

"I do ... set apart and observe the last Thursday of November yes as a Day of Thanksgiving." – Abraham Lincoln

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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BLANDFORD

Tony Adams pedals the USA for a Guinness World Record

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

Tony Adams, a 58 year old cyclist, has been on the road biking for 23 years and wants to continue another 27 years to make it 50 years to achieve Guinness World Records status.

He wants to visit all the states and is working on the 48 contiguous states just now. His philosophical mantra is, "I am looking for the answers to questions you haven't asked yet." His trekking all started years ago when his father was terminally ill and wanted to see his eldest son. He commissioned Tony to search him out, which he did by pedaling from Oregon to Las Vegas finding his brother and then another four months of convincing his brother to return to Oregon.

And it was his father



TONY ADAMS, page 7 Tony Adams with his recumbent cycle and camper on North Blandford Road. Photo by Mary Kronholm

HUNTINGTON

Telehealth to address long wait list for counseling

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

The Gateway Regional School District is fortunate to have a fully operational School-Based Health Center, run and staffed by Hilltown Community Health Centers, that offers medical care, behavioral health counseling, dental care, nutritional counseling and optometry-all right at school.

But a growing need for behavioral health counseling has led to long wait lists for services. There is not only a one-year waiting list for counseling through the SBHC, but it is similar at many other locations-especially for high demand after-school hours.

TELEHEALTH, page 3

BLANDFORD

Blandford COA host Veteran's Dinner

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

A crowd of over 70 attended Saturday night's Council on Aging Veterans' Dinner at the Town Hall.

There were 18 veterans attending. Veterans' Agent Joe Henning attended and welcomed everyone. He read Gov. Maura Healey's Veterans' Day Proclamation and the town's proclama-

tion declaring Dec. 16, 2023 Samuel Sloper Day. Sloper was the town's resident, who participated in the Boston Tea Party and is buried in the old cemetery.

Henning brought with him Manda Day, a dental hygienist who is available to veterans via a mobile unit and she will make house calls. She can be contacted at 508-341-1599.

John Marquis, pastor of

the Grace Lutheran Church in West Springfield gave the invocation. His congregation hosts a monthly Veterans' luncheon.

Those attending were served by a host of volunteers, according to COA Director Margit Mikuski, and included three generations of Martins and two generations of Boomsmas.

VETERANS, page 7



Crowd listens attentively to Henning as he reads proclamations.

Photo by Mary Kronholm



The newly appointed Town Administrator Search Committee held their first meeting Tuesday morning, Nov.14 at 10 a.m. at Town Hall. Shown are front row from left, Chair David Hopson and Paul Martin and back row from left, Peter Langmore, Town Administrator Christopher Dunne and Police Chief Jennifer Dubiel. Fire Chief Adam Dolby was not present but he is a member of the committee.

Photo by Mary Kronholm

BLANDFORD

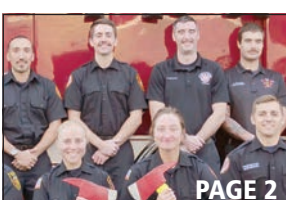
Select Board appoints search committee members

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

Select Board finalized the appointment of the members of the search committee at Monday night's meeting.

Those appointed were Chair David Hopson, Paul Martin, Police Chief Jennifer Dubiel, Municipal Light Plant Chair Peter Langmore, Fire Chief Adam Dolby and Town

MEMBERS, page 7



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HILLTOWNS

Local firefighters graduate from Mass. Firefighting Academy

SPRINGFIELD – State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Director Jeffrey P. Winn announced the graduation of 25 firefighters from the 50-day Career Recruit Firefighting Training Program.

Local graduates are Collin Stevenson of the Northampton Fire Department and Jacklyn O'Brien of the Westfield Fire Department.

"Massachusetts firefighters are on the frontlines protecting their communities every day, and today's graduates are needed now more than ever," said State Fire Marshal Davine. "The hundreds of hours of foundational training they've received will provide them with the physical, mental, and technical skills to perform their jobs effectively and safely."

"Massachusetts Firefighting Academy instructors draw on decades of experience in the fire service to train new recruits," said Director Winn. "Through consistent classroom instruction and practical exercises, today's graduates have developed the tools they'll need to work seamlessly with



Graduates of Class #S34 represent 14 Massachusetts Fire Departments. Submitted photo

veteran firefighters in their home departments and in neighboring communities as

mutual aid."

The graduating firefighters of

Class #S34 represent the fire departments of Attleboro, Charlton, Chicopee, Douglas, East Longmeadow, Falmouth, Longmeadow, Lowell, Northampton, Uxbridge, Ware, West Springfield, Westfield, and Westminster.

Students receive classroom training in all basic firefighter skills. They practice first under non-fire conditions and then during controlled fire conditions. To graduate, students must demonstrate proficiency in life safety, search and rescue, ladder operations, water supply, pump operation, and fire attack. Fire attack operations range from mailbox fires to multiple-floor or multiple-room structural fires. Upon successful completion of the Career Recruit Program, all students have met the national standards of NFPA 1001, Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications, and are certified to the levels of Firefighter I/II and Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council, which is accredited by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications.

Department of Transportation to conduct roadwork on I-90

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

The work will be conducted at various times and locations now through Friday, Nov. 17.

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

In Becket and Otis, paving finish operations will be conducted nightly on I-90 eastbound and westbound between mile marker 14.6 and mile marker 22.0 Thursday, Nov. 16 and Friday, Nov. 17 from 7p.m.-5 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, Nov. 17 by 5 a.m.

In West Stockbridge, milling and paving operations will be conducted at the mile marker 0.6 bridge location on I-90 eastbound and westbound on Thursday, Nov. 16, and Friday, Nov. 17 from 7 a.m.-4 p.m.

In Stockbridge, milling and paving operations will be conducted at the mile marker 7.5 bridge location on I-90 eastbound and westbound on Thursday, Nov. 16 and Friday, Nov. 17 from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to:

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

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Gateway Regional School District announces snow policy

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – In the most recent issue of "Gator Bites" Superintendent Kristen Smidy announced how she determines if the Gateway Regional School District will have a delayed start or snow day, due to inclement weather.

If the forecast calls for bad weather, such as snow, sleet or freezing rain, Smidy will consult with the member towns' highway superintendents, the bus company, other area school superintendents and Gateway's maintenance crew to determine the level of preparedness.

"Because of Gateway's higher elevations, it is important to note that some

areas in our district may have unsafe travel conditions while other areas are clear and dry," Smidy wrote. "I must consider the student, who is traveling from those unsafe conditions, while making the determination for the district."

Smidy said she hopes to make decisions the night before whenever possible, to help parents plan ahead. If the forecast or conditions are uncertain, she will send an automated call to all families and staff by 5:30 a.m. Local news stations and social media pages will also carry the announcement.

Smidy advises that if you haven't heard from the district by 6 a.m., schools will open as scheduled.

There can be times when a two-hour

delay turns into a full day cancellation, due to unforeseen circumstances such as conditions not improving as expected, snow removal falling behind or buses not starting in severe cold. If that occurs, a follow-up call will be sent out as soon as possible. "I hope this isn't the case," Smidy said. "But weather-related conditions can be very unpredictable."

If school is canceled, Wrap Around at Littleville and Chester Elementary Schools will be closed. "If staff are able to get to the school safely, we will make every effort to open Wrap Around on delayed start days," she said, adding that this would be confirmed in the auto-dialed call and on social media.

"I understand that these decisions

are disruptive to family plans and I apologize in advance for last minute shifts you may need to make to accommodate for school delays and closures," Smidy said. "It is our responsibility to make decisions that keep student safety at the center of our work."

Smidy invited parents to reach out to her if they have questions, and thanked them for their "patience and understanding as we navigate these winter months together."

Gator Bites is Gateway bi-weekly digital newsletter. It can be subscribed to and delivered via email, or it can be viewed on the district website by visiting www.grsd.org. A link is also posted on Gateway's Facebook page.

Girls on the Run hold 5K Nov. 19

SPRINGFIELD – Girls on the Run Western Massachusetts will host its 5K event on Sunday, Nov. 19 at 11 a.m. at Western New England University and is expecting 2,500-3,000 people.

Girls on the Run is a physical activity-based, positive youth development program that uses fun running games and dynamic discussions to teach life skills to girls in third to eighth grade. During the ten-week program, girls participate in lessons that foster confidence, build peer connections and encourage community service while they prepare for an end-of-season celebratory 5K event.

This fall season Girls on the Run has 720 participants in 52 sites around all four Western MA counties, with 220 volunteer coaches that bring the curriculum to life. Participants learn many important life skills throughout the les-

sons. This 5K is the culmination of a 10-week, 20-lesson social emotional program, bringing together all participants, coaches, running buddies and families.

The group will warm up will beginning at 10:30 a.m. with participants arriving for fun events at 9:30 a.m. The event starts with activities, a group warm up and more. Participation in the 5K event is open to the public and all proceeds from the event will benefit Girls on the Run WMA. Registration cost is \$25 for adults and \$10 for youth under 12 and includes an event shirt. Early arrival is suggested.

For more information about the event, how to register and volunteer opportunities, people may visit www.girlsontherunwesternma.org. Girls on the Run WMA started in 2015 and has served over 8,500 youth since then.

Velis delivers 'Bags of Bravery' letters

HOLYOKE – Senator John Velis delivered letters from local students throughout the Hampden and Hampshire district to the residents of the Veterans Home in Holyoke.

An annual tradition, the Senator has organized this initiative each Veterans Day for the past four years and has since expanded it by sharing the letters with Bags for Bravery, a care package program for veterans and deployed troops organized by Westfield High School Junior Jillian Battles.

This year Senator Velis collected more than a thousand letters from students at over 15 different schools in Westfield, West Springfield, Southampton, Easthampton, and Agawam.

"I am proud to partner with countless teachers in our district to continue this tradition of sharing these heart-

felt letters with the residents of the Veterans' Home and this year, also with Bags for Bravery," said Senator Velis (D-Westfield). "Each year we collect over a thousand letters, each created by students of various ages who had the opportunity to learn and reflect about the importance of Veterans Day. I am thrilled that these letters will not only bring smiles to the faces of the residents at the Veterans' Home but also will be shared with our active military members serving overseas thanks to Jillian Battles' work initiative."

"I make my bags for bravery as a thank you for those who served and continue to serve our country and protect its freedom- the cards from the kids give them that extra love from home," shared Jillian Battles, a Junior at Westfield High School.

HUNTINGTON

Town Administrator provides ramp replacement accessibility update

HUNTINGTON – The ramp between Huntington Town Hall and Stanton Hall is being replaced and the project will continue through Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024.

The back door, facing Federal Street, to Town Hall will now be open through the end of December in addition to the front door for the public to use. Only the front door of Stanton Hall is available for entry.

Since these entries are only accessible by stairs, any member of the public, who is unable to use the stairs is advised to call Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin at 413-512-5200 or

the department in which they wish to see in advance. The public is encouraged to conduct as much business by email, phone, and mail as possible during this time.

For those wishing to attend meetings, call in and log in information will be published on the specific board's agenda by visiting www.huntingtonma.us. The Council on Aging will be using the Huntington Evangelical Church Chapel next to Town Hall for some of their activities.

People should watch for updates in the newspaper, website, and Facebook.

Some COA activities to meet at Evangelical church chapel

HUNTINGTON – Due to the Town Hall and Stanton Hall ramp project, the Huntington Council on Aging will be hosting activities at both Stanton Hall and the Huntington Evangelical Church Chapel located at 22 Russell Road, next to Town Hall through Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024.

The following will be held at the Chapel. Ed Bentley will entertain seniors on Wednesday, Nov. 29 from 2-3 p.m. The Hilltown Memory Café is held weekly on Wednesdays from 2-3 p.m. and provides seniors with activities while their caregivers participate in a support group. The café is

open to all with and without memory issues.

The following will be held at Stanton Hall which is only accessible by the front door with stairs facing Route 20. Chair yoga is held every Wednesday at 9 a.m. and Line Dancing is held every Thursday at 10 a.m. The Age & Dementia Friendly Task Force meeting will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 28 at 1 p.m. All events are free of charge. Anyone who needs an accommodation to enter Stanton Hall is advised to call Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin at 413-512-5200 in advance.

TELEHEALTH

“Some kids have access to daytime appointments because their parents can afford to miss work and drive them to and from” said Kelly Sudnick, Gateway’s District Nurse Leader. “But most kids do not have that option.”

Sudnick has been working on a solution using telehealth services. The nurse’s office at the Middle/High School will have a small private room with a phone, desk, computer, webcam and Internet access, where three one-hour appointment slots will be offered each day.

Parents, she said, will be able to coordinate a time with their own provider, while reserving a slot for their child during the school day. Parents may use a provider at any practice that offers telehealth counseling.

Telehealth is similar to a zoom meeting, only with a health care or, in this case, behavioral health care provider. In its early years, telemedicine was used to connect people in remote, rural areas with health care. Access to virtual visits grew as Internet access became more widespread, and were commonplace in many practices during the Pandemic.

Appointments will be available at 8 a.m., 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. each day, to start. These times are seen as optimal because they will not interfere with lunch or school dismissal.

Sudnick hopes to have the telehealth services up and running in December. The room is ready to go and the technology department is working on a way for parents to reserve a time slot. It will use a process similar to scheduling parent-teacher conferences.

“We’re looking at an access issue for kids who need to be seen by someone outside of the building,” Sudnick said. “We’re trying to even the playing field so that all students can have access during the school day if they need it.”

Sudnick explained that parents are free to select their own provider from any organization. Her role, she said, is to provide a private space and the telecommunications equipment. “We don’t need to know who they are seeing or why they are being seen,” she said.

In describing the growing need for behavioral health services, Sudnick credits the stress and changes that took place during Covid.

“I think everybody across the board is really excited about this,” referring to both Gateway and SBHC staff. She added that the SBHC counselor is able to manage a crisis situation if it arises during the school day, but cannot accept follow-up care or any ongoing patients.

To ensure privacy, the service will only be open to middle and high school students, who Sudnick says will be

able to manage the dialing in without assistance. Gateway staff will be pretty hands off; they will not go find students and bring them in for their appointments. Teens will have full autonomy and responsibility on this one.

As soon as the system is ready to go, Sudnick will get information to families on how to schedule appointments. She anticipates having a list of Frequently Asked Questions to anticipate parent needs for information.

In the end, Sudnick feels that parents will appreciate the option and students will benefit from it-even when their need is short term. “The only thing worse than having a child with needs,” Sudnick said, “is having a child with unmet needs.”

from page 1

Staff shortage causes closures

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Public Library Director Amanada Loiselle announced that a staffing shortage has forced the library to close on Saturdays.

Loiselle is currently conducting interviews to replace a vacant position. She is unable to provide coverage herself, as she is attending college classes on Saturday, which end Dec. 16. Loiselle anticipates reopening on Saturdays, effective Dec. 23. The library will also be closed on Thursday, Nov. 23 and Friday, Nov. 24 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Patrons who need books, audiobooks or DVDs for the long weekend are advised to stop in earlier that week.

WESTFIELD

St. Joseph’s holds fish dinner Nov. 19

WESTFIELD – St. Joseph’s National Catholic Church, 73 Main St., is hosting their famous baked fish dinner on Sunday, Nov. 19 at noon.

This community dinner will feature baked fresh fish, roasted potatoes, Cole slaw and lemon cake for dessert. Coffee and beverages are included. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$8 for children under

12. For tickets, people may call 413-562-3067 or 413-454-2028 and leave message with number of tickets requested, whether dine-in or take-out along with name and telephone number.

Deadline for purchasing tickets is Tuesday, Nov 14. Take-out dinners are available for pick-up at 12:30 p.m. All are welcome.

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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



Social Security Disability vs. Spouse Benefits vs. Survivor Benefits and COLA

Dear Rusty

I retired from working in June but will not sign up for Social Security until age 70 and, to do that, I plan to draw from my IRA for the next three years. My wife is receiving Social Security disability benefits and will reach her full retirement age in March of next year.

I know that my wife simply reaching her full retirement age will not mean an increase to her benefit except for Cost Of Living Allowance. What I'm wondering is, can my wife get spousal benefits of any sort based on my Social Security benefits either before I draw or after I am drawing apart from her benefits at my death? Her Social Security disability amount is only a fraction of my maximum benefit.

Signed Baffled Husband

Dear Baffled

Looks like you're confused about your wife's Social Security disability benefits, retirement benefits, spousal benefits, and survivor benefits. Here's what you need to know:

When your wife reaches her Full Retirement Age next year, her current Social Security Disability Insurance benefit will automatically convert to become her regular SS retirement benefit at the same amount she was receiving on SSDI (disability). The amount stays the same because your wife's SSDI amount is based on her FRA entitlement.

Your wife cannot get any spousal benefits from you until you claim your own Social Security retirement benefit. Since you plan to delay claiming until you are 70 several years from now, after your wife's SSDI converts to become her regular retirement benefit at her FRA next year, she will continue to receive her own SS retirement benefit until you claim. At that point your wife will get a "spousal boost" added to her own SS retirement benefit. The amount of her spousal boost will be the difference between her FRA entitlement (same as her SSDI amount) and 50% of your FRA entitlement (not half of your age 70 amount - spousal benefits are always calculated using FRA amounts, regardless of when Social Security is actually claimed).

Your wife cannot get a spousal benefit from you until you start your Social Security, but after you claim she will receive her higher spousal benefit, her own SS retirement benefit plus a spousal boost, for the rest of her life or until you predecease her. If you die first, your wife will get 100% of the amount you were receiving at your death (e.g., your age 70 amount), instead of the smaller amount she was receiving as your spouse while you are both living.

Regarding COLA, after becoming eligible for benefits, everyone gets the annually awarded COLA increase whether they are already collecting SS benefits or not. The next

SECURITY, page 5

Corrections policy

If you notice a factual error in our pages, please let us know, so that we can set the record straight. Email information to countryjournal@turley.com, or call us at 413-283-8393.

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



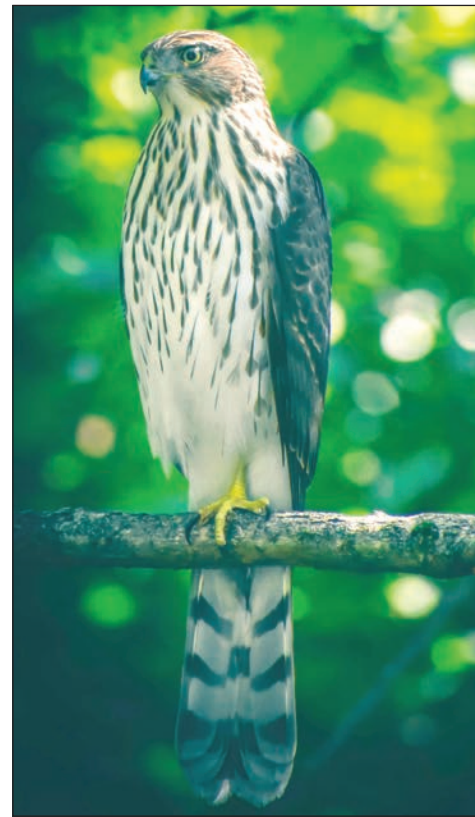
GUEST COLUMN



I received an email from a reader, who had a Cooper's hawk in his yard for two days. He said, "The barred tail was distinctive flying through the yard ... and looked like a dart with the tail straight out. Many people don't realize they, like the Peregrine Falcon, were decimated by DDT and pesticides."

The Cooper's hawk is 16 inches long and as the reader said in his email they have a long tail with barring. They also have fine streaking on the breast. They are gray above with reddish brown barring. Their crown is darker than the back. The immature Cooper's hawk is dark brown above and light below with thin streaking. Immature plumage is kept for one year.

BACKYARD, page 5



Cooper's hawk

Thanksgiving thoughts



My dad has been gone a long time. I sometimes feel badly that he is not in my thoughts as much as he used to be. A lot has happened since his death - marriage and children, a new (old) house.

Sometimes it's easy to get caught up in the day to day, but today, as I write, I think of him. Holidays at my childhood home were always a lot of fun.

I reflect on that now, as we make plans for our Thanksgiving and Christmas gatherings. I can still picture him standing at the counter by the sink, carving the turkey and later in the day enjoying a whopping piece of apple pie (with American cheese?) from his recliner.

My mom still keeps some of the traditions alive as do other family members. Read on to learn about some of the favorite vegetables, fruits and even herbs that make an appearance at the table.

I am not exactly sure where my mom's stuffing recipe originally came from, but it is always a big hit. My Illinois based brother loves it so much that my sister-in-law asked for a copy and now makes it for him on Thanksgiving.

I guess if you can't be at home, having mom's stuffing is the next best thing! Her

recipe wouldn't be the same without sage and I doubt yours would either.

Common garden sage (*Salvia officinalis*) is a shrubby perennial plant native to the Mediterranean.

Its leaves start out lime-green in color, but at maturity end up more grey than green. They are somewhat "pebbly" in texture and are very aromatic.

For the most pungency, sage leaves should be harvested just prior to flowering. Hang the leaves and stem tips in loose bunches upside down in an airy, dark place to dry.

Once completely dry (crispy to the touch), leaves can be stripped from their stems and stored in an airtight container.

Remember, as with any herb, drying concentrates the oils in the foliage. Use only half the amount of dried herbs if you have to substitute them for fresh in any recipe.

Because sage is nearly evergreen (actually, "evergrey") I rarely dry any, but harvest it for immediate use even through the winter months - it is freeze-dried but still tasty! Cut back the plant hard in early spring- you will sacrifice a few flowers, but will be rewarded with a lush bushy plant, rather than one that is woody and sparse.

Another one of mom's cherished contributions to Thanksgiving dinner is her apple cranberry relish. This is a simple recipe in which fresh cranberries and peeled apples are chopped fine and mixed together with a little sugar.

So easy yet incredibly yummy! I tried growing cranberries only to be disappoint-

GARDEN, page 5

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor should be 500 words or less in length. We require letter writers to include his or her name, town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

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GREAT BARRINGTON

Flu vaccination clinic scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 2

GREAT BARRINGTON – The Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative is sponsoring a weekend Flu and COVID Vaccination Clinic on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the W.E.B. Dubois Middle School, located at 313 Monument Valley Drive.

Registration is strongly encouraged since walk ins will only be available if there is enough vaccine available. People may visit <https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/cataldo?site=great-barrington-web-dubois-middle-school> to register. They may also register or get more information by

calling Jayne Smith at 413-717-8922 or emailing jayne@tritownhelath.org.

Vaccines are no cost, but people should bring their insurance card. People do not need an ID or health insurance to get a vaccine. All should wear a short-sleeved shirt.

The following vaccines will be available at this clinic: flu vaccine: ages 6 months and older, normal dose, ages 65 plus senior dose and COVID-19 vaccine: ages 6 months – 11 years old Moderna only and ages 12 and older Pfizer and Moderna.

Simon's Rock hosts Paula Neira, transgender advocate

GREAT BARRINGTON – The Bard Queer Leadership Project will host its next Queer Leaders Vision Forum with Paula M. Neira, JD, MSN, RN, CEN, FAAN (she/her), a nurse, lawyer and renowned trans rights and healthcare advocate on Thursday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. in the McConnell Theater at the Daniels Arts Center on the Simon's Rock Campus, 84 Alford Road.

Provost and Vice President John B. Weinstein (he/him) and Director of the Bard Queer Leadership Project, Dr. Carla Stephens (she/her), will join Neira in conversation. The event is free and open to the public. It can also be accessed via livestream by visiting this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84963910511>.

Paula M. Neira holds both a law degree and a nursing degree, but she didn't grow up thinking she'd be interest-

ed in either field. Neira graduated with distinction from the United States Naval Academy in 1985 and served primarily as a surface warfare officer until 1991, when she came to terms with her gender identity. At that point in time, serving as an openly transgender woman in the military "was not an option," leading her to leave the Navy and begin a career in nursing. "Nursing allowed me to have a career path where I could continue to serve," says Neira. Sticking to a "high-stress, life and death stakes career," Neira served as an ER nurse for five years before attending law school.

Neira decided to attend law school so as a nurse she would "have a voice at the table" during a time when nurses were not seen as "an interdependent, co-equal profession." After completing an accelerated program at Thomas M.

Cooley Law School, Neira relocated to Washington to pursue an opportunity with the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, now known as the Modern Military Association of America. She served as a Staff Attorney and subsequently on SLDN's Board of Directors and as the Co-Chair of its Military Advisory Committee. In her time at SLDN, Neira helped lead the efforts to repeal Don't Ask, Don't Tell. As a leading expert on transgender military service, she helped lead the efforts to change the regulations that allowed for open transgender service in 2016, before President Trump reversed that new policy in early 2017.

Neira began working for Johns Hopkins Medicine as the Nurse Educator in the Department of Emergency Medicine in 2008. With the founding of the Johns Hopkins Center for Transgender

Health in 2017, she serves as its inaugural Clinical Program Director. In that role, Neira works with senior leadership to oversee an interdisciplinary service line that is aimed at providing comprehensive care for transgender people.

The Bard Queer Leadership Project is a revolutionary, new Bachelor of Arts degree program designed for, and by, LGBTQIA+ college students to elevate LGBTQIA+ students and college graduates into leadership roles in school and across the workforce while serving as a space for actualizing educational practices designed for students to thrive. The centerpiece of BQLP is a four year dual major B.A. degree combining Queer Leadership with a second academic field.

People may visit simons-rock.edu, bardacademy.simons-rock.edu, and bqlp.simons-rock.edu for more information.

OPINION

SECURITY

from page 4

annual COLA increase will be added to your wife's SSDI at the end of this year and added to her SS retirement amount each year thereafter, and then to her higher amount as your spouse after you claim.

And even though you are waiting until age 70 to claim, the annual COLA will still be added to your Primary Insurance Amount each year, and you will receive that past COLA in your monthly payments after you later claim.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affil-

iated 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

ed that voles chewed the roots and killed the plants.

Maybe I'll try again sometime in the future. They don't need a bog, but the water does help with harvesting.

My mom always bought a small turnip for my Dad to enjoy at Thanksgiving dinner. I have to say that I don't recall any other members of the family eagerly anticipating it, not the way he did anyway.

I remember mom carefully cutting away the hard outer skin and then cubing the flesh. It was then boiled and mashed as you would potatoes, with lots of butter.

Turnip must be one of those foods that you acquire a taste for, and as of yet I have not.

To produce the best-tasting, largest turnips time your plantings to grow and mature in cool weather. For Thanksgiving turnips sow seeds 90 days before the first fall frost is expected.

Simply make a shallow trench one-quarter to one-half inch deep and position seeds one to one and a half inches apart. Once germination occurs and plants have developed their first set of true leaves, thin seedlings to three inches apart.

Deep, loose soil is best for root vegetables of any kind. Turnips benefit from extra water during droughty periods.

If an early frost threatens and

your roots aren't yet mature you can cover turnip plants with a sheet or blanket on chilly nights to get through the cold spell and sneak out some additional growing time. Do watch out for frigid temps, however, since mercury that measures below the twenty-five degree mark can damage the crown of the plant.

This type of injury can make turnips more susceptible to rot and reduce storage capabilities. Turnips are best stored at temperatures around thirty-five degrees.

They can be packed in damp sand or leaves in a cold cellar and should keep for at least two or three months. Some books recommend wrapping individual roots in plastic wrap to hold in moisture as well as prevent the strong turnip odor from permeating other vegetables.

Commercial turnip growers use a food grade wax for this purpose, which makes cutting away the outer flesh all the more challenging.

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.

BACKYARD

from page 4

During the breeding season, these hawks have a regular feeding route where it hunts for common medium sized birds such as mourning doves, blue jays and starlings.

The female lays three to six pale blue green eggs with dark marks in a platform nest of sticks place in a tree ten to 70 feet high.

Cooper's hawks may show up at bird feeders especially during the winter months, when it roams a wider area for food. Cooper's hawks inhabit mixed forests and open woodlands. They make a loud repeated "kek kek kek kek" call given during alarm or during pair interaction. As mentioned in the email above, the Cooper's hawks were decimated in the 1950s and 1960s due to the use of DDT.

Other birds by the lake

He lives on a lake and said, "There is an old pine the Bald Eagles love to fish from. There are two Red Shouldered Hawks' nests within three or four hundred feet of each other and when the young start yelling for food the other nest invariably starts and I have them in stereo. Last year a pair of Blue Heron nested, but this year there is only one who patrols the cove shoreline alone. The eagles seem to ignore the adult." He also sees Golden eagles as well.

Bird tally

I received an email from a reader, who visits ponds in Warren. He sent a tally of bird observed on Nov. 2, 3 and 4. They included on Nov. 2 46 Canada geese and again the same number on Nov. 3 and six on Nov. 4; one pied-billed grebe on Nov. 3, four great blue herons on Nov. 2, two on Nov. 3 and 3 on Nov. 4; a red-tailed hawk on Nov. 2 and one bald eagle on Nov. 3.

He also reported seeing two American crows on Nov. 2, a yellow-bellied sapsucker on Nov. 2, two blue jays on Nov. 2, a titmouse on Nov. 2, one bluebird on Nov. 2 and two on Nov. 3, six robins on Nov. 2, two yellow-dumped warblers on Nov. 2 and again on Nov. 3 and three song sparrows on Nov. 2. Yellow-bellied sapsuckers, yellow-rumped warblers and bluebirds were eating poison ivy berries.


Canada geese

This weekend my granddaughter and I saw about two dozen Canada geese fly over her house. They were honking as they flew overhead. They headed for a beaver pond across the street.

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.

NOTICE

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MIDDLEFIELD

COA announces lunch menu

MIDDLEFIELD – The Middlefield Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail, on Wednesday, Nov. 22 will serve lunch ant noon.

The menu is eat in or take out. The choice is lasagna rollup, roasted turkey

and gravy, butternut squash, cranberry sauce, bread stuffing, green peas and pumpkin pie.

People should call 413-623-9990 to reserve a meal the previous Friday, Nov. 18. Suggested donation is \$3.

Middlefield lists upcoming events

MIDDLEFIELD – A Special Town Meeting will be held Saturday, Nov. 18 at 10 a.m.

Voters will consider two warrant articles to change previous votes from using tax funds (“raise and appropriate”) to using Stabilization accounts. Article 1 would take \$57,010 from Capital Stabilization for a Highway truck already purchased. Article 2 would take \$61,719 out of School Stabilization to cover the school increases over FY23. The warrant is posted on Facebook Middlefield MA.

Middlefield Fair’s Fundraiser

Last year’s Comedy Show Fundraiser was such a success that Fair organizers recommend getting tickets early for this year’s show. It will be held at the Dalton American Legion, on Saturday Dec 2. Doors open 6:30 p.m. and the show starts 7:30 p.m. People

may contact Diane Radwich or Char Gero to buy tickets.

Blossom Center

The Blossom Center, 16 Bell Road, will hold a Friday Crafts night on the third Friday, Nov. 17 at 5:30 p.m. A potluck dinner is held the third Monday, Nov. 20 at 5:30 p.m. There is a sign-up page in the Dining Hall for those, who plan to come to Thanksgiving Dinner Potluck, on Thursday Nov 23 at 12:30pm. Location is 16 Bell Rd.

Community Service Group

The Middlefield Community Service Group quarterly meeting will follow the Monday, Nov 20 Potluck Dinner at 6:30 p.m. at Blossom Center, 16 Bell Road. Planning for future activities and holiday basket tradition is on the agenda. New participants are always welcome.

HAYDENVILLE

Haydenville Congregational Church to hold soup, bake sale

HAYDENVILLE – A fall tradition, the Haydenville Congregational Church Autumn Soup and Bake Sale, will be Nov. 18 from 10 to 3 p.m. at the church, located at 143 Main St.

The event is scheduled the week-end before Thanksgiving, according to church trustee Megan Jewett, who said, “It is a great opportunity for folks to get delicious frozen homemade soup

and baked goods for Thanksgiving or anytime.”

There will be a variety of pies, breads and baked goods as well as containers of homemade soups.

Proceeds will support the church and the American Friends Service Committee’s humanitarian work in Gaza. For more information, people may call Jen Miller- Antill at 413-478-2508.

WORTHINGTON

Worthington Library offers family playgroup programs

WORTHINGTON – The Hilltown Family Center in collaboration with the Worthington Library is expands its free programs for families with young children beginning Monday, Nov. 13 at the library,

An infant group birth to nine months will be held 8:30-9:30 a.m. and 9:45-11 a.m. a play group for ages nine months to five years in the children’s room at the library located at One Worthington Road.

For more information people may email slebarron@hchcweb.org.

This is a great opportunity for both new parents and caregivers with a little more experience. The family center

coordinator will greet families at the library door.

These two programs will bring together mothers, fathers, grandparents, and other caregivers of children to meet and support each other in the community, learn about child development and connect their children with the Hilltown Family Center and its many programs including: the ASQ developmental screening program, Hilltown Holiday Help, Ready4K learning messages, ParentChild+ home visit literacy program, Rise and Read Book bag program and parent education, as well as services and referrals through Hilltown Community Health Center.

WPD announces sand for seniors

WORTHINGTON – Senior Worthington residents in need of sand for their slippery steps or walkway, should call 413-238-1999 to setup a drop off.

Sand delivery will be on Thursday, Nov. 28 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. They will also be picking up the buckets from last year, so people should leave those out.

This event is a partnership between the Worthington Police and Fire and Rescue, the Hampshire County Sheriff and the TRIAD, a cooperative agreement between The American Association of Retired Persons, the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the National Sheriffs’ Association.

CHESTER

Chester Historical Society selling 2024 calendars

CHESTER – The Chester Historical Society, 15 Middlefield Road, announces the 2024 Chester calendars are now available for purchase at Carm’s Restaurant, Classic Pizza and the Chester Municipal Electric office.

The calendars are \$20 if purchased in person at one of these locations. The

calendars may also be purchased by sending a check for \$24 to the Chester Historical Society, 15 Middlefield Road, Chester MA, 01011.

In addition the calendars are available for online purchase on the society’s FaceBook page at Chester MA History Museum.

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BLANDFORD

TONY ADAMS

from page 1



Tony Adams chats seated on the porch at the Langmore's home on North Blandford Road. Photo by Mary Kronholm

who confined Tony to seven years in his room, as a protective/preventative move to keep him out of trouble. The confinement happened because his father discovered him behind the wheel of a car at age 14.

Tony has never had a driver's license, a wife, a home or children. One of nine children, he said he does not want what his siblings have, a home and family. He is content and always positive.

In the meantime, he has changed his bicycle for a three-wheeled recumbent bike and his camper, now weighing just over 720 pounds is on its sixth rendition. It has a kitchen and a bed and even a television. He uses his cellphone for movies rather than the TV. There is a solar panel atop the camper that he uses to charge his phone.

The coldest weather he's camped in so far was 24 degrees below zero in Evanston, Wyoming and the hottest was 116 degrees in Pahrump, Nevada, just south of Death Valley.

He spent 20 years with a carnival on the midway and learned to make or fix just about anything; these skills have served him well on the road for any repairs. For a man who has never completed an education beyond eighth grade, Tony is well-spoken, articulate and very knowledgeable. He keeps up with what goes on beyond his line of sight, Ukraine, Russia, China and more.

He does not carry a weapon, other than a bear-spray, which he has never had to use. His fear is primarily of attempted thefts in the night. He did foil one such attempt as someone tried to make off with his cycle when he was on the road in Virginia. His equipment was tied to his sleeping quarters and when the would-be perpetrator tried to take the cycle, he was roused and the miscreant was already running away.

Pulling his trailer off to the side of the road, on the area between the road and utility poles, is where he spends some nights. Often, he will overnight in a Walmart, Dollar Store or other public parking area.

He started this leg of his journey in Fort Collins, Colorado and expects to be in York, Maine "probably in about a month." He is traveling the New England states now, and when finished in Maine will return to Colorado and then set out again for the Middle Atlantic states after a visit to Oregon.

His regular habits include liking to "sleep in" especially in the colder weather; he has a sip of wine at dinnertime, "not a glass," he said, "just a sip or two." And a bedtime cup of coffee always.

He is, he said, "a smoker" and will go through a pack a day. According to Tony, smoking before or while pedaling up a hill and there have been lots of those from Red Hook, New York on to Blandford helps establish a heart-rate, "It sets my heart in rhythm," and pace for him as he works to ride uphill. He cites the riders in the Tour de France who are at the starting line, smoking.

He will get back to Oregon and then set out for the Middle Atlantic and then on to Alaska. He plans to take a ship to Hawaii.

Peter Langmore was doing yard work when Tony rolled by. He stopped to chat and Langmore contacted this reporter. There had also been others, who caught sight of Tony on the road between Blandford and Otis, and sent information forward.

Tony will be 85 by the time he completes his 50 years on the road and the 50 states. He has thought about, planned and is accomplishing this adventure

MEMBERS

from page 1

Administrator Christopher Dunne as an ex-officio/non-voting member.

Library patio

The board signed off on a contract, contingent on the state extending the grant use deadline, for the work on the patio at the Porter Memorial Library for \$48,573.

Board of Health

The town's Board of Health will pursue becoming involved with a betterment program specifically to help residents with septic issues fund repairs.

On a different note, she also announced that the Blandford Country Store will close at 5 p.m. for the winter months.

Hilltown

Ambulance Association

The board is looking for someone to be the representative to the Hilltown Ambulance Association. Anyone interested should contact Dunne or prior representative Thomas Ackley for more information.

Dunne reported that the Finance Committee will meet this week (Thursday, Nov. 16) to hear a presentation from Harald Scheid of Regional Resource Group regarding the tax rate.

The board reviewed the departmental expense report and found itemizations current.

Public comment

During the Public Comment Period, Peter Langmore brought to the board's attention that the flags have been at half-staff for three weeks. "It's not right," said Langmore.

The Highway Department is responsible for the flag there, but with Superintendent David Waldron out for several weeks, messages were apparently not communicated.

Chair Cara Letendre and Dunne said that Douglas Emo takes care of the flag at Watson Park and Dunne pointed out that this was a volunteer effort and not part of the Park duties.

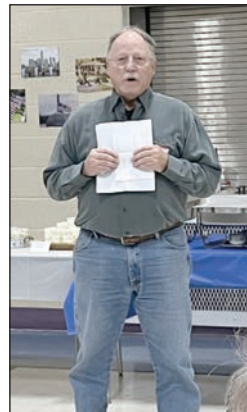
The Post Office is responsible for that flag and Emo also does the Town Hall flag.

VETERANS

from page 1

There were multiple donations and Mikuski said, "The Firemen's Association donated the pies and Starbucks the coffee."

She added, "Thank you to all who volunteered, it was a great group." The volunteers not only served the meal and cleaned up afterwards, according to Mikuski, but they were at the Town Hall early in the morning to set up and prepare the food.



Veterans' Agent Joe Henning addresses the gathering. Staff Barbara Langmore and Keri Morawiec work the check in table. Photos by Mary Kronholm



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WILLIAMSBURG

Seasonal Meekins Market opens Saturday, Nov. 18

WILLIAMSBURG – Everyone's favorite Meekins Market will be starting on Saturday, Nov. 18 and run through Thursday Dec. 21.

The Market tables in the hallway leading to the beautiful Bacon Rotunda in the Meekins Library, 2 Williams St., are chock full, with new things coming in every day. Children and adults will find lots of small, and not so small, inexpensive gifts to give friends and loved ones. Children who don't know what to give their sisters, brothers, or cousins, grandparents, looking for gift for the grandchildren or someone on a limited budget, the Market is the place to go.

Most items are between 25 cents and \$10 dollars and includes stuffed animals, games, decorative objects, household items, scarves and mittens, jewelry, holiday items, an occasional vintage surprise and much more. This is the newest trend in recycling.

People are invited to get a library

card, it is free. The card may be used to take out books, magazines, DVDs, and CDs. It provides online access to movies, audio books, serves as a key to the virtual world, and is a passport to all library programs and so much more. Seasonal books, DVDs, and CDS will be displayed all around the building, ready to be checked out too.

People may visit www.meekins-library.org/ for our seasonal programs including the annual holiday reading on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 3 p.m. and stop by any time the library is open: Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Wednesdays from 1-7 p.m.; Thursdays from 3-6 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The Meekins will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 23 and Saturday, Dec. 23.

For more information, people may call the library at 413-268-7472 or email Daria D'Arienzo at ddarlenzo@me.com or visit the Meekins Library online at: www.meekins-library.org/.

CHESTERFIELD

5K run and walk set for Nov. 26

CHESTERFIELD – Dozens of runners and walkers will enjoy the "GORGE"ous splendor of the East Branch of the Westfield River this month at the Gorge après Gorge 5K trail run and family fun walk.

The annual event happens every year on the Sunday after Thanksgiving at the Chesterfield Gorge in Chesterfield and features unique touches like cookies medals for all finishers, hand-knit and -crocheted hat awards, raffle prizes from local businesses and a community potluck.

The family fun walk begins on Sunday, Nov. 26 at 9:30 am and the 5K race starts at 10:30 a.m. Runners and walkers follow a well-marked course along the nationally-designated Wild and Scenic Westfield River. Hot beverages

and a potluck bring participants together to enjoy community after the race.

The event was started in 2005 by local runners Leslie Charles and Tanya Rapinchuck as a way to celebrate community and get outside and appreciate nature with friends, family, and neighbors at a time of year when New Englanders tend to stay inside and become sedentary. Now organized by Hilltown Land Trust and Beast Coast Trail Running, the event supports the land trust's conservation work in the region.

Runners and walkers can sign up by visiting www.runreg.com/gorge-apres-gorge-2023. For more information or to volunteer, people may email Sarah Welch at Hilltown Land Trust at sarah@hilltownlandtrust.org or call 413-628-4485, extension 6.

CUMMINGTON

Hilltown Seed Saving holds seed exchange Nov. 18

CUMMINGTON – The Hilltown Seed Saving Network will be holding their free fall seed exchange on Saturday, Nov 18 from 1-3 p.m. at Cummington Community House, 33 Main St..

They encourage people to bring their favorite seeds to share with the community. There will be flower seeds, medicinal seeds, vegetable seeds and more.

If people are bringing seeds, they

should label them and include variety, date collected along

with all other useful information. This event is free and open to the public.

All are welcome. People do not have to bring seeds in order to participate.

If they have questions, they may email HilltownSeedSavers@gmail.com. They also may visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/1516125832576620>.

PITTSFIELD

Downtown Pittsfield hosts Thankful Food Drive

PITTSFIELD – Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. hosts its Thankful Food Drive now through Thursday, Nov. 30.

Donations of non-perishable food items will benefit the South Community Food Pantry and St. Joseph's Church Food Pantry. The drive is accepting non-perishable items such as canned vegetables, canned or dry beans, canned fruit in juice, low-sodium soups, canned tuna in water, canned chicken, canned stews, brown rice, unsalted nuts, shelf stable milk and milk substitutes, whole grain pasta, pasta sauce, canned tomatoes, unsweetened apple sauce, peanut butter and whole grain cold cereals. Please no open packages or expired or perishable foods.

Drop off by members of the public is welcomed at the following Pittsfield locations: 413Shirts, 1595 East St.; All-Ways Moving & Storage Co.; Barrington Stage Company's Wolfson Center, 122 North St.;

Berkshire Art Center, 141 North St.; Berkshire Community Action Council, Inc., 1531 East St.; Berkshire County ARC Main Office, 395 South

St.; Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority, 1 Fenn St.; Berkshire Family YMCA, 292 North St.; Berkshire Theatre Group (Colonial Theatre), 111 South St.; Berkshire United Way, 200 South St.; BFAIR, 39 Willis St.; City Hall, 70 Allen St.; CT Management at the Clock Tower, 75 South Church St.; Guidewire, Inc. Solutions, 1450 West Housatonic St.; Hillcrest Educational, 788 South St.; Hill-Engineers, Architects, Planners, Inc. (Dalton); Holiday Inn, 1 West St.; Living in Recovery, 75 North St. (McKay Street entrance); Mana Crypt Gaming Center, 139 West Housatonic St.; Museum Facsimiles Outlet Store, 31 South St.; Peace Train Tees, 2 South St.; ServiceNet, 141 North St.; Soma's Aromas, 81 East St.; This & That Sports, 128 Fenn St. and Witch Slapped, 78 North St.

For more information, people may call Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. at 413-443-6501. The mission of Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. is to strengthen and promote Downtown Pittsfield, Inc.'s membership through advocacy, collaboration and celebration.

BECKET

Becket Athenaeum announces upcoming events

BECKET – The final day to bid on auction items is Monday, Nov. 27 at the Becket Athenaeum, 3367 Main St.

Some of the businesses donating items are Four One Three Salon, Jacob's Pillow Dance, Community Recreation Association, Guido's Fresh Marketplace, Shakespeare & Company, Becket-Chimney

Corners YMCA, Canterbury Farm and the Neon Newt. People may view the items and place their bids.

The Becket Athenaeum will be closed Wednesday, Nov. 22 and Thursday, Nov. 23. The will close on Wednesday, Nov. 29 at 6 p.m.

Creative Movement and Story Time

will be held on Saturday, Nov. 18 at 10:30 a.m. On Sunday, Nov. 19 at noon Telling Our Familia's Stories/Diciéndole a Nuestro Storias de Familia will take place.

Movie night will be held on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. with the movie starting at 7 p.m. Book Club will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 1:30 p.m. The book

is "Behold the Dreamers" by Imbolo Mbue. Creative Movement and Story Time takes place Saturday, Dec. 9 at 10:30 a.m.

The Cookbook Club meets Monday, Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. People should bring their favorite recipe. There will be an optional cookie swap. Game Night is Wednesday, Dec. 13 from 5-7 p.m.

Becket Arts Center presents 'Bakersfield Mist' performances

BECKET – This weekend, the Becket Arts Center will present four performances of "Bakersfield Mist" by Stephen Sachs, a clever, absorbing, often hilarious two-hander.

Paula Langton, an actor and theater educator, will star as Maude. A fif-

ty-something unemployed bartender living in a trailer park, she thinks the painting she bought at a thrift store could be a lost masterpiece by Jackson Pollock worth millions. Then world-class art expert Lionel Percy, played by stage, film and TV actor Ken Cheeseman, flies from New

York to her trailer home in Bakersfield to authenticate the painting and fiery debates full of attitude and wit ensue.

Inspired by true events, this thought-provoking comedy-drama asks vital questions about the meaning of art. Opening night is Friday, Nov. 17 at 7 p.m.

Performances on Saturday, Nov. 18, are at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Matinee is on Sunday, Nov. 19, at 2 p.m.

General admission is \$25 and \$10 for BAC members. For tickets and more information, people may visit www.becketartscenter.org.

NORTHAMPTON

Forbes Library announces upcoming news and events

NORTHAMPTON – Forbes Library, 20 West St., will display Native American Art by Amalia FourHawks, scratchboard by Cheri Cross and photography by Ellen Koteen.

Their work will be on display now through Thursday, Nov. 30.

Katy Wight, Ruth Francis and Anne Teschner recently were elected to the Trustees of Forbes Library Board.

Now through Thursday, Nov. 30 people may view art from the creative arts therapy program at the VA Central Western Massachusetts Healthcare

System in Leeds and from veteran at the Soldier On residential community. These pieces offer a lens into the creative capacity of our veterans, all of whom are doing the important work of introspection and emotional healing, just "a stone's throw" from downtown

Northampton.

This is part of "A Stone's Throw: A Northampton Festival of Visual Art and Performance illuminating the experiences of Military Veterans and their Families" in partnership with A.P.E. and Central Hampshire Veteran Services.

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THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES
Mar 21/Apr 20
You may see the details of a situation a little differently this week. While you may have been sticking to one way of doing things for some time, a new way may mean a breakthrough.

CANCER
Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, a message will come to you that will shed light on something that you have been missing for some time. In fact, it is so simple you won't know why you missed it before.

LIBRA
Sept 23/Oct 23
If brain fog has set in the last few days, you may get a reprieve. Rather than floundering around, you'll have a direction to go and be focused on your goals.

CAPRICORN
Dec 22/Jan 20
Actions speak louder than words, Capricorn. Others will take note of your efforts and embrace any chance to work alongside you.

AQUARIUS
Jan 21/Feb 18
It is time to stop waffling on a particular situation, Aquarius. You have done the research and checked it over many times. Make a decision knowing you are prepared.

TAURUS
Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, your passion for a long-forgotten project is renewed. Dust off what you started, and see it through to completion. The results may surprise you.

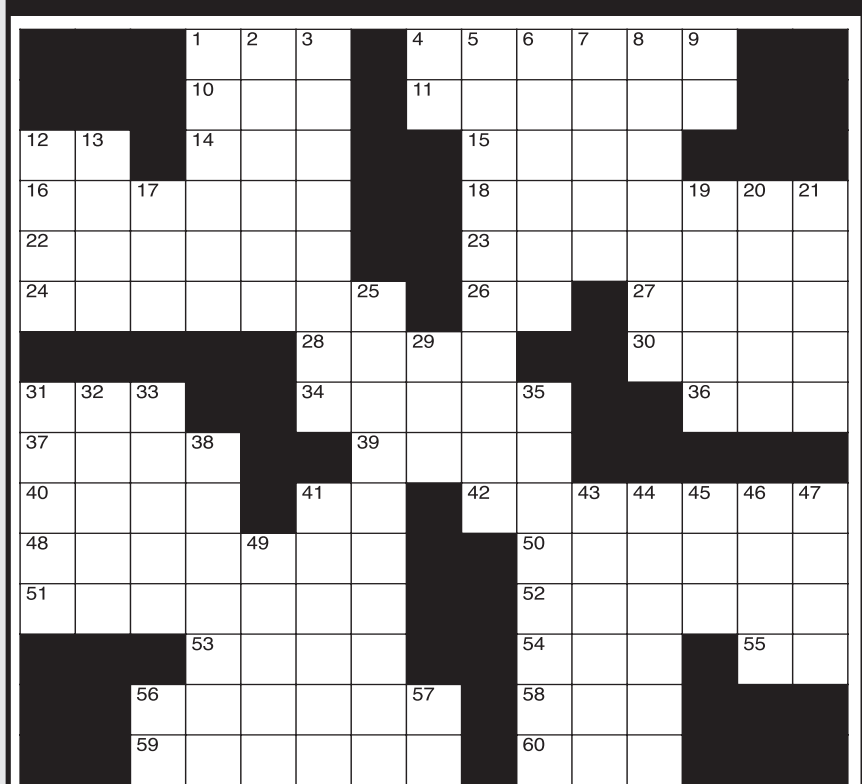
LEO
Jul 23/Aug 23
You may need some financial fixes this week. Take control of your spending and identify ways you can curtail it further going forward. Ask for help, if necessary.

GEMINI
May 22/June 21
Are you ready to communicate, Gemini? It's time to have an important conversation with someone close to you. It may not always be comfortable, but it needs to be done.

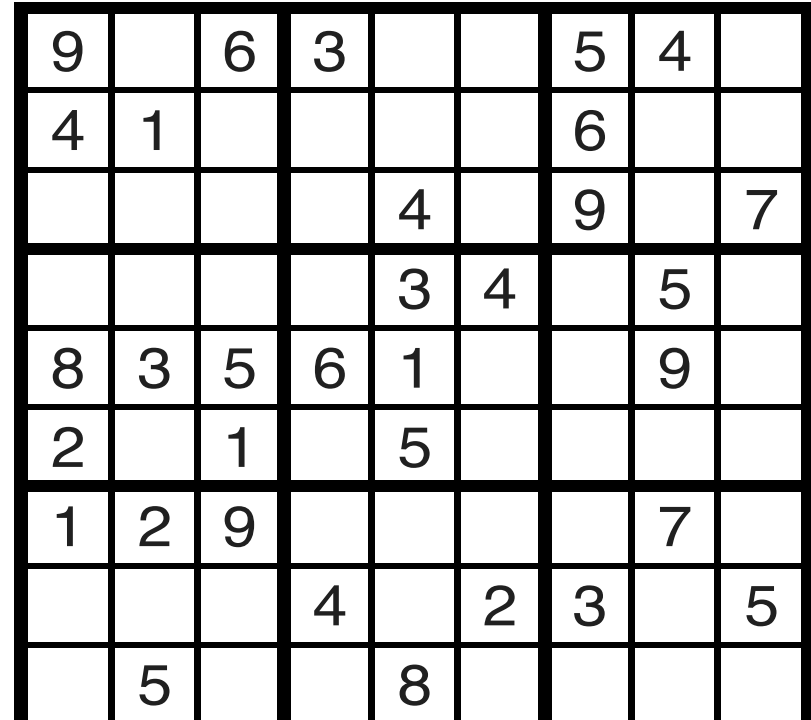
VIRGO
Aug 24/Sept 22
Lately your good advice and common sense offerings have largely gone unheard or unheeded, Virgo. This week someone starts giving you the attention you deserve.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, career gears could be spinning right now. You have a lot of questions to ponder, including whether you should stay put at work or maybe look elsewhere.

PISCES
Feb 19/Mar 20
You may need a crash course in negotiation, Pisces. There is something you have your eye on, and you may have to haggle over the details so things go your way.



- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>CLUES ACROSS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Beats per minute 4. Hindu deity 10. Polynesian garland of flowers 11. Not chained to 12. Metric ton 14. Tall, rounded vase 15. Musical composition 16. St. Francis of ___ 18. Discover the location of 22. Compact group of mountains 23. Mend 24. Not current 26. Atomic #64 27. Young hawk 28. Or ___ 30. Pouches 31. Southern Thailand isthmus 34. Mends with yarn | <p>CLUES DOWN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Similar to the color of a clear unclouded sky 2. Former name of Iran 3. Made smaller 4. Type of meter 5. Revolt 6. Killed with rocks 7. Gregory ___, US dancer 8. Nullifies 9. Home to the Flyers 12. Female parent 13. Pre-1917 Russian emperor 17. Outsourcing (abbr.) 19. Regal 20. Line 21. Hermann ___, author of "Siddhartha" | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25. Clearing up 29. No seats available 31. Leaves of an Arabian shrub 32. Groove in organ or tissue 33. Not of this world 35. Cooking device 38. Forget 41. Operational flight 43. Actress Danes 44. Poke holes in 45. A way to discolor 46. Shouts of welcome or farewell 47. Pharrell's group 49. Red fluorescent dye 56. Jr.'s dad 57. Electronics firm |
|--|---|---|



SUDOKU

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

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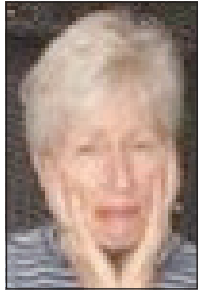
Bertine Galipeau

MONTGOMERY – Held in her family’s loving embrace, Bertine Galipeau passed away in her home on Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023.

A longtime resident of Montgomery, Bertine lived in peace with her husband George in a marriage that spanned 59 years. Born in January of 1943, Bertine shared her life as a servant for God, helping families in need with her counseling practice, Koinonia. Her educational pursuit started her career in the school system as a guidance counselor and teacher before she began her counseling and mental health practice, a passion of which she pursued throughout her remaining life.

A lover of nature, flowers were always on display in her home and surrounding gardens where she always welcomed cherished friends and her extended family. Bertine’s life impacted multitudes of people in need and helped families form loving bonds that will continue far beyond the memory of her immediate life.

A long-time member of Bethany Assembly of God, Bertine was a member of the choir, counsellor to those in need and assisted in signing the sermons’ message to hearing impaired members. Bertine’s love of children was amongst one of her most cherished attributes, as



she could rarely pass by a baby or child without extending a loving smile, kind word or a warm embrace.

Along with her husband George Galipeau, Bertine is survived by her four children and spouses: Colette and her husband Tom Fellows, Nicole Galipeau, Christian and his wife Krysia Galipeau and Joshua Galipeau. Deeply missed by her extended family of six grandchildren, Bertine leaves Sarah and Wyatt Smith, Alivia and Matthew Worley, Bryanna Fellows and her fiancé Alex Ray, Georgia, Nathan, Jacob, and great-grandson, Theodore Smith with a lifelong story of memories and joyful outdoor fun together.

Bertine’s mission of help to all those in need extends past her life. In lieu of flowers, her family kindly requests donations be made to the Bethany Assembly of God’s mission fund.

Bertine will be remembered at the Firrtion-Adams Funeral home in Westfield on Friday, Nov. 24 from 3-7 p.m. Funeral services will be the following day, Saturday, Nov. 25 at Bethany Assembly of God at 10 a.m. Burial service will be private to family at a later date.

DEATH NOTICE

GALIPEAU, BERTINE

Died Oct. 29, 2023
Funeral Service Nov. 25 at Bethany Assembly of God



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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.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Legal Notice Town of Huntington Parking Ban

It shall be unlawful for any vehicle to park between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on any street in the Town from November 15th to April 15th of each year, except parking shall be allowed in the parking area on Federal Street along the river side and the public parking lot on Prospect Street – on the side closest to Prospect Street. The Police Department, and in the case of obstruction of snow removal, the Highway Superintendent, shall order all vehicles in violation towed at the owner’s expense. Violators shall pay a fine for each violation set in Chapter 90, Section 20A of the Massachusetts General Laws to the Parking Clerk.

Jennifer Peloquin,
Town Administrator
Town of Huntington, MA
11/16/2023

Proposed Route 143 Worthington Phase II Road Improvements and Related Work Project 401 Water Quality Certification Application

Pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1341 and M.G.L. c. 21 §§ 26 – 53, notice is given of a 401 Water Quality Certification application for the Proposed Route 143 – Phase II Road Improvements and Related Work Project in conjunction with MassDOT-Highway Division. The Applicant is proposing the rehabilitation and expansion of the roadway surface along Route 143/ Old North Road between the Peru Town Line to Cold Street (western intersection with Old North Road) in the Town of Worthington, Massachusetts. The applicant is the Worthington Highway Department, 64 Huntington Road, Worthington, MA 01098. Additional information may be obtained

from John Morgan at CHA Consulting, Inc., 141 Longwater Drive, Suite 104, Norwell, MA 02061, telephone number 781-982-5437. Written comments should be addressed to the MassDEP Liaisons for MassDOT, 1 Winter Street, Boston, MA 02108, within twenty-one days of this notice.

Any group of ten persons, any aggrieved person, or any governmental body or private organization with a mandate to protect the environment who submits written comments may appeal the Department’s Certification. Failure to submit written comments before the end of the public comment period may result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing.

11/16/2023

Public Shade Tree Hearing

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws (MGL), Chapter 87, Public Shade Tree Law, Section 3 (Cutting of Public Shade Trees; Hearing; Damages), the Town of Williamsburg Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing regarding the removal of three public shade trees on **Monday, November 20, at Town Offices, 141 Main Street, Haydenville at 7:00 PM.** Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this matter should appear at the time and place designated. The affected town trees are located at 5 Conway Road and are three 8-inch diameter Hemlock trees and are marked with a blue string.

Stephen Smith,
Planning Board Chair
Thomas Por, Tree Warden
11/09, 11/16/2023

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.

If you’re a self-starter who enjoys community journalism and who can envision themselves connecting with our communities, we encourage you to apply for this position. Not a remote position.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor’s degree or equivalent experience
- A determination to get the story, whatever it might be
- Equally comfortable writing hard news, features and event coverage
- Ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style

Please tell us in a cover letter why you would be a good fit for this position and send it along with a resume and three writing samples to

Turley
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www.turley.com

Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to
ekennedy@turley.com

Community Newspaper EDITOR WANTED

Turley Publications is looking for a “hands on” energetic candidate who loves telling stories to be the editor for two weekly publications. This position will include managing and coaching a small news staff that will provide the community with a great local newspaper.

The editor will need to cover local government and events while representing the newspaper at public venues.

The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills and is also expected to gather news and write stories for the two papers as well as for other occasional companywide publications.

This is a job for a self-starter who has a vision for growing and connecting with our valued readers, and who thoroughly enjoys community journalism.

This full-time position with flexible schedule is based in our Palmer office at 24 Water St., this is not a remote position.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor’s degree or equivalent experience
- Willingness to mentor a staff writer and correspondents
- Editing experience and ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style
- Management experience and/or experience managing content for a print publication.

Please send resume and writing examples to:

Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to
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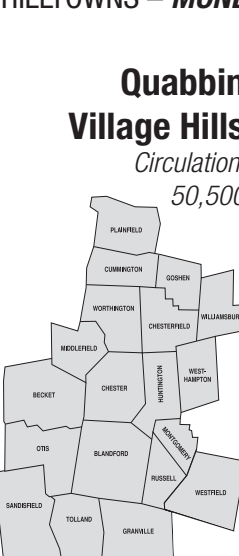
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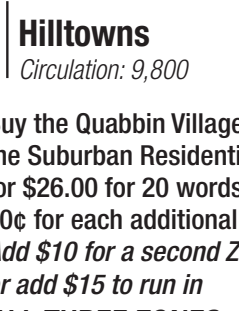
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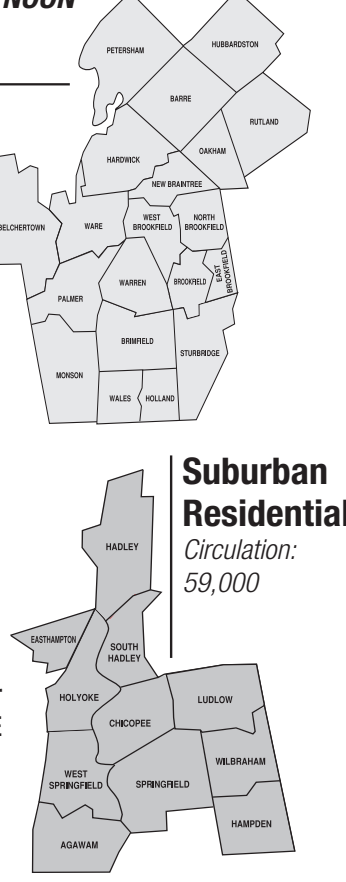
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Cybil resting on a mossy patch along the trail.



Submitted photos Tom Hoffman looks east towards Westfield from Shatterack Ridge.



Adam Dion takes the lead on the rock face.



Stephanie Brown looks out at Mount Nero in Russell.



Hilltown Hikers head down cliffs to Shatterack Falls.

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Hilltown Hikers head to Shatterack Falls

MONTGOMERY – For this adventure, the Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers hiked from Russell Road in Montgomery along the Shatterack Ridge Trail to get to the Unkamt’s Path Section 7 (white blaze) trail on Shatterack Mountain hiking west to east.

Their goal was to check the section from Shatterack Falls #4 up Tekoa Mountain to make sure the trail was clear for hikers that a few have reported is overgrown and hard to follow. Unkamt’s Path is the old Native American footpath running west from Bush Notch in Westfield on the New England Trail to the East connecting with the Appalachian Trail in October Mountain State Forest.

Parts of this trail are being blazed by the Highlands Footpath organization to create a town to town hiking experience with little or no road walking. The West/East Hilltown long distance trail offers mountaintop views and unique historical locations. Originally blazed by John Murphy and Henry Warchol from Westfield State College back in the early 1960s, this trail has always been local and heavily traveled as the cliffs of Tekoa and Shatterack Mountain.

Parking along Carrington Road at the guardrail blazed white next to Station Road. Unkamt’s Path runs across both Shatterack and Tekoa Ridge coming out in Westfield at Reservoir Road.

Send Us Your Photos!
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