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HILLTOWNS

Cyclists brave bone-chilling cold to explore scenic Hilltowns

By Kathryn Koegel
Correspondent

Over 320 cyclists registered for the 37th annual Great River Ride, which included 200 and 100 kilometer rides through the Hilltowns as well as a vineyard ride of 28 miles that went from Westfield down to East Granby.

Participants signed up when the weather was best described as Indian Summer. Sunday, Oct. 13 proved to be a daunting day for riders and organizers alike. "We had a 50% show rate," says organizer Chris Steger. "We rescued eight-to-ten riders. At first it said we would get .04 inches of rain, but we actually got half an inch," says Steger.

Rain was forecast, but few predicted the cold, windy conditions. At the highest point in the ride, a stop at the Trustees Property Notchview in Windsor, the temperature was a not-balmy 39 degrees. The first century (100K) rider

CYCLISTS, page 2



Mary Heaney of Granby and her 4 and 7 year old children made it all the way to the Brignole Vineyard on a 28 mile ride starting in Westfield. Courtesy photo Friends of Columbia Greenway Rail Trail

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HUNTINGTON

Select Board approve card access reader

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

The Select Board met for nearly two hours on Wednesday, Oct. 10 with all three member present: Chairman Roger Booth, William Hathaway and John McVeigh.

Among the many agenda items were technology solutions for building access and to track diesel oil usage by department. Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin stated that the card access reader system for all town-

SELECT BOARD, page 3

HUNTINGTON

Public welcome to participate in Bill Rose Memorial Fly Fishing Clinic

By Kathryn Koegel
Correspondent

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. 19 from 9 a.m.-noon.

The clinic will take place on Route 20 in Huntington at the turnout on the Westfield River across from the Huntington Health Center. 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," says Mark Damon, current WRWA president. "Bill Rose was president of both the WMWA and the WMFF. He loved fly fishing. In his memory, we invite folks 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. "Kids as young as six can successfully tie simple flies and cast their lines. You 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, who will be teaching at the event. "I love flying ties and sharing my skills with oth-

ers. 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."

In addition to fly fishing activities, Damon, who is a biologist at Westfield State, 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,

FLY FISHING, page 3



J. Bregianes of Longmeadow learns how to cast at a fly fishing clinic in 2023. Submitted photos



Bill Rose, late president of Westfield River Watershed Association and the Western Massachusetts Fly Fisherman was a life-long fly fisherman.



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HILLTOWNS

Hilltown Community Coat Drive has drop box locations

Isabella LeBarron, a parishioner of Holy Family Parish in Russell and a senior at Hampshire Regional School District, will coordinate the eleventh year of the Hilltown Community Coat Drive. This will continue the community effort that her sisters initiated eleven years ago.

If people would like to donate, they may bring washed, gently used or new

coats, boots, mittens and hats for local Hilltown adults and children to collection boxes at the following locations beginning on Oct 9 at Gateway Regional High School lobby, 12 Littleville Road, Huntington during normal school hours 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; Hilltown Community Health Center, Route 20, Huntington Monday - Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Holy Family Church, Route

20, Russell Center during Mass times; Hilltown Community Health Center, 58 Old North Road, Worthington Monday - Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Littleville Elementary School lobby, 4 Littleville Road, Huntington during normal school hours 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Hampshire Regional High School, 19 Stage Road, Westhampton during normal school hours 7:30 a.m.-2:15 p.m. and

William E. Norris Elementary School, 34 Pomeroy Meadow Road, Southampton during normal school hours 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Coats and winter items will be available for Hilltown families at the beginning of November through It Takes a Village in Huntington and some through the Hilltown Family Center. For questions people may email Bella LeBarron at bella.lebarron44@gmail.com.

Huntington Chapel holds tag sale

There will be a massive tag sale at the Huntington Chapel, 17 Russell Road, on Friday, Oct. 18 and Saturday, Oct. 19 from 10 a.m.-3 pm.

This will include a free table, a Christmas table, a huge assortment of items, tidy filing cabinets, brand new books, craft supplies, mystery boxes, etc.

There will be great quality big men's clothing, 4X and 5X and footwear size 13/14; most were never worn. People may make an offer or donation, everything at this tag sale must go. Proceeds benefit the church and animal sanctuary.

Transfer Station closed Oct. 22

The Huntington Board of Health announces the town will be paving the Transfer Station on Monday, Oct. 21 and Tuesday, Oct. 22. Because of the work being done, the Transfer Station will be closed on Tuesday, Oct. 22 and will reopen on Saturday, Oct. 26..

CYCLISTS

to appear at around 9:30 a.m. was Ben Wagner, a college student at Middlebury in Vermont, who had come down for the ride. He started at 7 a.m. in Westfield and was impressed by the landscape, but needed help opening snacks as his fingers were frozen. Shortly after, Nick Faneris, who had done the ride 15 times, appeared. He cycles each year in memory of two friends, who used to join him who have passed.

The last rider of the day at the Notchview point was Derrick Rodgers of Becket who was cycling the 200K in what he described as "build an ark kind of rain" when he made his way up through Southampton. He was looking forward to the next stop, which was in Chester, for the traditional baked potato carb load. He was thinking of putting the potato in the back of his jersey for warmth over sustenance.

Rodgers is part of a group founded by New Horizons Bikes in Westfield called the Brevet, who do long-distance biking in the U.S to train riders to keep up with European standards for racing. Of the riders participating in Saturday's event, there was a distinct European flair as well as a group participating from



Derrick Rodgers of Becket rode 200 kilometers in adverse conditions to support the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail.

Turley photo by Kathryn Koegel



Ben Wagner of Middlebury, Vermont was the first century (100k) rider to make it to Notchview, the highest point of the race. - supplied photo, Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail

Courtesy photo Friends of Columbia Greenway Rail Trail

Quebec. Several riders participating were originally from France, Germany and Russia.

Funds raised for the ride go to the Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail, which two years ago completed the final section of the trail that goes through downtown Westfield. The trail connects up with a whole system of walk and bike-friendly trails all

the way down to New Haven. One of the volunteers, a board member of the group, noted that the trail is particularly important for the disabled. She or a family member regularly walk with their father, who is confined to a wheelchair, for up to seven miles on the trail, which goes south through pastoral areas of Southwick.

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HUNTINGTON

Huntington to hold Open Space and Recreation Plan update

HUNTINGTON – Residents and surrounding community members are invited to provide input on open space conservation and recreation opportunities on Tuesday, Oct. 22 at 6:30 p.m. at Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road

The meeting will include an overview of the Open Space and Recreation Plan update and a discussion about conservation and recreation goals and priorities over the next seven years. Public input is an essential step in the plan update. Town staff and vol-

unteers and Pioneer Valley Planning Commission staff will be available to answer questions and respond to input about the plan update and planning process. Refreshments will be provided.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan is being completed by the town with assistance from the PVPC. Once the OSRP is approved by the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services, the town will be eligible to apply for DCS grant funding

for the next seven years.

The OSRP is a tool through which the community plans for the future of its conservation and recreation resources. Public input and community needs will shape the Action Plan, which determines the actions the town will take.

For more information about the OSRP Public Visioning Session, people may email PVPC's Mimi Kaplan at mkaplan@pvpc.org or call 413-781-6045.

Since 1962, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission has been the designated regional planning body for the Pioneer Valley region, which encompasses 43 cities and towns in Hampden and Hampshire Counties. PVPC is the primary agency responsible for increasing communication, cooperation and coordination among all levels of government as well as the private business and civic sectors to benefit the Pioneer Valley region and to improve its residents' quality of life.

SELECT BOARD

from page 1

owned buildings is nearly complete and should be online next week. Fire and police chiefs will pick up programmed cards from Pelouquin to distribute to their staff and collect required paperwork. All others will report directly to Pelouquin for their access cards. To begin, access will be 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to see how this goes. Employees must sign an agreement that says they cannot share keys and they must return keys, hand delivered to Pelouquin, if they leave their position.

Cards are to remain under each employee's control at all times and not be used by others. The agreement also says that employees will not allow others to "tailgate" when the buildings are closed. One card per year will be replaced free of charge; a second replacement will be \$25 and a third will be \$50. Final costs will be \$219.60 for additional cards and \$375 for the final inspection. The board approved that the \$594.60 will come from American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Hilltown Community Ambulance

McVeigh reported that the Hilltown Community Ambulance currently drives to Chester to gas up on diesel fuel, which is inefficient and also puts them at a far end of their service area. Highway Superintendent Brad Curry has no issue with them filling up at the town's diesel pump as long as they can track their usage. Pelouquin will look into possible metering options and their pricing and report back at the next meeting. If the cost is prohibitive, they will explore other options to include a paperwork system or a tax-free credit card for commercial pumps.

Heating oil bid

At their last meeting, the Select Board had authorized Pelouquin to secure the final heating oil rate from lowest bidder Dead River. When she pursued it, she was told that the contracted rate of \$2.69 required the town to pre-purchase 70,000 gallons, which is against the law. Without prepaying, the rate would increase by 15%. It was agreed that the Dead River bid would be deemed invalid, bringing the award to O'Connell oil (\$3.349 rate).

Resignation

Highway Administrative Assistant Ashley Fickett has resigned, finding that it was too much with a full time job and kids. Posting will go out shortly and remain open until filled, requiring that the assistant work during office hours. Previously, the Board had approved a trial period for Fickett, who had taken a full time job during the week-working evenings and weekends to retain that position. Everyone expressed regret that this had not worked out. Curry and Pelouquin will screen applicants and bring the final candidate to the board for approval.

Town Administrator

Pelouquin reported that she met with Tighe & Bond engineer Zach Chornyak, who suggested the town apply for a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness

Grant for two culverts on Bromley Road. Estimates are \$1.4 million for the lower culvert and \$2.58 million for the upper one. PVPC is willing to submit an expression of interest for the lower culvert at no cost; their rate would be \$10,000 to submit an application if this moves forward. Hathaway said he felt the estimates were high and could be managed in phases. The board approved the letter of intent as a starting point.

Pelouquin also gave an update on the Water and Sewer Asset Management Grant. They've had to remove the hydraulic model on the water side of the project because the state will not cover this. This cost would be over \$27,000 and the board said that funds need to come from Water & Sewer.

Municipal Hearing Officer

Two projects are ongoing. McVeigh has put forth the idea of training a Municipal Hearing Officer, who would serve as the town's liaison to the court. Without this, the fire department cannot cover appeals on fines for things like fireworks or burn permit violations. Training would be given free through the fire academy. It was unclear if other town departments might share this need, and the cost was uncertain. McVeigh will follow-up on the number of cases the fire department would anticipate and how other towns run and pay for their MHO.

McVeigh also reported that utility companies were looking for commercial property to be leased to store energy. Units would be approximately the size of a tennis court and the project would offer a 20-year lease at \$80,000 a year, with two 5-year expansions possible. After discussion, McVeigh agreed to follow-up on this and get a proposal for the use of town lands for this purpose. He said this would be at no cost to the town.

Other business

In other business, the board approved the Nov. 5 election warrant and a Chapter 90 Reimbursement of \$217,093.82 for the Allen Coit Road project. Stanton Hall approvals were granted to the Southern Hilltown Domestic Violence Task Force for their annual vigil on Oct. 16 and to the Westfield River Wild & Scenic committee on Thursday, Nov. 14 from 6-9 p.m. to plan the 2025 canoe races. Booth had earlier noted that the electric bill for Stanton hall was up 40% and their fee structure might have to be looked at to defray these costs.

Other items included a discussion on trees that need to be removed at North Hall, and an update on ARPA funding status. Booth noted he has not seen a single electronic speed sign go up; Pelouquin will follow-up. McVeigh reported that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation is doing a traffic study of the Russell-Huntington-Chester corridor of Route 20. This should take about 2 years to complete. They are looking at needs for flashing yellow signs and crosswalks.

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 23 at 5 p.m.

FLY FISHING

from page 1

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 beginning fly-fishing combo is available for less than \$50 complete, according to the fishermen's group.

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, visit westfieldriver.org.

The Western Mass. Fly 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 wmffclub.org/.

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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



Husband asks about retroactive Social Security benefits

Dear Rusty:

Both my wife and I are 67 1/2, i.e., past our Full Retirement Age of 66 years and 6 months.

Neither of us have yet filed for SS retirement benefits. My wife is entitled to about \$1,000/month based on her work history, and I plan to wait until age 70 to file. I was entitled to \$3,700 at my full retirement age date and am eligible to receive \$4,800 at age 70. Thus, my wife's spousal benefit, which she can get when I start taking my SS, is another \$850, a total of \$1,850, which is 50% of my full retirement age amount.

We just recently became aware that my wife should have claimed her own smaller benefit earlier and taken her higher spousal benefit later when I claim. But has she lost Social Security benefits because she waited until now to claim?

Signed: Trying Hard to Understand

Dear Trying:

Yes, I am afraid your wife has lost some of her SS retirement benefit by waiting too long to claim. In your specific circumstances (where your wife is eligible for a higher monthly amount as your spouse) it is important to know that her spousal benefit amount reached maximum when she attained her FRA of age 66 and 6 months.

Even though she cannot collect as your spouse until you later claim, her eventual spousal amount does not increase because she is now past her FRA. Thus, waiting the extra year after her FRA did not enhance her spousal benefit amount, meaning she could have been collecting her own smaller SS retirement benefit starting at her FRA. The good news, however, is not all those past benefits are lost.

Once someone has passed their full retirement age, it is possible to claim up to six months of retroactive benefits. Full retirement age is the cutoff point because your wife cannot get retroactive benefits before her FRA but, since she is about a year past, she can claim her full six months of retroactive benefits. Thus, she will lose only about six months of her SS retirement benefit by claiming her benefits to start at age 67 vs. now at 67 1/2, which at least mitigates the loss.

And instead of her FRA amount of \$1,000,

SECURITY, page 5

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



GUEST COLUMN

How to move privets and grapes



Joe wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady: "Hello and thanks, as I am a fan of your column! I want to transplant both some privet hedges and grape vines from my childhood home. They are each at least 70+ years old. They have been mostly well maintained over the years and look fairly healthy; I think. Could you offer any advice on how to do this successfully?"

Thank you, Joe, for your compliments on the column! I am happy to try and help.

I don't know if you have any time constraints with the move. If you don't, I would wait until early spring to do the transplanting, that way it will cause the least amount of distress on the plants.

Both privet and grape are quite hardy, but it may be challenging to dig them up, especially because of their age and the size of the rootball that you can expect with the privet for sure. The picture you sent does show

that both are quite healthy.

As soon as the ground can be worked in spring – maybe in late March or in very early April, I would dig around the drip line of the privet, pointing your shovel straight down. Try to go as deep as you can.

It may help to have a friend or two on the other sides of the bush and together you can lift out the rootball. You might have to use a pair of loppers or a saw to cut some of the larger, main roots.

Without being there, it is hard to say what you will encounter. But, as you know, it will be important to get as many of the roots as you can, leaving the soil attached as much as possible.

If you don't have a pot big enough to encompass the roots, then I'd recommend using a construction grade trash bag, a tarp or even double layers of a bed sheet to keep the root ball together during transport. Getting them a few towns over, as you mentioned, might be tricky in a car.

I'd probably recommend laying the privet down in a truck, braced so that it won't roll around.

Transplant it in a similar exposure in the new yard, cutting back the branches to make accommodations for a new and smaller

GARDEN, page 5



The beginning of this week I heard Canada geese honking as they flew over my house. Often they land in nearby beaver ponds.

The Canada goose is 25 to 45 inches long and is the most widespread and commonly seen goose. It has a black head and neck with a white chinstrap. The body is brownish gray except for a whitish rump.

They vary widely in size, with the smallest forms living farthest north. These geese feed on the ground and in the water. They eat submerged vegetation, grasses, winter wheat, clovers and other grain especially corn.



Canada geese in flight

Canada geese nest at edges of ponds, lakes or swamps on rocks or grass hummocks out in the water. The female lays four to seven white eggs in a nest made of sticks, moss and grasses.

Some Canada geese that used to migrate now overwinter because food is provided for them by people at local ponds. This creates problems in many parks, golf courses and public lands where the geese

BACKYARD, page 5

Election letters to the editor welcome

The Country Journal welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Country Journal, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to countryjournal@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that

Friday'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 news-

paper 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.

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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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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

Net metering is crucial aspect of solar power

By Kathryn Koegel
Guest Columnist

This is the third in a series about the future of energy and solar power in the Hilltowns.

Given that your household effectively becomes a power plant when you “go solar” with panels either on your roof or your property, how does it all work with the energy you generate? As with all things solar, there is complexity involved, but one of the most important things to understand is the practice of “net metering:” using the grid to store and manage the electricity you generate.

It’s important to realize that going solar does not mean that you are “off the grid.” “Solar only produces during daylight,” says Andrew Belden, VP of Solar Programs at Eversource. “It produces less in the winter, more in the summer. It will not produce when covered with snow. Customers have to maintain a connection to the grid. You are still buying power, especially during the night time.”

You need backup and energy storage. That is why you still get an Eversource (or National Grid, or CMELD - Chester) bill. The goal will be through solar power generation to feed enough energy to the grid that you can take back the excess you generate in credits that offsets your bill. Best case is you wipe both supply and delivery charges out completely and have a “no charge” bill.

Net metering practices vary by state but are relatively favorable to home solar customers especially since an update to the Massachusetts law was passed this summer that allows municipally owned electric customers to participate.

Belden acknowledges that the regulations around net metering are confusing. “It’s complicated and was created by MA State Law. There are 15 pages to the regulation. There is a message out there that

Eversource does this or that [regarding net metering] but it’s what is required by the DPU.”

The state of Massachusetts defines net metering as the system that “allows customers to offset their energy use and transfer energy back to their electric companies in exchange for a credit.” Here’s what you need to know. “If over a given month you produce more power than you consume,” says Belden. “You get a credit. Massachusetts has one-for-one net metering. You get monetary credit. The current retail rate for delivery is 25 cents a kilowatt, so you get a 25 cent credit. It’s as if you paid extra on your bill. It carries forth into next month. If you underproduce you see a regular charge.”

One of the reasons the first thing you have to do when considering solar is dig up a recent bill and look at a year’s consumption patterns, is that a good solar system designed for your home should ideally wipe out your bill, but not overdeliver. Why? You will never get that back in cash, just a credit on your bill.

“There’s a financial rationale for not building the largest possible system,” says Belden. You end up building up too much credit. We do not put a limit on what you can produce. We have some customers who now have a huge credit they can’t use. You should match supply to demand or you pay for more for a solar system than you need,” says Belden.

One such customer I spoke to is Lisa Goding of Huntington. Back in the summer of 2015 she was getting Eversource bills of over \$800 due to the size of her house and running AC. Her property proved complex given the tree cover of her roof and the amount of power needed to support the house. She went with Trinity Solar who installed 67 panels in a field below her house. She has now built up a \$2,400 credit that she has little



Ground mounted solar panels are another way besides roof mounted ones.



Eversource monthly bills showing no payment due. Submitted photos

chance of offsetting with usage.

There is one bright side and super community supportive thing that you might do with that credit. “There is something called virtual net metering: If you have more power than you need, you can take those credits and apply them to another customer,” says Belden. “It could be an individual or to a charity.” He cites their customer Boston Medical Center, which has a high population of low income customers. “They donate their credits to their patients. They send us instructions each month on their excess credits.”

Adam Bryant of Chester, who has had solar roof panels for the last two and a half years, says that net metering is one of the reasons that residents of that town should vote to sell their local municipal electric company, CMELD, to Eversource. “Municipal electric companies do not have to provide net metering,” he says. “It messes up their paperwork. With CMELD you also do not get the Mass Save credits for solar and when they do buy back power from you, you get four cents back per kilowatt vs the 28 cents you get with Eversource.”

If all this net metering topic seems just too complicated, is there an alternative to being tethered to Eversource? Does “off the grid” even really exist? Absolutely, but it is going to be costly. You have to buy large batteries to store the power onsite. These batteries can cost more than \$10,000 a piece and one may likely not be enough. Marc Ferrante, a representative from Trinity Solar said he had never sold one in his 400 installations in Massachusetts, mainly due to the cost. Eric Trinidad, a representative for Sunrun, does regularly sell these, especially what is called a Tesla Powerwall for \$11,500. “It’s the same concept as a generator. You also get the same solar tax credit or a 30% tax deduction.” He says that customers, who have a lot of power outages and have a well system that needs electricity, are the ones who typically buy these batteries. He is selling them mainly in central Massachusetts where he says the storms have been severe and the grid has even more issues than it does in the Hilltowns.

Next week: three current Hilltowns homeowners with solar and their experience with installation and management of the systems.

SECURITY

from page 4

her initial SS retirement benefit will be about 3% higher because she is claiming past her FRA. But, nevertheless, your wife’s eventual spousal amount when you claim will still be limited to 50% of your full retirement age entitlement.

The important thing to keep in mind is that retroactive benefits can only be claimed after someone has reached their full retirement age and only up to six months of retroactive benefits can normally be claimed. So, in your wife’s case, her eventual spousal benefit from you will still be limited to 50% of your FRA amount even though she waited for a year past her own FRA to claim. But she can claim six months of retroactive SS retirement bene-

fits now to soften the financial blow.

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

GARDEN

from page 4

root ball. Water it well, deeply, at least two times a week for the first couple of months.

Grape vines can be handled in a similar fashion. By the pictures you sent, they appear so lush and beautiful.

I certainly have to compliment whoever the tender is in your family. The first order of business would be to ease them off of the fence that they are growing on.

Prune back the tops to a manageable height and then dig them up. It will likely be a challenge to tell “what goes where.”

That’s why cutting the tops back will be helpful. If you can put several of the stems in one large pot for transport, that would make sense. Individual pots would also work fine.

It would be important for both of these plants that you have the new areas prepped and ready to go, so digging up and replanting can happen in a quick turnaround time.

Speaking of timing, if you absolutely

must dig this fall, then do so, and water as mentioned until the ground freezes. Be careful that the plants don’t heave – remember the roots won’t have much grow time to anchor your plants, so check on them often throughout the winter months and stomp on the rootball should they start protruding from the ground.

It may take a couple of years for the grapes to be as productive as they were, but never fear, because of the hardiness of these plants both should do fine once they adjust to their new surroundings. Good luck to you! I commend you for wanting to save a part of your history!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

BACKYARD

from page 4

fowl lawns, overgraze and become aggressive during breeding season. The male gives “ahonk” and the female has a higher “hink” call.

Northern harrier

I received an email on Oct. 5 from a Warren resident, who said, “My husband and I saw a hawk kill a squirrel in our yard last week. It was large and impressive. We had no idea what it was and no Google searches of hawks in Massachusetts mentioned the northern harrier. But now, after looking at many pictures, we believe that’s what it was. Very exciting to identify another bird.” She lives near the pond where a Brimfield resident saw a northern harrier. She said New Reed Street is now called Brook Road.

She plans to visit the pond in hopes of seeing the kingfisher the Brimfield resident mentioned

Brimfield resident

The Brimfield resident reported seeing a dark eyed junco on Oct. 1 in his yard. He related a story of a trip to Alaska. “In 2003 my wife and I signed up for a Alaska tour with the American Birding Association. Since we were going to Alaska and might never get back we did a mini pre-tour visit to Nome on our own. The flight to Nome was via Kotzebue and about a third of the passengers were trying to return to Kotzebue. They had been trying to get there for three days, but the planes couldn’t land because a river near town was creating ground fog and the planes had to abort their landings. Our flight began its decent and the pilot announced the situation and he would try to land. Suddenly the pilot applied full power and began to

climb, no landing at Kotzebue that day. My wife and I heard a nearby native woman say ‘we are going to have to kill a raven to get home.’ We flew on to Nome, not sure when or if the folks ever go back to Kotzebue.”

After returning from his Alaska trip, he did some research about birding in and around Nome. One thing I came upon was a report of a Christmas Count for Nome. I don’t recall the year of the report but the folks braved harsh condition and their total for the day was two ravens.

Other birds

The Brimfield resident reported great egrets, great blue herons and Eastern bluebirds at the Warren Ponds. He also saw two common ravens, nine mallards, 10 rock doves, six yellow-rumped warblers and a northern flicker.

He had white-throated sparrows show up in his yard; they are the most common migrating sparrow he sees there. The other day a male Eastern Towhee and four white-throated sparrows taking baths together. He saw 52 Canada geese and 2 wood duck at Wheeler. There were also lots of turtles taking advantage of a warm sunny day. While sitting in his yard for about an hour he saw a male common yellowthroat, a black-throated blue warbler, two blackpoll warblers and a catbird.

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

HUNTINGTON

Whitewater race committee to hold organizing meeting

By Kathryn Koegel
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – The Westfield River Whitewater Races organizing committee announced the date for its historic 70th run and invites racers and race fans to attend an organizing meeting on Thursday, Nov. 14 from 6-8 p.m. in Stanton Hall, 28 Russell Road.

The Expert and Classic Races will be held on Saturday, April 19 from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Last year over 300 racers in canoes, kayaks and on stand-up paddle boards, took to the Westfield River, for a day of thrills and chills. The race has up to Class 3 rapids and two portages, which see racers rock scrambling around dams.

In its nearly eight-decade history the race has defined spring in the Hilltowns of Western Massachusetts as racers avoid boulders and choppy rapids to make their way down the Wild & Scenic Westfield River from Knightville Dam in Huntington to Woronoco just south of Russell. The race was founded as a bar bet in 1953 and has become an annual rite of spring in the Hilltowns.

To generate community engagement and help with the planning, the organizing committee is welcoming anyone interested in the race to come to an ideas

session on Thursday, Nov. 14. Pizza will be served followed by what the group is calling a “guided ideas session.”

“As we approach this historic run we decided to reach out to the community and find out from them what they would like to see the race become,” says race organizing committee chair Harry Rock. “We would like to hear what race enthusiasts think would get more paddlers out on the river as well as make this a better experience for spectators.”

“As always we want to make sure we tie this closely into the communities the race operates in and get more local people involved. Our goal is to celebrate the history of the race while ensuring the future for the race,” says Rock.

Last year the race was held with the support of companies such as JL Raymakers & Sons & ROAR, Advance Manufacturing, Boston Brewing, Clean & Green Junk Removal, Greenfield Savings Bank, Indian Motorcycle of Springfield, Micro Abrasives, Pioneer Valley Waste Solutions, Polish National Credit Union, Westfield Electroplating, Westfield Bank, Westfield Gas & Electric, the Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee, along with individual donors and a Go Fund Me Page.

“A race like this cannot be put on today paid for purely by registration fees,” says Rock. “We welcome sponsors to help support and celebrate the 70th running of the race and beyond.”

The organizing committee encourages past racers and race enthusiasts to get their companies on board and also submit memories of the race and past photos to wrwraces@gmail.com.

People may visit westfieldriver.org/races for more information on the race and surrounding activities, like “Westfield River Wildwater Races” on Facebook, follow on instagram for regular updates and photos of past events.



This is a historic photo of the start of the Westfield River Wildwater Races.

Submitted photo

It Takes a Village holds toy drives for local children

By Kathryn Koegel
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – It Takes a Village, a nonprofit that served over 2,400 families last year, launches a special toy drive to collect gifts for the upcoming holiday season.

Community members are encouraged to donate toys, host toy drives at their businesses or contribute directly to the charity. The organization operates The Village Closet, a basic-needs center in Huntington, where families access new and gently-used infant and children’s items for free with no qualifications required.

“Your support can help create memorable holidays for children whose families struggle to afford gifts,” says Lisa Goding, the executive director. “Our goal is to ensure every child experiences the magic of the holidays, regardless of their family’s financial situation. Last year, we distributed \$713,000 in essential supplies to nearly 10,000 people including holiday toys for almost 500 kids in just three days.”

Most of the toys came from local businesses, community toy events and organizations like Toys for Tots. This year, the toy giveaway will take place at the Village Closet during the week of Dec. 17.

Goding highlights various ways businesses can get involved, including donating toys, setting up collection boxes, sponsoring the toy giveaway event or providing raffle prizes for their annual fundraising event on Giving Tuesday, which falls on Dec. 3 this year.

Participating businesses will receive recognition through the organization’s newsletter, social media platforms, which reach over 6,000 followers and signage at the toy event. All donations are tax-deductible.

Individuals wishing to donate can contribute new, unwrapped gifts for children and teens, such as toys, books, games, clothing and toiletries. Goding emphasizes that gifts for tweens and teens are particularly



It Takes a Village operates the Village Closet in a historic church building in Huntington. Set up like a shop, all goods are free to anyone who needs them.

Turley photo by Kathryn Koegel

needed, as they are less commonly donated. The organization has created an Amazon “holiday wish list” for inspiration and items can be shipped directly to The Village Closet. The gift list can be found at <https://amzn.to/4fykr2c> and monetary donations can be made at www.hilltownvillage.org/donate.

Goding notes that the need for essential items has grown significantly in recent years. She anticipates high demand this holiday season, which is the most financially pressing time for families each year. Centrally located in Huntington near the intersection of Routes 112 and 20, It Takes a Village is accessible for families throughout the Hilltowns.

Toy donations can be dropped off at The Village Closet on Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays from 11 a.m.- 2 p.m. or by appointment at 2 East Main St. in Huntington. Additionally, donation boxes will be set up in locations including A-Z Toys in Northampton, the Amelia Park Children’s Museum in Westfield, Skyline Brewing Company in Southwick, Hampshire Regional School District in Westhampton, Salvini & Associates in Chester and Williamsburg Hair in Williamsburg. More details as well as additional toy drive events are listed and will be updated on their website at www.hilltownvillage.org.

Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee to hold potluck, meeting

By Kathryn Koegel
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – On Thursday, Oct. 24 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Stanton Hall, 28 Russell Road, the Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee is hosting its annual public meeting celebrating the achievements of the group and their interns over the past year.

This is an open meeting with a potluck and volunteers and the community are welcome to attend. Interns Izaak Vigil-Sagan and Natalie Ruiz, both from UMASS Amherst, will be presenting results of their work throughout the watershed. The meal will be from 6:30-7:30 p.m. with a slideshow and showing from 7:30-8:30 p.m. People should either email Westfieldriver@gmail.com or call 413-207-4282 with the number attending and yummy thing they will be bringing.

This summer the group focused on invasive plant removal and teaching interns the process for working with towns to obtain the necessary permits to do river restoration projects including culvert replacements. Among their projects was continuing to test the Karro Frost method of removing invasive Japanese Knotweed, which has run rampant throughout the water-

shed. It creates monocultures which threaten fish and wildlife and undermine riverbanks. If pulled or mass cut, knotweed rhizomes become even stronger underground spreading the plant further. In this method, the knotweed is cut precisely at a branching point above the ground, tricking the plant and eventually causing it to die off.

The interns also worked on barberry removal. Banned for sale since 2009 in Massachusetts, this thorny problem has contributed to the rise in tick-borne diseases as “mice tend to overwinter protected by barberry, but it leads to an exploding tick population,” says Westfield River Wild & Scenic Committee Outreach Coordinator



This woman holds a “puller bear” to remove invasive plants.

Turley photo by Kathryn Koegel

Meredith Babcock.

Barberry spreads widely as birds and mice eat the seeds and then eliminate them. Barberry bushes have deep, difficult-to-remove roots and the group has stepped up to help landowners in the removal process. Each of the 10 towns in the protected watershed will have a tool called a “puller bear” available to borrow for invasive plant removal.

Just how difficult is it to get out tough roots of invasive plants with this large tool? “There’s a certain level of physicality, but it’s doable for a wide range of people,” says Vigil-Sagan.

The annual potluck is a chance to share information on how everyone in the watershed can help protect the river. “I love our yearly W&S Remarkable

River Potluck,” says Babcock. “Being nourished by a shared meal and what the interns learned about our remarkable Westfield River is a delight.”

“As the volunteer and project coordinator, I’m so excited to hand out the tools, made possible through funding from the National Park Service, to our ten committee reps,” says Babcock. “Now each town has access to the tools they need to remove the invasive barberry. We are also supplying each town with garbage grabbers so we can all pitch in during the annual Source to Sea River Cleanup [run by the Connecticut River Conservancy each September] or anytime you want to check them out to do a little river-side clean up.”

Anyone wishing to attend the meeting is encouraged to email westfieldriver@gmail.com or call 413 207-4282 and RSVP with what food they plan to bring. For more information on the work of the group, people may visit the website at westfieldriverwildscenic.org.

The Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee is funded by an act of Congress, managed by the National Park Service, and works to “to preserve, protect and enhance the special qualities and outstanding resources of the Westfield River Watershed in concert with local communities.”

HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES

Bullard woods offers old grown trees



Bullard woods has a beautiful hiking trail, which has it all: old growth trees, the Stockbridge Bowl, fields and the music of Tanglewood playing in the distance.

Bullard woods is 52 acres along Stockbridge Bowl. In 1954, this land was given to the Stockbridge Bowl Association by Mrs. William Norton Bullard, one of the original members. The woods were originally part of the estate surrounding the Highwood manor house where Mr. and Mrs. William Norton Bullard lived.

The house is now part of Tanglewood and is open to the public. The Stockbridge Bowl Association manages the woods and they created the trails. Old growth woods are rare, the Berkshires cut 99.9% of its forests for timber, pulpwood and charcoal in the 19th century.

Robert Leverett and John Knuerr, assessed the woods in 2004 for old growth trees. They identified a new state

record white oak at 115.3 feet high, 6.9 feet diameter. They also found a white pine that was more than 133 feet high, a tulip tree 124.4 feet, a shagbark hickory 114 feet and a black cherry at 100.8 feet. This is part of the small remaining population of original second growth hardwoods that are 200 to 300 years old. The largest tree here is a very old white ash 12.3 feet around. Bob Leverett has observed the big trees here are falling, so people should enjoy them for now and remember them forever.

This hike is a true hidden gem with old growth, Stockbridge Bowl and the music of Tanglewood playing nearby. Park on West Hawthorne Road in Stockbridge, trails are easy. Bullard woods offers all of this with easy hiking and dog walking. A thank you to "Moose" from the Stockbridge Bowl Association, who was the special guest at the Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers group event.



Stockbridge Bowl offers Yokum Ridge view.
Submitted photos



Dayna, Greg and Sadie spend the day looking at old growth.



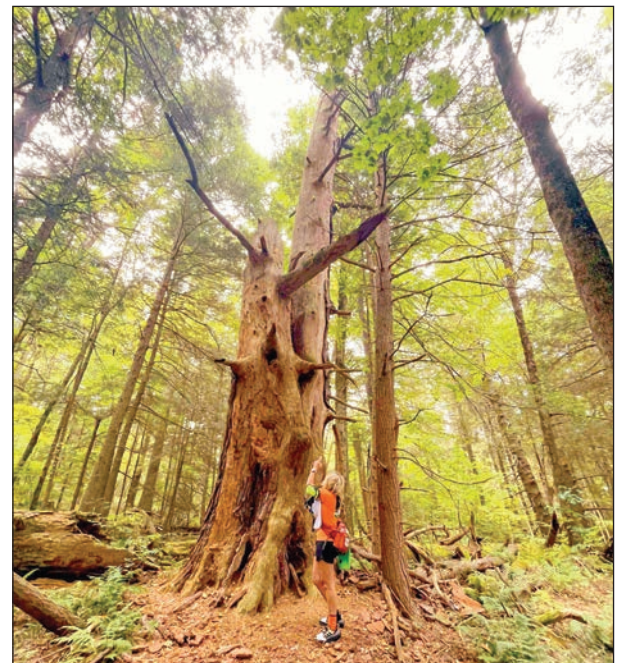
Hikers meander through the old growth tree stand at Bullard woods.



"Moose," left, gives hikers a little history of the lake.



This is the state champion tulip tree.



Liz stands by the white pine.

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BLANDFORD

UK. couple visit town of Blandford

BLANDFORD – Christine and Andrew Fry visited town Wednesday afternoon, Oct. 9.

They are from Blandford Forum in Dorset, United Kingdom. The British Blandford is about half-way between Lands End in the west and London.

Andrew had been in Blandford in September 1979 with his brother and had taken photos of the center of town. He has left copies of these pictures, Peebles, the White Church, the Post Office and others as they were at that time.

He said he would be pleased to send copies of the pictures to anyone interested and he can be reached by his email, which he has left at the Blandford Country Store with the photos.

During his three-month 1979 visit, he and his brother toured the U.S. and en route to Boston saw they were close enough to Blandford to stop.

The couple is here for a month visiting their son Christopher, who lives in Hartford. He is a women's U.S. (Field) Hockey Analyst and was in Paris for the recent Olympics.



Christine and Andrew Fry from Blandford Forum in Dorset, U.K. visited Blandford, Massachusetts on Oct. 9. Photo by Mary Kronholm

On street parking ban takes place through Oct 30

BLANDFORD – There is to be no on-street parking on any town roads through Wednesday, Oct. 30.

Highway Department Superintendent Rene Senecal reminds residents that traffic/fog lines will be painted on all the town's paved roads. The project began this week and will continue through the end of the month.

For more information, people may call the Highway Department at 413-848-4279, extension 301.



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BLANDFORD



Dessert was pumpkin cheesecake with pumpkin whipped cream.

Blandford seniors enjoyed a luncheon of Shepherd's pie and salad.



Pharmacy Manager Mark Butora from Westfield Stop and Shop administered flu and Covid shots. *Turley photos by Mary Kronholm*

COA host luncheon and vaccination clinic

BLANDFORD – Shepherds' pie and a varied tossed salad all created by Council on Aging Board Member Joann Martin hit the spot at the Friday, Oct. 11 luncheon.

The icing on the cake, however, was the pumpkin cheesecake complemented with pumpkin whipped cream.

COA Director Margit Mikuski reminded all those in attendance of flu

and Covid inoculation clinic immediately following lunch. Pharmacy Manager Mark Butora from the Westfield Stop and Shop administered the shots.

Blandford's Shared Nurse provider MaryAnn Deming, RN of the Western Hampden County Public Health District and COA Board Member Pat Lombardo were on site as well.

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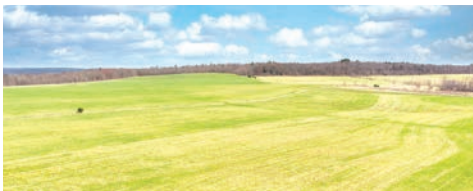
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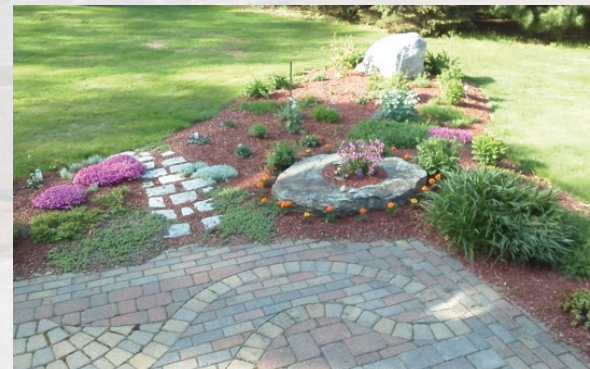
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SCHOOLS & YOUTH

HCC TO HOST ANNUAL 'TRUNK OR TREAT' OCT. 25



This year's Holyoke Community College Trunk or Treat will be held in Parking Lot M by the Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation on Friday, Oct. 25 from 5-7 pm. The event is free and open to the public and will be held outdoors, rain or shine. Prizes are awarded to vehicle sponsors in various categories. To sponsor a vehicle email Lindsey Pare at lpare@hcc.edu by Monday, Oct. 21. *Submitted photo*

Violet Swindlehurst starts college early at Simon Rock

GREAT BARRINGTON – It's not every day that students start college early, but this year, Violet Swindlehurst of Becket joined the fall 2024 class at Bard College at Simon's Rock, the nation's first early college.

Swindlehurst's academic and personal achievements stood out, securing her a spot at Simon's Rock this fall.

The college is home to about 400 students, who engage in a rigorous liberal arts and sciences curriculum and graduate from college one or two years ahead of their peers.

Bard College at Simon's Rock,

founded in 1966 and nestled in the bucolic Berkshires, is the only college in the country specifically designed for highly motivated students ready to enter college early, usually after the tenth or 11th grade. Simon's Rock offers a challenging program in the liberal arts and sciences, taught in small seminars by supportive, highly-trained faculty.

The Princeton Review's Best 382 Colleges rates academics at Simon's Rock higher than Harvard and Princeton.

For more information, people may visit simons-rock.edu.

FCI returns to Hancock Shaker Village for STEAM event

PITTSFIELD – In the culmination of their 40th Anniversary events, Flying Cloud Institute will lead a free, hands-on science and art community event for students in grades K-8 and their families at Hancock Shaker Village on Tuesday, Oct. 22 from 4-7 p.m.

This is the fifth Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math Challenge Night led by FCI, with support from the Berkshire STEM Pipeline and Hancock Shaker Village. The event coincides with Massachusetts seventh annual STEM Week to boost students' interest in STEM fields. Complimentary refreshments will be served and prizes raffled off to participating families.

"Flying Cloud Institute invites

local families to celebrate creativity and innovation with us as we mark 40 years of science and art programs. It will be so much fun and family members can really get into the hands-on activities, too," says FCI Executive Director Maria Rundle. Families are encouraged to register online by visiting flyingcloudinstitute.org, but it is not required for this free event.

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 partici-

Staff members from Berkshire Museum will explore how a physics zipline works, while Mt. Everett teachers lead a Robotics challenge. BeatNest School will demonstrate electro music stations and Berkshire Design will present a design challenge. Participants will learn about the sonification of plants from professors at Berkshire Community College, while they explore 3-D scanning and printing with Berkshire Innovation Center representatives. Bottomless Bricks will help students design and build derby cars using LEGO elements and Mass Audubon will lead a printing activity. Staff from Berkshire Sterile Manufacturing, Greenagers and Hancock Shaker Village will also be leading chil-

dren-centered challenge activities.

This event is made possible thanks to contributions by Blue Q, Elyse Harney Real Estate, Onyx Specialty Paper, Warrior Trading, Webster Landscaping, Price Chopper/ Market 32, the MassHire Berkshire Workforce Board, and sponsors of the 40th Anniversary events. If you want to be a community sponsor or donate items to the event, please contact Amy Truax, Development Manager, at 413-645-3058 or visit flyingcloudinstitute.org for the sign-up form.

FCI offers an array of programs in the arts and STEAM that serve over 2,000 youth and local educators annually. More information can be found by visiting flyingcloudinstitute.org.

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PITTSFIELD

Berkshire Leadership Program plans Trivia Night

PITTSFIELD – The Berkshire Leadership Program, a program of 1Berkshire, announces its upcoming BLP Trivia Night on Thursday, Oct. 24 at Otto's Kitchen and Comfort, located at 95 East St.

People may email blp@1berkshire.com for more information.

Prizes will be awarded to the

top-scoring teams. Raffle giveaways will also be available and food and drinks will be provided by Otto's Kitchen and Comfort. Early registration tickets are available at \$25 per person or \$125 for a team of 6. Prices at the door are \$30 individual/\$150 team of 6. All proceeds will go toward funding the Berkshire Leadership Program's

Scholarship fund.

The Berkshire Leadership Program seeks, prepares, involves, and sustains individuals from diverse backgrounds who are committed to and competent in addressing community challenges and improving the quality of life in the Berkshires. More than 640 community-minded individuals have graduated

from the program since its inception in 1997.

This fun and engaging event will bring the community together for an evening of friendly competition. Individuals and teams of up to six will have their knowledge tested across several categories by the Berkshires' own trivia experts, Double Entendre.

Berkshire Lightscapes recently lit up two more buildings

PITTSFIELD – Berkshire Lightscapes has recently lit up the Masonic Hall, 116 South St. and the United Church of Christ building, 110 South St. with funding from a Commonwealth Places Grant, the Berkshire Bank Foundation, The Feigenbaum Foundation and the Downtown Pittsfield Cultural Association.

Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. was able to apply for and secure the grant funding, and local company, Chris Burkee

Electric, completed the lighting installations. Berkshire Lightscapes lights up the exteriors of downtown buildings and public spaces to help illuminate and energize downtown Pittsfield. The artistic, energy efficient LED lighting is coordinated between buildings and allows for exciting light shows with colors that can honor and promote special events.

The following buildings have the new lights: City Hall, 70 Allen St.; Dunham Mall, walkway between City Hall and North Street; Persip Plaza,

corner of North Street and Columbus Avenue; Sottile Plaza, corner of North Street and Eagle Street; The Colonial Theatre, 111 South St.; Barrington Stage Company's Wolfson Center, (122 North St.; Crawford Square, 137 North St.; The Shipton Building, 146-156 North St.; United Church of Christ building, 110 South St. and Masonic Hall, 116 South St.

In November 2023, the Downtown Pittsfield Cultural Association was awarded a \$50,000 Commonwealth

Places Grant: \$35,000 to activate Dunham Mall and Burbank Place and \$15,000 to enhance the Berkshire Lightscapes program. Administered by MassDevelopment, Commonwealth Places provides funding to support place-based, locally driven placemaking projects in downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts throughout Massachusetts.

For more information on Berkshire Lightscapes, people may call 413-443-6501 or visit berkshirelightscapes.com.

RUSSELL

Library lists upcoming events

RUSSELL – The Russell Public Library, 162 Main St., is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 3-7 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

The library will be closed on Saturdays of three day holiday weekends. Story walks are sponsored by the Hilltown Family Center at Noble View Outdoor Center's All Person's Trail and behind the Russell Public Library around the community fruit trees and play area.

Children ages 3-9 will join Ms. Jennifer for "The Strangest Fish, a fishy tale about Daisy's fish from the fair on Saturday, Oct. 26 from 11 a.m.-noon. Games fun and snacks are provided. People may register by email rpldirector@townofrussell.us, call 413-862-6221 and leave a message, or come in and sign up at the library by Tuesday, Oct. 22.

Adults on Saturday, Nov. 2 from

2-4 p.m. in keeping with the season of Mysteries and Monsters join the Vogel Brothers as they lead on their search for Big Foot. People may register by email rpldirector@townofrussell.us, call 413-862-6221 and leave a message or come in and sign up at the library by Thursday, Oct. 31

Adults on Tuesday, Oct 22 from 6-7:15 p.m. will learn to use an AED and do hands only CPR with Cate from the Hilltown Community Ambulance. The Russell Public Library purchased an AED to have on site. People may register by email rpldirector@townofrussell.us, call 413-862-6221 and leave a message or come in and sign up at the library by October 18th.

People may celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month at the library by checking out a book by a Hispanic author. There are displays throughout the library.

CHESTERFIELD

CDC to hold hybrid public listening session

CHESTERFIELD – Hilltown CDC, 387 Main Road, will hold a hybrid public listening session on vaccine access.

A representative from the Department of Public Health will be attending. They will gather both in person at the Hilltown CDC located at 387 Main Road in Chesterfield and via Zoom on Friday, Oct. 25 from 1-3 p.m. Light refreshments will

be served. People should register to participate: Registration for In-Person COVID Community Listening Session (Hilltown) (office.com).

They should also register if they plan on attending via Zoom by visiting the joint meeting Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81529018729?pwd=g8Dwx-PhYad9V1bSSyfceFII1ssvy33.1>.

STOCKBRIDGE

FCC hosts Lake Mahkeenac Radio Theater

STOCKBRIDGE – The First Congregational Church UCC, 4 Main St., in Stockbridge announces the return of the Lake Mahkeenac Radio Theater on Saturday, Nov. 2 at 6 pm.

This "live radio" show is loosely based upon radio variety shows of the past. It features comedy skits, beautiful singing and dramatic monologues in a family-friendly format and as always, the show features a guarantee of no political humor.

This year, the show brings back the Lake Mahkeenac Radio Players, improv stars Christopher Brophy and Rikke Borge; tenor soloist, Alec Hines; singer-songwriter, Bruce Mandel and theater and opera leading man, Douglas Williams. Tracy Wilson will be at the piano. The show is written and hosted by

David Anderegg.

This year, the event also brings back the beloved pro-am pie contest. Pies donated by local professional bakers and ambitious amateurs will be judged by a panel of celebrity judges at intermission and slices will be available for purchase after the show.

The event will be live and in person at the church; suggested donation is \$25 and free for children under 12. The show will also be live streamed at the church's website by visiting stockbridgeucc.org. All donations will support renovations and programs at the historic 1824 church building. For further information or to submit a pie for the contest, people may call the First Congregational Church UCC Stockbridge at 413-298-3137 or email stockbridgeucc.org.

GOSHEN

Town Clerk announces election information

GOSHEN – The Town Clerk's office prepares for the State Election on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

The last day to register to vote in the State Election is Saturday, Oct. 26. There will be in person voter registration available in the Town Clerk's Office, 40 Main St. on Saturday, Oct. 26 from 9-11 a.m. and 3-5 pm. People can also register to vote by visiting www.sec.state.ma.us/OVR/

Voters have the three options for casting their vote. They may vote in person on election day, Tuesday, Nov. 5 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. in the John James Memorial Hall. They may vote early in person in the John James Memorial Hall, during any of these times: Saturday, Oct. 19 from 9 a.m.-1 pm; Monday, Oct. 21 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 26 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Monday, Oct. 28 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

They may also vote by mail. Every registered voter should have received a prepaid post card from the Secretary of

the State's office, asking if they'd like to vote by mail. If they prefer to vote in person, just discard the post card. No action is needed.

The Town Clerk must receive an application for those who do want to vote by mail by Tuesday, Oct. 29 at 5 p.m. in order to have their ballot mailed to them.

People, who didn't receive the vote by mail post card, may apply via the State's online portal. Vote by Mail ballots that are returned in person or via the drop box must be received by the Town Clerk's Office by close of the polls on election day in order to be counted. If the ballot is returned by domestic mail, it can be received up until Nov. 8 at 5 p.m. but it must be postmarked by Election Day.

Goshen had 85% voter turnout for the 2020 Election People may email Town Clerk Kristen Estelle with any questions or concerns at clerk@goshen-ma.us or call 413-268-8236, extension 107.



Goshen seniors dined on chicken, fried rice, lo mein and egg rolls from Panda Garden Restaurant. Martha and the Strummers, a ukulele band then provided musical entertainment.

Submitted photo

COA meal has tropical atmosphere

GOSHEN – It may have been a bit brisk outside, but there was a tropical atmosphere inside the Goshen Town Hall on Tuesday for the monthly Council on Aging luncheon.

After dining on chicken, fried rice, lo mein and egg rolls from the Panda Garden Restaurant in Williamsburg, seniors enjoyed listening to Martha and the Strummers, a ukulele band, play a variety of music from the 1960s and

1970s. Martha asked everyone to sing along and passed out tambourines, castanets, maracas and other instruments for people to play with the band.

The COA thanks Martha and the Strummers for the lively musical entertainment. Thanks also to the Panda Garden for the delicious meal, Peggy Hewes for her colorful cupcakes and Suzanne and Jim Krebs for the festive decorations.

EASTHAMPTON

Easthampton Theater Company announces auditions

EASTHAMPTON – Easthampton Theater Company announces November auditions for the first production of its 2025 season, the classic Tony and Drama Desk award-winning play “On Golden Pond” in March, 2025.

Directed by Jason Rose-Langston and produced by Michael O. Budnick, “On Golden Pond” is a warm-hearted meditation on aging, focusing on family wounds that drive us away and love that brings us back together. Themes include facing the ravages of time, bridging the generational divides and finding connection in the most unlikely

places. Ultimately, the play shows us how we confront and accept each other with wit, humor, and above all, love.

ETC is auditioning for six talented and dedicated actors: three portraying adult males, two playing adult females and one playing a teen boy, for the roles of Norman, Ethel, Chelsea, Bill, Billy Ray and Charlie. Auditions are by appointment only in the evening of Tuesday, Nov. 12 or Wednesday, Nov. 13 in Easthampton. Callbacks (if required) will be on Wednesday, Nov. 20. More information along with a link to character descriptions, audition requirements

appointment scheduling and audition forms are located by visiting the organization’s website at easthamptontheater.com.

Rehearsals start: Dec. 15 and will be held Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons with a break for the holidays. Tech Week (mandatory) starts March 9 and performance dates are the weekends of March 14 and March 21. Easthampton Theater Company (volunteer, non-equity) is a production group created by Easthampton and nearby residents to bring quality community and regional theater productions to Easthampton and the Pioneer Valley. Its

founding board and members are dedicated to establishing community-based live theater productions in Easthampton as a premier venue and destination for the region. No community-based theater exists without the much-appreciated work of theater lovers who are willing to provide their time and expertise. If people are interested in any aspect of theater production for “On Golden Pond” or future productions, such as tech, set design or building, ushering, marketing or board membership, and they have time and skills to offer, they may email info@easthamptontheater.com.

Eastworks hosts annual open studios event Nov. 2-3

EASTHAMPTON – Eastworks announces its annual Open Studios event, taking place on Saturday, Nov. 2 and Sunday, Nov. 3 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. each day at 116 Pleasant St.

This highly anticipated weekend will see local artists, makers, performers, nonprofits and entrepreneurs opening their doors to the public. They will be offering a unique opportunity to experience the vibrant creative community within Eastworks, which is a popular

destination in Easthampton,

The studios participating this year are showcasing an eclectic mix from drawing, painting, printmaking, photography and mixed media to pottery, stained glass, jewelry, textiles and so much more. People may meet celebrated creators, learn about their process, view works in progress, participate in hands-on workshops or purchase one-of-a-kind items.

In addition to the open studios, a

variety of food trucks will be on-site, providing a selection of culinary options to enjoy as they explore. Whether they’re an art enthusiast, a curious community member or simply looking for a fun and inspiring way to spend the weekend, Open Studios at Eastworks promises something for everyone.

Eastworks, a 500,000 square foot revitalized textile mill, sits in the heart of Easthampton’s Mill District. Eastworks kicked off the renaissance of the old

mills in Easthampton and continues to be a launchpad for creativity and entrepreneurship. Free on-site parking lots are located in the front and back of the building, along with accessible entrances and two elevators.

For more information, people may visit eastworksopenstudios.com or follow them on Instagram at www.instagram.com/eastworks_community/ or facebook: www.facebook.com/EastworksOpenStudios

WESTHAMPTON

Library lists new programs

WESTHAMPTON – The Westhampton Library, 1 North Road, will be closed Monday, Nov 11.

It will close early on Wednesday, Nov. 27 at noon and be closed on Thursday, Nov 28. Library hours are Monday and Thursday from 2-8 pm., Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

To place a request for curbside pickup, patrons should email westhampton@cwmar.org or call 413-527-5386.

Recurring Programs, holidays may impact schedule are Council on Aging computer class with Bob Miller on the second and fourth Mondays from 10 a.m.-noon; knitting group on Mondays at 6 p.m. and Yoga on Mondays at 6 p.m. Brian Mulligan teaches the fourth Monday of each month and Teri Anderson teaches all other sessions. Registration for November classes opens on Monday, November 4th at 2pm. Special thanks to the Friends of Westhampton Library and the Lyn Keating Program Fund for sponsoring yoga at the library. People should email westhampton@cwmar.org or call 413-527-5386 to register.

Other ongoing programs are Scrabble group on Tuesdays at 2 p.m., Book group on the fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m., walk-in Wellness Clinics with Westhampton’s Public Health Nurse on first and third Wednesdays from 10-11:30 a.m. and Coffee and Chat on Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-noon.

Ongoing programs for children and teens are

For Kids & Teens CFCE Playgroup on Tuesdays at 10 a.m., sensory playgroup on Saturday, Nov. 30 at 10:30 a.m., story time on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. and after school fun on Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. There will be a fun activity every Thursday this month after school.

LEGO Club is the first Thursday, Craft Club second Thursday, Nintendo

Switch Happy Hour third Thursday, Comics Club fourth Thursday and Board Games the fifth Thursday.

Teen Craft Night meets the third Thursdays and this month it meets Nov. 21 at 6 p.m.

This month’s craft is Pom Pom Coasters. Materials are limited to 8 participants and registration is required. Please register by emailing Emily at ewayne@cwmar.org. Special thanks to the Friends of Westhampton Library and the Lyn Keating Program Fund for sponsoring all teen crafts.

October/November artists are Tom Martin and Sally Lawton. Martin’s group of drawings sits somewhere between a two paged picture book, a glass free shadowbox and formally framed ink drawings. Viewers are invited to “lift the tab” on an outer drawing to look at another drawing underneath. The work is meant to be tactile and minimally interactive. Lawton will have an exhibit of small works on paper, origami and ceramics in the glass display cabinet.

An outdoor access project, public information session will be held Saturday, Nov. 2 from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. People will hear about the Outdoor Access Committee’s proposal for an All Persons viewing and gathering deck in the library yard. Cider and donuts will be served. They will meet in the library yard. In the event of rain, they will meet in the community room.

On Friday, Nov. 8 from 6-8 pm. Otis and the Hurricanes will be playing a bit of Texas blues, the spicy taste of New Orleans funk, with some good time rock roll at Town Hall. People may listen to their music by visiting <https://www.otisandthehurricanes.com/>. This concert was rescheduled from a previous date. Sponsors are Friends of Westhampton Library, Westhampton Cultural Council, Easthampton Savings Bank, Greenfield Cooperative Bank, Florence Savings Bank and Marek Builders, Inc.

Covid. flu vaccination clinic set for Oct. 30

WESTHAMPTON – A Covid and flu vaccine clinic will be held Wednesday, Oct. 30 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Westhampton Town Hall, 1 South Road.

There is no charge for the vaccination, but people should bring their insurance card and an ID. All are welcome. Registration is not required, but people may register to avoid filling out paper-

work at the clinic.

They may visit <https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/cdrmaguire?site=westhampton-town-hall-5470> to pre-register. For more information, people may email joang@hilltowncdc.org or call 413-296-4536, extension 102. This event is coordinated by Hilltown Community Development.

CUMMINGTON

Village Church holds capital campaign and lay led worship

CUMMINGTON – The Village Church of Cummington launched a capital campaign in August to help restore its historic building on Main Street.

The church, which dates back to 1838, has a long history of being a center of cultural life. It has hosted diverse events such as anti-slavery events in the mid 1800s and a woman’s suffrage convention in the late 1800s. The church continues to host many community events such as the Friday Night Cafe featuring local musicians and nearby Greenwood Music Camp in the summers as well as many memorials and celebrations.

The building is in need of new paint, window restoration, weatherizing and heating updates. The small congregation has taken on some of the work themselves within the church’s limited budget, but needs to hire contractors for the work that remains. With generous matching

donations from several church members, the church has been able to nearly reach the halfway point of its \$125,000 goal within the first three months. However, the remaining amount needed is still significant so they are asking anyone, who has been to and enjoyed an event at the welcoming Village Church to please consider making a donation to help their efforts. Any amount is appreciated and will make a difference. A GoFundMe is set up to take donations at <https://gofund.me/02fdadcd>.

The church is rebuilding, with a lay-led service followed by a potluck on the second Sunday of each month and a Silent Worship service on the fourth Sunday of the month. There will be a Silent Worship on Sunday, Oct. 27 at 10 a.m. and a worship service on Sunday, Nov. 10 at 10 am. Followed by a potluck. All are welcome.

CHESTER

CHS presents cemetery tour

CHESTER – The Chester Historical Society will present a tour of the Chester Center Cemetery, 334 Skyline Trail, on Saturday, Oct. 26 at 2 p.m.

The tour is co-sponsored by the Chester Hill Association and refreshments in the historic Chester Center Schoolhouse will follow the tour. The

tour will visit the graves of residents, who were involved in the controversial excommunication of Dr. Martin Phelps which divided the town back in the 19th century. Parking and bathrooms are available. There will be minimal walking, but some of it will be on uneven ground.

Hamilton Memorial Library lists events

CHESTER – Hamilton Memorial Library will remain closed this upcoming week while roof repairs continue.

Library staff asks for patron’s patience during this process as they prepare the space to welcome everyone back. They have two great upcoming off-site programs. The “Mushroom ID Walk” will meet at Sanderson Brook Falls parking lot on Route 20 in Chester on Saturday Oct. 19 at 9:45 a.m..

The second program, “New England UFOs” with Travel Channel’s Ronny Le Blanc from the shows “Expedition Bigfoot” and “Paranormal Caught on Camera” will be held at the Chester Town

Hall in the auditorium on Wednesday, Oct. 30 at 6 pm. The Thursday Story and Fun Time program at 11 a.m. is cancelled for this week.

For library updates, people may website www.hamilton-library.org or Facebook: Hamilton Memorial Library. They can be reached at 413-354-7808, leave a return phone number and by email at chesterlibrary@gmail.com. If people have requested items through the inter-library loan system, library staff will contact them when their materials have arrived and make plans to get them to them. They thank everyone for their understanding and are excited to see them soon.

BECKET

BAC to show 'Rocky Horror Picture Show'

BECKET – The Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, will throw a pre-Halloween party featuring "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," on Saturday, Oct 19 from 7-10 p.m.

The evening for those 21 and over

will include games, dancing and light snacks. Costumes are greatly encouraged.

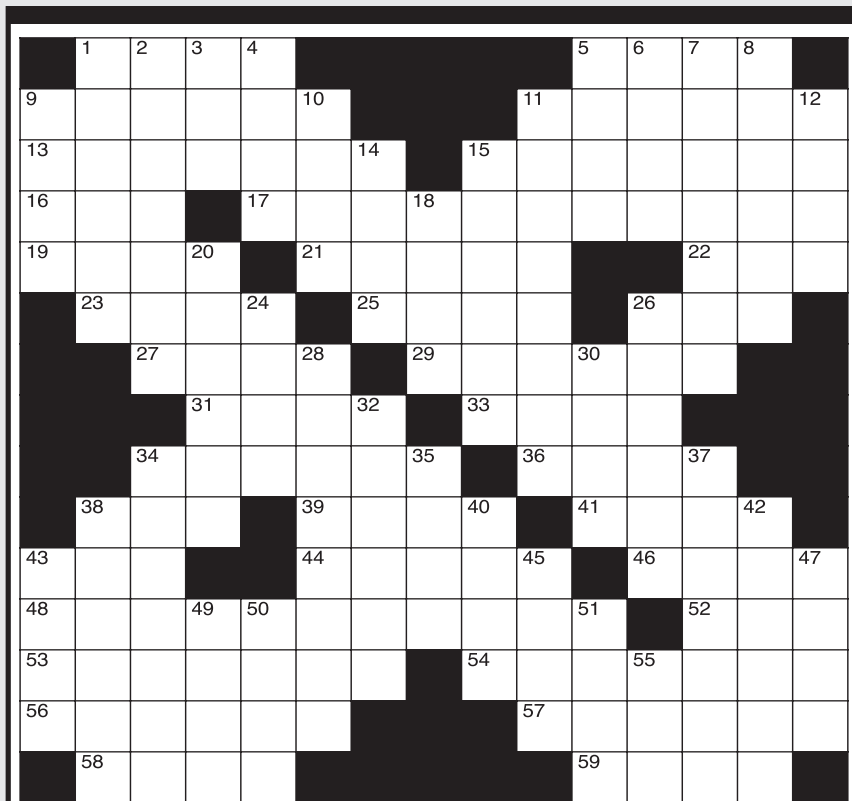
Donations welcome. For more information, people may visit becketartscenter.org.

LENOX

Nature inspired exhibit to be held Oct. 22

LENOX – Community Access to Arts artists will hold a nature-inspired art exhibit at Massachusetts Audubon Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, 472 West Mountain Road, on Tuesday, Oct. 22 from 3-5 p.m. People are welcome

to drop in any time from 3-5 p.m. to this free exhibit. Refreshments will be provided. The exhibit features works by CATA artists, who worked with naturalists from Mass Audubon to explore the wildlife of the Berkshires.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Tall, upright post on a boat
- 5. Basics
- 9. Used to refer to cited works
- 11. Folds
- 13. Former UK PM May
- 15. Cold region of Russia
- 16. Standard operating procedure
- 17. Separating
- 19. Particles
- 21. A way to map out
- 22. Referee declares
- 23. Beginner
- 25. Water (Spanish)
- 26. Gov't lawyers
- 27. Non-reproductive parts of an organism
- 29. Spanish friends
- 31. A type of tree

CLUES DOWN

- 2. Absence of bacteria
- 3. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 4. Men's fashion accessories
- 5. "Honey" actress Jessica
- 6. Round red root vegetable
- 7. Latin term for "charity"
- 8. Doesn't smell good
- 9. Mental health issue
- 10. Millisecond
- 11. Hairstyle
- 12. Edible starch
- 14. Middle Eastern military title
- 15. Protein-rich liquids
- 18. Indian musical pattern
- 20. Cancer and Capricorn

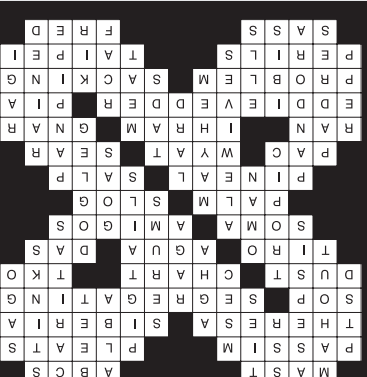
CLUES DOWN

- 1. One who rides an elephant
- 2. Fishes of the herring family
- 30. Antelopes
- 32. Chaos
- 34. Popular music app
- 35. Cooking material
- 37. Musical instrument
- 38. San Diego ballplayers
- 40. Small amounts
- 42. Poured
- 43. Fabric
- 45. Food option
- 47. Finger millet
- 49. The U. of Miami mascot is one
- 50. Alberta, Canada river
- 51. Canadian flyers
- 55. Dry white wine drink

CLUES DOWN

- 24. Country along the Arabian peninsula
- 26. A bend
- 28. Fishes of the herring family
- 30. Antelopes
- 32. Chaos
- 34. Popular music app
- 35. Cooking material
- 37. Musical instrument
- 38. San Diego ballplayers
- 40. Small amounts
- 42. Poured
- 43. Fabric
- 45. Food option
- 47. Finger millet
- 49. The U. of Miami mascot is one
- 50. Alberta, Canada river
- 51. Canadian flyers
- 55. Dry white wine drink

answers



6	8	5	4	7	2	7	6	1	3
7	4	2	3	1	3	9	1	6	9
1	9	3	5	8	6	2	4	2	7
4	3	8	2	9	1	5	7	1	9
9	9	1	8	4	7	4	3	5	2
2	5	7	1	9	3	8	9	6	4
8	7	6	9	5	4	3	2	1	3
5	2	5	9	7	6	2	5	4	1
3	1	4	9	2	8	7	6	7	5

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

You might find it challenging to assess a situation this week. Always stick to what your instincts are telling you as they are rarely wrong. Try not to get sidetracked by small details.

CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, consider new habits that promote well-being and balance. It is important to focus on your health and tailor routines to that end. Find time to reflect on your goals and ambitions.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Social interactions are bound to be lively and stimulating. It can be easy to get carried away, so balance your social life with some quiet time to recharge.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, an exercise in reflection and introspection might be a good idea this week. It is time for some personal growth, including figuring out ways to be more receptive to feedback.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

You may find a need to be more assertive at work, Taurus. Your ideas are sound, so don't hesitate to share them with colleagues. Others will appreciate your insight.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

It's a great time to express yourself through art, hobbies, or social activities. Romance also could be in the cards, so make space for some fun and connection in your personal life.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Financial matters might be in focus. Make a plan to review your budget and figure out how to save more. You may want to consider new investments.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, your innovative ideas may receive some positive attention, so don't be afraid to share with others. Social interactions rev up, but be sure to balance social life with downtime.

GEMINI

May 22/June 21

Communication may be the key for you this week, Gemini. It is an excellent time to network and share your ideas. Be concise in your interactions to avoid misunderstandings.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Focused on family matters and your home life. It's an excellent time to organize your space and strengthen family bonds. You also can work on personal goals.

SAGITTARIUS

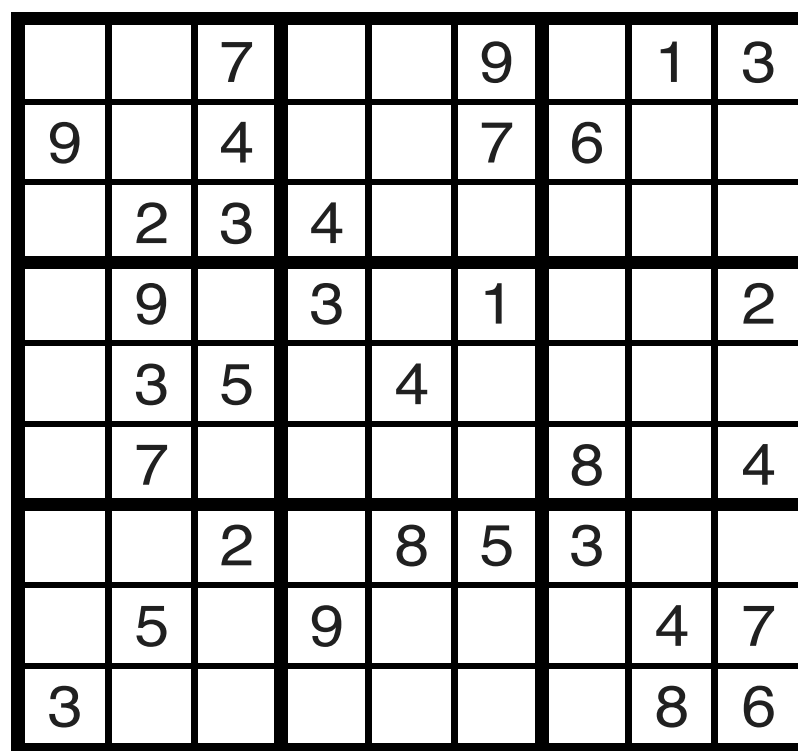
Nov 23/Dec 21

You might experience a boost in energy and optimism this week, Sagittarius. It's always a good idea to focus on personal goals and any ambitions that you might have.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Reassess your professional aspirations and take practical steps toward achieving them, Pisces. Put out some feelers to your employment network.



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or call: 413-283-8393

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21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00	23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00	27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00	31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00	35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
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OBITUARY

Wayne Morse, 85

MONTGOMERY –Wayne Morse, 85, passed away at the Baystate Medical Center on Saturday, Oct. 12, 2024.

Born in Westfield, Nov. 29, 1938, he moved to Montgomery in the late 1950s, building his own home and becoming a life-long resident. He was predeceased by his wife, Linda and his brother, James Howard “Jim” Morse of Middlebury, Vermont.

He leaves two bothers, Oren R. Morse of Jacksonville, Florida and Louis F. Morse of Hampden. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather; he was married to Linda for 65 years before her passing. He also leaves his son, Jeffrey Morse of Westfield; his son, Jerald W. Morse of Montgomery; his granddaughter, Ashley E. Smialek (Morse) and her husband, Matt T. Smialek of Westfield; two great-grandsons, Tristan C. Rogers and Brady S. Jacobs; a grandson, Justin M. Morse of Southwick; his wife, Alexis A. Morse; a great-granddaughter, Mattison S. Morse and a great-grandson,



Tate J. Morse.

He was always a happy child growing up and ended up with the nickname “Happy” which over time evolved into the name “Hap,” which was the name he went by the majority of his life. He worked on the road crew for Montgomery in the early years and then started his own independent contracting business, Morse Builders. He built several houses in Montgomery and the surrounding hill towns and did all forms of carpentry, masonry, repair and electrical work. After his retirement he got involved in local politics and was a selectman in Montgomery for several years. He had a broad knowledge of so many things, both carpentry and mechanical and he was always willing to lend a hand to family and friends. He will truly be missed by all that knew him

Visiting hours will be held on Sunday, Oct. 20 from 1-3 p.m. at the Firtion-Adams Funeral Home, 76 Broad St., Westfield, MA. Burial will be private.

DEATH NOTICE

MORSE, WAYNE

Died Oct. 12, 2024
Visiting hours Oct. 20 from 1-3 p.m.
Firtion-Adams Funeral Home, Westfield
Burial will be private.

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief Death Notice listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a Paid Obituary, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com. Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

FLORENCE

Florence Bank supports mental health

FLORENCE – Florence Bank supported the Mental Health Association’s 26th annual Wellness Classic Golf Tournament with a \$5,000 sponsorship, helping the organization live into its mission to better the lives of people challenged by intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Founded in the 1960s and formerly based in Springfield, the Mental Health Association is now located in Chicopee and is a pioneer in community-based support for those living with mental illness, homelessness, intellectual disabilities, brain injuries and substance use.

The organization offers over 60 residential programs in Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin counties and operates these four divisions, each serving a different segment of need: Recovery and Housing, supporting people with substance use disorders or a mental health diagnosis, and people experiencing chronic homelessness; New Way Services, for those who have experienced a brain injury; Integration and Community Living, serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and Bestlife Emotional Health and Wellness, an outpatient behavioral health clinic based in Springfield.

“We help people live their best lives, and we provide access to therapies that provide emotional health and wellness,” said Jen Ducharme, vice president of development and community relations at the Mental Health Association. “Our mission is to serve as many people as possible, as quickly as possible in ways that are person-centered. Everything is catered to the person receiving care because everybody’s

needs are different.”

The Mental Health Association serves about 3,500 to 3,800 people each year, and its annual golf classic was held this year on Sept. 27 at Crestview Country Club in Agawam; it typically raises roughly \$100,000.

Florence Bank President and CEO Matt Garrity said, “The funds raised for the Wellness Classic enable the Mental Health Organization to make a meaningful impact in the lives of those we serve. We were honored to help by sponsoring so that individuals get the treatment they need to rebuild relationships with family, revive self-worth and independence and live a life of health and wellness.”

Florence Bank is a long-term supporter of the Mental Health Association and has been the organization’s banking partner for about 10 years.

Ducharme said, “Florence Bank has been a wonderful partner to us with all of our banking needs and providing support in many ways for the work that we do. They have a presence—unique and sincere. We know that no matter what, we can count on them to discuss finances or for help with an initiative.”

To learn more about the Mental Health Association or make a donation, people may visit mhainc.org/.

Florence Bank is a mutual savings bank chartered in 1873. Currently, the bank serves the Pioneer Valley through 12 full-service branch locations in Florence, Northampton, Easthampton, Williamsburg, Amherst, Hadley, Belchertown, Granby, Chicopee, West Springfield and Springfield.

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HELP WANTED

PART TIME SNOW PLOW DRIVERS NEEDED

Part time snow plow drivers are needed for the Town of New Braintree for the 2024-2025 season. Positions available for both CDL (\$30/hr) and non-CDL License (\$25/hr). If you are interested, please contact Highway Superintendent Richard Ayer at (508) 867-2451 or email hwy-secretary@newbraintree.org.

SHORT ORDER COOK, breakfast/lunch. John's Corner in Ludlow. Call John 413-537-2455.

The Town of Huntington is seeking a part-time **HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** for 16 hours per week. Applicants must be proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook. Hours are flexible, but must be worked during the regular highway department hours of Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to assist the Highway Superintendent. Application and complete job description are available online at www.huntingtonma.us or by emailing admin@huntingtonma.us. Position is open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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

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

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Job Connection

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Terms: Part Time beginning October 31st
Salary: \$15,000 / year
Education: Bachelors

Requirements:

- 3 to 5 years experience in Municipal Accounting, experience as a municipal auditor would be a plus
- 3 plus years using the Vadar accounting software
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Interested Candidates may apply by sending a Cover Letter and/or a resume to the Town Administrator at middlefield.adm@gmail.com

Town of Middlefield is an equal opportunity employer

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.

PUBLIC NOTICES

MIDDLEFIELD ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE

The Middlefield ZBA is holding a public hearing on **Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. at the Middlefield Town Hall** regarding the application of Jana L. Gross and Michael A. Bero for a finding under MGL Chapter 40A, section 6 and Middlefield Zoning Bylaw section 3.2.3 in order to install a garden shed at their property located at 162 Skyline Trail, Middlefield, MA, Deed Book No. 14974, Page No. 19

Maureen Sullivan, ZBA Chair
10/10, 10/17/2024

Notice of Hearing Town of Williamsburg
A public hearing will be held under Mass. Gen. Laws Chapter 138 on **Thursday,**

October 31, 2024, at 4:00 p.m., in Room 203 of the Town Offices, 141 Main Street, Haydenville, to act on the application of Pat’s, LLC, for a Change of Ownership Interest in their annual All-Alcohol Package Store liquor license at 51 Goshen Rd, Williamsburg.

By order of the Board of Selectmen.
Paul Wetzel, Chair
10/17/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD24C0331CA In the matter of: Samuel Nathan LaBay CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by **Samuel Nathan LaBay of Woronoco, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Samuel Anthony Archambault IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/15/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 15, 2024

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
10/17/2024

SANDISFIELD

A visit to Sandisfield offers food, art

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

SANDISFIELD – Sandisfield is possibly one of the more remote, little-known municipalities in the Commonwealth.

Its land mass is the third largest square mile area in Berkshire County and the eighth largest in the state with 53 square miles and population density 18 per square mile. It's loaded with cultural opportunities, agricultural pursuits and history.

A weekend visit began with a stop at Riiska Brook Orchard on New Hartford Road, just off Route 57. There are all kinds of apples available including McIntosh, Cortland, Macoun, Fuji and a host of others. People can pick their own off the tree or pick a bag up in the shop. There's hot cider and cold jugs to take home, but the best part is the donuts.

The cider donuts are made fresh, on the spot, all day on Saturdays and Sundays during the season. A new machine can make as many as 500 in an hour, but owner Emily Melchior says they make small batches of 160 at a time – and that's by their recipe, three batches.

Any given weekend they use 100 pounds of King Arthur Flour, 50 pounds of sugar and 100 pounds of vegetable shortening. The sugar is used both in the donut dough and for the cinnamon-sugar coating.

The recipe, according to Melchior, was especially created for the orchard by a professional chef. And the donut making machine is a state-of-the-art Belshaw; only recently installed and operational.

The donut chef said the flour mix once prepared to go into the machine has to be "just the right temperature" as it hits the hot shortening that fries it. Everything is measured and combined, at the ready to be

mixed with cider to go into the machine. Once sugared, the fresh donuts are bagged and sent to the Apple Shop where they disappear quickly.

Melchior and her husband, Calvin Rodman acquired the orchard last summer and have been working on the facilities ever since. Next season will see a café adjacent to the kitchen area and their own cider press, too. The couple has had their home in Sandisfield for ten years.

Riiska Brook Orchard will be open for the next few weekends, Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

A lunch stop at the New Boston Inn brought history to the fore. The inn is just down the street from the Little Brown Church constructed in 1879, which has this year celebrated its 150th anniversary. It is part of the New Boston Village National Register Historic District.

The Inn itself has its own history and a ghost roams the rooms. Legend or lore or history tells the story of Harriet who was killed on her wedding day in the Inn by a spurned suitor. She sings a song, according to the story.

Built in 1737, the Inn has been part of history for well over 200 years. The Inn has long been known for its pot roast and meat loaf. All their food is locally sourced from nearby markets and farms. The Inn is preparing for a Halloween event Saturday, Oct. 26 from 8:30 p.m.-1 a.m. There will be prizes for costumes and the cost is \$30 per person. The outside gardens feature ghostly decorations.

After lunch, a visit to the Sandisfield Arts Center just off Route 57 on Hammertown Road. Historically significant as well, the building was named to the National Registry of Historic Places as "The Montville Baptist Church" in 2006.

The current exhibit is entitled Illuminated: Women in Photography. "This show is both a celebration and inquiry into the feminine nature of memory. How does what we remember — and forget — influence artistic process and output? Each artist, through her own personal experience, reveals how memories can function as the ultimate fabric of self-expression and storytelling," according to Josie Miner who curated the show.

Photographic artists presenting their work are: Daisy Noyes, based between Melbourne, Australia and Great Barrington; Josie Miner from Sandisfield; Kenzie Fields, from Mill River, Mariah Robertson, Maura Sullivan and Tina Tyrell all from New York City; Susanna Howe, from Chatham, New York and Barbara Woike from Stockbridge.

New York City Photographer Amy Arbus, whose work spans more than four decades, opened the event with a talk about her career and her art.

The exhibit will run through Sunday, Nov. 10 and there is no admission fee. A trip to Sandisfield will test the palate in so many ways. It is well worth the stop.



Emily Melchior with the couples children, Sara, 3; Walter, 6 and Mryna, 7.

Turley photos by Mary Kronholm



Tina Tyrell with her 2024 works, West Virginia barn/Lucian and West Virginia barn/prima.

Courtesy Photo Sandisfield Art Center

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