

"The monster was the best friend I ever had." – Boris Karloff

Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

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

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Horses travel around Blandford



Sperry Road resident Jessie Osden took advantage of the fine weather Friday afternoon to take an extended tour through town with her miniature horses drawing a wagon. With her are Tommie, in the front, and in the back seat are Skyler and Alexis. Escorting the Osden family, Kiara Lowman on a Haflinger. Horses and wagons are not a frequent sight on Blandford byways these days.

Turley photos by Mary Kronholm

HUNTINGTON

Gateway hosts concert with German students

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

Gateway Regional High School student musicians, their families and the local community hosted 47 student musicians from Germany in a visit that culminated in an epic joint performance on Tuesday, Oct. 22 in the Gateway Performing Arts Center.

Band Director Beth Guertin and Matthias Heidenreich, Director of the Gymnasium Heide-Ost Symphonic Band began

planning the visit in 2019, which was scuppered for several years due to Covid.

Guertin said the project started five years ago with an email to area band directors from Matthew Westgate, Director of Ensembles at UMass, asking if anyone would like to host a school band traveling from Germany. Guertin agreed and began working with Heidenreich on the myriad details that needed to be considered: housing, food,

STUDENTS, page 2



Gymnasium Heide-Ost band students staying in Middlefield raced kayaks on the pond in front of AzureGreen.

Courtesy photo by Tamarin Laurel-Paine



Gymnasium Heide-Ost Symphonic Band Director Matthias Heidenreich and Gateway Band Director Beth Guertin take a selfie with the 100 musicians in their combined bands, who performed at Gateway Regional High School on Oct. 22.

Courtesy photo by Beth Guertin

HUNTINGTON

Select Board approves police detail rates

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

The Huntington Select Board met on Wednesday, Oct. 23 at 5 p.m. to consider new police detail rates and spending out American Rescue Plan Administration funds, which must be incurred by Dec. 31.

Chairman Roger Booth, Bill Hathaway and Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin were all present; John McVeigh was out of the area on business. The meeting opened with a proposal from Police Chief Robert Garriepy to raise the rates for Huntington police when they are booked for outside, non-town, detail. Beginning Nov. 1, the hourly detail rate will increase from \$50 to \$60.



Police Chief Robert Garriepy

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BLANDFORD

Town Accountant to attend meeting

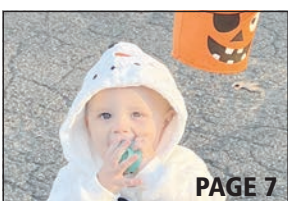
By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

Town Administrator Cristina Ferrara brought a Highway Superintendent job description to the Select Board at Monday night's meeting for review.

She asked for additions or changes to be discussed at next week's meeting. She is working on a draft for an upcoming special town meeting and brought to the board's attention accounting issues.

She has asked for a meeting with Eric Kinshurf, the town's accountant to discuss the firm's work and the scope of the contract. Many things that had been requested, either by email or phone, were quick to have a response once the meeting was requested. Kinshurf will be asked to attend next week's meeting.

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Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers pose for a group photo in front of a 65 foot tall keystone arch bridge.

Submitted photo



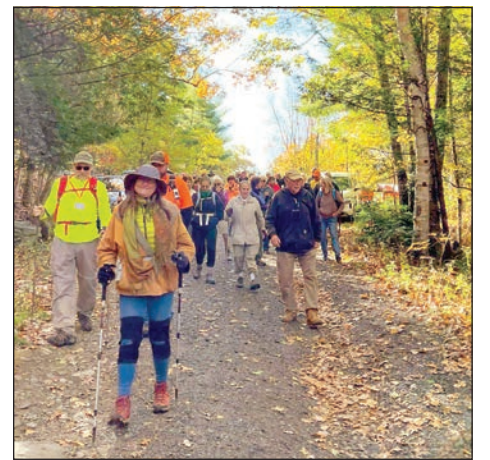
A hiker stands under the 70 foot stone arch.



Liz and Adam are shown coming up from the under the 70 foot tall arch.



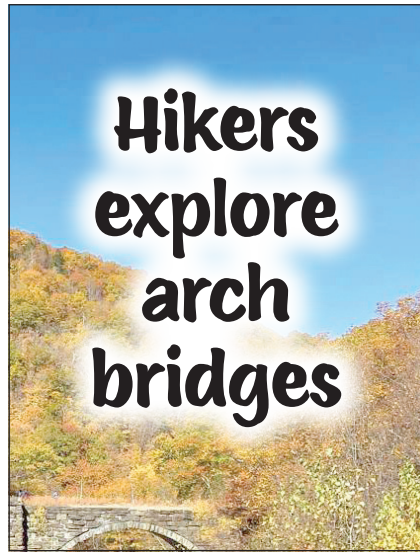
Tom stands below the Gator arch.



Hikers make their way along the Pontoosuc Turnpike.



The hikers cross over the gorge on the pedestrian bridge.

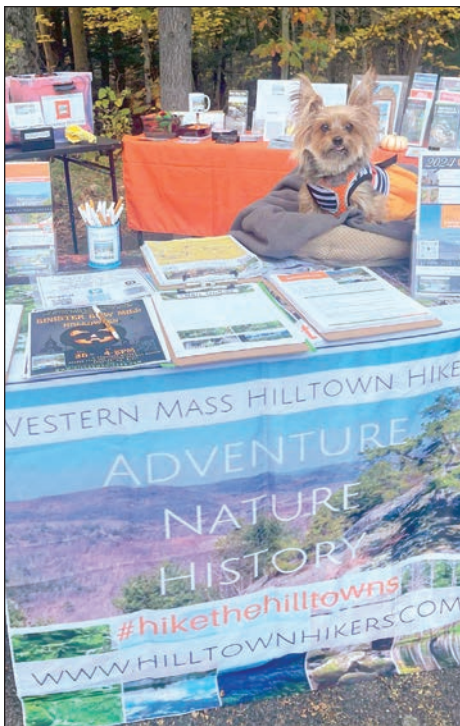


The annual Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers Keystone Arch Bridges Trail group hike this year was over and under the stone dry laid train bridges.

The event was narrated by Dave Pierce of the Chester Railway Museum narrated the event while hiking five miles in and back on the largest unpopulated tract of forest along the wild and scenic West Branch of the Westfield River. The group visited the double arch, 65 foot tall, 70 foot tall and partial bridge 7 where they could see the hollow wall construction of these stone wonders.

Pierce's narration of this hike taught participants 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 and carries the commuter Amtrak as well as freight trains.

They also visited an old quarry along the trail where stone was quarried out from here in blocks to build these train bridges. Thanks to the shuttle volunteers Paulette, Greg, Adam and Tom. For those who missed this hike, they can catch the 2025 hike to the same location.



Cybil greets the hikers at sign in for the hike to the arch bridges.



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