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BLANDFORD

Town Administrator resigns

Dunne will take on new position in Deerfield

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – Town Administrator Christopher Dunne submitted his resignation effective Friday, Dec. 1.

He accepted a newly created position for the town of Deerfield as the Planning/Economic Development Coordinator.

His letter said, in part, "This change comes sooner and more unexpectedly than I would have hoped and though by no means contractually obligated to do so, please know that I intend to remain a resource to the next Town Administrator beyond the date of my resignation."

He said he will "remain available" to the town to "ensure a smooth transition." He began his duties in Blandford as Town Administrator March 7, 2022.

"I am so very sorry to see Christopher go. He has been instrumental in acquiring numerous grants for Blandford and seeing projects through. It will be difficult to replace him. However,



Blandford Town Administrator Christopher Dunne works at his desk. He recently resigned to take a new position in Deerfield.

Turley Photo by Mary Kronholm

I wish him luck in his new position, they are fortunate to have him," said Select Board Chair Cara Letendre Tuesday. She was not able to be at the meeting Monday evening.

Highway Department

Highway Department Superintendent David Waldron is on an extended leave. In his absence, the Select Board has appointed former Highway Department Superintendent Rene Senecal

to act temporarily in this position for ten hours a week at \$50 an hour. He began his duties Monday, Oct. 23.

Loan forgiveness

Dunne announced that the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust and State Treasurer and Receiver General Deborah Goldberg has awarded Blandford a loan forgiveness in the amount of \$461,151 on a total cost of \$1,242,935. Blandford

statistically qualifies as a Disadvantaged Community in the Commonwealth making the town eligible for the loan forgiveness program.

Water Department Superintendent Gordon Avery said Tuesday morning, "This is phenomenal. This is huge for us. It's a 40 per cent reduction of a \$1.2 million bill." According to Avery, this loan forgiveness will

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HUNTINGTON

Author delves into mystery of Hutchins' murder

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – The 1880 murder of 69 year-old Huntington resident Parley Hutchins made national headlines, especially in light of a shared belief that Hutchins had a bag with \$100,000 in gold in his safe at the time.

Once the body was found and the safe opened, it was found to not contain the gold. Questions endure to this day: who killed Parley Hutchins? And what happened to the entrepreneur's riches?



Steven V. Cormier

Those questions will be taken up by the Huntington Historical Society on Sunday, Nov. 5 from 2-5 p.m. at Stanton Hall, located in the cen-

AUTHOR, page 6



Pumpkins brighten the landscape at this sugarhouse in Westhampton. Some colors in the trees behind the sugarhouse are visible. Right, This bench located in Westhampton offers a place to sit by a stream and leaf filled path.

Submitted photos



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OTIS

SENIORS ENJOY HOLIDAY EVENTS



Linda Gero enjoys the Halloween themed potluck lunch on Wednesday, Oct.18. She dressed as a kitten for this fun senior event.



Linda Lewis looks sweet in red.

Submitted photos



Else DeVoti and Eila Bell enjoy music played by Barbra Hagelin on the keyboard.

COA lists upcoming events

OTIS – The next Council on Aging holiday event will be a Thanksgiving luncheon at the Knox Trail Inn on Thursday, Nov. 16. Reservations must be made Wednesday, Nov.1. The cost is \$25 each. People may either call 413 269 0100 extension.5 or email seniorsotisma@gmail.com to register.

Town Clerk holds special hours to accept nomination papers

OTIS – The Town Clerk will hold special hours to accept nomination papers on Friday, Nov. 10 from 4-5 p.m.

The Town clerk will be open to receive and issue receipts for nomination papers for Ward, Town and State Committee.

Recreation Commission to sponsor floral workshop

OTIS – A Floral Workshop sponsored by the Recreation Commission will be held with April Hoskeer on Saturday, Nov. 18 from 1-3 p.m. at the Otis Town Hall, One North Main Road.

Participants can choose from three floral options at three different price ranges. Cost is \$35 for a single candle in plain green dish with higher end

flowers such as lily, rose, sunflower or cremones plus berries, poms and alstro, etc. The cost is \$50 for a double candle with same flower selection, but with more of them and \$65 for a cornucopia with same flower selection, but more of them.

Participants are required to pay for their selected option to hold their spot

in the workshop. All payments must be received at the Otis Town Hall by Monday, Nov 13. Town Hall hours are Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Registration is required; no drop ins are allowed. To sign up, people may visit <https://www.signup-genius.com/go/10C084BACA823A4F-BC34-45406193-floral>.

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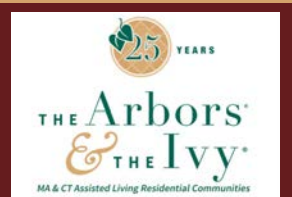
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HILLTOWNS

Hilltown Holiday Help seeks children's gifts

For more than twenty years local families have received help with gifts for their children through a community project called Hilltown Holiday Help.

Children of families with low to moderate income in the hilltowns are eligible to receive clothing, books and toys. This effort is organized by the Hilltown Family Center and Hilltown Social Services programs in conjunction with the Gateway Regional High School National Honor Society with contributions from other organizations and individuals throughout the hilltowns and beyond. Last year, we were able to provide gifts for 114 children from 67 families.

This year, they expect an even higher need as folks try to navigate rising prices and inflation. They are looking for donors. This is a community effort. Local businesses, schools,

churches, organizations and area residents are invited to help with fundraising and shopping to provide gifts.

Hilltown Holiday Help has also found recipients for holiday meals, cords of wood, help with utility bills, gift cards, gifts for teens and adults and other items when provided. This year, they will be operating a little differently again for the safety of families, students, donors and staff.

For families in need, wish lists will be available through Hilltown Community Center staff from Monday, Oct. 30 through Friday, Nov. 24 via telephone, in person appointments, email, U.S. Mail or Zoom. Families with children from newborns through the age of twelve, are eligible. Proof of residency and birth certificates or social security cards for children may be required.

Gifts will be distributed from Tuesday, Dec. 5- Friday, Dec. 8, through contactless curbside pickup or delivery. Donors should arrange for a drop off time with staff or send monetary donations via the GoFundMe page located by visiting <https://gofund.me/e63d369e> or send checks to the Attention of Kim Savery c/o HCHC Finance Office at 58 Old North Road, Worthington, MA 01098. Make checks out to HCHC (Hilltown Community Health Centers) and Holiday Help in the memo.

If people are unable to commit to becoming a sponsor this year, they may support the National Honor Society and Huntington Fire Department boot drive in Huntington on Saturday, Nov. 11 or consider donating other goods or services or volunteering to deliver, a great opportunity to channel their inner Santa.

If people are interested in donating or have questions, they may call Susan at 413.667.2203, extension 311 email slebarron@hchcweb.org, call Kim at 413-685-3500, or email ksavery@hchcweb.org.



Sen. John Velis receives 'Legislator of the Year' Award

SPRINGFIELD – This week, the Massachusetts Police Association presented Senator John Velis with their 2023 "Legislator of the Year" Award as part of their annual awards ceremony in Springfield.

Senator John Velis (D – Westfield), who represents nine communities throughout Hampden County and Hampshire County, noted how humbled he was by the award. "Over the years I have had the opportunity to join both local and State Police on duty to better understand the difficult and complex work that they do each day to keep our communities safe. Each and every day, the men and women in our law enforcement selflessly and courageously serve our communities and keep the rest of us safe," said Senator Velis. "In turn, it is my honor to advocate on Beacon Hill for them however I can. This is a duty that I will never take lightly and I am truly humbled by this award from the Association."

In addition to filing and support-

ing legislation for police officers across the Commonwealth, Senator Velis has also been successful in securing funding for police departments and public safety initiatives specifically in his district. This includes securing \$160,000 for the Westfield Police Department, \$50,000 for the Agawam Police Department and \$50,000 for the Russell-Montgomery Police Department in just the past several years.

The Massachusetts Police Association union represents state and municipal law enforcement officers throughout the Commonwealth. From Greater Boston to Western Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Police Association advocates to ensure that police officers are equipped with the training and tools to best serve the communities they protect. During the ceremony officers were also honored for their hard work and contribution to the police profession. These awards included the Medal of Valor award and Paul Doherty award of exceptional service.

MassDOT announces construction of I-90

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces crews will be conducting overnight hour work finishing paving and bridge repair operations on I-90 eastbound and westbound in Lee, Becket and Otis.

The work will be conducted at various times and locations from Thursday, Oct. 26 through Friday, Oct. 27. Lane closures will be in place during the construction operations and traffic will be able to travel through the work zones.

In Lee, paving finishing work will be conducted nightly on I-90 eastbound and westbound from mile marker 7.4 to mile marker 14.6, from Thursday, Oct. 26 through Friday, Oct. 27 from 7 p.m.5 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, Oct. 27 by 5 a.m.

In Becket and Otis, paving finishing work will be conducted nightly on I-90 eastbound and westbound between mile marker 14.6 and mile marker 21.7 from Thursday, Oct. 26 through Friday,

Oct. 27 from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, Oct. 27 by 5 a.m.

Appropriate signage, law enforcement details, and messaging will be in place to guide drivers through the work area. Drivers who are traveling through the affected areas should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution. All scheduled work is weather dependent and subject to change without notice.

For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to download the Mass511 mobile app or visit www.mass511.com to view live cameras, travel times, real-time traffic conditions and project information before setting out on the road. Users can subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions. Dial 511 and select a route to hear real-time conditions. Follow @MassDOT on X, (formerly known as Twitter), to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

Can my wife claim her benefit now and switch to a spouse benefit from me later?



Dear Rusty

Can my wife claim her benefits now (at 63, and we know about the reduction for claiming early) and then, when I retire at 66 years and 10 months of age almost 3 years from now, can she switch over to spousal benefits based on my benefit amount? She worked at a higher paying job for much of her career, but is now at a much lower income and would be under the amount that would reduce her benefits further. I currently earn about nine times her annual salary so the spousal benefit for her would be an increase when I retire.

Signed: Seeking Information

Dear Seeking

Yes, your wife can claim her own (reduced) Social Security retirement benefit now and she will be automatically awarded a spousal boost when you later claim your SS retirement benefit. However, your wife's benefit when you claim will not be 50% of your Full Retirement Age amount because she claimed her own SS benefit early and also because her spousal boost will be awarded prior to her FRA.

Any benefit taken before FRA is reduced, including the spousal benefit.

Here's what will happen if your wife claims her own Social Security at age 63. Your wife's personal SS retirement benefit, when she claims, will be reduced by about 25%. When you claim at your full retirement age, your wife will get a "spousal boost" to her own reduced benefit.

The amount of your wife's spousal boost will be the difference between her FRA entitlement and 50% of your FRA entitlement, reduced because the spousal boost will be awarded automatically before she has reached her own full retirement age. FRA amounts are used to compute the spousal boost, regardless of the age at which benefits are claimed.

When you claim, your wife will not yet be her FRA, so the amount of her spousal boost, the difference between her FRA entitlement and half of your FRA entitlement, will be reduced. The reduced spousal boost will be added to your wife's reduced SS retirement benefit, resulting in her total benefit payment being less than half of yours.

The only way your wife can get the full 50% of your FRA entitlement is to wait until her own FRA at 67 to claim Social Security, but by doing so she also forfeits the money she would otherwise receive if she claimed her own benefit now. As long as she won't significantly exceed the earnings limit while

working before her FRA, claiming now is an acceptable strategy because it will take many years to recover the money forfeited by waiting until her FRA to claim.

It's also reasonable because women statistically outlive men and your wife's benefit as your surviving spouse will be 100% of the amount you are receiving at your death, instead of the smaller spousal amount she was receiving while you were both living.

When to claim is always a personal choice and life expectancy should always be thoughtfully considered, but the answer to your specific question is - yes, if your wife claims her own benefit at 63, she will automatically receive her spousal boost when you claim, but her payment as your spouse will be less than 50% of your FRA benefit amount.

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The questions keep coming



Continue to receive a number of questions each week. It's encouraging that there is so much interest in gardening even as this season is coming to an end. Here are the quandaries we have for this week:

Myrtle still has an abundance of green tomatoes left on the plants in her small gardening plot. "Are my tomatoes still OK to be outside? When I've picked them green in the past I remember putting them in a paper bag to ripen. Is that better than just leaving them on the counter? Mine are mostly cherries and I have quite a few! I looked online and it says to put them in a bag with an apple, but I

don't recall using an apple the last time I did this. I sometimes find that advice from the internet gets confusing - too many options! Also, I was wondering what you thought of trying to root the tomato branches that have flowers. Maybe I could grow them inside for the winter."

Lucky you to still have tomato branches with flowers, let alone those with tomatoes on them! I am impressed.

With frost imminent, I typically allow green tomatoes to ripen single layer in trays or cardboard boxes - something that can "breathe," unlike plastic bags or containers. A paper bag sounds like a fine option too.

The reason for the apple is so that it will emit ethylene gas and hasten the ripening process. Bananas can be used in place of the apple.

There is some controversy about what temperature tomatoes should be kept at to ripen, but it would make sense that ripening would occur at warmer temperatures versus cooler - tomatoes are tropical plants. Typical household temps around 70 degrees are just right.

As far as rooting flowering branches, it would be a fun experiment and tomato stems do root readily. Usually when we take cuttings, we prefer them not to be in flower, though, as it hinders rooting to some degree.

Try it; I'd love to hear how it works out.

If they root, keep in mind that winter light is not as bright as summer light. It might be hard to keep the plants growing well inside.

Sylvia, who gardens in Ware, wrote in with this question:

"My beautiful lush morning glory vine doesn't have any buds, let alone blossoms! I fear we will have frost soon. Do you have any idea why this failed? I started four little plants in June, lots of rain, no fertilizer, soil so-so with some compost added during growth and that's it for care."

My first thought is that your soil is too rich. You said no fertilizer, but maybe the compost was enough to increase fertility, and nitrogen especially, in such a way that you ended up with all that lush foliage but no flowers.

Morning glories are related to bind weed - that pesky weed that tangles around my garden fence and just about anything else it can get its tendrils on. Try to pull it up and the thick white roots break and new plants pop up.

How does this relate? Well, it sort of proves that morning glories prefer soil that isn't so rich.

Another thought is that you have a late flowering variety! Honest!

Some varieties take a long time to flower. One variety that I know grows well and flowers on the early side is an heirloom by the name of Grandpa Ott's.

Give it a try and you'll be pleasantly surprised by the dark purple flowers with reddish centers.

One thing you didn't mention in your note was exposure; morning glories do need to be planted in full sun in order to flower. I do hope this helps!

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



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HILLTOWN HISTORY

Homing pigeons used as message carriers

By Deborah Daniels
Correspondent

A very plump pigeon was spotted feeding on a neighbor's deck in Chesterfield.

We don't get many pigeons here in the Hilltowns, maybe because we don't have too many statues. Are you familiar with the manner in which pigeons voice their opinions about some of our public statues? No, it's not white paint they are dropping. Nor was this bird flying south with the rest of those feathered sunshine chasers.

He appeared to be entirely content. He was next seen walking and pecking for food in Huntington on a road around Lake Norwich. The very lake where bird watchers spot eagles and hawks. Somebody better clue this city boy in to the dangers of country living.

Oh hey what are those bands around his feet? Turns out this was no ordinary pigeon, but a homing pigeon, a homing pigeon not sticking to his route. Turns out this guy was supposed to be heading back to Fall River instead of stopping for a quick bite to eat in beautiful western Massachusetts.

Ready for a little 411 on homing pigeons? These pigeons come from wild rock doves, birds that have been selectively bred to find their way home over long distances. Traditionally they only flew home, that is in one direction.

You could take them anywhere and they would be able to find their way home. They returned from distances as much as 1,100 miles away, flying at an average speed of 60 miles per hour. This still holds true but they are also being trained now to fly out and back in both directions.

Hard as this might seem to be but homing pigeons have been major message carriers since the time of Egyptian pharaohs right up to the age of telegraphs. Even the U.S. Mail used carrier pigeons. You might be surprised to learn that homing pigeons were used by the military in both World Wars.

They were carried on planes as a means of communication in the event of a crash or if the plane was ditched or for radio failure. Messages were written on onion skin or cigarette paper and rolled into a tiny flask the birds carried on their feet.

GIJoe (3/24/1943 -6/3/1961) was such a bird. He was trained to be a two way homing pigeon in New Jersey. He saved the lives of the villagers and British soldiers during the WWII campaign in Calvi Vecchia, Italy. American flyers were summoned to rescue the besieged village. However the 56th Infantry Division was able to successfully take back the village from



Lost homing pigeon spotted feeding at Chesterfield home bird feeder. Note its plump size.

the Germans. GIJoe was sent to notify the American flyers that the village was recovered and there was no need to bomb the area. Mission accomplished. He lived for 18 years, finally dying in a Detroit Zoo.

Cher Ami was another famous homing pigeon who flew twelve successful missions during WWI. He delivered his last message despite being shot in the leg and hit in the eye to save Major Whittlesey's lost battalion from the Germans in 1919. His body is on display in the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C. No one realizes that the order, "to take out the radio communication during war included shooting hundreds of homing pigeons as they were released carrying messages," but it's true.

How does the pigeon always find his way home? There are theories that pigeons use the position of the sun and rely on the Earth's magnetic field as well as visually follow our very own road systems and use their sense of smell to help navigate home. There are many theories but nothing that can be verified with research.

Simply put, we don't know how they do it. There are racing clubs all over the world that have homing pigeons compete to get home the fastest from some very amazing distances. The birds wear bands with electronic timers on their feet. They have clocked them flying just over 100 miles per hour. There is a million dollar race that takes place in South Africa with a 1.3 million dollar purse. Pigeons, all 893 competitors flew in airplanes to South Africa to take part in this 340 mile race across the veldt.



Military flight attendant carrying two boxes with homing pigeons to be taken onboard WWI airplane to be used as emergency communication.

After the race all the big bird breeders are there brokering deals for the best homing pigeon stock.

Historically, the Belgians bred the best homing pigeons. Training for homing pigeons starts once they are four to six weeks old. An identifying leg band is placed on homing pigeons five days after hatching. Squabs or babies are raised by both parents in nature. Both male and female pigeons share the duty of incubating the two eggs for 16-19 days and for feeding the babies a protein rich milk they both produce in their crops for four weeks. There is no squabbling over gender roles here. Pigeons are kept in lofts that they learn are home. They are taken out and trained to fly home from longer and longer distances away from the loft.

There are four types of competitive pigeon sport; racing, tumbling, highflying and tippler (endurance) races. The American Racing Pigeon Union is a national organization founded in 1910 to centralize the regional racing clubs, standardize the rules and awards cash prizes. There are 700 clubs with 7,500 members in the USA. Ponies and puppies move over.

What's the handicap on a pigeon? There are many races held all over America with some serious prize money. The birds all have two bands on their legs with their home location, owner number and the bird's date of birth. Most homing pigeons can be gently handled to read their tags because they are so used to human beings. Homing pigeons can compete from six months of age until 10 years, but most average three years of racing.

So the budgie mentioned at the



Pigeons roost on electrical wires in Westfield.
Submitted photos

beginning of this column was born in January. He was a lost homing pigeon, who tasted the freedom of the open road. And he wasn't going back to that race track lifestyle. Which was good because when asked how to help get him back to his owners, they responded saying he is on his own now.

They were not interested in getting him back, apparently a lost pigeon is well a loss of a disgraced pigeon. If only we had known he was up for adoption, maybe we would have taken him in. But then that thing about their high metabolic rate making them super poopers kinda gets in the way. These remarkable birds deserve a bit of love if you should find one. They won't require your guest bedroom, an empty shoe box will do. For heaven's sake will you pigeon owners stand by your bird?

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ASHFIELD

Whispering Bones offers ghost stories

ASHFIELD – The First Congregational Church of Ashfield, 429 Main St., will present Pauline Productions Lucky Thirteenth Anniversary Tour of Whispering Bones on Monday, Oct. 30 at 7 p.m.

Dr. Erastus Betterov-Underhill and friends will provide a new mix of ghost stories to haunt listeners with stories both

creepy and comic. Advanced tickets are adults \$15-25 and teens \$7. They are available at Ashfield Hardware or by visiting brownpapertickets.com.

Partial funding is made possible by local cultural council grants from Goshen, Williamsburg, Ashfield and Conway. For more information, people may visit whisperingbones.com.

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WESTHAMPTON

Library announces upcoming events

WESTHAMPTON – The Westhampton Public Library held its 16 annual Fall Festival on Sunday, Oct. 15. There were hundreds of visitors to the event.

Westhampton Public Library hours are Monday and Thursday from 2-8 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The library will be closed Saturday, Nov. 11th in observance of Veterans Day. On Wednesday, Nov. 22 it will close at noon and will be closed Thursday, Nov. 23 in observance of Thanksgiving.

People should visit the town website or Facebook or Instagram @ WesthamptonPublicLibrary for library updates. The library is open for in-person browsing and materials pickup as well as curbside pickup. To place a request for curbside pickup, people may email westhampton@cwars.org or call 413-527-5386.

Recurring programs include: Council on Aging Computer Class with Bob Miller the second and fourth Mondays from 10 a.m.-noon, Knitting Group on Mondays at 6 p.m., Yoga with Brian Monday, Nov. 27 at 6 p.m. (no classes during the winter), Scrabble Group Tuesdays at 2 p.m., CFCE Playgroup Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m., Book Group fourth Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Walk-in Wellness Clinics with Westhampton's Public Health Nurse first and third Wednesdays from 10-11:30 a.m., Story time Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. And Coffee and Chat Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-noon.

After School Fun includes Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.; LEGO Club first Thursday; Craft Club second Thursday; Nintendo Switch Happy



Visitors to the Fall Festival fill the Westhampton Public Library field. Submitted photos

Hour third Thursday and Comics Club fourth Thursday.

Holidays may impact the schedule.

Teen Craft Night will be held Thursday, Nov. 16 at 6 p.m. People should email Emily at ewayne@cwars.org to receive teen craft updates and reminders. The November craft is a cinnamon stick macramé which will make a festively scented holiday gift or decoration.

Cooley Dickinson VNA and Hospice Information Series will hold three sessions. Session 1 Hospice 101 is Everything You Wanted to Know, But Were Afraid to Ask on Tuesday, Nov. 7 at 10:30; session 2 Navigating the Journey of Grief and Loss on Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 10:30 a.m. and Session 3 Making the Right Choice - Learn Options for Home Health Care on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.



The first image is of local musician, Jim Armenti, getting ready to lead the crowd in singing his song "The Great Pumpkin Roll" just before the annual Pumpkin Roll started.

Police warn residents of theft from cars

WESTHAMPTON – Two separate addresses had cars entered Sunday night, Oct. 15 into Monday morning in town.

This also happened in Easthampton and Southampton. The cars were left unlocked and valuables were taken. The Westhampton police is working with owners and examining footage from doorbell cameras. If anyone has any information to provide that might be helpful, they should call the Westhampton Police Department at 413-527-6154. In the meantime, homeowners are advised to lock cars at the end of the day and to ensure that all exterior entrances to houses, garages and storage sheds are locked securely.

Residents should secure their garages and sheds and remove any valuables from vehicles. The WPD also encourages residents to consider installing motion cameras and or lighting around their homes to increase their safety and security.



CUMMINGTON

Friday Night Café features Sean and Heather

CUMMINGTON – Sean and Heather are back at the cafe on Friday, Oct. 27 from 7-9 p.m. at the Village Church on Main St in the heart of the Cummington Cultural District.

Sean and Heather have been singing together for more than 30 years. Their performances are driven by their eclectic taste and their enduring love of vocal harmony. They return to their musical home at the Friday Night Café with an all new show featuring both original material and songs from the classic and modern American songbooks.

Joining Sean and Heather for the

evening will be pianist Chris Haynes and bassist Dave Christopolis.

Once again this is sponsored by the friendly folks at the Village Church, who believe music can be a powerful force for building community.

The show is free, snacks are provided and bring your own drinks. Masks are welcome and encouraged.

This program is supported in part by grants from the Cummington, Chesterfield, Goshen, Hinsdale-Peru, Plainfield, Williamsburg, Windsor and Worthington Cultural Councils, local agencies which are supported by the Mass. Cultural Council, a state agency.

HUNTINGTON

AUTHOR

from page 1

ter of Huntington on Route 20. Steven V. Cormier, author of "The Life and Times of Parley Hutchins, the Mystery Continues," will discuss his findings in researching the event.

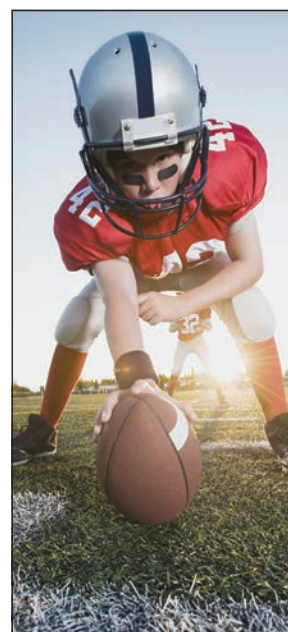
Cormier became interested in the story when he moved to Huntington six years ago and looked into the history of the land he had purchased, which was located on both sides of Littleville Road. Cormier said that he had found some old timbers, metal hoops and an old foundation near the middle branch of the Westfield River, which borders his property. Intrigued, Cormier started his research in Chester, where he learned of a man in the area, who had made wooden bowls. Further, an old newspaper clipping said that Hutchins was known

to carry his life savings and had been jumped, knifed and beaten to death. A deed search revealed that Hutchins had previously owned Cormier's land.

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

Cormier will discuss his findings and book at the event, which is free of charge. Of course, the Huntington Historical Society will gratefully accept donations. Refreshments will be served.

Copies of Cormier's book will be available for purchase and signing.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

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

TO THE OWNERS OF THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED LAND AND TO ALL OTHERS CONCERNED YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on **November 10, 2023 at 10 o'clock a.m.** at the Collector's Office, City Hall, PO BOX 550, Huntington, MA 01050, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 60, Section 53, the following described parcel/s of land will **BE TAKEN FOR THE** Town of Huntington for non-payment of taxes due thereon, with the interest and all incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking, unless the same shall have been paid before that date.

Sue Fopiano, Collector

Property Location:	4 MAPLE ST
Assessed Owner(s):	CHARTER CHRISTINA M
Subsequent Owner:	
(if applicable)	
Tax Bill #: 879	Map/Parcel ID: H2 23 0
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing approximately 17424 square feet of land and being a part of the premises recorded at Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 13786 Page 128	
2023 REAL ESTATE TAXES	3,157.73
WATER/SEWER LIENS	1,412.50
INTEREST	519.63
ADDITIONAL CHARGES	90.00
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	5,179.86

10/26/2023

Town of Blandford Conservation Commission Public Notice

At a Public Meeting scheduled for **Monday, October 30 at 6:00 PM** at the Blandford Town Hall, 1 Russell Stage Road, the Blandford Conservation Commission will consider a **Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA)** received from Paul Lawrence. The RDA is related to the proposed construction of a single family home and driveway at Tax Parcel ID 409-0-7 locat-

ed on Cross Road in the Town of Blandford. The Commission will make its determination in accordance with the provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. c 131, Sec. 40 (as amended).

Plans and additional information are on record in the Office of the Conservation Commission.

Richard Gates, Chair
Town of Blandford
Conservation
Commission

10/26/2023

MIDDLEFIELD

Council on Aging list menu

MIDDLEFIELD – The Middlefield Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail, on Wednesday, Nov. 1 will serve lunch at noon.

The menu is eat in or take out. The choice is baked ziti or chicken Fajita, rice and beans, corn, Tortilla and apple-sauce. People should call 413-623-9990 to reserve a meal the previous Friday, Oct. 27. Suggested donation is \$3, but no elder is refused a meal because inability to pay.

The Council on Aging is hosting a COVID clinic administered by Northampton Nurses from 11 a.m.-noon. People should call 413-623-9990 to

pre-register.

A Blood Pressure Clinic and a presentation is held on the first Wednesday of each month. Today, Public Health Nurse Jennifer Brown's subject will be on Dementia. The nurses do incredible research on their subjects and provide valuable information.

People should email coa@middlefieldma.net if they have any requests. Everyone is invited to come in and get their blood pressure taken and listen to the presentation.

Lunch purchase is not required. They can bring their own lunch if they choose.

Trick-or-Treat set for Oct. 28

MIDDLEFIELD – The Select Board set Saturday, Oct 28 from 5-7 p.m. for town trick-or-treating hours.

Houses intending to participate should put outdoor lights on. The Fire Department will be open for candy-seeking visitors, as usual. Blossom Community Center, upper rear at 16 Bell Road, will again be a congregated trick-or-treat location.

Households unlikely to get visitors

are welcome to bring their candy and set up at a table in the dining hall at the Blossom Community Center, chat with neighbors and eat non-candy snacks. Costumes are encouraged.

Families should bring their children to this indoor "trunk or treat" site with space for children to play together. People may visit www.BlossomCenterMA.org for calendar reminders.

BIRTHDAY BUDDIES



Birthday buddies, from left, Marge Pierre and Suzanne Lemieux share a delicious lemon cake with blueberry gravy provided by Sharon Barry with our fellow diners at the Middlefield Senior Center.

Submitted photo

MONTGOMERY

Grace Hall Memorial Libray announces upcoming events

MONTGOMERY – The Grace Hall Memorial Library, 161 Main Road, announces it is now an official

"Toys for Tots" location of the Marine Corps Reserve.

People may bring an unwrapped Christmas gift for a child in need to the library. On Saturday, Nov. 4 at 10 a.m. the library will host a Fairy Garden workshop with Christine Southworth for adults and young adults. Participants will craft a table decorations together. People should sign up in the library or

email montgomerylibrary@yahoo.com.

On Saturday, Dec. 2 vocalist Mary Jo Maichack and keyboardist Bob Shepherd will present Wee Small Hours Cabaret Concert. The concert features songs from the Great American Songbook.

On Thursday, Nov. 30 at 6:30 p.m. Ed the Wizard will provide a Balloon Twisting Workshop. All ages are welcome. Participants will learn the art of creating balloon critters in this fun-filled workshop. People may sign up

in the library or email montgomerylibrary@yahoo.com.

Coming up at the library will be Holiday Wreath-Making workshops led by Julie and Laurie with the date to be announced later. For more information on these programs and more, people may email the library montgomerylibrary@yahoo.com or call 413-862-3894.

This year's Book and Bake Sale was a success and helps fund upcoming library events. The library staff

appreciates the invaluable contributions of our high school student volunteers: Bridget Long from Wahconah, Kaitlyn Maynor from Gateway, Rylie Theriault, and Eden Siedel from St. Mary's Westfield. They also thank town residents Dan and Laurie Fleschig, Lynn Gebo, Karen Chaffee, Chris Brown, and t Mr. and Mrs. Vinnie Ginn.

The library is open Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Thursdays form 4-8 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

WORTHINGTON

COA offers free flu clinic

WORTHINGTON – The Worthington Council on Aging, in conjunction with Hilltown Community Center, will be offering a free flu clinic on Monday, Oct. 30 from noon-2 p.m. at the Town Hall. The clinic is open to the public for all ages. People should call 413-667-3009 to pre-register.

When they reach a recorded voice hit "0" then enter extension 0628. This will direct the caller to the call center. If they are directed to leave a message, they will receive a call back as soon as possible.

Board of Health and COA to hold COVID and flu clinic Nov. 13

WORTHINGTON – The Worthington Board of Health, in conjunction with the Council on Aging, will be offering both COVID-19 vaccinations and flu shots both regular and senior-sized on Monday, Nov. 13 from 1-3 p.m. at the Town Hall.

The clinic begins immediately following the COA potluck. All are welcome regardless of age. Pre-registration is preferred and will allow the maximum number of people to receive their vaccines as well

as making sure there are enough supplies. Health insurance information is collected at the time of registration to help cover the cost of the vaccine administration. However, there is no direct cost or bill to the patient to get the COVID vaccine. People may register online by visiting <https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/northampton> or by calling 413-587-1314 for assistance registering over the phone.

Worthington Historical Society's exhibit opens Oct. 29

WORTHINGTON – The Worthington Historical Society featured exhibit "Harriet Langdon Pruyn Rice (1868-1935): Seeing Worthington Through A Different Lens," officially opens to the public on Sunday, Oct. 29 at 6 p.m. at the Worthington Historical Building, 6 Williamsburg Road at Worthington Corners. Light refreshments will be served. Admission is free.

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CHESTER

Community comes out for annual Halloween event



This was just one of the many families, who decorated their vehicle and participated in the annual Trunk or Treat at Chester Emery Park Ball Field.



The Chester Fire Department set up a truck at the annual Trunk or Treat to hand out candy to the many trick or treaters, who attend the event.

CHESTER – Friday night, Oct. 20, the Chester Emery Park Ball Field was transformed into a Halloween party.

Trunk or Treat cars lined up the edge of the field and the children poured in. The Chester Recreation Committee sponsors this event every year and is open to all. There was live music performed by the 413's, a bonfire and food sponsored by the Chester

Hill Association.

One of the things that makes this event so special is the Haunted Trail, which is open to scare visitors. This trail is in the woods of the ball field along the Westfield River and is created by the Chester Boy Scout Troop 120. The Boy Scouts dress up in scary costumes and act out scary scenes and decorate the trail with animated ghouls along the way.



Boy Scouts in Troop 120 set up a haunted trail in the woods behind the ball field and they dress up in scary costumes. *Submitted photos*

Library announces upcoming events

CHESTER – The Hamilton Memorial Library, 195 West Main St., is open while the library is under construction.

People should park on Middlefield Road or in the lot across from the Town Hall. The library lists free activities. The LEGO Club meets Saturday, Nov. 4 at noon and on the first Saturday of every month. The Writers Club for writers of any level meet the second Wednesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting is Wednesday, Nov. 8.

Story time meets every Thursday at 11:30 a.m.. This activity is for preschoolers and includes reading a story, craft and

snack. A virtual story time will be coming soon. The Monthly Book Club will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 4:30 p.m. and will discuss "Daisy Jones & The Six" by Taylor Jenkins Reid. They meet every third Wednesday.

Ancestry.com is now available at the library. There is one computer dedicated for a library edition of Ancestry.com, so people may stop in or call 413-354-7808 to reserve a time slot to research their family's heritage.

People may get updates and news on Facebook at Hamilton Memorial Library and Instagram @chesterlibrary.

Select Board lists winter road closures

CHESTER – The Select Board announces three roads will be closed to the public from Wednesday, Nov. 15 to Monday, April 15 for purposes of snow plowing.

The roads include Kinnebrook Road from last year-round resident to the Worthington line, the end of Smith

Road from the last year-round resident to the Worthington line and the middle section of Round Hill. The Select Board announces there is no street parking during a snowstorm.

For further questions, people may call the Select Board office at 413-354-7760.

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BLANDFORD

Children learn fire safety



Fire Chief Adam Dolby introduced Logan Farrell to firefighting gear.

BLANDFORD – Fire Chief Adam Dolby visited the Porter Memorial Library on Tuesday, Oct. 10 to talk to youngsters about fire safety.

He reviewed precautions, safety and fire fighting equipment. The program signified that October is Fire Prevention Month.

Library Director Nicole Daviau said, “We are so grateful to our town volunteer firefighters and the fire chief who work hard every day to make

sure that our community is safe and well prepared. This opportunity really helped children specifically around fears of firefighters in masks and the gear that they wear. Being introduced to the fire fighters and their equipment in a safe and familiar place like the library during a fun program allowed kids who are afraid of the masks and equipment to explore and ask questions, easing their anxiety and even getting comfortable trying it on.”



Fire Chief Adam Dolby explains fire truck gear to Logan Farrell.



Chloe Hart tried on a helmet.

Courtesy photos Porter Memorial Library

RESIGNS

from page 1

help keep any increase in water bills to a minimum and allow the department to accomplish their goals. He said, “We are all very happy about it. This allows us to keep moving forward.”

Tax title

The board discussed Maple Lane, a private way owned by the late Arthur Wyman. Taxes, minimally \$90 annually according to Dunne, are in arrears and the road is in tax title. The Wyman house was the last house on Maple Lane. Dunne said the town will reach out to the heirs to see what can be done. Other homeowners on Maple Lane have been informed.

Leach field

The Town Hall leach field, located beyond the Watson Park Road and behind the fairgrounds must be maintained. It was critically overgrown and the town will have to “plan for regular maintenance.”

Other business

In other business, the Select Board

approved a reduced fee for liquor licenses from \$300 to \$150 for this coming year. The fees had been waived during the pandemic.

They also approved a \$900 expenditure for pruning and shaping the Norway Maple tree in Bicentennial Park. George Reichert who was at the meeting inquired about plans for maintenance of the park. It continues to be a work in progress.

Reichert also offered to fund microphones to improve the recording of the meetings that are posted online. He said he will work with the town’s Internet Tech people or whoever installed the recording equipment initially to improve the quality of the recordings. He told the board that unless people speak into a microphone, it is impossible to hear what is being said. He had broached the issue before.

They also acknowledged the resignation of Nicole Daviau from the Historical Commission and made final the appointment of Sara Hunter as Treasurer/Collector through June 30, 2024.

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BECKET

Mobile health care offers COVID and flu clinic Nov. 6

BECKET – Community Health Programs mobile health care will come to the Becket Town Hall, 557 Main St., on Monday, Nov. 6 from 10 a.m.-noon for a COVID and flu clinic.

To schedule an appointment, people should call 413-528-0457. Walk-in are

welcome. Community Health Programs can see people for sick visit or wellness check as well as updated COVID vaccine and flu vaccinations.

The team can also assist with signing up for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, Mass Health and more.

Hilltown Hikers plan Becket hike

BECKET – Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers will hold a guided tour and hike on the Huckleberry Trolley Line in Becket on Saturday, Nov. 4 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Parking for the hike is along Huckleberry Lane; signs will direct participants where to park. The hike is rated as easy and flat and is four miles in and back with the option for an additional two miles at the end of the event to go to the Otis town line.

The hike route follows the exact route of the electric street railway built to boost economic development to the Hilltowns via trolley car through the hills from Westfield to Lee. Hikers will see existing rail ties on the rail bed, poles and even a wooden insulator and learn about the most undocumented form of travel here in Western Massachusetts.

Deemed “the most costly venture of its kind in the history of the Commonwealth,” the total was price

\$24 million dollars in 1915 for 563 miles of track and 800 cars for all of Massachusetts. The Huckleberry Line ran from Lee to Huntington at a cost of \$3 million dollars, 23.86 miles of track and no cars, operating only two seasons.

Government against the corporate world led to its demise, and then the decline of the rural areas, and rise of the cities along with trains and automobiles.

People should register per car load by visiting <https://westernmasshilltownhikers.ticketleap.com>. Maps and bottled water will be provided. Hikers should be prepared for rocks, roots and mud. They will hike rain or shine. Friendly dogs are welcome.

Suggestion donation is \$10; hike is volunteer lead. More details are available by visiting www.hilltownhikers.com. People may email westernmasshilltownhikers@aol.com or call/text 413-302-0312 if they have any questions.

GREAT BARRINGTON

Simon's Rock to host Think Food Conference

GREAT BARRINGTON – Bard Academy and Bard College at Simon's Rock, 84 Alford Road, will host the tenth annual ThinkFOOD conference on campus on Saturday, Nov. 4.

This year's conference theme, hosted by the Center for Food and Resilience, will feature panels and workshops on the theme “Making Local Farming Work.”

The Center for Food and Resilience is excited to share that this year's keynote speaker will be Ashley Randle, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources. A fifth-generation dairy farmer, Ashley Randle was sworn in as the twenty-first Commissioner by Governor Maura T. Healey on March 6. She is the first woman to lead the Department and assumed the role after having served as Deputy Commissioner/Legislative and Policy Director since October 2018. Randle's full bio can be accessed by visiting <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-mdar-commissioner>.

“We want to think about how to support farmers in the Berkshires and beyond to create a functional local food system that feeds everyone fairly,” shares Professor Maryann Tebben, director of the Center for Food Studies at Simon's Rock. The aim of this conference is to facilitate new perspectives on food, farm-

ing, and resiliency. A few examples of workshops and panels include “State and Federal Initiatives for Local Farmers,” “Land access for Farmers,” “Local Meat Processing,” and more.

The conference is free for all students, even those not attending Simon's Rock. Otherwise, tickets are \$25 for access to all sessions, \$15 for half day, or \$10 for keynote only; lunch tickets are \$10. Discount tickets are available; please follow the link below to request. Many of the days' sessions will also be available via Zoom. For more information, including a day-of schedule, as well as to register for the ThinkFOOD conference, people may visit the following link at <https://simons-rock.edu/academics/program-overview/food-studies/think-food.php>.

The Center for Food and Resilience at Simon's Rock is a new initiative to create a center dedicated to exploring sustainable ways of living, the future of food and agriculture, and community connections, all based on the Simon's Rock campus. It will include and expand on the existing Center for Food Studies and incorporate the campus Community Farm.

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

GOSHEN

Open Space Committee holds Bingo fundraiser

GOSHEN – The Open Space Committee will hold a “Re-imagine Goshen Center Project” Bingo fundraiser on Sunday, Nov. 12 at 1:30 p.m. in the Goshen Town Hall, 42 Main St.

The doors will open at 12:30 p.m. Cost is a suggested donation of \$20 when people pre-register by Tuesday, Nov. 7 or \$25 at the door.

Participants will get ten games of Bingo and a door prize ticket. Additional bingo card sets are available for \$5 and daubers for \$1. Raffle and 50/50 tickets available.

Prizes include gift cards from George Propane, Spruce Corner Restaurant, John's Suby Repair, Williamsburg Hair, Williamsburg Hardware, Chesterfield General Store, The Ledges, and George Judd Goshen Stone. Other prizes include Paul's Sugar House maple syrup, Goshen General Store sweatshirt, stained glass, quilts, wall hangings, hand knitted/crocheted items, local honey and much more.

To pre-register, people should mail a check and include their email address for confirmation to Town of Goshen, Open Space Committee, 40 Main St., Goshen, MA 01032. In the memo field, they should write Re-Imagine Bingo.

People may call Lorraine at 413-268-3660, Mickey at 413-535-0431 or email reimaginesoshen01032@gmail.com with any questions.

Northern Hilltowns Consortium COA lists events

GOSHEN – Jerry from Spruce Corner will be cooking the full Thanksgiving meal of turkey and all the sides on Tuesday, Nov. 14 at noon in the Goshen Town Hall.

This meal is always a favorite. Also this month seniors will be entertained by Goshen resident Don Otis, who will be playing his acoustic guitar. People should call Kerry Normandin at 413-268-9354 by Tuesday, Nov. 7 to let the Council of Aging know if they can attend the Thanksgiving meal. For those who can stay the meal, there will have to-go containers available.

Goshen's own Vanessa Kerby, M.A. Art Education University Of MA Amherst and owner of Goshen Ocean Ceramics, is offering a three part ceramic pottery workshop using hand building techniques. Classes will be on Wednesday, Nov. 1 from 4-6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 15 from 4-6:30 p.m. and Wednesday, Nov. 29 from 4-5 p.m. Participants should make sure they can attend all three. All ages and experience levels are welcome. People may call Kerry Normandin at 413-268-9354 or email coa@goshen-ma.us to sign up; class size is limited.

Wednesday, Nov 1 the Knitting and Crafts Group will meet in the upstairs dining room at the Goshen Town Hall from 1-3 p.m. If someone has a craft, they would like to share; the group loves to learn new things. People should bring whatever craft or needlework project they are working on and work together while enjoying each others company.

Friday, Nov. 3 Community Connections Group will meet from 10-11 a.m. in the dining room on the second floor of the Town Hall. This month the owner of the Ledges Food Truck, Tiffany Marcinek, will join the group to talk about cooking using nutritious food options and minimizing food waste by using everything in creative ways. There will be delicious samples to taste also.

Tuesdays, Nov. 14, 21 and 28 Tai Chi class will continue in November. There will be no class on Tuesday, Nov. 7. The instructor Richard Larson learned Tai Chi at the School of Tai Chi Chuan in New York City. He will be teaching us the Eight Ways. There are many benefits to Tai Chi including improved balance, improved flexibility and improved peace of mind. Participants wear comfortable clothing and supportive shoes. All abilities are welcome and the instructor can modify the approaches as needed so that everyone can benefit.

Wednesday, Nov. 15 Games Group will be from 1-3 p.m. in the upstairs dining room and continue on the third Wednesday of each month. New games have been donated by Henrietta Munroe. If people have any board games in good repair that they would like to donate, let the COA know or better yet bring one in and play it with them.

Thursday, Nov. 16 Practical Aging Issues Group with Grace Gibson and Jackie Compton will meet from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Town Hall. This

month they will have a discussion with a member of Northampton Neighbors or they will devote the time to a peer led discussion of concerns and issues and discuss ways they can help each other.

Tuesdays, Nov. 21 and 28 Hilltown Valley Elder Services HVES lunch is served on the third and fourth Tuesdays of the month, pick up is from noon-12:30 p.m. On Tuesday Nov. 21, the meal will be potato leek soup or lasagna roll ups and on Tuesday, Nov. 28 the meal will be a grilled honey dijon chicken sandwich or beef wellington plus vegetables, milk and dessert. If they have not signed up and would like to for December, they may call Kerry Normandin at 413-268-9354 to fill out a brief intake form. There is a suggested \$3 donation that is given to Highland Valley Elder Services to offset the cost of the meal.

In person exercise class continues with Joan Griswold on Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. in the Goshen Town Hall. People should wear supportive footwear and bring water and free weights if they have them. There is a brief health questionnaire Joan will have them fill out. This class is also offered simultaneously on Zoom, so if they prefer this method, they should email Joan for the link at joan@bybhealth.com.

Peg Whalen has a drop in tech support in Chesterfield and has a computer class with rolling admission. People may call Peg at 413-296-5080 or email Coatechhelp@gmail.com with questions or to register for a class.



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OBITUARIES

Robert Lawless Cushman, 97

WORTHINGTON – Surrounded by his loving family, Robert Lawless Cushman of Worthington passed on to be with his Lord on Oct. 8, 2023, at the age of 97.

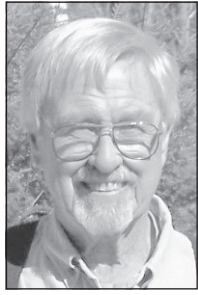
Robert was a man highly respected in his spheres of influence, known particularly as a hard-working man who loved his family, served his community and left a legacy of love for wildlife and nature. Robert aka “Bob” was born in Greenfield on April 8, 1926, the youngest son of Burt and Alice Cushman. He was adored by his three pre-deceased siblings, Jack, Corky and Lee, and their children; and his extended family also included his life-long best friend Ernie Hatter, Stamford Connecticut.

Bob was an avid learner known for his tremendous memory for names and places, who enjoyed poetry, cooking, gardening and building projects with wood. His formal education included Springfield Technical High School, Monson Academy, American International College and Bartlett Tree School for his professional training as an arborist.

He developed that skill to become an expert tree surgeon and conservationist. In 1950, Bob married Carol Evelyn Stuart (pre-deceased) of Stamford Connecticut, lived in Springfield and East Longmeadow and became the father of seven children. Bob cherished his children and had special relationships with their spouses and grandchildren: Sandra (and Stuart) Gittleman of Cornelius, North Carolina (Shira, Isaac, Daniel); Robbie S. (pre-deceased); Pamela (and Gary) Standing of Springfield; (Michael) Connie Lieberwirth Villeneuve (pre-deceased) (Jill, Andrew, Taylor, Rachel); Mary-Alice (and Roger) Dager, Springfield; (Grace) Tracey (and Rich) Walz of Brewster (Jamison, Joseph, Andrew and Scott (and Laura) Cushman of East Longmeadow (Zachary, Hannah).

Professionally Bob worked for the Springfield Parks Department, founded his own R. L. Cushman Tree Company and provided leadership for the MassMutual Grounds Service for 30 years. Several trees were planted and nurtured by Bob, adorning the Pioneer Valley and beyond. In 1992, Bob married Carol Ann Sheret of Hampden, blending his family with her family of three daughters, who he loved as his own. Ginger Kairys of Westfield (Melissa, Jenny); Bonnie Charpentier (and Paul) of Huntington (Krystle, Paul) and Wendy (and Chris) Nardacci, Anaconda Montana (Nichole, Amber).

Together, Bob and Carol Ann built an incredibly



beautiful life together. They fulfilled their dream of designing and building a home in Worthington, which they fondly called “a piece of heaven on earth” ...a destination for family and friends and a wildlife refuge, which offered hospitality and love to all. Family was Bob and Carol Ann’s number one priority. They loved spending time with their children and spouses, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and provided several opportunities to experience life from whale watches, hayrides, craft fairs and many life celebrations.

Together, Bob and Carol Ann shared ten children, 20 grandchildren, and 26 great-grandchildren. Though Bob and Carol Ann shared a large family, there were no boundaries to whom they would embrace and take as their own, especially their adopted grandson, Terence Fowler. This “spirit of adoption” was the hallmark of their lives together, a legacy they inspired.

Throughout his life Bob loved sports. As a young man he excelled playing football and basketball. When he became a father, he transitioned to coaching recreational league basketball, football and girls’ softball. Bob was a much beloved coach and mentor. Bob had an innate gift to see someone’s capacity and encouraged their potential earning him the endearing title of “Coach.”

He was an avid fan of the Red Sox, Patriots, and college teams. Bob was a faithful and active church member, laying a foundation of Christian faith for his children when they were young and most recently served the community of Worthington and Worthington Congregational Church. His faith-in-action was caring for and serving others.

A special thank you to Dr. Paul Farkas who for several decades attended to Bob’s health and wellness, extending his life and became a dear friend. Also, special thanks to Mercy Medical Center and its staff for providing stellar care.

Calling hours were held on Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023, from 4-6 p.m. at the Byron Keenan Funeral Home and Cremation Tribute Center, 1858 Allen Street, Springfield, MA, 01118. Followed by Words of Remembrances at 6 p.m. A private family graveside service will be held at Hillcrest Cemetery, Springfield.

To continue the legacy of this beautiful man consider planting a tree or shrub, feeding the birds or adopting a dog. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Dakin Humane Society, 171 Union Street, Springfield, MA 01105.

DEATH NOTICES

Cushman, Robert Lawless

Died Oct. 8, 2023

Gilman, William Benson

Died Oct. 19, 2023
Celebration of Life Oct. 28 at 2 p.m.



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William Benson Gilman, 58

MONTGOMERY – William Benson Gilman, 58, passed away on Oct. 19, 2023.

Bill was born in Westfield, Massachusetts on Jan. 29, 1965, to Jean Bentley Gilman and Eugene Ward Gilman. Bill lived in Westfield for part of his adult life, but eventually moved to Montgomery with his wife Deborah in 2005; the family continued to reside in Montgomery at the time of his passing.

He found great pleasure in the natural wonder of the more rural area he moved to from Westfield when he and the family relocated to Montgomery. Bill grew up on Lowell Avenue in Westfield, playing with the many children his age that lived in the neighborhood and showing a great affinity for the outdoors, with many a summer day spent with his friends at nearby Stanley Park, and his love of nature would later partly color his choice of career.

Bill graduated from Westfield High School and earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Westfield State University in 1991. While in college, Bill was a music major for several semesters and this would be another passion that would never leave him, despite his eventually changing career directions and studying biology as an upper classman at Westfield State.

Upon graduating, Bill relocated and lived in southern California for a year, fulfilling a childhood dream to live near the beach on the Pacific Ocean. Bill’s early professional life was very much informed by his love of nature and the outdoors. After his year in California, he worked for several seasonal environmental scholarly projects scattered around the United States, which took him throughout the country during his association with each study.

Among his favorites from this peripatetic professional period of his career, he was particularly proud of his working with the University of Missouri in 1995 on a study of prairie birds, their migratory, feeding and habitation patterns; the Corvallis Forestry Science



Laboratory in Oregon in 1996, studying migratory and habitation patterns of the Spotted Owl and Pygmy Owl in the old growth forests of western Oregon; his work with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries in Stevensville, Virginia in 1997, working at a fish hatchery and on the waterways of Virginia, tracking, tagging and stocking fisheries within the state and the project with Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado in 1998, on a study of the Golden Cheek Warbler and its environs throughout the state.

Throughout this professional period of Bill’s life, he was constantly on the road, moving from one seasonal project to another seasonal environmental position and took great joy from his work with wildlife and the studies of their habitats. In 2001 he met and fell in love with his future wife, Deborah Clark and shifted professional gears, as his well-travelled career lifestyle was not consistent with his and Deb’s desire to start a family. Bill and Debbie would eventually marry on Oct. 25, 2002. He took a series of positions over the next several years with various laboratories in the western Massachusetts market. While he enjoyed the opportunity to utilize more of his scientific skills in these settings, he missed the possibility of working in the outdoors, which his previous scholarly studies had allowed him. Eventually, he was able to match his scientific skills with a position that included much time out of doors again, when he took a job with John Turner Consulting in 2006. With Turner, Bill was responsible for managing construction projects, soil sampling and concrete testing, as well as coordinating technicians in the field and in the laboratory. He followed this by taking the position of Quality Control Technician with John S. Lane and Son Construction in Westfield in 2013, which entailed many of the same responsibilities.

Bill eventually took a position with the

Massachusetts Department of Transportation in 2022, in charge of project Quality Control, which would be his last professional position and he was still working for the Department of Transportation at the time of his passing. In addition to his professional career, Bill was most passionate about his family life and his two favorite pursuits from his youth, music and the great outdoors. He was a very accomplished musician, playing both Classical and Rock guitar and composed many original musical pieces over his lifetime. He also loved to hike with his many friends when not working and was often found out in the beauty of nature, particularly loving to hike in the nearby habitat of Cobble Mountain Reservoir in the days when it was open to the public.

But, as much as Bill loved his music and outdoor recreation, he was first and foremost the consummate family man, with his love for his wife and daughter outshining all of the other interests in his life. Once he and Debbie met, (or to be more accurate, met again, as they had been students together in Westfield from the age of kindergarten), Bill’s life revolved around his family. Bill and Debbie welcomed their daughter, Meghan Gilman, into the world on May 8, 2006 and from that point on up until Bill’s passing, he was first and foremost a father to his dearly beloved daughter. He was very much looking forward to sharing her graduation from high school with her in the spring and all of the important landmarks of their lives together in the coming years. To paraphrase artist Paul Simon, there was never a father who loved his daughter more than Bill loved Meghan. Bill leaves behind his wife Deborah Gilman and daughter Meghan Gilman, as well as two brothers, James Gilman and John Gilman and a large network of close friends.

Visiting hours will be held for Bill will be held on Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023 from noon-2 p.m. in Firtion Adams Funeral Service, 76 Broad St. Westfield followed by a Celebration of Life at 2 p.m. www.firtion-adams.com.

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THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES
Mar 21/Apr 20
Pull together your dream team, Aries, because you are going to need all the help you can get at this point. The week is jam-packed with many different events.

CANCER
Jun 22/Jul 22
If you believe and have faith, you will receive what you need this week. Your patience finally may pay off in the form of just rewards. Keep your eyes open.

LIBRA
Sept 23/Oct 23
Do not put a half-hearted effort into self-care this week. You deserve to pamper yourself to the fullest level right now. Book that spa appointment or getaway.

CAPRICORN
Dec 22/Jan 20
People often appreciate your frank way of sharing information. However, you may need a little more finesse. Don't be too blunt when conveying ideas.

TAURUS
Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, now is not the time to employ tough love if a friend or family member comes to you looking for help. You have to keep an open mind and a willingness to assist.

LEO
Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, your desires are limitless and you want things to go exactly how you envision them. However, sometimes you have to make compromises or concessions, like this week.

SCORPIO
Oct 24/Nov 22
You might be caught in a daydream, which typically is not your modus operandi. It's alright to let the brain wander a bit as long as you come back down from the clouds.

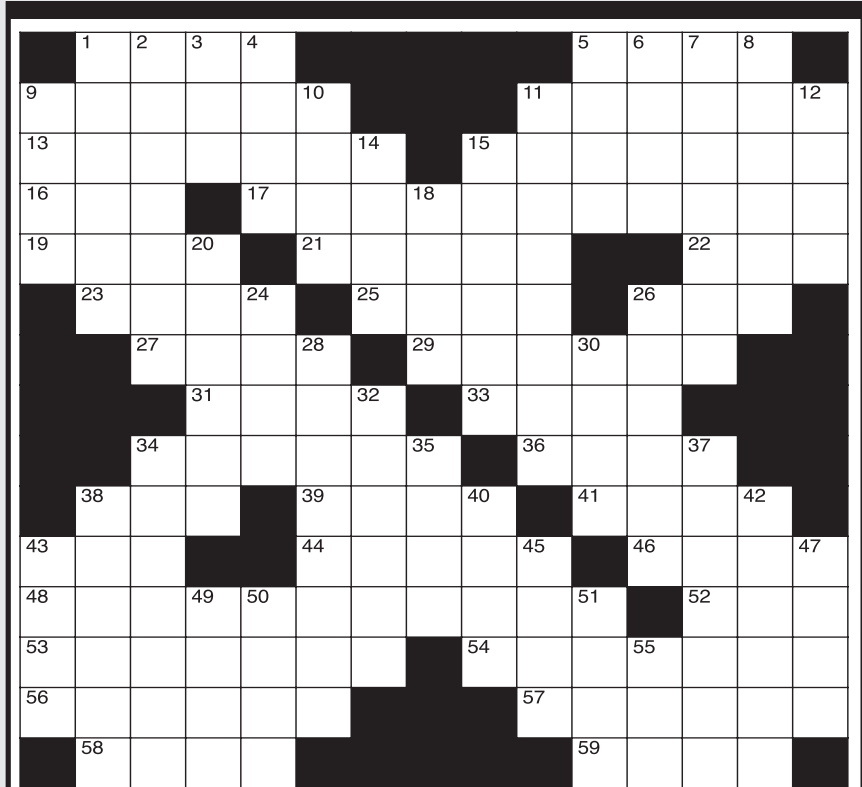
AQUARIUS
Jan 21/Feb 18
Shift your focus from what you lost or missed out on to all of the things you have and enjoy. A simple change of perception can do a world of good.

GEMINI
May 22/Jun 21
Your clever brain has a lot of creative ideas running through it, Gemini. It's just a matter of zeroing in on one and then putting a plan into effect. Recruit some friends.

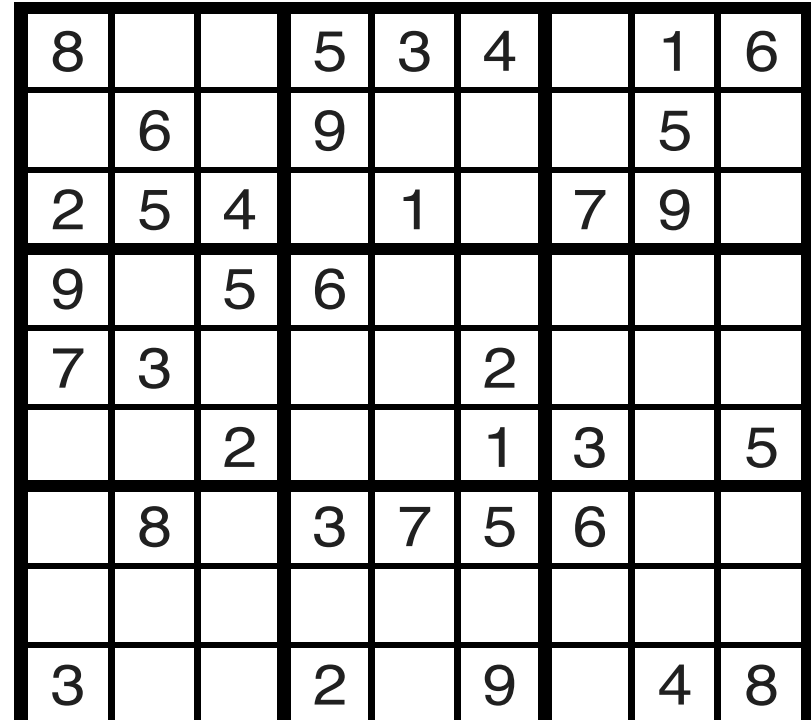
VIRGO
Aug 24/Sept 22
It's possible you may find refuge in relationships this week, Virgo. Surround yourself with the people closest to you who are pillars of support when you need them.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, are you able to work from home this week or take some PTO? You likely can use the opportunity to avoid crowds for a while until your energy stores build up.

PISCES
Feb 19/Mar 20
Aquarius, shift your focus from what you lost or missed out on to all of the things you have and enjoy. A simple change of perception can do a world of good.



- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Male children
 5. Robert Wagner series "Hart to Hart"
 9. Unfolded
 11. Digestive disease
 13. Wednesday
 15. Malignant tumor
 16. Conscientious investment strategy (abbr.)
 17. Slowed
 19. Letter of the Semitic abjads
 21. Weights of cars without fuel
 22. Former CIA
 23. Asian country
 25. Instead
 26. Ancient Egyptian King
 27. Privies
 29. Shopping trips
 31. Paradoxical anecdote
 33. It's on the table
 34. Ancient Persia ruler
 36. Small American rail
 38. File extension
 39. Days (Spanish)
 41. Everyone has one
 43. South American plant
 44. About ilium
 46. Vanished American hoopster
 48. A type of breakfast
 52. Uncooked
 53. Examined
 54. Christian recluse
 56. Strong posts
 57. Some are for pasta
 58. Skinny
 59. School-based organizations
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Ringlet
 2. Type of complex
 3. Midway between north and northwest
 4. It becomes something bigger
 5. German courtesy title
 6. Genus of birds
 7. Marked by public disorder
 8. Least aggressive
 9. Russian city
 10. Insect repellent
 11. Interruptions
 12. Scoundrels
 14. 1,000 calories
 15. What one does overnight
 18. Dwarf planet
 20. Pipe
 24. Black powdery substance
 26. Set of four
 28. Canned fishes
 30. North Carolina college
 32. Secured
 34. A disgraceful event
 35. Physical suffering
 37. The home of the free
 38. Some are boys
 40. Satisfy
 42. Makes very happy
 43. South American plants
 45. Modes of transportation
 47. Female sheep
 49. Type of torch
 50. Piece of merchandise
 51. Jump over
 55. Wife of Amun



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SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Tech Foundry's Tech Hub holds grand opening

HOLYOKE – Tech Foundry, the regional leader in IT workforce development and training, in partnership with Holyoke Community College, celebrated the grand opening of Tech Foundry's new Tech Hub on Wednesday, Oct. 25 on the first floor of HCC's Picknelly Adult and Family Education Center, located at 206 Maple St.

The following day, Thursday, Oct. 26, Tech Hub will officially open to the general public, offering free services and classes that include digital skills training workshops, walk-in IT support and troubleshooting, Internet connectivity consultations and computer distribution (free in limited quantities).

Tech Hub, a program of the Springfield-based nonprofit, Tech Foundry, was started in 2023 as part of a state-wide initiative of the Western Massachusetts Alliance for Digital Equity, which received a \$5.1 million grant earlier this year

from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute. Along with HCC, other key partners and supporters of the Tech Hub project include the Accelerate the Future Foundation, Comcast, Google, Bulkley Richardson and the Massachusetts Broadband Institute.

"Tech Hub's mission is to empower Massachusetts residents through access to the skills and technology needed to thrive in the digital world," said Michelle Wilson, deputy director of Tech Foundry.

Starting Oct. 26, Tech Hub will be open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from noon-6 p.m. with classes held from noon-1 p.m. and 5-6 p.m. On Mondays and Fridays, Tech Hub manager Shannon Mumblo and Tech Hub fellows will take their IT services into the community all around western Massachusetts.

To learn more, sign up for classes and access Tech Hub help-desk support, people may visit techhubmass.net.

Taber Art Gallery welcomes new director Rachel Rushing

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College welcomes Rachel Rushing as director of the college's Taber Art Gallery.

Originally from Louisiana, Rushing is an interdisciplinary artist with a special interest in photography. She comes to HCC by way of Dallas, where she worked with the Nasher Sculpture Center to develop the Visitor Experiences program and manage special projects, such as the 2022 exhibition of CARNEY ARENA, a virtual reality exhibition written and directed by Academy Award winning Mexican filmmaker Alejandro González Iñárritu.

Rushing also founded and co-directed Sunset Art Studios, a social practice art gallery, residency and studio in Dallas. She now lives in Holyoke.

Kim Hicks, dean of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities said, "In the brief time she's been at HCC, she's made connections with faculty, students, and the Holyoke Public Library, one of our most reliable community partners. She's mounted her first exhibit and has been working with the grants office on

an application to the Holyoke Cultural Council. Rachel has been making things happen."

Rushing becomes only the second director since the gallery opened in 1998, succeeding founding director Amy Johnquest, who retired last spring.

"I'm really excited," she said. "Gallery work and working with artists is something I've always been really passionate about. I think galleries on college campuses are really important ways to connect students with the bigger art world."

Her first show as Taber director was an exhibition of photographs by John Leni Marcy titled "The City on Paper: Representations of HolyoRican Life," which was curated and captioned by HCC students enrolled in Latinx Studies classes.

The Taber Art Gallery, located off the lobby of the HCC Library on the second floor of the HCC Donahue Building, is free and open to the public Monday through Friday from 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. during regular school sessions.

NEIT offers new cybersecurity and mechanical engineering program

EAST GREENWICH, RI — Dr. Douglas H. Sherman, Senior Vice President and Provost at New England Institute of Technology, announced that the university will offer two enhanced Bachelor of Science degree programs in Cybersecurity Engineering and Mechanical Engineering commencing with the fall 2024 term.

These programs strengthen NEIT's leadership in expanding the engineering and advanced

manufacturing industries in Rhode Island and throughout New England. With a focus on applied engineering design and robust workplace experience, NEIT's Cybersecurity Engineering program will prepare a new generation of cyber professionals to defend our existing industries, institutions, and government against

AI-enabled cyber-attacks.

NEIT has offered cybersecurity degree programs at both the undergraduate and graduate level for several years; however, the new program is differentiated by a heavy emphasis on the engineering design of cyber defense systems. Graduates will also be trained to assess the cyber vulnerabilities of existing digital information and control systems and design enhanced cyber defense measures to mitigate risk.

The Cybersecurity Engineering program intends to set a new standard in New England. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the National Security Agency have already designated New England Tech as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education. In addition to traditional engineering studies, stu-

dents will apply their knowledge and skills on NEIT's new CyberBit range, a powerful cybersecurity training platform.

New England Tech has offered a Bachelor of Science degree program in Mechanical Engineering Technology for many years, but now, in addition to traditional coursework in engineering design, testing, and production, the more rigorous curriculum will be comprised of state-of-the-art courses in advanced manufacturing, artificial intelligence, digital instrumentation and measurement, and industrial control systems.

Students in both the Mechanical Engineering and Cybersecurity Engineering programs will participate in cooperative education programs in a professional workplace environment

as part of their educational experience. The combination of learning environments will fully prepare students to be successful in their profession of choice.

Both the Mechanical Engineering and the Cybersecurity Engineering programs are being developed using the criteria of the Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. New England Tech will seek ABET accreditation which ensures these programs meet or exceed the highest national standard of engineering education.

Applications are now being accepted for the all 2024 term. For more information, people may call the Admissions Office at 800-736-7744 or by email at admissions@neit.edu.

JOB OPENING

STAFF WRITER

Turley Publications, based in Palmer, is seeking a storyteller who is curious about everything, and who understands how town government works to join our team of weekly reporters.

Experience in covering town government is a huge plus, and any experience in community journalism is as well. Staff writers cover all aspects of communities from features to municipal meetings to crimes and fires. Successful candidates must have people skills, plenty of curiosity and able to tell a story.

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HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



Hilltown Hiker Adam stand near the double arch on the Keystone Arch Bridges Trail.



Adam stands under the 70 foot National Landmarc Arch Bridge.



Hilltown Hikers trek along the Keystone Arch Bridges Trail.



Caleb and Adam of the Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers stand by the Gator Arch.

Hikers trek to Keystone Arch Bridges

CHESTER – The Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers annual Keystone Arch Bridges Trail Group hike narrated by Dave Pierce on Saturday was rain free.

They hiked 5.5 miles into the largest unpopulated tract of forest along the

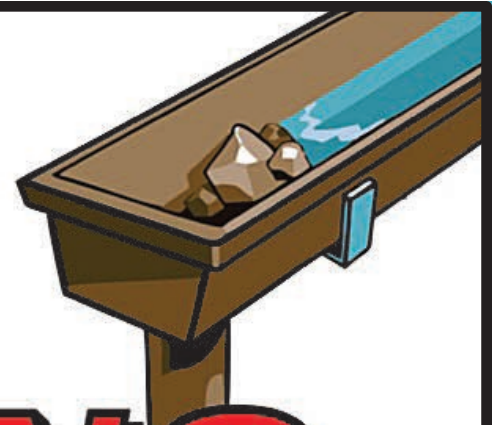
raging wild and scenic West Branch of the Westfield River to see the all of the Historic Keystone Arches including; the double, sixty five and seventy foot National Historic Landmarks, the partial bridge number seven where you can see the hollow wall construction, the gator

tooth arch and the quarry along the trail where the stone was used to build the bridges.

Dave's narration of this hike taught the group how these bridges were constructed and how changes over the years realigned the tracks to suit modern

day locomotives. The double arch is still used today. The heavy rain from the Nor'easter rose the river twenty feet higher than it normally runs through this area. Hikers also watched the paddlers who came to brave the rapids from atop the Gator Arch.

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