad to see go when the frost hit. I sowed the seeds indoors and planted the transplants along one side of an A-frame trellis. By August I had the cutest mini-watermelons, think the size that would be perfect Barbie Doll food!

My appreciation for this trial ended with its cuteness, however. To me it tasted like a bitter cucumber, with a little bit of a kick to it. Not a fan.

I did enter them in the Ware Grange fair, however, and won first place in the "any other" category! Stay tuned next week for more reviews and also what strategies worked and what didn't!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

I figured I could grow them to eat, and also use them for autumn decorations. The cream-colored squash are splashed with orange, yellow and/or green and reportedly will keep up to three months.

From four plants I harvested 21 squash; not too shabby for vines that are semi bush. I tried two plants in one of my raised beds as an experiment, and they did great there, as did the two in the main garden.

I cut one in half,

*In the Garden*  
by Roberta McQuaid



## Corrections

The article on Rev. Jack Kraaz, which appeared in the Oct. 6 edition of the Country Journal had several errors. The combined efforts of the Williamsburg Church for the Take and Eat (not Cake and Eat), program are with the Our Lady of the Hills Parish in Haydenville. They deliver homemade meals every Saturday to elderly shut-ins and homebound, but not the homeless. They do prepare meals on occasion for the home-

less in conjunction with the Cathedral in the Night in Northampton.

Rev. Kraaz's wife, Sarah, is the organist at First Churches in Northampton, no longer the First Congregational Church, which combined with the First Baptist Church in 1988 to become First Churches.

The date of the Hilltown Hikers Sinister Saw event was incorrectly listed. The correct date is Saturday, Oct. 25.

## 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](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com), or call us at 413-283-8393.

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

## Country Journal welcomes Election letters to the editor

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

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

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

### Campaign news

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

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

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

## Country Journal TEAM



**EDITOR**  
Ellenor Downer  
[countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com)



**ADVERTISING SALES**  
Wendy Delcamp  
[wdelcamp@turley.com](mailto:wdelcamp@turley.com)

The Country Journal (USPS 483-550) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.



@ Country Journal



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**PATRICK H. TURLEY**  
CEO

**KEITH TURLEY**  
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**Turley Publications, Inc.**

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ISSN NO. 0747-2471

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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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**PHONE**

413.283.8393

Fax: 413.283.7017

Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

**EMAIL**

**Advertising Sales**  
Wendy Delcamp  
[wdelcamp@turley.com](mailto:wdelcamp@turley.com)

**Editor**

Ellenor Downer  
[countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com)

**Subscriptions**

[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

\$31 per year pre-paid  
(\$36 out of state)  
Newsstand: \$.75 per copy

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@ Country Journal

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# HUNTINGTON

## FESTIVAL CELEBRATES AUTUMN AND HARVEST



Two year old Scarlett L. of Chicopee hangs out on a hay bale at the Harvest Festival held on the Huntington town green Oct. 4 and 5.



Two year old Paisley Waite of Huntington paints her pumpkin.



Woodworker Michael Koivisto demonstrates his "turkey call."



Greg Reil of Reil Country performed on Sunday.



Samantha Riley and Philip Crump-Willis at their pickle stand, "The Big Dill", selling small batch craft pickles.

Turley Publications photos by Wendy Long



Founders are Paul and Janine LaPointe.

## Memorial fly fishing clinic set to take place on Oct. 19

HUNTINGTON – The Westfield River Watershed Association and the Western Mass. Fly Fishermen will honor their late president with the free Bill Rose Memorial Fly Fishing clinic Saturday, Oct. 18 from 9:00 a.m.-noon in the turnout on the Westfield River across from the Huntington Health Center, Route 20. Children and teens are welcome with the supervision of an adult at this family-friendly event.

"Come out and learn about fly fishing from the experts. Join us as we enjoy a beautiful fall day on the Westfield River," encourages Mark Damon, current WRWA president. "Bill Rose was president of both the WMWA and the WMFF at the time of his death. He loved fly fishing. In his memory, all are invited to try fly-fishing for

the first time or get expert tips and coaching for the experienced fisherfolk out there."

People can drop in throughout the morning and watch a fly-tying demonstration and practice casting. A life-long fly-fisherman, Bill Rose, was always sharing his passion. "Beginners are welcome. It's not as complicated as it looks on TV," he would declare. "Children as young as six can successfully tie simple flies and cast their lines. People only need to cast out a few feet to successfully catch fish in our local streams and rivers."

The Mass. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife stocks waters around the state including the Westfield River and its tributaries. "It makes for good fishing," states Harold Norman, a long-time member of the WMFF.

"I love flying ties and sharing my skills with others. I don't go out often these days, being a little older. But one of my buddies picks me up every now and then and we do a little fishing. It doesn't matter much if we catch anything because mostly we catch and release now, to help protect our local resources." Norman adds, "I'll be there in Huntington on the 18th ready to teach the folks who show up."

In addition to fly fishing activities, Damon, who is a biologist, will be on hand to net insects from the river and help participants learn to identify them under microscopes. "Knowing what the fish eat and how those bugs behave in the water helps make folks better fishers," says Damon. "The flies you tie need to mimic the real

bugs to entice the fish." The WMFF will guide participants through tying simple flies that they can use when they go out on their own.

WRWA encourages people, who own a fly rod and want to learn more about using it to bring it to the clinic. For those who have never tried fly fishing before, some equipment will be available to use at the clinic. "A decent beginning fly-fishing combo is available for less than \$50 complete," according to the fishermen's group. "Take up the challenge of outwitting the fish. It's great family fun. If you have an interest in fishing and want to try fly-fishing, then come out and join us."

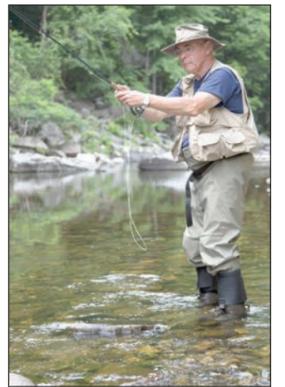
Damon adds that as a tribute to Bill Rose a beginning fly-fishing set will be given to a young participant

who otherwise would not be able to access the sport. "Our organizations are committed to making the river and its environment accessible, safe and fun for all those who live in our watershed. We strongly encourage people from all walks of life and ages to come and learn some of the basics of this sport."

There will be a portable toilet on site. The clinic will be held rain or shine, barring extremely stormy weather.

The Westfield River Watershed Association was established in 1953 to protect and improve the natural resources of the watershed, as well as to expand recreational and other land use opportunities for people's enjoyment and for sound ecology. To learn more, people may visit [www.westfieldriver.org](http://www.westfieldriver.org).

The Western Mass. Fly



Bill Rose is shown fly-fishing in the Westfield River.

Photo Courtesy WRWA

Fishermen began in 1971 to promote the art of fly fishing and encourage stewardship of our fishing areas. They offer a free Fly-Tying Class on Monday nights in January and February at the Ludlow Elks Club. For more information, people may visit <https://wmff-club.org/>.

### 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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DOT EXAMS

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Family Health and  
Wellness Center

## Tractor Safety Workshop

Saturday, October 25, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

at New England Small Farm Institute - 270 Jackson Street, Belchertown

Jim Carrabba, Agricultural Safety Specialist with the Northeast Center for Occupational Health and Safety (NEC), will lead a program on tractor safety. Topics covered include tractor injury statistics, basic safe tractor operating principles, how to perform operator checks, safety features on new vs. old tractors, and safe operation of tractors on public roads. Participants will learn about Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) and the ROPS Retrofit Rebate Program. Jim will also cover Power-Take-Off (PTO) safety and will demonstrate retrofit PTO shield offered by NEC. All welcome!

The training will cover the areas required for OSHA annual tractor safety under 1928.51 Appendix A and can meet that training requirement for your farm (applies to farms with more than 10 employees).

Please pre-register. Contact Sara Weil:

Email: [info@smallfarm.org](mailto:info@smallfarm.org) • Tel: 413-323-4531 • Web: [smallfarm.org](http://smallfarm.org)  
Workshop fee \$30 per person. Limited space available. Walk-ins allowed if slots are open.

### Pioneer Valley

**Assembly of God**  
Pastor Javier Melendez  
63 Old Chester Rd.,  
Huntington MA 01050  
413-667-3196  
[pvaglfe@gmail.com](mailto:pvaglfe@gmail.com)  
[www.pioneervalleyag.org](http://www.pioneervalleyag.org)  
Facebook: Pioneer Valley  
Assembly of God  
Sunday service: 10:30 a.m.

### Hilltown Community Church

Rev. Dr. Robert Perreault  
55 Main St., Russell, MA 01071  
413-275-3232  
Office: 413-862-3341  
[hilltownchurch3341@gmail.com](mailto:hilltownchurch3341@gmail.com)  
Sunday Mornings 10 a.m.

### First Congregational Church of Williamsburg

Rev. Jack Kraaz  
4 North Main St., Williamsburg, MA 01096  
413-268-7557 • [burgychurch@gmail.com](mailto:burgychurch@gmail.com) • [burgychurch.org](http://burgychurch.org)  
Facebook: First Congregational Church of Williamsburg  
YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCdyH1EA-fduamqHYeekxw5w](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdyH1EA-fduamqHYeekxw5w)  
Office Hours: Tuesdays through Friday 9 a.m. - 12 noon  
Days and Hours of Services: Sundays at 10 a.m.

### Holy Family Parish

Rev. Ronald F. Sadlowski, known as Fr. Ron  
5 Main St., Russell, MA 01071  
413-862-4418  
Office Hours: No set times. Please call, leave a voice message or email  
[holyfamilyrussell.org](mailto:holyfamilyrussell.org) • [parish@holyfamilyrussell.org](mailto:parish@holyfamilyrussell.org)  
Saturday Vigil: 5 p.m.  
Sunday Masses: 8:15 a.m. & 11 a.m.

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# BLANDFORD

## Sunset Kennels offers dog boarding in peaceful countryside

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – There is a new hotel in town, but it is reserved for dogs, not people.

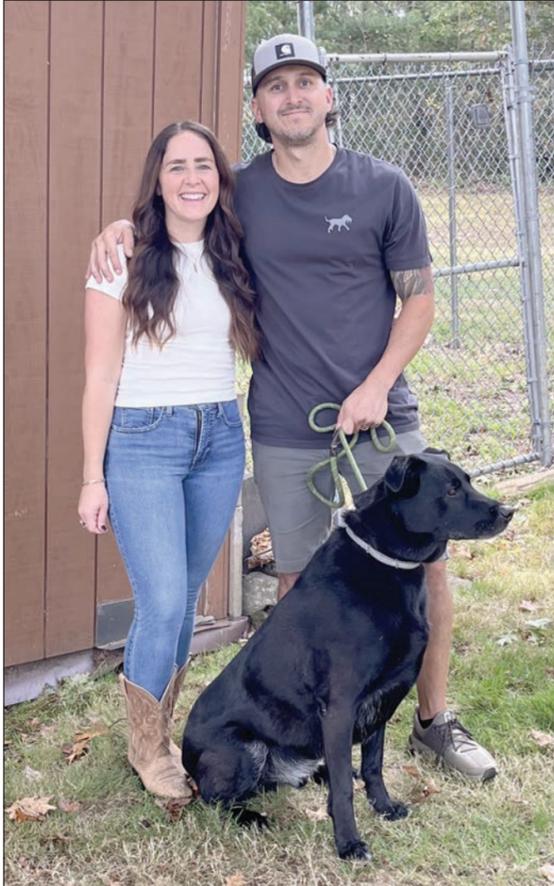
Sunset Kennels on Sunset Road is the up and coming dog lodging facility. There are others that have similar priorities, but their owners are closing shop to retire or already have after many years of providing canine care.

What Sunset Kennels has to offer is unique. Owners Chelsea and Marshall Prokop provide a safe, caring and friendly environment for all dogs. Their aim is to make each dog feel at home. There is plenty of space to run, play and relax. The roomy and secure lodging facilities can accommodate dogs of all breeds and sizes and the care an attention for their guests is their priority.

The large barn kennel is air conditioned in the summer and heated in the winter. There are closed circuit cameras to make sure the guests are always comfortable. The Prokops live on site, so there is always someone available to respond to any pooch need.

And Chelsea and Marshall do care. They have their own dog, Moose, who was available to demonstrate runs, exploration of trails and treat pleas.

Caring for an animal is the same as caring for a family member. And the Prokops will tell you this is why they offer a “peaceful country setting where they



Chelsea and Marshall Prokop with Moose are shown outside the kennel barn. Behind them will be a much larger enclosed area so dogs can have free off-lead time.

can enjoy fresh air, playtime and companionship.”

Chelsea added, “We have combined our love of animals with our business knowledge to create the perfect space for dog lodging: a place with plenty of time outside in the woods, a calming environment with one-on-one interactions

and a peaceful space that is quiet, cozy and full of extra pets and cuddles.”

The dogs do get plenty of outdoor time, which means long outdoor walks.

Their facility is still undergoing change. There will be a driveway so patrons can deliver pets right to the door of the ken-



Multiple spacious kennels, all five by ten foot areas, offer room for bigger animals or members of the same family.

Turley Publications photos by Mary Kronholm

nels; there is an expanded free-run area to be enclosed this week so lodgers have free off-lead time.

Right now, the dogs are walked on a leash several times a day and this will continue. They get plenty of exercise and guests have been known to go home and sleep for two or three days. Lucky was one such guest. He was glad to be home and just rest, according to his owners.

The kennels can house multiple animals at a time, and if there is more than one dog in the family to stay, they can be housed together. Their beds are large and raised to keep them cool in the summer yet warm in the winter, but then, the lodgings are heated.

There are games and special treats.

All in all, Chelsea likes to call Sunset Kennels a vacation for your dog at a dog Air Bed and Breakfast.

Both Chelsea and Marshall are Hilltown born and raised and realized that this will always be their home. They both have left the corporate work world to do something special – not only for themselves and their family, but also for others, hence, Sunset Kennels. The young couple have two children: a two-and-a-half-year-old and a ten-month-old.

Both have Bachelors’ degrees with majors in business. Chelsea, 38, holds a degree from Nichols College in Dudley and

Marshall, 36 from Daniel Webster College in New Hampshire. Marshall is also an honorably discharged active-duty veteran of the United States Navy and served 2009 to 2013 as Petty Officer Third Class. They have known each other since their middle school days at Gateway and Chelsea said, “Neither of us went to school for anything animal related, we have both always grown up with a dog in our homes.”

More information including requirements, such as rabies documentation, costs and all amenities can be found by visiting their website at sunsetkennelsma.com. They also have social media presence on Facebook and Instagram.

## Council on Aging celebrate October birthdays, hold luncheon and vaccination clinic

BLANDFORD – Bert Pease and Milton Kidder were the October birthday celebs Friday at the Council on Aging luncheon.

The full house dined on peach infused iced tea, Shepherd’ pie, cheddar biscuits, tossed salad and pecan pie bars garnished with whipped cream. Following lunch, many lined up for flu and Covid vaccinations. Stop & Shop Pharmacist Mark Butera administered the inoculations while Volunteer First Responder firefighter Pat Lombardo checked blood pressure.

COA Director Margit Mikuski announced the Veterans’ Dinner will be Saturday, Nov. 8 at 5 p.m. Reservations must be made by Saturday, Nov. 1 by calling 413-848-4279 exr. 400. Leave name and number of people attending.



There was a crowd at Friday’s Council on Aging luncheon. Turley Publications photos by Mary Kronholm



Milton Kidder was one of two birthday honorees at Friday’s Council on Aging luncheon.



Bert Pease was one of two birthday honorees at Friday’s Council on Aging luncheon.



Stop & Shop Pharmacist Mart Butera administers inoculations Friday following the Council on Aging luncheon.



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BLANDFORD, MA  
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## No kings rally set for Saturday

BLANDFORD – There will be hundreds of No Kings rallies across the United States this Saturday. There will be one sponsored by the town’s Democratic Town Committee on Saturday, Oct. 18 from 9-10 a.m.

Interested people should meet Massachusetts Turnpike I-90 overpass on North Street Park at the Gore Road intersection or along the service road for the Westbound Service Center. They may bring a sign or come help hold the two large banners.

Everyone is welcome to join in a rally for democracy in Blandford. Past generations in Western Massachusetts stood up against a king prior to the American Revolution.

Many people across America are saying “no kings” on Oct. 18.



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## BLANDFORD

## JETHRO JONES

from page 1

soldiers. So even though black men represented a small percent of the overall force of the Continental Army, because their length of service was so much longer, their overall contribution is much larger than their numbers might suggest.

Standing at the base of Jethro Jones Road, Hull said that Jones lived there after the Revolution until his death in 1828 at age 95 and he received a military pension. Jones and his wife and other family members are believed to be buried in a small burial ground on the road.

Perhaps because of the uncertainty surrounding his burial location, Jones's military service went unnoticed for many years. Unlike other Revolutionary War veterans, he never received a marker or a flag. But that has now changed. Because of the work of Blandford residents who sought to bring recognition to Jones, including the late Blandford selectman Donald Shepard, whose sons Lance of New Hampshire and Rylan with his daughter Livia, were also attending, the late Blandford historian Doris Hayden and her daughter Jean York, and the efforts of various community groups over the years, including the Blandford Venture Crew and the Hilltown Hikers, as well as the research of Jocelyn Jones Arnold and the Sheffield Historical Society, the story of Jethro Jones has come to light.

Hull then introduced Jocelyn Jones Arnold, the fourth great-granddaughter of Jethro Jones and a member of the Independence Hall Chapter of the NSDAR in Philadelphia. She cited the family's ancestry and descendants, many of whom attended the dedication. In her words resonated with the crowd, "Standing here in Blandford today, I am filled with emotion, pride, awe, and a deep sense of connection. This place, this soil, carries the story of a man whose courage and craftsmanship helped shape a nation my fourth great-grandfather, Jethro Jones."

"Jethro was a free Black man living in a time when freedom itself was fragile and uncertain. He was a master toolmaker, a man of remarkable skill and quiet strength, who chose to fight for a country that had not yet chosen him. He served in the Continental Army during the American Revolution answering the same call to liberty as the men whose names we know so well and yet, for centuries, his name was lost to history. But history has a way of whispering back to those who listen. Before 2020 I never knew of Jethro's existence"

Her words, in part, follow: "Today I stand here as a living testament to Jethro Jones' legacy and I do not stand here alone. Also present are my brother, Laurence Jones and my cousins the Pipers, who descend from



Dee Piper Richardson has the honor of unveiling the marker.

Turley publications photos by Mary Kronholm

Hackaliah and Mercy's daughter, Clarissa Jones and her husband James E. Piper. They are: Russell Piper and his wife Shirley, Hilliard and Roslyn Piper, Hazel Piper Padrich, Hillary Piper Richardson, Evin Richardson Moore and Savannah Moore, Dee Piper Johnson, Audrey Piper Ford, Andrea Piper and Akili and Cheyenne Nicholson."

Of Jethro's seven children, two are buried here.

She continued, "When I began researching my family's past, I could not have imagined that it would lead me here to Blandford to a Revolutionary War patriot whose story had been buried by time." I remember the moment I first saw his name in a military record. My heart caught in my throat. "This can't be true" I thought. "Am I really part of you?" In discovering him, I discovered myself. To uncover Jethro's story was to uncover a part of America's story one that tells us that Black men and women were not just witnesses to the Revolution, they were builders of it. They fought, they labored, they dreamed even when the promise of freedom was not extended to them.

You heard about Jethro's service in both the French Indian War and the Revolutionary War. During the Revolution he fought at the Battles of Saratoga and Monmouth and trained at Valley Forge. More information about his time in the war as reflected by Col Timothy Bigelow leader of the 15th Regiment in his Reminiscences of the Military Life and Sufferings of Col. Timothy Bigelow. His regiment was the last to quit the field at the Battle of Monmouth, only one of the battles where Jones served.

Continuing her words, she said, "Today, as we dedicate this marker, we are not only honoring Jethro's service, we are restoring his rightful place in our shared American narrative. This marker is a voice for the silenced, a light for the forgotten. It stands as a tes-



Mercy Warren Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Regent Margaret Superneau spoke at the unveiling.

tament to what endurance, faith, and dignity can build — even in the face of invisibility."

"I often think about what Jethro might have dreamed as he looked toward the future — whether he could have imagined that, nearly 250 years later, his descendants would return here, some still bearing his name, to speak his name aloud, surrounded by people gathered to honor him. I like to believe that somewhere, he knew. That he trusted his story would one day be told."

"So today, we remember.

We honor his hands, his heart, his hope. We honor all those who, like him, helped build this country stone by stone, name by name, even when history forgot to write them down.

May this marker in Blandford stand not just as a memorial, but as a living reminder — that freedom was a collective creation. That liberty was fought for by people of every race and circumstance. And that our work, as descendants and as citizens, is to keep telling the whole story...your name lives again. Dignity and honor has been restored to your family home and



Laying the wreath at Jethro Jones Historic Marker Dedication is Edward Jones as Jocelyn Jones Arnold, Dee Piper Johnson, Hillary Piper Richardson and Akili Nicholson look on



Jonathan Guido of Westfield played "Taps."

resting ground. Your service is known. Your legacy endures. Even as your family, we are still here, we're still Black and we are still fighting for full freedom and the American Dream."

At the conclusion of her remarks, Honorary Chapter Recent, Mercy Warren Chapter NSCAR Samantha Seamans-Frizzell read Maya Angelou's poem, When Great Trees Fall.

Then Jocelyn Jones Arnold, Dee Williams and Hillary Piper Richardson untied the ribbon to remove the covering of the marker and a wreath was placed at its foot.

The Henry Knox Regimental Color Guard of the Massachusetts Sons of the American Revolution performed a gun salute, escorted to their location by members of the Westfield American Legion Post 124. Jonathon Guido of Westfield played Taps followed by a prayer from Mercy Warren Chapter NSDAR Chaplain Barbara Dennis and closing remarks by Superneau.



Members of the Henry Knox Regimental Color Guard, Massachusetts Sons of the American Revolution fire a musket salute. They are from left Ray Ellsworth of Becket, George Podmore of Chicopee and giving the order to fire, Andrew Taylor of Pittsfield.

## UNSUNG HERO OF JETHRO'S STORY

*Quasheba, Quasheba  
You're free now, you're free now  
How does your spirit fly?  
Blood of your blood  
Bone of your bone  
By the grace of your strength we have life  
You were forgotten, almost forsaken  
Your children founded generations  
Your strength sustained them  
They won their freedom  
Traced their roots to find you waiting  
Quasheba, Quasheba  
You're free now, you're free now  
How far your spirit's flown  
Blood of your blood  
Bone of your bone  
By the grace of your strength we are home*

— Allison Russell and Native Daughters

## BOARD

from page 1

on the development of solar energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and the potential availability of large areas of open space in the town, it is anticipated that applications to site large scale solar facilities in the town will continue unabated.

The unexpected high demand has demonstrated the potential for rapidly changing the face of the town, thereby raising novel legal, planning, and economic issues and creating an urgent need to regulate the use."

For those reasons, the draft includes information that applies to adopting new zoning bylaws for both solar

installations and battery energy storage systems.

The upshot of the conversation with the Select Board was, as Reich said, "The sooner this gets done, the more effective..."

Referencing the newly formed Energy Projects Siting Committee, Eichman suggested considering limiting the size of the zoning district, negative impacts and any unexpected impacts.

It's important, according to Eichman, and there are "a lot of facets" and said, "think of the outcome."

The board heard Historical Society Chips Norcross bring updates on the town owned Historical

Society Building and upcoming events.

### Gateway school district

The new Gateway Regional School Superintendent Melissa Matarazzo introduced herself to the board along with new Human Resource Director Stacy Steward, formerly administrative assistant to the superintendent and the now School Business Administrator Amy Mason.

### Town Administrator

Town Administrator Cristina Ferrera brought several items to the board's attention. Candidates have

been selected for interviews for the assistant treasurer/collector position and that effort is moving forward.

Weston and Sampson quoted just over \$14,000 to begin work on a feasibility study on new property possibly for location of a new fire station on North Blandford Road currently owned by Belle Fleur, parcel 7.2. A new study is estimated at \$120,000 plus additional costs. The board approved the \$14,200 to begin the process.

Bryan Denegal cleared all the sumac from the Post Office area behind Bicentennial Park.

New assistant in the

Assessor's office Michaela Smith and Collector/Treasurer Sara Hunter informed Ferrera that more hours are necessary for that position. At one time it did carry more hours, but the backlog of work require more than the eight to ten hours a week currently.

Board member Jackie Coury said, "If we need more hours to get things done, we need to do it"

This would require a town meeting vote.

### Other business

The next all department meeting date is Monday, Oct. 27; the November date has yet to be set but will

focus on capital expenditure items for departments.

Coury asked if Veterans' Agent Joe Henning could come to the board and provide an update on services.

RRG applied for the outsourcing post for the Board of Assessors as a result of a Request for Proposal; a contract has been sent to Town Counsel for review; \$44,000 for fiscal year 2026; \$45,000 for fiscal year 2027 and \$46,000 for fiscal year 2028.

There will be logging done at 32 Nye Brook Road on 151.5 acres, the former Taudel home.

The town audit was "great" according to Ferrera.

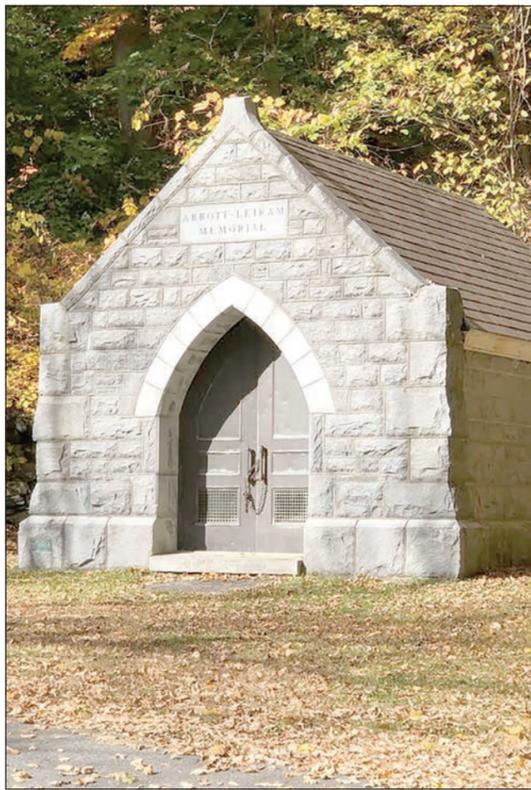
# CHESTER

## Historical Society presents cemetery tour

CHESTER – The Chester Historical Society will present a tour of the Pine Hill Cemetery on Route 20 on Saturday Oct. 25 at 2 p.m.

Participants should drive into the cemetery where they will be directed to parking. The tour will visit the graves of people involved in the emery and granite industries as well as some of the graves of Irish, Italian and Finnish immigrants to Chester.

There will be minimal walking, but some of it will be on uneven ground. The Chester History Museum will be open after the cemetery tour, either for touring or simply for the bathroom.



The Abbott-Leikam Memorial is at the entrance to the Pine Hill Cemetery in Chester. Submitted Photo

## Hilltown Hikers host group hike

CHESTER – The Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers will hold a group hike to Whistlers Cathedrals and the Keystone Arch bridges on Sunday, Oct. 26 at 1 p.m.

Parking is at 325 Middlefield Road Chester, but hikers will carpool from parking at Chester Elementary School.

The hike is a moderate five miles in and back, ups and downs, rocks, roots and dirt. Carpool is required from the Chester Elementary School due to lack of parking at the trailhead. Carpool will start at 12:15 p.m. from the school parking lot.

Construction of the 150-mile railroad was completed by 3,000 laborers in an incredible two and a half years, opening in 1841. There will be a historic narrative by Dave Pierce. He tells of the history of the arch's creation, the first clus-

ter of stone arch railroad bridges built in America, located on the West Branch of the Westfield River.

Participants will learn how the stone bridges were built, visit a quarry and the massive "cut." They will get up close to all of the stone bridges on the trail including the footpaths over and under the dry laid stone bridges.

An optional hike to the Gator Arch will follow. The Chester Railway Station Museum will be open after the hike located at 10 Prospect St., a national historic landmark along with the 65 and 70 foot bridges.

The group will hike rain or shine. Registration is required. People should register per car load by visiting <https://westernmasshilltownhikers.ticketleap.com>. Maps and bottled water are provided. Well behaved dogs are allowed. The event is volunteer lead. Suggested

donation is \$15.

More details are available by [www.hilltownhikers.com](http://www.hilltownhikers.com). They may call/text 413-3020312 or email [westernmasshilltownhikers@aol.com](mailto:westernmasshilltownhikers@aol.com) if they have any questions. As always be prepared for rocks, mud and roots and bring trekking poles.

For those who want to hike every weekend year-round they may become a Hilltown Hiker Member! Get access to our private Messenger Group Text with hike and event announcements that are member exclusive events. They can sign up by visiting [www.HilltownHikers.com](http://www.HilltownHikers.com).

People may follow them on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. Tees, hoodies, hats, patches and bags will be for sale by donation at the event. People may see all their events, maps, blog and photos by visiting [www.hilltownhikers.com](http://www.hilltownhikers.com).

## COA announces news, events

CHESTER – The Council on Aging, 15 Middlefield Road, basement of Town Hall, list upcoming events.

On Friday, Oct. 21 starting at 8:30 a.m. is hair cutting day. Appointments are in 45-minute blocks.

Cost is \$10 for men and \$15 for women.

This new service will now take place every third Tuesday of the month. People should call 413-354-7735 to reserve a spot.

On Tuesday, Oct. 25 Town Halloween Trunk or Treat celebration begins at 5 p.m. at Emery Park.

The COA is sponsoring the costume contest with

cash prizes plus face painting for the children.

Ongoing programs include foot clinic on second Tuesday of every month (call to reserve a spot) and

Tech Help drop ins on second Wednesday of every month. For more details or to sign up, people may call 413-354-7735.



One of the Keystone arch bridges the hikers will explore. Submitted photo

# WILLIAMSBURG

## Trustees applaud MVP Grant to town for Beaver Brook

WILLIAMSBURG – The Trustees of Reservations hosted a celebration of the state awarding the town of Williamsburg a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant for \$1,194,255 toward local flood resilience and the restoration of the former Beaver Brook golf course.

The Trustees acquired the 260 acres of land this summer. A press event recently at Beaver Brook with Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, Undersecretary Katherine Antos, Senator Paul Mark, Representative Lindsey Sabadosa, Williamsburg Town Administrator Nick Caccamo and Trustees President and

CEO Katie Theoharides formally announced the MVP grant for Beaver Brook and other projects across the state.

The MVP funding was part of a \$28.7 million pool of grants awarded to 54 Massachusetts communities to prepare for increasingly extreme weather, including heat waves, flooding, wildfires and storms. The funding supports on the ground improvements such as protecting wetlands that reduce flooding in neighborhoods, which is an important part of the restoration work The Trustees will do at Beaver Brook.

"The MVP program is

focused on building resiliency to climate change, but at its core, it is about building the communities of tomorrow - places that support people, the environment, and local economies," said Theoharides. "We are grateful to the Healey-Driscoll administration for their commitment to climate resiliency through MVP and proud to partner with the Town of Williamsburg and the Hilltown Land Trust to rewild the former golf course at Beaver Brook to become a publicly accessible community park that will hold and absorb flood water, support critical habitat connectivity for plants and wildlife, and provide outdoor access for everyone, forever to this special landscape in Western Massachusetts."

The MVP funding will address three different needs for the project. First, \$850,000 will be used to transfer a conservation restriction on the property to the town of Williamsburg. Approximately \$35,000 will be used to do planning work for the ecological restoration and the remaining \$65,000 will be earmarked for the Hilltown Community

Development Corporation to do a housing feasibility analysis for a small portion of the property.

The MVP grant is the latest in a string of positive developments for Beaver Brook, said Wendy Ferris, The Trustees' vice president for the Central and Valley region. Ferris added that some work has started on the property this summer, including cleaning out buildings, weed trimming and control of invasive plants with 50 Trustees' staff from all over the state pitching in to complete the tasks. A Smith College student collected oral history interviews with local residents this summer about the history of farming on the property before it was a golf course, along with deed research and historic photographs. The Trustees also recently acquired a 10.8-acre inholding that features a beaver pond and trail connections, which brings the total acreage of the property to 260 acres.

"Over the summer we also worked with state agency and other partners to conduct wildlife inventories, including for those living in the brook itself, to better

understand habitat quality," Ferris said. "We've also been in touch with several environmental, educational, recreational, and social services nonprofits that have expressed interest in partnering with us on various projects and programs."

Over the next six months, The Trustees will be conducting conceptual design and a budget plan for renovating the former clubhouse into offices for its western Massachusetts-based staff, hiring a consultant to delineate the wetlands on the property which will help shape trail planning and other uses of the property, and begin working on the restoration planning. This fall, Ferris said the staff will engage with the University of Massachusetts Amherst Landscape Architecture Department about restoration work and begin work with the University of Massachusetts Boston's Fiske Center for Archaeological Research on a cultural resources inventory of the property.

Ferris said Beaver Brook is informally open to visitors and that it is consistently visited by dog walkers on leash, plein air painters and joggers.

For more information on Beaver Brook, people may visit [www.thetrustees.org/beaverbrook](http://www.thetrustees.org/beaverbrook).

# OTIS

## Sherry Steiner to perform Oct. 16

OTIS – The Otis Historical Commission and Otis Preservation Trust presents musician Sherry Steiner on Thursday, Oct. 16 at 7 p.m. at Otis Town Hall, One Main Road.

This event is in-person only. Ms. Steiner will present a short musical performance followed by a question and answer session. Admission is free but registration is required. Sherry Steiner is a piano composer and performer of original, improvisational music, described as meditative, soothing and reflective, where one may find peace within themselves.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Otis Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, an agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

To register to attend this event or for more information, people may visit either [www.otispreservationtrust.com](http://www.otispreservationtrust.com) or [www.townofotisma.com](http://www.townofotisma.com). There is no charge to attend this event, but pre-registration is required. Donations are welcome.

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<b>SLICED IN OUR DELI</b>		USDA INSP. FROZEN FISH COD FILLETS.....	<b>\$6.99</b> lb		
USDA INSP. ROAST BEEF.....	<b>\$6.99</b> lb				
USDA INSP. PROVOLONE CHEESE.....	<b>\$4.44</b> lb				
<b>TAILGATE SPECIALS</b>					
USDA INSP. STORE MADE BONELESS ITALIAN MARINATED CHICKEN BREAST.....	<b>\$3.99</b> lb				
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# BECKET

## Becket Athenaeum has ticket passes to '1999'

BECKET – The Becket Athenaeum, 3367 Main St. and Becket and Washington Community Library, has two free tickets available to patrons for each performance of WAM Theatre's upcoming play "1999."

One pass is for two tickets and is available on a first come first serve basis per day. The play runs from

Thursday, Oct. 16 through Sunday, Nov. 2 with 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. showings at the Elayne P. Bernstein Theater, Shakespeare and Company, Lenox. The play is written by Stacey Isom Campnell and directed by Genee Coreno.

People may email [info@bwlibrary.org](mailto:info@bwlibrary.org) or call 413-623-5483 for ticket pass information.

# CHESTERFIELD

## Planning Board hosts second Master Plan meeting Oct. 23

CHESTERFIELD – The Chesterfield Planning Board will host the second of three Master Plan visioning and goal setting community engagement meetings on Thursday, Oct. 23 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Community Center, 400 Main Road.

Refreshments and childcare will be provided and, as a thank you, a drawing will be held for gift cards for two lucky citizens. All residents

are encouraged to attend.

Among the topics of discussion will be transportation, small business, preserving social connectivity and housing for the future. These topics were some of the priorities chosen by 191 residents in a recent town survey. At the same time, residents said they value the town's rural character and natural resources and development, if it occurs, should be care-

fully done and at a fitting scale and design.

These and other views were expressed at the kick-off meeting in late September when two dozen people gathered in lively, facilitated small group conversations led by Planning Board members and staff from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

Key questions discussed included hopes and con-

cerns when thinking about the future of the town, from defining elements of rural character to preserving for new generations to balancing the needs for future services or tax revenues which can result from new development.

The town's rural and scenic character is well loved and renowned. During the 30 years since the last master plan, changes in land use have occurred including

more single-family housing, loss of farmland from 20% to 5%, and loss of wood product businesses. Acting Chair Sarah Hamilton noted that close to 600 acres were for sale in town, evidence that change is continuing.

Community residents are vital to setting priorities and planning for the town's next two decades. The Planning Board encourages all residents to come out and let

their voices be heard at this meeting and at a third meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 19 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. where they'll delve into a final set of questions

People should look for updates and more information at [Planningboard@townofchesterfieldma.com](mailto:Planningboard@townofchesterfieldma.com), the Chesterfield Chatters Facebook Group and fliers and message boards in town.

# STOCKBRIDGE

## BAC offers workshops

STOCKBRIDGE – Berkshire Art Center invites the community to embrace the beauty of autumn and celebrate creativity during a special weekend of workshops on Oct. 18-19.

Featuring photography, ceramics, and drawing, this weekend offers participants the opportunity to make meaningful memories and artwork that will last well beyond the season.

Spend two hours capturing the brilliance of fall foliage during a photography workshop on Saturday, Oct. 18 from 1-3 p.m. led by professional photographer Thad Kubis at Mass Audubon's Canoe Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary in Pittsfield. This program will inspire participants to turn "leaf peeping" into an art form.

In a two-day ceramics workshop, acclaimed visiting artist Jerilyn Virden will guide participants through fundamental hand building techniques to create double-walled bowls. This transformative process turns functional forms

into sculptural works of art on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 18-19 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

On Saturday, Oct. 18 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. join dynamic faculty artist Paul Chojnowski for a one-day exploration of creative mark-making. Using charcoal, ink and unconventional tools, participants will experiment with techniques that push the boundaries of traditional drawing. This is open to all experience levels.

"With this trio of workshops, we're excited to offer something for everyone-whether you're looking to capture the colors of the season, get your hands into clay, or explore new approaches to drawing," said Laura Thompson, Executive Director of Berkshire Art Center.

Space is limited and early registration is encouraged to secure a place and ensure these classes can run. For more information and to register, people may visit Upcoming Classes at Berkshire Art Center website at <https://berkshireartcenter.org>.

## Halloween parade and pumpkin walk takes place Oct. 24

STOCKBRIDGE – The Stockbridge Halloween parade and pumpkin walk will take place on Friday, Oct. 24 at 6 p.m. for area children.

Marchers will meet at the corner of Main and Pine Streets and march up Main Street to the front lawn of the Stockbridge Library for cider and doughnuts, and pumpkin walk about with lighted pumpkins carved by local businesses and area children. The fire truck will be stationed for discovery and there will be a sheeply petting pen on the front lawn. A Halloween story time will take place at 6:30 p.m. and drop-in Halloween crafts inside the Stockbridge Public Library from 6-7:30 p.m.

Children and business-

es interested in showcasing a Jack-O-Lantern of their own, should drop them off at the library any time before 5:30PM (The library staff will light them and provide candles). You can take them home at the end of the evening.

In case of rain the parade is cancelled and activities will take place in the library.

These events are sponsored by the Stockbridge Chamber of Commerce, Stockbridge Library, Stockbridge Police & Fire Departments, Stockbridge Coffee & Tea, and Prado de Lana Sheep.

For more information, one may contact the Stockbridge Chamber of Commerce at (413)298-5200.



PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

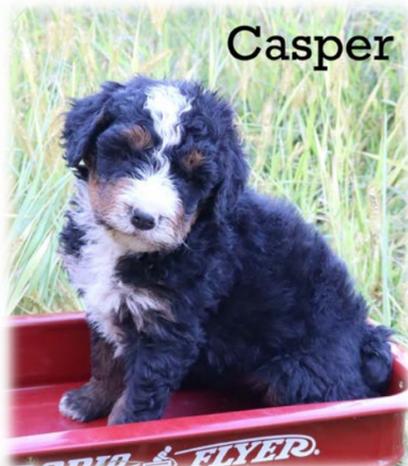
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# PITTSFIELD

## Lani Willmar becomes ERC fellow at Berkshire1

PITTSFIELD – Berkshire announces the arrival of its new Economic Recovery Corps fellow, Lani Willmar.

The ERC Fellowship is a national program run by the International Economic Development Council thanks to funding from the United States Economic Development Administration. For the next year, Willmar will be working with the Economic Development team at Berkshire, in partnership with the Berkshire Innovation Center, to inject additional capacity to assist existing and new efforts

focused on supporting and accelerating the region's innovative economy.

Berkshire is one of only 64 host organizations across the country selected to host an ERC fellow, making it an exciting and rare chance to leverage highly skilled and passionate professional capacity for regional good.

The ERC Fellowship role in the Berkshires is focused on four primary areas, including: Bridging



Lani Willmar

opportunities for youth to engage significantly in entrepreneurial activities within small and innovative businesses in the region. Helping to build additional connective tissue across partners and qualified referral resource providers across the four counties of Western Massachusetts. Identifying and pursuing new funding and technical assistance opportunities to bring into the region to support current and future busi-

ness success. Sharing the authentic narrative of existing innovative businesses, entrepreneurs, and powerful stories being written across the region's diverse economic landscape.

Willmar is a Vietnamese American entrepreneur, who began her journey in the Berkshires as a QuestBridge Scholar for low-income, first-generation students at Williams College. As the founder of Ethos Pathways and Ethos Admissions, she leads two youth-centered social impact organizations focused on education access, climate justice and

workforce development.

Drawing on both lived and professional experience, she strives to bridge gaps in educational and economic mobility for students. She brings a decade of expertise building cross-sector youth development programs along with private tech-sector experience in early stage talent acquisition and scaled hiring. Willmar's work draws from both a global and local lens including her time as a Fulbright Scholar in rural Slovakia working with beekeepers and at an agriculture trade school and most recently as

a member of the Berkshire Innovation Center's Stage 2 Accelerator. Her work is grounded in her lived experience and driven by a deep commitment to youth agency, class solidarity and place-based economic resilience.

Berkshire Vice President of Economic Development, Dr. Ben Lamb notes "We are ecstatic to have Lani joining our team, and based on how quickly she has embraced this role, we can't wait to see, and share, all the high-impact work that she collaborates with us on over the next 12 months."

## Flying Cloud Institute offers free science and art event

PITTSFIELD – Flying Cloud Institute will lead a free, hands-on science and art community event for students in grades K-8 and their families at the Berkshire Innovation Center on Thursday, Oct. 23 from 5-7 p.m.

This is the sixth Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math Challenge Night led by FCI, with support from the Berkshire

STEM Pipeline and the BIC. The event coincides with Massachusetts eighth Annual STEM Week to boost students' interest in STEM fields and is part of the MA Lights On After School celebration.

"Flying Cloud Institute invites local families to celebrate creativity and innovation with us. It will be so much fun and family members can really get into the hands-on activities, too,"

said FCI Executive Director Maria Rundle.

Students and their families will spend the evening problem-solving together in ways that involve exploring, tinkering, and creating. In addition to creative science and art projects with Flying Cloud educators, several local experts and organizations will participate. Staff members from Berkshire Museum will explore how a physics zip line works,

while BeatNest School demonstrates electro music stations and Berkshire Design presents a design challenge.

Participants will explore 3-D scanning and printing with Berkshire Innovation Center representatives and Bottomless Bricks will help students design and build using LEGO elements. Staff from Berkshire Art Center, Greenagers, Hancock

Shaker Village, Mass Audubon and Latinas413 will also be leading kid-centered challenge activities.

Complimentary refreshments will be served. Families are encouraged to register online at flyingcloudinstitute.org, but it is not required for this free event.

This event is made possible thanks to contributions. Those who want to be a community sponsor or donate items to the event,

should call Amy Truax, development manager, at 413-645-3058 or visit flyingcloudinstitute.org for the sign-up form.

Flying Cloud Institute inspires young people and educators through dynamic experiences with science and art that ignite creativity. FCI offers an array of programs in the arts and STEAM that serve over 2,000 youth and local educators annually.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Town of Huntington Office of the Collector Notice of Tax Taking

TO THE OWNERS OF THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED LAND AND TO ALL OTHERS CONCERNED YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on **November 10, 2025 at 10 o'clock a.m.** at the Collector's Office, City Hall, PO BOX 550, Huntington, MA 01050, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 60, Section 53, the following described parcel/s of land will BE TAKEN FOR THE Town of Huntington for non-payment of taxes due thereon, with the interest and all incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking, unless the same shall have been paid before that date.

Sue Fopiano, Collector

Property Location: 40 HARLOW CLARK RD  
Assessed Owner(s): BRADFORD BUILDERS INC  
Tax Bill #: 568 Map/Parcel ID: 446 24 0

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing approximately 170755 square feet of land and being a part of the premises recorded at Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 14520 Page 227

2025 REAL ESTATE TAXES	708.28
WATER/SEWER LIENS	0.00
INTEREST	77.42
ADDITIONAL CHARGES	100.00
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	885.70

Property Location: 11 MAIN ST  
Assessed Owner(s): TURTLE BEND PROPERTIES LLC  
Tax Bill #: 813 Map/Parcel ID: H1 54 0

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing approximately 6534 square feet of land and being a part of the premises recorded at Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 15245 Page 228

2025 REAL ESTATE TAXES	1,973.14
WATER/SEWER LIENS	0.00
INTEREST	178.98
ADDITIONAL CHARGES	100.00
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	2,252.12

Property Location: 5 MAIN ST  
Assessed Owner(s): TURTLE BEND PROPERTIES LLC  
Tax Bill #: 814 Map/Parcel ID: H1 56 0

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing approximately 4356 square feet of land and being a part of the premises recorded at Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 15245 Page 228

2025 REAL ESTATE TAXES	1,492.30
WATER/SEWER LIENS	0.00
INTEREST	135.37
ADDITIONAL CHARGES	100.00
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	1,727.67

### Town of Blandford Public Hearing Notice

Pursuant to MGL, CH. 40A Section 9 the Blandford Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing at the Blandford Town Office, 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA 01008 at 6:05 Pm on **Thursday, October 30, 2026**. This hearing is scheduled under the following Blandford Zoning By-laws Section VIII Ground Mounted Large Scale Solar Photovoltaic Installations and Section XVI, Battery Energy Storage Systems. The hearing is to consider the Town's adopting a **Temporary Moratorium** on Large Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations and Battery Energy Storage Systems. The moratorium will be in effect through **May 31st 2026** or the date on which the Town

adopts amendments to the Zoning By-laws concerning Large Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations and Battery Energy Storage Systems whichever occurs earlier.

During the moratorium period, the Town shall undertake a planning process to study, review, analyze and address what revision to the Zoning By-laws relative to Large Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations and Battery Energy Storage Systems are needed or desirable to allow for and regulate such use consistent with applicable law while protecting the Town's environmental resources and furthering its planning goals. Or take any other action in relation thereto

Any person interested or wishing to be heard should appear at

the time and place designated. If unable to attend please submit comments, in writing, to the Blandford Planning Board at 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA 01008. Failure to make recommendations on the matter for review shall be deemed lack of opposition thereto. A copy of the proposed articles is available for review at the Blandford Post Office and Town Hall.

A copy of Article I: Temporary moratorium on the Construction of Large-Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation and Battery Energy Storage Systems may be found at <https://TownofBlandford.com/planning>.

Greg Garfield, Chair  
Blandford Planning Board  
10/16, 10/23/2025

Property Location: 72 COUNTY RD  
Assessed Owner(s): HAMLET HOMES LLC  
Tax Bill #: 1479 Map/Parcel ID: 444 13 B  
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing approximately 224900 square feet of land and being a part of the premises recorded at Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 11584 Page 181

2025 REAL ESTATE TAXES	4,104.10
WATER/SEWER LIENS	0.00
INTEREST	520.75
ADDITIONAL CHARGES	100.00
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	4,724.85

Property Location: 184 GOSS HILL RD  
Assessed Owner(s): NATIONAL FARM & FORESTRY LLC  
Tax Bill #: 2933 Map/Parcel ID: 328 9 D  
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing approximately 732417 square feet of land and being a part of the premises recorded at Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 14267 Page 180

2025 REAL ESTATE TAXES	16.73
WATER/SEWER LIENS	0.00
INTEREST	1.14
ADDITIONAL CHARGES	85.00
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	102.87

Property Location: 186 GOSS HILL RD  
Assessed Owner(s): NATIONAL FARM & FORESTRY LLC  
Tax Bill #: 2934 Map/Parcel ID: 328 9 E  
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing approximately 577344 square feet of land and being a part of the premises recorded at Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 14267 Page 180

2025 REAL ESTATE TAXES	16.57
WATER/SEWER LIENS	0.00
INTEREST	1.12
ADDITIONAL CHARGES	85.00
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	102.69

Property Location: 188 GOSS HILL RD  
Assessed Owner(s): NATIONAL FARM & FORESTRY LLC  
Tax Bill #: 2935 Map/Parcel ID: 328 9 F  
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing approximately 474586 square feet of land and being a part of the premises recorded at Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 14267 Page 180

2025 REAL ESTATE TAXES	16.46
WATER/SEWER LIENS	0.00
INTEREST	1.12
ADDITIONAL CHARGES	85.00
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	102.58

10/16/2025

**Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.**

## GOSHEN

### Vaccination clinic on Nov. 19

Wellness on Wheels bus will be on site

Colleen Kicza at 413-296-9763 or email [ckicza@hchcweb.org](mailto:ckicza@hchcweb.org). There will be pediatric, regular and high dose flu and Covid 19 Moderna.

GOSHEN – The Hilltown Community Development in partnership with the Hilltown Community Health Center will offer a flu and Covid vaccination clinic on Wednesday, Nov. 19 from 1:30-4:30 p.m. in the Goshen Town Hall, 40 Main St.

People should bring their insurance card. There is no charge for the vaccinations, but people's insurance will reimburse the service provider. No appointment is required. If people would like to pre-register for this clinic they may call

During the vaccine clinic the Baystate Health Wellness on Wheels Bus will also be at the Town Hall. The WOW Bus offers prevention screening for high blood pressure and diabetes, healthy eating and active living education and resources, at home blood pressure cuffs for eligible individuals and resource and answer to health questions. It will be there from 1:30-4:30 p.m. in the parking lot across from the Town Hall, located at 40 Main St.

### Country Journal news, photo publication policy

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

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

**Deadline is Friday at NOON.**



# WORTHINGTON

## Town lists election information

WORTHINGTON – A Special Town Election will be held on Saturday, Nov. 8 with the polls open from 8 a.m.-noon at the Town Hall. Early in-person vot-

ing is Monday, Oct. 20 to Friday, Nov. 20 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Town Hall.

People may vote by mail by sending an email

request ASAP to town-clerk@worthington-ma.us. The request should include voter name, voter residential address and mailing address.

## Chicken barbecue happens Oct. 18

WORTHINGTON – The chicken barbecue will be held on Saturday, Oct.18 at 3 p.m. at the Worthington Rod and Gun Club, 458 Dingle Road.

There will be live music from Greg Reil of Reil Country.

Tickets are \$20 and include chicken and all the fixings. There will be a

Chinese raffle and a 50/50 raffle.

For tickets, people may call Deana 1-413-443-0009. The incorrect address was given last week.

## Car show benefits Special Operation Warrior Foundation

WORTHINGTON – About 150 cars made it to the Worthington Rod & Gun Club on Saturday

September 20 for their third annual car show.

The weather was perfect which made the

day more enjoyable. D.J. Gary Francis with the Westfield Cruisers was the MC. Well over \$5,000 was

raised and donated to the Special Operation Warrior Foundation, which provides funding for education

of children of fallen special operation troops. There were raffles, vendors, food and music



Some of the 150 cars that took part in the third annual car show at Worthington Rod & Gun Club.



This couple poses by their entry in the car show in Worthington last month. Submitted photos



A car show trophy and medal were on display at the car show.

### HCHC

from page 1

bles shared by Gilbert in her opening remarks was growth of the medical practice and the donation of land in the 1960s, a fundraising concert given by Arlo Guthrie in 1975 and becoming a FQCHC in 1976. In the 1980s, Huntington lost their only physician and the Worthington Health Center expanded to serve the southern hilltowns as well. Expansion again occurred in the 1990s with the formation of the School-Based Health Center at Gateway Regional Middle/High School and the opening of a satellite health center in Amherst.

Today, Dr. Purdy said, HCHC serves over 9,000 patients speaking 16 different languages, providing 31,000 visits a year to people living in 160 different zip codes. To demonstrate that significance, Dr. Purdy noted that the entire state of Massachusetts has 355 zip codes.

The celebration included honoring five people with Founders Circle Awards. Posthumous awards were given to the families of Roy and Helen McCann, who donated land and funds for the Worthington Health Center's current site along with the Maples Retirement Center next door; the family of Mary Allison, who donated land and funds for the construction of the Huntington Health Center and Steffen Plehn for his advocacy on behalf of the health center and monetary support of the Worthington clinic. Plehn's niece Eliza Lake, former CEO of HCHC, accepted Plehn's award on behalf of the family.

Also posthumously honored was John P. Musante, whose contributions as Amherst Town Manager were critical in establishing the satellite health center that has been named for him. Musante's daughter, Rachel, accepted the award on his behalf, saying that that family had reflected on him recently while acknowledging the ten year anniversary of his death. In her speech, Rachel said, "I recall fondly a regular occurrence at home would be him sending an email and looking up from his phone saying, 'Rachel we got to help people today' and he would explain complex challenges the town faced with thoughtful clarity and consideration to different perspectives and pushback. Through chaos, he never lost sight of the big picture and what was truly important."

Rachel Musante, herself working towards a Master's

degree in Public Health, concluded her remarks. "Health is a human right. Whether as a municipal leader, policymaker, health provider, administrator, or community member, each of us is called to action. We are called to build systems and infrastructure that ensure every person's basic needs are met and to make certain that preventive and life saving care is not just available-but truly accessible-to all."

On hand to receive his Founder's Award was Arlo Guthrie whose benefit concert in 1975 raised critical funding for the construction of the Worthington Health Center. "After the concert, I was in a hospital somewhere in Berkshire County. I was watching TV for three days. On the fourth day the nurse came and turned it on. So I know about health care," Guthrie quipped to laughter from the audience. He went on, explaining that each of us has health strengths as well as challenges that we've inherited through our families.

"We take care of each other. That's what we do. There's a lot of people around the country who want to end that kind of health and that kind of familiarity, and make it more difficult to pay attention to each other," Guthrie said. "So we do what we can. Meanwhile, I'm glad you guys are here."

HCHC also presented three staff members with Florence Bates Staff Awards, with recipients nominated and voted upon



Senator Paul Mark, CEO Dr. Michael Purdy, and Representative Lindsay Sabadosa with legislative citations honoring the 75th anniversary of HCHC.

by the employees. Dr. Alice Ruden of the dental department received the Florence Bates Award for Clinical Excellence; Shelley McCleod from optometry received the Florence Bates Award for Clinical Support and Chief People and Compliance Officer Debbie DiStefano, Ph. D. took the Florence Bates Spirit Award.

Massachusetts Senator Paul Mark and Representative Lindsay Sabados presented legislative citations honoring the 75th Anniversary of Hilltown Community Health Centers, Inc.



HCHC Board President Nancy Gilbert introduced Honoree Arlo Guthrie, whose 1975 benefit concert in Worthington raised substantial funding for the construction of the current Worthington Health Center. Turley Publications photos by Wendy Long



Rachel Musante, daughter of Founders Circle Honoree John P. Musante, accepted the award on his behalf.

## Send Us Your Community Dazzler Events

**Turley Publications will print your holiday calendar events FREE OF CHARGE in our Dazzler Supplement which will be published November 19, 2025. Total circulation of 85,000 which reaches over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley. Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public**

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

Event Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Description \_\_\_\_\_

Cost \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name & phone number for more information \_\_\_\_\_

Deadline for Calendar submissions is October 20.

MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO:  
Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn,  
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069  
or email\* them to: [jamie@turley.com](mailto:jamie@turley.com)  
\*Be sure to indicate "Dazzler" in the subject line of your email.

## SCHOOLS & YOUTH

# R.H. Comwell students enjoy fire station field trip

By Janine Modestow

WORTHINGTON – On Wednesday, Oct. 8, the entire R.H. Comwell School went on a field trip to the Worthington Fire Station in conjunction with a Student Awareness of Fire Education (FY25 SAFE and Senior) grant from the Massachusetts Department of Fire Safety.

The day began with three lessons in the firehouse, and the students rotated through with their classroom teachers. At one spot, Firefighters Paul Sena and Joshua Clark introduced the kids to E1, a fire engine, letting them see and experience the materials and tools found there. This included climbing into the cab, lifting tanks of air, holding a Halligan tool and seeing the Jaws of Life.

Meanwhile, Firefighter Nancy Brown and Police Chief John Scobie took the students through R1, the rescue truck. Brown showed the children the app that rescue personnel use to hear about and locate victims. Then she walked them through the truck, pointing out where supplies were kept and what they were used for. Outside, Chief Scobie explained defibrillators, can-

nulas, and tourniquets in a very lively dynamic, giving a valuable lesson about what to do if someone is bleeding heavily. After this, students sat in the truck bay holding “yes” and “no” cards. Their teachers acted out various scenarios involving danger or injury and asked the students, “Should I call 9-1-1?” Students voted their responses, but sometimes the acting was so good that they shouted them out as well! All the acting by the teachers was amazing, but Oscar Awards went to Betsy Todd and Kim Orzechowski who had the kids rolling in laughter as they reached for their voting cards.

Finally, in the fire meeting room, Firefighter Hayden Cleveland and Chief Mike Dondiego led the kids through “Don and Doff,” how a set of structural firefighting “turn-out” gear (boots, pants, hood, coat, helmet, and gloves) is put on (“donned”) and taken off (“doffed”). This lesson showed kids that although a firefighter in full gear –including breathing masks and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) – might look like an alien from another planet, it’s really just your neighbor in

their gear trying to help you escape a fire.

After a morning of learning, the students (except the 6th graders) crossed the street for lunch at the Town Park. The 6th graders stayed behind to wear and use the brush firefighting water cans with pump nozzles, spraying beach balls across a field into the woods before joining everyone else.

After lunch the firefighting crew joined the students again for a variety of games centered around what they’ve been learning during our SAFE encounters. One game was called “Stop, Drop, (Cover), and Roll!” The student who was IT tagged classmates with a Post-it note. Tagged students couldn’t re-enter the game until they’d dropped to the ground and rolled the “flame” off their bodies, mimicking the proper behavior for putting out a flame on your body.

Another activity – designed by Chief Dondiego – was the “Dress Your Teacher” relay. Students, using what they’d learned in the morning session, ran in a relay to fetch Firefighter turn-out gear items in the correct order to dress their teachers as firefighters.

The third activity was a hose rolling race. In pairs or small groups, students rolled out 50-foot worth of hose and then rolled it back up again. One group of 5th and 6th graders was exceptionally talented at this – future firefighters?

Then all the lower grades sat on the pond’s hillside and watched as the 6th graders, guided by Sena and Clark, tried to keep a plastic gator in the middle of the pond using the hoses from the brush truck. Sadly, the windy weather did not

cooperate, and the gator kept escaping to the far end of the pond. Luckily, Firefighter Cleveland – amid chants of “Hayden! Hayden!” – bravely rescued the gator from the pond several times, sending him back to be bombarded by water once again. After a day of activities, Principal Gretchen Morse-Dobocz remarked, “The chief and firefighters did an amazing job of guiding the kids through several “hands-on” lessons that “hooked” all of the students throughout the day!”

The day finally ended with a raffle drawn by Chief Dondiego from the names of the schoolchildren provided by Principal Gretchen Morse-Dobocz. The prize? A ride to school in a fire truck! This was won by Ava Santoni in second grade.

Morse-Dobocz reflected on the day, saying, “We had a terrific day at the Worthington Fire Station! Students were so engaged and excited to learn about all things related to the first responders in Worthington.”



Firefighter Paul Sena takes a class around E1.

Photos by Gretchen Morse-Dobocz



Teachers Todd and Orzechowski act out a possible 9-1-1 scenario.



Police Chief Scobie shows second and third graders a defibrillator.



Firefighter Joshua Clark explains equipment to Harlan Sampson and Max Ricci.

### COLLEGE NEWS

## Goodwin University announces President’s, Dean’s list

EAST HARTFORD, CT – Lisa Neveu of Blandford earned a spot on Goodwin University President’s list for the summer 2025 session.

Neveu is one of 277 students to make the President’s List, reserved for those who demonstrate exemplary academic performance. Inclusion on the President’s List requires a student to earn a 4.0 GPA during a given academic session.

Abigail Kaczprowicz of Westfield made the summer 2025 Dean’s list.

## Holyoke Community College holds ‘Trunk or Treat’ returns

HOLYOKE – Visitors to Holyoke Community College on Friday, Oct. 24 from 5-7 p.m. can expect to see witches, ghouls, ghosts and an assortment of characters from popular children’s movies, games, books and TV shows as the college celebrates Halloween with its eighth annual Trunk or Treat event.

Every year, the event draws thousands of children and their parents to the HCC campus for a fun, safe, and early Halloween celebration as dozens of HCC departments, programs and student clubs, as well as community groups and area businesses, decorate their cars and trucks with a wide assortment of themes.

Trunk or Treat is held in Parking Lot M by the Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation on the main HCC campus, 303 Homestead Ave.

Last year’s trunk themes included Charlotte’s Web, the Wizard of Oz, Minions, mummies, Dr. Seuss, pirates, enchanted forest, haunted vet clinic, aliens, Ratatouille, monsters, Jurassic Park, Shrek, the zoo, STEM, Fairly Odd Parents, castles,

Wednesday Adams, spiders, skeletons, scarecrows, witches, sharks and the Justice League.

In the past, trunk sponsors from HCC have included the Early Education program, Student Engagement, Veterinary and Animal Science, Dance Club, ASL Club, Japanese Anime Club, C.A.M.O. (military club), Radiologic Technology, El Centro, Student Records, Early Childhood Grants Initiative, Culinary Club, Business department, President’s Cabinet, Disney Club, Nursing program, Student Senate, STEM Club, Latinx Empowerment Association, Psychology Club, Radio Club, Animation Club, and Dungeons & Dragons Club.

Community groups and businesses sponsoring vehicles last year included Jan’s Flowers, the Girl Scouts of America, Holyoke Chicopee Springfield Head Start, Elms College Teachers Lounge, Holyoke High School North Campus, Western MA Furs, Agawam Bowmen Club, and Holyoke High School Class of 2025.

Prizes are awarded to vehicle sponsors in various



The HCC Trunk or Treat event will return this year.

Submitted photo

categories including best executed theme, scariest trunk, best costumes, and most original. Each vehicle will be handing out free Halloween treats and also have non-food items for children with dietary restrictions.

Trunk or Treat at HCC started in 2017 as a safe, fun,

and early alternative to traditional trick-or-treating on Halloween night. Rather than going door to door seeking Halloween treats, children go “trunk to trunk” to collect their candy, visiting cars decorated with seasonal themes and familiar stories and characters.

The event is free and open to the public and will be held outdoors, rain or shine. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

To sponsor a vehicle, people may email Student Engagement at [studentengagement@hcc.edu](mailto:studentengagement@hcc.edu). The deadline is Monday, Oct. 20.

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[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

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CJ25TMC

# DEATH NOTICE

**GRANGER, JOSEPH W.**  
Died September 30, 2025

**TESLA, JANE E.**  
Died October 8, 2025

# OBITUARY

## Jane E. Tesla, 81



Jane E. Tesla, 81, of Worthington, died peacefully in her sleep on Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2025 at Bellamy Fields Assisted Living in Dover, New Hampshire from Alzheimer's Disease. She was the daughter of the late John and Annie (Burton) Snook of Barnstead, New Hampshire.

She loved animals, all types of music, reading, yellow roses, hummingbirds and a good laugh.

She is survived by her longtime partner/companion Merle Pomroy of Rochester New Hampshire; two brothers, John Snook (and his wife Annette) of Poinciana Florida and Walter Snook (and his wife Julie) of Woodinville Washington; a daughter, Valerie Barnes of Stratford Connecticut and many nieces and nephews. Jane was predeceased by her ex-husband, Birlem Pomroy and her second husband, Joseph Tesla. At Jane's request, there will be no public services held.

Jane was well loved and will be greatly missed by all who knew her. May she rest in Peace.

# WESTHAMPTON

## Vaccination clinic set to place Nov. 19

WESTHAMPTON – The Hilltown Community Development in partnership with the Hilltown Community Health Center will offer a flu and Covid vaccination clinic on Thursday, Oct. 30 from 2-5 p.m. in the Westhampton Town Hall, 1 South Road.

People should bring their insurance card. There is no charge for the vac-

inations, but people's insurance will reimburse the service provider. No appointment is required.

If people would like to pre-register for this clinic they may call Colleen Kicza at 413-296-9763 or email ckicza@hchcweb.org.

There will be pediatric, regular and high dose flu and Covid Moderna.

# WESTFIELD

## No King Days on Oct. 18

WESTFIELD – In just one week on Saturday, Oct. 18 at 11 a.m. on Park Square, local Westfield and Hampden County residents will come together with millions of Americans

across the country in a nationwide day of nonviolent protest at the second No Kings Day of Action.

There are currently thousands of events nationwide.

# Country Journal OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Martial arts in China
- 6. The butt of jokes
- 12. Nevertheless
- 16. Sportscaster Michaels
- 17. A firm believer
- 18. Atomic #18
- 19. One's bestie
- 20. Of I
- 21. Hamburger accessory
- 22. Thus
- 23. Partner to Pa
- 24. Scottish tax
- 26. Cuts away
- 28. Require
- 30. Government lawyer
- 31. Own (Scottish)
- 32. Body cavity
- 34. Brew
- 35. Young woman (French)
- 37. Platforms
- 39. Pair of points in mathematics
- 40. Attack suddenly

### CLUES DOWN

- 41. Aviators
- 43. Make perfect
- 44. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- 45. Neither
- 47. The center of a city
- 48. Sacrifice hit in baseball
- 50. Singer Redding
- 52. Dragged forcibly
- 54. Puncture with a knife
- 56. Belonging to me
- 57. Expresses surprise
- 59. Haul
- 60. The Golden State
- 61. Biblical Sumerian city
- 62. Integrated circuit
- 63. Opposed to certain principles
- 66. Sodium
- 67. Qualities
- 70. Walk
- 71. It awaits us all

### CLUES ACROSS

- 2. Peyton Manning's alma mater
- 3. Moves through water
- 4. Run away from
- 5. Utah resident
- 6. Natural objects
- 7. Children's game
- 8. Obligation to prove
- 9. Ancient Greek building for performances
- 10. Soldier
- 11. Decorated
- 12. Catches
- 13. Russell \_\_, author
- 14. Speak indistinctly
- 15. Students get them
- 25. Japanese warrior
- 26. Dessert
- 27. Doleful
- 29. Most cushy
- 31. Moon crater
- 33. Small evergreen Arabian tree

### CLUES DOWN

- 36. Something fugitives are "on"
- 38. 007's creator
- 39. Paintings on hinged panels
- 41. Type of bomb
- 42. Japanese classical theater
- 43. U.S. gov't department
- 46. Flightless bird
- 47. One who cuts wood or stone
- 49. Buttock and thigh together
- 51. A way to gather
- 53. Body part
- 54. Argentinian city
- 55. Undergarments
- 58. Jai \_\_, sport
- 60. Container for shipping
- 64. Type of screen
- 65. Get free of
- 68. Indicates position
- 69. Business department

# THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

### ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

You are seeing things more clearly. Conversations that felt stuck a little while ago are now moving along more smoothly. A bold decision comes up midweek.

### CANCER

Jul 22/Jul 22

Cancer, a quieter energy surrounds you right now. You are being called to pause and reflect. It's a good time to tend to your emotional needs and reflect on what's ahead.

### LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, this is a great week to get things done. You're focused, detail-oriented and motivated. Use every burst of energy to sort through the clutter in your life.

### CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Even if no one sees you doing all of the hard work, you know how much effort you have been putting in. The effort will pay off soon enough when results are there for all to see.

### TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, you are craving stability, both financially and emotionally. Use midweek to reevaluate your spending or a relationship that may be ready to be taken to the next level.

### LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

The spotlight is on you right now and you are glowing, Leo. You may attract attention and admiration without even putting in extra effort. Use this week to push forward on personal goals.

### SCORPIO

Oct 23/Nov 22

Scorpio, your social life is buzzing right now, but don't lose sight of bigger goals. A fresh connection or idea could lead to a long-term opportunity if you stay focused.

### AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

This week asks you to look at how you are showing up and helping others, Aquarius. An old friend or partner resurfaces and a current connection could deepen.

### GEMINI

May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, you are in your element this week. Communication flows easily, especially by Thursday. A short trip or spontaneous plan could spark something bigger than expected.

### VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

This week is all about you, Virgo. Focus on personal goals and self-improvement. Set strong goals for the year ahead.

### SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

You may feel pushed to take a risk or explore new ideas this week, Sagittarius. Trust your curiosity to take you where you need to be to find satisfaction.

### PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Your mind-body connection is strong this week, Pisces. If you have been ignoring rest or intuition, now is the time to focus on your priorities again.

# SUDOKU

### Fun By The Numbers

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

### Here's How It Works:

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

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## TAG SALE

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