

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that.” – Martin Luther King Jr.

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

Christopher Dunne attends final meeting as Town Administrator

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

Town Administrator Christopher Dunne participated in Monday night's Select Board meeting as it was his final official board meeting.

The board acknowledged all he had done for the town. Interim Town Administrator Ira Brezinsky also attended the meeting.

Highway Department

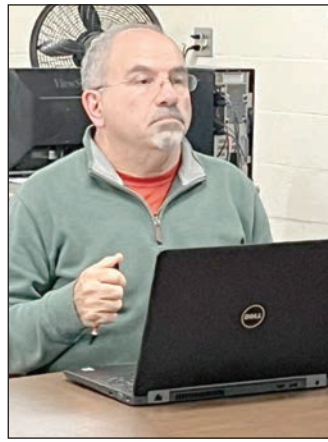
Highway Superintendent David Waldron told the board that the required work had been done on Maple Lane to facilitate the town's winter maintenance of this private way. Also concerns for the safety of the town vehicles prompted a call to the town's insurer. Dunne said that the town vehicles are covered no matter where they are.

Waldron also told the board work had been done on Gore Road where there had been washouts. Stone had to be used because hot asphalt is not available at this time during the season. He is not able to do similar repair on



Select Board, are shown from left, Theodore Cousineau, Chair Cara Letendre and Jeff Allen with Town Administrator Christopher Dunne.

Turley photos by Mary Kronholm



Interim Town Administrator Ira Brezinsky attended the Monday night Select Board meeting.

Beech Hill Road because of its slope. Similar action will have to wait because any stone would be washed out.

Call to report road safety issues

Waldron also requested that when residents see or experience road safety issues, such as icy conditions, they call 911 immediately so the State Police can notify him and corrective measures can be taken. "Media is a wonderful thing," he said referring to social media posts of icy conditions, but the Highway Department needs to be informed to be able to take

action.

There were also sporadic icy spots on state roads as well.

There are cones on Russell Stage Road to indicate icy buildup at the Mass Turnpike overpass.

Select Board Chair Cara Letendre asked about a sign for "slow, ice" sign, something visible to alert drivers. Waldron said he would work something out.

Board member Theodore Cousineau spoke about the work being done on Beulah Land Road. "Observation

MEETING, page 7



Runner Mia Hoffmann is with program coach Kolby Palmer, at the meeting location for Chester Elementary before the race. Submitted photo

CHESTER

Chester Elementary school launches 'Girls on the Run'

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

The Chester Elementary School launched its first ever "Girls on the Run" program this fall.

Seventeen girls in grades 3 - 5 took part starting in September, with the culminating event, a 5K run-held on Sunday, Nov. 19 at Western New England University.

GIRLS ON THE RUN, page 8

CHESTER

Recreation Committee and COA sponsor tree lighting



This beautiful tree is decorated and lighted for the holiday season.

Submitted photo

The town of Chester held their Tree Lighting on Friday, Nov. 24.

Around 45 people attended and sang carols as the tree was lit. The group then gathered at town hall for refreshments of hot chocolate, warm cider and cookies and cakes from Mel's Kitchen. The full Chester Select Board was present with Chairman John Baldasaro and Clerk Brian Fogue welcoming the crowd. The Chester Select Board started the annual event in 2015, holding it through the pandemic albeit without refreshments or indoor gathering.

This year's tree light-

LIGHTING, page 8

BLANDFORD

Select Board finalizes details with Brezinsky

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

Interim Town Administrator Ira Brezinsky joined Monday's meeting virtually for the final details of his confirmation for working in Blandford.

Chair Cara Letendre welcomed him in his official status, and said she was "glad to have him helping us out." His appointment is valid until there is a new full time administrator or through Monday, Jan. 15, 2024.

SELECT BOARD, page 7



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HILLTOWNS

FRTA Van Service offers transport to seniors from five Hilltowns

The Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) Van Service continues to be available to residents over age 60 from the towns of Blandford, Chester, Huntington, Montgomery and Russell.

The van runs Monday through Friday and can bring riders to medical and other appointments, shopping and errands.

To arrange a ride, residents must call

van driver, Richard Homan at 860-836-1844 to schedule a pick-up no later than 6 p.m. the day before a ride is needed. Appointments should be made as far in advance as possible to ensure availability. Riders must complete an application before using the van, which can be mailed or emailed to them by calling the Huntington Council on Aging at 413-512-5205.

Riders must pay a fare, as follows: all one way trips that begin and end in the same town are \$1.25 or \$2.50 if round trip. All one way trips to an adjacent town that is within the five-town service area is \$1.75 (\$3.50 round trip). All one way trips beyond an adjacent town, but within the service area is \$2.25 (\$4.50 round trip). One way trips to senior centers is

\$.75 for a trip within the same town; \$1 for a senior center in an adjacent town or \$1.25 for senior centers beyond adjacent towns.

Personal care attendants or escorts will be charged \$.75 for each trip and they must be riding to assist the passenger with the trip and not to run their own errands. Multiple stops will result in multiple fares.

Clark presents 'Chariots of Fire'

WILLIAMSTOWN – On Thursday, Nov. 30, the Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., continues its series of free British films honoring the birthplace of Sir Edwin Manton during its Manton Research Center's fiftieth anniversary.

The Clark shows "Chariots of Fire" at 6 p.m. in its auditorium, located in the Manton Research Center.

Although perhaps remembered as a celebration of gritty Brits triumphing over much-fancied Americans, Chariots of Fire is actually a portrait of social outsiders making their contribution to the greater national good-Ian Charleson's God-fearing Scot, who refuses to run

on the Sabbath, and Ben Cross's Jewish sprinter. First-time director Hugh Hudson was recruited by producer David Puttnam from the advertising world, his skilled commercial aesthetic exemplified by the striking juxtaposition of 1920s athletes and Vangelis's modern electronic score. (Run time: 2 hours, 3 minutes)

For more information, people may visit clarkart.edu/events.

The Manton Film Series: Great British Films will continue through the winter. The first screening in the winter series is "Lawrence of Arabia" on Thursday, Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. in the Clark's auditorium.

Clark Art Institute offers free gallery tours for new parents

WILLIAMSTOWN – On Friday, Dec. 1 at 10:15 am, the Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., hosts a tour of its permanent collection galleries for new parents/caregivers and infants.

The event is free. Participants should meet at the Clark's main Admissions desk. In this special program, new parents and caregivers bring their infants into the galleries for a guided visit and the opportunity to socialize with other community members in a casual environment. The

informal tour includes a unique look at the Clark's permanent collection, featuring an array of works by a variety of artists. Each month offers a different selection of artworks.

This program is best suited for adults with pre-toddlers. Strollers and front-carrying baby carriers are welcome.

For more information, people may visit clarkart.edu/events. The next New Parents Gallery Tour takes place on Friday, Jan. 5 at 10:15 a.m.

Rep. Boldyga joins colleagues to release state employee raises

BOSTON – State Representative Nick Boldyga (R-Southwick) joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts House Republican Caucus to demand action from Democratic leadership regarding the release of pay raises for over 100,000 state employees.

In a joint letter addressed to the Democratic leadership, the Caucus urged immediate action to report on part of a larger omnibus spending bill currently in conference committee that would ensure full funding for collective bargaining agreements approved earlier this year.

At the center of the call for action is the delay in providing funding for the agreed-upon pay raises for a vast number of state workers. Rep. Boldyga voiced concerns over the delay caused by disagreement among Democratic leadership, citing that withholding these pay raises demonstrates an ongoing dysfunction and lack of transparency within the Democratic controlled



Nick Boldyga

legislature.

"Delaying the funding for essential pay raises that have been agreed upon for over 100,000 state employees is unacceptable," said Rep. Boldyga. "Holding these pay raises hostage because they were bundled into a larger spending bill is a stark reflection of the dysfunction in Boston under one-party rule. Our hardworking state employees deserve fair compensation, and it's irresponsible to politicize their livelihoods in this manner."

The joint letter emphasizes the urgency of the matter stating "that the lack of agreement on other unrelated areas of the close out budget does not justify continuing to hold up indefinitely

the funding of these CBAs...". The letter further highlights the need to separate the funding for employee pay raises from the broader legislative package to ensure timely and deserved compensation for state workers.

"There's simply no excuse," said Rep. Boldyga. "The cost of living in Massachusetts continues to rise, making it more and more difficult for many hardworking state employees to make ends meet. We owe it to them to approve funding for their pay raises before the Thanksgiving holiday."

Rep. Boldyga says he will remain committed to advocating for fair compensation of all state employees, urging swift action from Democratic leadership to ensure that these pay raises are not further delayed or are continued to be used as political leverage.

EARLY DEADLINE For All Advertising & CLASSIFIEDS

All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 21 at Noon for Publication Dec. 25-29	All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 28 at Noon for Publication Jan. 1-5
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HUNTINGTON

Hilltowns collect toys and winter clothing

HUNTINGTON – Several businesses, schools and agencies in the Hilltowns are collecting toys and winter clothing to benefit local families through It Takes a Village, a small nonprofit based in Huntington.

“The number of groups wanting to get involved this year is incredible,” says Lisa Goding, Program Director at It Takes a Village. The nonprofit manages the Village Closet, a donation center full of free baby and children’s clothing, diapers, and other essential supplies. Last year, the Village Closet welcomed over 600 families between Thanksgiving and Christmas, distributing over \$80,000 in toys, books and winter clothing.

“The holidays are always a busy time for us,” says Goding, “and this year we expect even more families to need this support.” Inflation and supply chain issues are still impacting family staples like groceries, diapers and baby formula and fears over continued economic

decline have families nervous for the new year. “If we can provide a coat and a toy or two for the holidays, that’s one less thing a parent has to worry about.”

Among the groups organizing collection drives is the Huntington Fire Department. On Saturday, Dec. 16, Santa himself will participate in the town’s annual Parade of Lights, riding around town on a fire truck. In addition to handing out candy door-to-door, Santa will collect new, unwrapped toys from any house, who wishes to donate. Families can also drop off toys at the Huntington Fire Department at an open house on Dec. 16 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. “We look forward to working with It Takes A Village for our first toy drive to hopefully provide much needed relief for families during the holiday season,” says Josh Ellinger, Huntington’s Fire Chief. “It is our mission to provide fire protection and safety to the community but if we can help in other small ways then that makes our

roles that much greater.”

Other agencies and businesses collecting toys and winter gear are: Westhampton Congregational Church and Westhampton Public Library through Thursday, Nov. 30 1 North Road, Westhampton; Northampton Key Club Toy Exchange drop off Friday, Dec. 1 from 5-8 p.m., 380 Elm St., Northampton; Jacey Anastasio Photography Sunday, Dec. 3 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Wahconah Country Club, 20 Orchard Road, Dalton; Chester/Blandford Police Department Saturday, Dec. 2 from 9 a.m.-noon Blandford Town Hall; Saturday, Dec. 9 from 9 a.m.-noon, Chester Town Hall enjoy some hot cocoa and carols; Williamsburg Hair through Sunday, Dec. 10, 45A Main St., Williamsburg;

Gateway Regional Project 351 through Tuesday, Dec. 14, 12 Littleville Road, Huntington; Huntington Fire Department Saturday, Dec. 16 and Dollar General through Saturday, Dec. 18, 45

Blandford Stage Road Russell.

Coats may be donated to Hilltown Family Center through Thursday, Nov. 30, 9 Russell Rd, Huntington; New Hingham PTO through Friday, Dec. 8, 30 Smith Road, Chesterfield and Done Right Chimney through Saturday, Dec. 9, 49 Main St, Unit #4, Williamsburg.

Families will be able to shop for toys for free at the Village Closet during the week of Dec. 18. People visit www.hilltownvillage.org/closet for details on open hours that week.

Community members who wish to donate winter coats and toys may contact any of the groups involved or donate directly to the Village Closet, 2 East Main St. in Huntington, during their open hours, Sundays and Mondays from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and the first Tuesday of the month from 5-7 p.m. For more information, people may visit www.hilltownvillage.org or call It Takes a Village at 413-650-3640.

Domestic Violence Task Force to meet Dec. 13

HUNTINGTON – Southern Hilltown Domestic Violence Task Force will hold an in person meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 13 from 1-2:30 p.m. at Gateway Regional High School, Career Center, second floor, 12

Littleville Road.

Meeting dates for 2024 to be held at Gateway Regional High School are Wednesdays: Jan. 10, Feb. 14, March 13, April 10, May 8 and June 12, all from 1-2:30 p.m.

BECKET

COVID, flu clinic on Dec. 4

BECKET – Community Health Programs Mobile Health Care team will hold a COVID and flu clinic on Monday,

Dec. 4 from 2-4:30 p.m. at the Becket Town Hall, 557 Main St. benefits, Mass. Health and more.

Becket Arts Center presents ‘A Christmas Carol’

BECKET – The Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, presents Charles Dickens “A Christmas Carol,” as read by stage, film and TV actor Ken Cheeseman with musical accompaniment by Amy Attias.

The one-hour performances will take place at the Arts Center on Friday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 2, at 2 p.m. Suggested donation: \$10. Children under 12, free.

For more information, people may visit www.becketartscenter.org.

Winter sock and mitten drive

BECKET – A winter sock and mitten drive takes place now through Wednesday, Dec. 27.

Collection will be at the Becket Town Hall, 557 Main St. on Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

People can help make a difference by donating new socks and mittens for neighbors I need. All sizes for children, women and men are welcome. All donations will be given to the Becket Food Pantry. For immediate needs, people should call Bill Mulholland at 413-770-1897.

PLAINFIELD

Council on Aging to hold concert

PLAINFIELD – The Plainfield Council on Aging sponsors a concert, Worldbeat Songs of Peace, Love and The Holidays, with singer, songwriter and guitarist Laura Wetzler with a Joe Belmont as a special guest on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 2 p.m. in the Plainfield Congregational Church, 1 Church Lane, just off Main Street.

Admission is free; donations to support the Council on Aging are welcome. All are welcome to attend.

Singer, songwriter, guitarist, and filmmaker Laura Wetzler has been singing professionally since the age of 15, releas-

ing 5 critically acclaimed CDs (cdbaby, Spotify, itunes) and touring in over 100 dates a year in the US & Europe. Laura is also the writer, director, composer, and producer of the award-winning film,

Master guitarist Joe Belmont has played with worldbeat band Viva Quetzal for over 20 years, releasing three CD’s and touring extensively. A respected teacher as well, Joe serves on the faculty of Amherst College and the Northampton Music Center.

People may email Polly Ryan pryan@town.plainfield.ma.us or call 413-212-1581 for more information.

MIDDLEFIELD

Middlefield to hold STM and holiday lunch Dec. 16

MIDDLEFIELD – On Saturday Dec. 16 the town of Middlefield will have a Special Town Meeting at noon voting on a warrant dedicating the Town Center Park for recreational use.

Also on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 12:30 p.m. there will be a holiday lunch of roast chicken potatoes, stuffing and dessert at The Town Hall. This is free of charge to Middlefield residents.

Library announces events

MIDDLEFIELD – On Tuesday, Dec 5 at 2 p.m. there will be snowflake making at the Middlefield Public Library, 188 Skyline Trail.

The monthly, Second Wednesday Bookclub “Read Between the W(h)

ines” will be Wednesday, Dec 13 at 5:30 p.m. As usual, people can come to listen to others recommend what they have been reading, or report on their own reading picks and pans. There is no assigned book.

Middlefield Fair Committee holds comedy fundraiser

MIDDLEFIELD – The Middlefield Fair Committee will hold a comedy fundraiser on Saturday, Dec. 2 with the doors opening at 6:30 pm. and show beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Dalton American Legion, 258 North St., Dalton.

Tickets are \$25 for the Jess Miller Comedy show. T

here will be raffles, 50/50, cash bar and snacks The show is rated R for adult content and language. People may call Diane at 413-446-6232 for tickets.

Blossom Center announces upcoming December events

MIDDLEFIELD – Blossom Center, at 16 Bell Road, will host on Friday Dec. 1 at 5:30 p.m. Ray’s First Friday Bingo.

Tree decorating will take place Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 10:30 a.m. Scout Troop 120 will hold a fundraiser dinner with seatings on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 4:30-6 p.m. Spaghetti and meatball dinners can be to-go, if people

would prefer to support local scouting that way.

Sunday, Dec 10 at 3:30 p.m. is holiday cooking and 5:30 p.m. for eating. Cat is doing Latkes. Other family tradition recipes are welcome or just come help and chat in the kitchen.

Tuesday, Dec 12 at 6 p.m. Joanne will be providing a New Moon sound-bath meditation.

OTIS

Library hosts Cookbook Club

OTIS – The Otis Library, 48 North Main Road, will host the January Cookbook Club on Friday, Jan. 12 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the library.

The cookbook for January is

“Food Health and Happiness” by Oprah Winfrey.

Participants will come to the library to look at the cookbook and then select a recipe to share at the Cookbook Club.

OPINION

EDITORIAL

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



Christmas-time questions for the Garden Lady

A reader from Palmer wrote in with this holiday question for the Garden Lady: "I enjoyed your wreath-making column last week. I thought it was interesting that you advised scouring the landscape for suitable greenery. Overgrown boxwood shrubs are plentiful at home. Can I harvest the tips for making my own holiday wreaths and swags? If so, how do I ensure that the shrubs look good come spring?"

Yes, you can certainly harvest boxwood, especially since your plants are considered "overgrown." A haircut doesn't sound as if it will do much harm, even though it's the off season.

Rather than snip just the tips, however, insert your clippers further into the plant where the growth has become woody. Cutting deeper in several random spots will make "windows" for new growth, at a reduced size!

The addition of boxwoods to your wreaths, planter boxes and swags will offer a nice variation in texture to coarser greenery.

Tabletop "trees" made almost entirely out of boxwood make great Christmas centerpiece.

Here is how you do it, straight from the archives: Cut a piece of wet floral foam into an elongated triangle and secure it in your container of choice. I prefer to use a plastic centerpiece base available from the florist - the bottom of the foam fits in perfectly.

From your collection of boxwood or other greens, choose a nice, pointed piece for the top of the tree and place it into the foam an inch or so; three or four inches will be left sticking out the top. If leaves or other stems along the branch are in the way of insertion, remove them first so that the smallest hole possible will be made in the foam.

Now, gauge the size of the rest of your tree by inserting pieces of greenery at the half-way point as well as at the very bottom.

After that, fill in between the top and middle and middle and bottom, turning the foam as you go, so that a multidimensional tree results. Once greenery completely covers the foam, you can decorate it any way you like.

Tiny glass balls, battery-powered lights, dried cranberries or cinnamon sticks are just a few options. Don't forget to water the tree at the base - the foam will absorb moisture and keep the greens hydrated for weeks of enjoyment.

Marissa, who reads the Ware River News, posed this timely question concerning flowering gifts. "I purchased an amaryllis kit as a gift for my sister. Do you have any tips for to make sure it grows and flowers well?"

Sure! As long as the amaryllis bulb is dry

GARDEN, 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.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

About the fairness of WEP and GPO



Dear Rusty

I was married to my ex-husband for 30 years. For 14 of those years, I was an unemployed mom and community volunteer. After my sons were grown, I began teaching in California and earned a teacher pension. That teacher pension eliminates all the spousal benefits my husband paid for. How can that be justified? I, like a number of my retired friends, rent out rooms in my house to be able to live on a small teacher's pension and get none of my earned spousal benefits.

Signed: Frustrated Teacher

Dear Frustrated Teacher

I can only say that your frustration is shared by many retirees from public service in States, which do not participate in the federal Social Security program, that is, neither the employee nor the State contribute to the

federal Social Security program. There are about 26 states including California, which exempt at least some of their employees and themselves from paying Social Security payroll taxes, but those states are obligated to provide retirement benefits robust enough to offset the loss of Social Security benefits, which will occur later in life after the employee retires.

As controversial as these laws - the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset are, they have withstood legal challenges since they were enacted four decades ago. Because you have a "non-covered" pension from your state employment, WEP reduces any personal Social Security retirement benefit you may have earned elsewhere and, to your specific point, the GPO has eliminated the spousal benefit you might otherwise have been entitled to from your ex-husband.

Like you, many who are affected believe this to be unfair, but Congress has steadfastly failed to enact legislation to repeal these provisions or even to soften

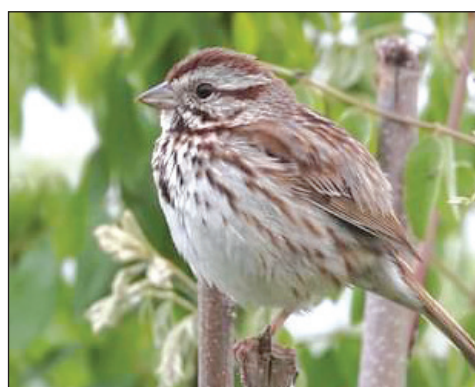
SECURITY, page 5



I received an email from a Brimfield resident. He said he had a few song sparrows in his yard in late October along with white-throated sparrows.

The song sparrow is six inches long and has a whitish breast with brown streaks. A distinguishing mark is a black, central spot on its chest. The song sparrow's crown is reddish brown and it has gray eyebrows. Its tail is long and rounded. Song sparrows feed on the ground eating seeds, insects and some fruit.

This sparrow's song is a few repeated notes followed by a rich and varied warble. Its call includes a "tsp" and "tchump." The female lays three to five greenish, white eggs with dark marks in a cup like nest of



Song sparrow



Cedar waxwing

grasses and occasionally leaves. She place the nest on the ground, in a shrub or weeds.

The male song sparrow defines his territory by singing from prominent perches in about 1/2 to 1 1/2 acres. The male chases the female away when she first arrives and reduces the amount of his singing. Courtship includes male diving at the female and her making a trill like call.

Song sparrows inhabit dense shrubs at the edge of open areas such as fields, yards and streams. They inhabit this area year round.

Other Brimfield birds

The Brimfield resident said he had juncos and one golden crown and one ruby-crowned kinglet. He also saw four male Eastern bluebirds, a pair of house finches and juncos. He said, "The 'best' sighting was a male American kestrel. It was perched on a wire, flew to a tree and then down into the grass where it caught what looked like a mouse or vole."

BACKYARD, 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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PITTSFIELD

Downtown Festive Frolic set for first weekend in December

PITTSFIELD – Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. will host the Downtown Festive Frolic on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 1, 2 and 3.

Activities will include the Park Square Tree Lighting Ceremony, The Grinch at Otto's, free admission to the Festival of Trees, the Holiday First Fridays Artswalk, Pictures with Santa, a Free Kids Paint and Sip, a Festive Frolic LEGO® Drop-in, and a Festive Frolic Holiday Market featuring a Krampus Beer Garden.

The City of Pittsfield's Park Square Tree Lighting Ceremony will be on Friday, Dec. 1 starting at 6 p.m. Santa, Mrs. Claus and the City of Pittsfield's Recreation Department will be present for this festive holiday tradition. Stick around to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus after the tree is lit. Those planning to attend the ceremony are asked to bring non-perishable food items that will be donated to the Christian Center's food pantry.

Otto's Kitchen & Comfort, 95 East St., will be providing free hot chocolate and photo ops with the Grinch on Friday, Dec. 1 from 5-8 p.m. The Lichtenstein Center for the Arts, 28 Renne Avenue, will host its annual Wreath Art Auction to benefit the South Community Food Pantry on Friday, Dec. 1. Dozens of local artists have donated their talent, time, and

materials to create one-of-a-kind, original holiday wreaths, centerpieces, kissing balls, and more. 100% of the proceeds from the sale of these original works of art will be donated to the South Community Food Pantry. Grab and go wreaths will be available starting at 5 p.m. and the top items will be auctioned off at 6:30 p.m. following the Tree Lighting at Park Square. There will also be a raffle to win some amazing gifts from local businesses, and all of the proceeds from the event will benefit the South Community Food Pantry which serves over 1,000 families a week in Pittsfield.

The Berkshire Museum, 39 South St., will offer free admission to the "Festival of Trees: Nostalgia" on Friday, Dec. 1 from 5-8 pm. This free event is sponsored by the Berkshire Museum's Board of Trustees. See trees decorated by community members, businesses, and institutions with ties to the community.

People may come to Berkshire Art Center, 141 North St., for a Free Drop-In Holiday Art Activity on Friday, Dec. 1 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Families, children, and people of all ages are invited to participate in the activity at their own pace, with the guidance and support of a faculty artist. All children must be accompanied by an adult. No registration is required.

The Clock Tower Artists at 75 South Church Street will host a Holiday Open Studios event on Friday, Dec. 1 from 5-8 p.m. and on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Saturday's Downtown Festive Frolic events will be focused on the kids, and Saturday has been dubbed "Festive Frolic Junior." The Festive Frolic Junior will be headlined by Santa at The Beacon Cinema sponsored by Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. and Phoenix Theatres from noon-3 p.m. All children are welcome to take a free professional photo with Santa, which will be made available for download after the event.

Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church will host a Free Kids' Paint & Sip on Saturday, Dec. 2 from noon-3 p.m. in the auditorium at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 67 East St. There will be a bonus painting craft on wooden snowflake ornaments sponsored by St. Stephen's, and a fun science activity presented by the Flying Cloud Institute.

This free winter-themed Paint & Sip is best suited for ages 5 to 12, although younger and older children are welcome. All materials, instruction, snacks, and juice will be provided. Children are welcome to drop in anytime over the course of the event, and all children must be accompa-

nied by an adult. The auditorium is on the second floor of the parish house, and the entrance is on Allen Street.

The Berkshire Athenaeum, 1 Wendell Avenue, will host a Holiday Card Making Drop-in on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. in the Children's Library. Children can make holiday cards for nursing home residents as well as holiday cards for them to take home, while supplies last.

Bottomless Bricks, 163 South Street, will host a Festive Frolic LEGO® Drop-in on Saturday, Dec. 2 from noon-4 p.m. Kids can explore building with LEGO® bricks and can take home a festive coloring sheet.

On the final day of the Festive Frolic, Sunday, December 3, Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. will present a Festive Frolic Holiday Market featuring a Krampus Beer Garden with specialty offerings from Hot Plate Brewing Co. The event will be outdoors on Dunham Mall at 100 North St. from noon-4 p.m. There will be performances by Opal Raven Cirque, food, music, local vendors, and an opportunity to visit with Santa and Krampus.

For more information on the Downtown Festive Frolic, people may visit downtownpittsfield.com or call Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. at 413-443-6501.

Berkshire Environmental Action Team celebrates 20th anniversary

PITTSFIELD – Berkshire Environmental Action Team invites the entire community to join them in celebrating their 20th Anniversary on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 1-3 p.m. at their Environmental Leadership and Education Center, located at 20 Chapel St.

BEAT was established in 2003 when a vernal pool at Berkshire Community College was being threatened by the development of soccer fields on the campus. Over the past two decades, BEAT has taken on many fights and projects,

often leading them and creating a path for environmental change and progress. BEAT's mission has remained the same: to protect the environment for wildlife in support of the natural world that sustains us all. However, their vision and goals have continuously expanded and evolved.

BEAT envisions a world where communities work together to sustain their environmental health and economic vitality; all people recognize their interconnectedness to, and dependence on, the natural world; the air and water are clean;

rivers and streams flow naturally; and there is plenty of interconnected, natural land where wildlife thrive. BEAT's goal is to make all of this happen and their newly renovated Environmental Leadership and Education Center is one of the first steps in reaching that goal.

The renovations feature a balcony overlooking the west branch of the Housatonic River, which runs directly behind the building, a fully accessible bathroom and an accessible sloped walkway that leads to an entryway. Some ren-

ovations are still underway, but the building should be fully accessible in time for the celebration.

Executive Director Jane Winn will lead an optional tour of the building at 1:15 p.m. and a stream-table demonstration will start at 2 p.m. Finger foods and refreshments will also be served.

They ask that people RSVP if they plan to attend; let them know by visiting this link at tinyurl.com/Celebrate-with-BEAT. Email team@thebeatnews.org or call 413-464-9402 with any questions.

OPINION

SECURITY

from page 4

their impact. The likely reason is that Congress has evaluated the fundamental premise of the provisions and concluded they appropriately equalize the way benefits are paid to all Social Security beneficiaries.

It might help to think of it this way: in normal circumstances, if one spouse has a personally earned Social Security retirement benefit, which is more than 50% of their partner's Full Retirement Age amount, no spousal benefit is paid (the spouse benefit is offset by the recipient's own SS retirement benefit).

The GPO, the provision which affects SS spousal and survivor benefits) applies that same logic for a spouse who has a "non-covered" pension earned outside of the Social Security program, their spousal benefit is offset by the amount of the person's own "non-covered" retirement pension. The one difference is that

the GPO offset is actually a bit smaller (2/3rds of the non-covered pension vs. 100% offset for a spouse with their own SS retirement benefit).

Both WEP, which reduces SS retirement benefits and the GPO, which reduces spousal or survivor benefits, are consequences of working for a State which has chosen to not participate in the federal Social Security program, and those states are obligated to inform their employees of those consequences. I know that doesn't make your situation any less frustrating, but Congress "justifies" these provisions as being necessary to equalize how benefits are paid to all Social Security beneficiaries.

There are about 2 million beneficiaries affected by WEP and over 700,000 affected by the GPO, most of whom share your displeasure. Nevertheless, Congress has so far maintained both

these provisions as originally enacted. If you wish to add your voice to those who believe WEP and GPO are unfair, you may wish to contact your federal Congressional Representatives to express that point.

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

GARDEN

from page 4

and free of soft spots it should bloom just fine. Like other flowering bulbs, the amaryllis is a self-contained unit ready to do its thing!

Just follow these simple planting instructions: fill the container with moistened growing medium to about one-half to two-thirds full. Position the bulb on top and add the rest of the potting soil- the upper portion and the neck should rest just above the rim of the pot.

The bulb may rot if it stays too wet, so add water only when the soil dries out. Temperatures should be kept around 60 degrees.

Once the sprouting occurs, fertiliz-

er can be added, but the amaryllis will likely bloom well without it. Stake heavy flower stalks as they form to prevent them from snapping.

Keep blooms looking their best for the greatest amount of time by pinching away anthers before they form pollen, and by housing the plant in a cool room of the house.

Pet owners be forewarned, toxic alkaloids present in these tennis ball-sized bulbs can cause vomiting and diarrhea in animals who have consumed them. Dogs, who are more likely to play with and chew objects this size, are at greater risk.

Purdue University states that the stomach upset will likely cure itself within a few hours, but that special medical attention should be given to weak, old, or otherwise in-firmed dogs who have come in contact with amaryllis bulbs.

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

Cedar waxwings

My daughter and family saw a flock of cedar waxwings eating berries in Granby near Horse Caves.

Pond birds

The Brimfield resident did a tour of some ponds in Brimfield, Sturbridge and Warren recently. He reported lots of Canada geese, but not a lot of ducks other than mallards. He saw two-ringed necked ducks in Warren and a robin eating fruit from a mountain ash tree.

He compiled a list of birds seen Nov. 18 in Brimfield, Sturbridge and Warren. It included 33 mallards, 76 Canada geese, a pair of hooded mergansers (male and female), two great blue herons and two mourning doves.

Feeders

I still have not put out my suet feeder until I am sure the black bears are hibernating. I have lost too many suet feeders to black bears; they either destroy them or take off with them. There must be a pile of them in the woods somewhere.

I do put some bird seed out during the day, but I only put a small amount for the birds. I include shelled peanuts as the tufted titmice, woodpeckers and blue jays love them. Yes, the squirrels do as well.

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.

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Hampshire Regional High School announces first honors

WESTHAMPTON – Hampshire Regional High School, 19 State Road, announces first honors.

Students in Grade 9 making first honors are: Alyssa Barcomb, Kathleen Barry, Elan Bonham, Kai Calabretta Rek, Elyse Campbell, Emma Chateaufneuf, Lily Connor, Alexa Cortis, Owen Cubi, Brayan Cuji Tenesaca, Cameron Dextraze, Ryanne Dubai, Natalie Dunlap, Nadiya Easton, Harrison Farrar, Leo Florek, Amelia Gilman, Xavier Greenberg, Rachael Hickox, Astrid Jensen, Leo Ketcherside, Holly Kowalczyk, Katelyn Krause, Addison Miklasiewicz, Shayne Moynahan, Theodore Overtree, Hailey Paszko, Caroline Payson, Samuel Plumer, Vanessa Reese, Nicholas Roy, Aria Simonelli, Finch Stahl, Eleri Tomsovic, Sophia Tremblay and Benjamin Zajac.

Students in Grade 10 making first honors are: Phoebe Bowser, Joseph Brueget, Keegan Butler, Colin Cahill, Parker Christy, Isabella Coon-Drawe, Gabriel Couture, Alexandra Henrichon, Eamonn Hilnbrand, Carmen Laflam, Jake Laurin, Carlea Manley, Kiersten McKay, Lucy McVey, Joseph Moro, Augustus Niswonger, Caitlyn Packey, Evelyn Palmer, Lillian Popham,

Abigail Provost, Samuel Robbins, Oscar Schiff, Corinne Somes, Elisabeth Sturtevant, Rachael Theroux, Lila Watkins and Lucia Winters.

Students in Grade 11 making first honors are: Fadhil Al Baghdadli, Sabah Alshmlh, Sophia Bernier, Grace Brouillard, Matthew Cesare, Breanna Dale, Miguel Delgado, Isabella DeMar, Eleanor Donohue, Georgiana Frazier, Layla Gauger, Beatrice Hamilton, Emma Kelly, Olivia Manganelli, Benji Marconi, Riley Marney, Isabelle Mondschein, Philip Morin, Julianne Moro, Madeline Oravec, Elijah Picard, Emmett Quinn, Kailee Roncone, Destiny Saltis, Ava Senecal, Anna Shadrick, Julia Sicard, Katherine Simmon, Zola Simonelli, Ash Skow and Dana Warren.

Students in Grade 12 making first honors are: Megan Adams, Timothea Antonio, Nickolas Brisson, Timothy Cahill, Dominick Dybacki, Anjou Edwards, Nicholas Elias-Gillette, Ava Gaida, Jonah Graves Emma Kraus, Devin Lemay, Kaylee McConnell, Alaina Pellegrini, Anna Puttick, Aoife Reynolds, Ambria Stine and Nicholas Tudryn.

Student in Grade 13 making high honors is: Caleb O'Malley.

Hampshire Regional High School announces second honors

WESTHAMPTON – Hampshire Regional High School, 19 State Road, announces second honorsCaleb

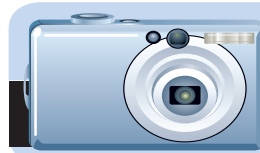
Students in Grade 9 making second honors are: Emmett Bastek, Jack Cameron, Julia Caputo, Travis Carpenter, Max Cross, Raegan Dubai, Francis Dunn, Kason Fellows, Eli Fern, Isaiah Isa, Alexander Kaufmann, Magdeline Lashway, Kyle LeBeau, Krystian Lech, Hayden Miller, Thomas Moore, Gerald Moreau, Austin Mullaly, Grayson Noel, William Schmidt, Allison St. Pierre, Brielle Stine, Isaac Stith, Lisalynn Srong and Brian Wallace.

Students in Grade 10 making second honors are: David Adzigirey, Pom Sonika Ang, James Bresnahan, Glenn Cameron, Eleanor Cleary, Isabelle Couture, Laney Cunningham, Myleigh Felty, Abigail Fisetite, Luke Gardner, Amelia Hanke, Colin Hogan, Sarah Hultman, Emily Jendrysik, Ethan Kudelka, Makayla Labrie, Madelyn Layman, Amelia Perry, Owen Roch,

Bethany Tobiasz and Avery Tudryn.

Students in Grade 11 making second honors are: Hope Brodeur, Ryan Brooks, Delaney Cantwell, Dara Cassidy, Teagan Charles, Cassidy Clark, Harman Dhaliwal,, Ava Gougeon, Robert Herman, Madelynn Hollister, Robin Ketcherside, Jack Laliberte, Ashton Lashway, Isabella LeBarron,, Kayla LeBeau, Daniel Martin, Payton Norris, Thomas O'Connor, Zachary Phakos, Colman Radowicz, Emily Reyor, Jacob Sicard, Caelyn Thayer, Mary Thibault and Kayla Velez.

Students in Grade 12 making second honors are: Hailey Bean, Maisie Bowler, Matthew Brouillard, Owen Connor, Chase Corbeil, Ashley Cortis, Brandon Couture, Daniel Farrar, Paige Galpin, Abby Hennessy, Tyler Hetu, Alice Jenkins, Olivia Jones, Jaiden Kudelka, Cassandra Littlefield, Owen Millay, Aidan Moynahan, Evan O'Malley, Liam Pond, Kira Shutt, Josephine Taylor, Sedona Williams and Elena Wojcik.



Send Us Your Photos!

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Sophie Lewis receives end of season award

NEWTON – On Nov. 8, the Great North Atlantic Conference announced their end of the year awards for women's soccer and Lasell University saw seven of it's team members recognized, including Sophie Lewis of Westfield.

Sophie Lewis was named to the All-Sportsmanship team.

HCC opens registration for Wintersession and spring

HOLYOKE – Registration is now open for Wintersession and spring 2024 semester classes at Holyoke Community College.

HCC's 11-day Wintersession term begins Friday, Dec. 29 and ends Friday, Jan. 12. The spring 2023 semester begins Tuesday, Jan. 16.

With the exception of one environmental science lab course, all Wintersession classes are online. HCC's spring offerings include a mix of on-campus, online, and hybrid courses.

"Wintersession provides a wonderful opportunity for students to add a course they couldn't fit into their schedules in the fall or to get ahead for the spring by taking up to four credits in just two weeks," said Mark Hudgik, interim dean of Strategic Recruitment Initiatives, Admissions and Financial Aid.

Wintersession classes are offered in anthropology, business law, conflict resolution and mediation, economics, environmental science, geography, management, math, nutrition, sociology, social problems, and statistics.

In addition to full-semester, 15-week classes in spring, HCC also offers three accelerated, Flex Start Sessions: Flex 1 (Jan. 16-March 7), Flex 2 (Feb. 5-May 8), and Flex 3 (March 18-May 7).

"The spring semester at HCC is designed to help students go to college in the way that works best for them," said Hudgik. "Classes are offered on campus and online in 15-, 12- and seven- week sessions, so students can find what fits best for their busy schedules."

To sign up for a Wintersession class, people may visit hcc.edu/wintersession.

To sign up for spring 2024, people should go to hcc.edu/admissions.

In addition, HCC will be hosting a Registration Express event on Saturday, Jan. 6, when prospective students can apply for admission, take the college placement test, meet with an academic adviser, register for classes, set up financial aid and all in one day, as well as learn about MassReconnect, the state's new free community college program for Massachusetts residents 25 and older.

CAREER and Education

Great opportunity to advertise job openings you have available!

This special section is circulated into all 12 of our papers, those papers include. **The Sentinel, The Chicopee Register, The Sun, The Register, The Wilbraham-Hampden Times, Agawam Advertiser, Country Journal, Town Reminder, Quaboag Current, Journal Register, Ware River News and Barre Gazette.**

The 2023 Career & Education edition publishes **the week of January 10th-12th**
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Turley Publications, Inc. is offering a great resource for the communities it serves by showcasing the career & education opportunities available locally.

BLANDFORD

Firemen's Association to hold pancake breakfast

BLANDFORD – The Blandford Firemen's Association needs donations for the raffle for their annual community event, on Saturday, Dec. 2 pancake breakfast.

The raffle is a favorite with everyone. Donation dates have been extended for drop off on Friday, Dec. 1, donations can be dropped off at the gym at Town Hall during the setup from 5:30-7 p.m. The Fire

Department Association will be there.

Breakfast will be served from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Town Hall. Santa will arrive at about 9:30 or 10 a.m. with gift bags for youngsters. The traditional breakfast menu will be pancakes, bacon, sausage, coffee, tea, orange juice and cider. Tickets are \$5 each for children 5 to 11-years-old and all others, 12 and over, \$10 per person.

Town of Blandford lists upcoming holiday events

BLANDFORD – This weekend is full. The Pancake Breakfast starts Saturday, Dec. 2 off, followed by the ongoing craft fair at the Historical Society from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. There will be 12 local crafters.

The Porter Memorial Library hosts a cookie day which starts at 10:30 a.m. with preschool and elementary patrons with a gingerbread story time, a gingerbread man hunt around the library and a cookie craft. From 11 a.m.-noon, teens and tweens can decorate ginger-

bread houses.

All supplies are provided. Then join the library staff from 1-3 p.m. for a Cookie Party. People are invited to bring cookies to share with neighbors and friends. The library will also have cookies, coco, coffee and tea. Director Daviau said, "Plan on leaving with a full stomach and an empty platter."

The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting will happen Sunday, Dec. 3 at 5 p.m. at the Historical Society with caroling and cookies.

COA holds luncheon Dec. 8

BLANDFORD – The only Council on Aging event this month is a luncheon on Friday, Dec. 8 at noon in the Town Hall.

The menu includes turkey tetrazzini with a side salad and dessert is a cranberry upside-down cake.

The COA asks that everyone planning to attend call Town Hall at 413-848-4279, extension 400 and leave their name and the number of people attending the luncheon so food quantities will be adequate. It is possible to call as late as that Friday, Dec. 8 in the morning.

Christmas Concert on Saturday

BLANDFORD – The First Congregational Church will hold a Christmas Concert on Saturday, Dec. 2

at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Street Chapel.

A dessert selection will follow the free program.



Reenactor Meghan Boehmer who is associated with the Boston Tea Party Foundation, was one of several who came to Blandford last September to place a Tea Party Emblem at Samuel Sloper's grave.

Submitted photo

Blandford Historical Society to hold open house Dec. 16

BLANDFORD – The Blandford Historical Society will commemorate the town's only person, who was at the Boston Tea Party on Saturday, Dec. 16 from 8:30 a.m.-noon, which was exactly 250 years ago.

Samuel Sloper was a participant in dumping tea into the harbor. Sloper held many positions in town government as well. In his memory, and the historical Tea Party, there will be an open house at the Historical Society building.

SELECT BOARD

Shared services

Regarding the structure of shared services for a Fire Chief with Chester. The two towns have been in discussion and are applying for a grant to help fund the shared services. Currently Chester funds a part time fire chief at \$7,800 while Blandford funds the position at \$25,000.

"So there's a big gap," said Dunne. He said that Chester is really interested, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission will provide technical assistance with a new fire permitting module. The grant

application has Chester looking for \$15,000 for salary to help phase in such a program.

Search Committee

The Search Committee for the new administrator has begun their process. Interviewing will begin next Thursday, November 30. Outgoing Town Administrator Christopher Dunne told the board he expected a minimum of two candidates for final interviews, which could potentially begin as soon as Monday, Dec. 4.

Community Development Block Grant

The town has received an extension through June 30, 2024 for the Community Development Block Grant. This will allow for the completion of the 12 outstanding home rehabilitation/repairs that are in process. It also includes any American Disability Act expenditures.

Other Business

Highway Superintendent David Waldron told the board he has five appli-

cants for the opening in that department.

The Animal Inspection Officer Terry Donovan still uses an older SUV and it is needed for animal control. The vehicle will be retrieved and the town will have to consider options.

The icy patch on Russell Stage Road continues to present problems. Apparently it is a ground water issue and the Highway Department is aware and is keeping track.

There was further discussion regarding available funds and program possibilities for emergency septic repairs.

from page 1

MEETING

Road has been opened." Apparently the Department of Conservation and Recreation is working on the area.

Town Administrator search

Dunne gave the board an update on the Town Administrator search. Two interviews are scheduled this week and "if all goes well," he believes there will be two candidates to present to the board on Monday, Dec. 4. Applications, however, are still coming in.

Bicentennial Park

Board member Jeff Allen asked about the trimming of the Norway Maple in Bicentennial Park, which has not yet been done. Dunne said he would ask the

contractor who had originally said the tree would be trimmed "before there are snowbanks."

In a similar vein, Finance Committee member Kevin Greene asked about leaf raking in Bicentennial Park. Allen has raked the park "five times," he said.

Letendre said that they are going to wait and do a "spring clean-up" so as not to deplete the income generated by the trust fund. The Allen family has volunteered to do the weeding.

Cousineau asked if the benches could be put into the Watson Park barn for the winter, and that will happen.

Interim Town Administrator

Interim Town Administrator

Brezinsky told the board he will not be in the office next week because of pre-arranged travel plans, but he will participate in Monday's meeting via Zoom and will be checking in with the office.

Animal Control vehicle

The ongoing discussion on the Animal Control vehicle use resulted in the 2013 SUV being returned to the town as policy indicates the use is for people "on call" and Animal Inspector Terry Donovan is no longer the Animal Control Officer. Police Chief Jennifer Dubiel has assumed the duties of Animal Control and has indicated that she has the use of the police vehicles to pick up

any dogs. Dunne said once the vehicle is returned and mileage checked, etc. the town could figure out what to do with it.

Other business

The board approved liquor licenses for all types of liquor for the Blandford Country Club and the Blandford Country Store.

Regarding septic repair funds, the origin and status of what is in the town coffers is still being pursued, but the Board of Health has encouraged the resident to begin the process again.

A Main Street house with multiple vehicles, trailers and other miscellaneous items in the yard is to be vacated by Nov. 30.

from page 1

CHESTER

Adult education center holds wreath making workshops

CHESTER – The Friends of the Southern Hilltowns Adult Education Center are offering two wreath making workshops on Friday, Dec. 8 from 4-6 p.m. and 6-8 p.m., at the Village Enterprise Center, 26 Main St.

The suggested donation is \$20 per wreath. Participants are asked to bring garden/ utility gloves, as handling greenery can be prickly. They should call the SHAEC office at 413-354-1055 or email southernhilltownsaec@gmail.com and leave the number in the group coming, name and the workshop time they prefer

either 4 p.m. or 6 p.m. start time.

There are a limited number of spaces in the workshop, so reserving by phone or email is appreciated. The workshop is being facilitated by Morgan Jacquemin of Stonecrop lawn and gardens, in Chester. Friends of SHAEC is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that supports the work and outreach of SHAEC, sponsoring supplemental classes and materials to the Southern Hilltowns Adult Education Center. Donations may be sent to Friends of SHAEC, 26 Main St., Chester, MA 01011

LIGHTING

ing was sponsored by the Chester Recreation Committee and the Chester Council on Aging. Lights were provided by Chester Municipal Electric Light Department and the Chester Blandford Police Department was on hand for

safety. The Chester Fire Department brought a truck that lead festivity to the event with lights and music from the truck's loudspeaker. The tree lighting is held each year on the Friday after Thanksgiving.

from page 1

WESTHAMPTON

CONNIE DRAGON RECEIVES CERTIFICATE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT



Maddie McDougall, from left and Connie Dragon are shown at a plein air painting class recently held at Westhampton Public Library and funded by Resilient Community Arts in Easthampton. McDougall was one of the artists putting on the program. Dragon's paintings can be seen in the background of the picture. She received a certificate of accomplishment for her participation. For more information or to join a class, people may visit info@resilientcommunityarts.org.

Submitted photo

Chester Library lists events

CHESTER – Hamilton Memorial Library, 195 West Main St., lists upcoming events.

On Saturday, Dec. 2 the LEGO Club meets at noon. On Saturday, Dec. 9 there will be a holiday craft making worship at 11 a.m. On Tuesday, Dec. 12 there will be cookie decorating at 4 p.m.

On Wednesday, Dec. 13 the Writer's Club meets at 4:30 p.m. On Saturday, Dec. 16 there will be Do It Yourself holiday cards at 11a.m. People may RSVP by calling 413-354-7808.

On Wednesday, Dec. 20 the Book Club meets at 4:30 p.m. Story time meets every Thursday at 11:30 a.m. Children will hear a story and make a craft.

The Hamilton Memorial Library is now a CWMARS Library and are open during construction at the library. Ancestry.com is available at the library.

The library is accepting donations for their Giving Tree. People may drop off new items only and will be delivered to a local women's shelter.

GIRLS ON THE RUN

from page 1

The Girls on the Run curriculum goes beyond preparing for the 3.1 mile run; it is a positive youth development program that also teaches life skills to girls in third to eighth grades. This ten week program includes lessons that foster confidence, build peer connections and encourage community service while preparing for the 5K event.

On Nov. 15, just a few days before the run, the girls were engaged in a community impact project that they had developed themselves. As a group, they had decided to create cards and posters to support people undergoing cancer treatment. Each card was signed Chester Elementary GOTR.

Adult leaders for the group, which met twice a week from 3-4:30 p.m. were adjustment counselor Maddy Scott, special education teacher Jenna Kakimoto, preschool paraprofessional Mona Thieme and reading specialist Kolby Palmer.

"It was so fulfilling for the girls and us," Palmer said. "Both social-emotional and physical. It's a great program. It's really well done."

Fourth grader Malaney DaSilva agreed. "The best part is being with our friends and making new friends," DaSilva said, adding that she was looking forward to running three miles the following Sunday.

Coordinator Maddy Scott said that the GOTR Western Mass organization had been amazing to work with. "We're all taking a bus on Sunday, provided by GOTR," Scott reported. "The girls will have running buddies going on the bus, too."

GOTR Western Massachusetts reported they were expecting between 2,500 and 3,000 people at the run. In addition to girls, adult leaders and running buddies from the 52 sites from all four Western Mass counties, the run was open to the public and all registration fees went to support GOTR WMA.



Holding their medals for completing the GOTR 5K are Mia Hoffmann, Fallyn Brady and Malaney DaSilva.



Girls grouped together for a fun photo. They are Fallyn Brady, Malany DaSilva and Sophia Stone.

Submitted photos

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RUSSELL

AMC Noble View Outdoor Center to hold wreath workshop



Here are some of the wreaths made last year.

Submitted photo

RUSSELL— Appalachian Mountain Club Noble View Outdoor Center, 635 South Quarter Road, will hold a wreath workshop on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

This workshop begins with a meandering walk in the woods to find materials for wreaths or swags for holiday decorating. While listening to music and being warmed by the fire, they will create hand-made decorations to adorn their home. Guides, Nan, Laura and Dawne will have extra greens, pinecones and supplies in addition to hot cider, hot chocolate and snacks. People may also bring their own supplies.. Also included will be an interactive story time for the little ones.

Registration is required for this free workshop. Space is limited. People may either email laura.stinnette@gmail.com or call 413-454-3232. Rain date is Sunday, Dec. 3.

Parade of Lights Dec. 9

RUSSELL – Santa and Mrs. Claus will be making a stop on Saturday, Dec. 9 at the Russell Town Hall, 65 Main St., from 5-5:45 p.m.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will join the Russell Fire Department to participate in the Parade of Lights at 6 p.m. Russell Recreation Committee will be hosting this year's annual Parade of Lights.

Area Fire Departments along with the help of others will light up the holiday season with a parade down Main Street. All vehicles will be decked out in holiday lights. The Parade route is Main Street, left onto Route 20, left onto Old

Westfield Road and back to Main Street.

Fire Trucks and other participants will line up along Main Street for viewing. This will be a loud event for anyone who might have sensitivity to lights and music. During the festivities, for safety, there will be no parking along Main Street. Russell Police will ask any vehicles parked on Main Street to be moved.

Free hot chocolate will be available at the Russell Community Church and free popcorn is available at Town Hall. Parking is available at Holy Family Catholic Church parking lot on Route 20. Snow date is Sunday, Dec. 10 at 6 p.m.

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Include a self addressed/ stamped envelope if you would like the picture returned or email photo to: jamie@turley.com with subject line: **BABY'S FIRST.**
This offer is available to all babies born in 2023. Pictures will be published the week of December 18-22, 2023.



Marcus Kosnicki
June 5, 2022
Parents: Jonathan & Marcie Kosnicki
Grandparents: Marc Davignon & Lisa Dube, Chicopee
John & Pamella Kosnicki, Palmer

Baby's Name: _____

Birthdate: _____

Parents' Names: _____

Parents' Town of Residence: _____

Grandparents' Names & Town of Residence: _____

Telephone #: (not to be printed - for office use only) _____

Please check the newspaper you would like your announcement to appear.

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Deadline for photos and forms is Friday, December 6, 2023

Springfield Symphony Orchestra

Jolly Holiday

DECEMBER 9 • 4:00 PM

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Michael Lynche
Elise Barber

Conductor
Nikki Stoia, Director
Vocalist
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MONTGOMERY

Music in Montgomery lists December schedule

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

MONTGOMERY – The weekly “Music in Montgomery” program for December has been announced and runs every Thursday from 3 4:30 p.m. at Montgomery Town Hall, 161 Main Road.

Organized by Dale Rogers of the Gray Catbird Pottery Studio and Gift Shop, the weekly series is open free of charge to everyone. “You do not need to be a resident of Montgomery,” Rogers said. “It’s a wonderful sense of community.”

Performing in Thursdays in December are: Eva Capelli and Friends on Dec. 7; Ravenwood on Dec. 14; Larry Southard on Dec. 21 and Ed Bentley and Friends on Dec. 28.

Eva Capelli is part of the Western Massachusetts Songwriters Collaborative. She performs throughout Western Massachusetts including the Hard Rock

Cafe, the Big E, the Iron Horse Music Hall and the Majestic Theater. Her vocals have been called liquid smoke and she is renowned for her “sultry heartbreak lyrics and hard rocking, take-no-prisoners songs.”

Ravenwood is a local classic jazz band led by guitarist Barry Searle. Instrumentation includes a mandolin and violin with a female lead singer.

Larry Southard is a singer and guitarist who is no stranger to “Music in Montgomery” and can also be seen performing at area farmers markets during the growing season. Southard is a singer and guitarist and is known for playing “all the good old songs.”

The tagline for performer Ed Bentley and Friends is “men of a certain age.” This band covers a range of music, including country, rock and folk.

Admission is free and refreshments are served.

News, photo publication policy

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

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

Deadline is Monday at NOON, on holidays it is Friday at 2 p.m.



GREAT BARRINGTON

Simon’s Rock to hold Holiday Craft Fair Dec. 1

GREAT BARRINGTON – Bard College at Simon’s Rock, 84 Alford Road, will hold a Holiday Craft Fair on Friday, Dec. 1 from 2-6 p.m. at Daniels

Arts Center. There will be local crafts people and an opportunity to stock up on gifts for the holidays on the Simon’s Rock campus.

CHESTERFIELD

Congregational Church to hold monthly breakfast

CHESTERFIELD – The Chesterfield Congregational Church will hold its monthly breakfast on Sunday, Dec. 10 from 8-10 a.m.,

The cost is a voluntary donation. The menu features pancakes with or without blueberries, French toast, with pure Chesterfield maple syrup, free

range, organic, farm-fresh eggs any style, breakfast sandwiches, sausage, home fries and excellent homemade corned beef hash, juice, tea, and coffee.

In addition, the special item for this breakfast will be cranberry upside-down coffee cake.

NORTHAMPTON

Library to hold free hearing and language screenings for children

NORTHAMPTON – Forbes Memorial Library, 20 West St., will hold free hearing and language screenings by UMass Department of Speech Language and Hearing Science on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

The free language and hearing screenings for children ages four through eight will be held in the Community Room. Each child’s screening will take about 30 minutes. Parents will need to be present while the screening takes place.

The screenings will be conduct-

ed by graduate students studying to become speech-language pathologists and audiologists with direct supervision from certified, licensed clinicians. Parents will receive results following testing the same day as the testing. If the child does not pass the screening, a member of the research team will discuss possible next steps, which can include connecting with appropriate resources.

People may call Rebecca at UMass’s Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences at 413-461-0875 for more information.

Read Country Journal online at countryjournal.turley.com

WORTHINGTON

Worthington to hold Special Town Meeting on Dec. 5

WORTHINGTON – The town of Worthington will hold a Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Warrant articles are listed below.

Article 1 To see if the Town will vote to Raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to fund the Alternate Building Inspector Account or take any other action in relation thereto.

Select Board and Finance Committee action recommended.

Article 2 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$60,000 from the Vocational Education Expense Account and Raise and appropriate the additional sum of \$6,266, for a total of \$66,266, to fund the Group Insurance Account or take any other action in relation thereto.

Select Board and Finance Committee action recommended.

Article 3 To see if the Town will vote to Raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,685 to fund Tent Expenses for 2024 Annual Town Meeting or take any other action in relation thereto.

Select Board and Finance Committee action recommended.

Article 4 To see if the Town will vote to Raise and appropriate the sum

of \$1,500 to pay the balance due on the FY23 invoice for FY2019-21 Audit Reports or take any other action in relation thereto.

Select Board and Finance Committee action recommended.

Article 5 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from the Current Year’s Fire Department Expense Account the Bills of a Prior Year Account the sum of \$115 to pay two FY23 MassDOT Inspection bills from Dufour Escorted Tours or take any other action in relation thereto.

Select Board and Finance Committee action recommended.

Article 6, to see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$4,240.07 from the General Stabilization Account to refund the American Rescue Plan Act account for heating oil bills erroneously charged to it, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Select Board and Finance Committee action recommended.

Article 8, To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to execute an easement exchange agreement with the northerly abutter to the Town Hall whereby the abutter would

be allowed to continue maintenance and use of the lawn area on Town owned land in “Proposed Easement A” and the Town would be allowed to continue maintenance and use of the parking lot and stone wall on abutter owned land in “Proposed Easement B” as shown on a plan entitled “Easement Plan Located in Worthington, Massachusetts (Hampshire County),” dated Aug. 31, 2023, prepared by Berkshire Design Group, said plan on file with the Town Clerk, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 9 is a home rule petition regarding group health insurance for eligible retirees. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the Massachusetts General Court for special legislation, a draft of which is set forth below, to validate, ratify and confirm section 7A of chapter 32B of the General Laws, as if the Town had properly voted to approve the question set forth in section 7A of said chapter, authorizing the Town to pay a rate in addition to fifty per cent of the premium for contributory group health insurance for eligible Town employees; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless

the Select board approve amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court, and to authorize the Select board to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general objectives of the petition, or take any other action in relation thereto:

An Act Relative to the Provision of Health Insurance for Eligible Employees and Retirees in the Town of Worthington. Section 1, notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the actions of the town of Worthington and its Select Board in offering health insurance coverage to town employees, in accordance with G.L. c. 32B, are hereby validated, ratified and confirmed, as if the Town had properly voted to approve the question set forth in section 7A of said chapter 32B, in accordance with law.

The town may continue to provide such insurance and benefits under said chapter 32B as if the voters of the town had properly approved the question set forth in said section 7A of said chapter 32B; provided, however, that such actions are otherwise taken in accordance with said chapter 32B.

Section 2, this act shall take effect upon passage.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413)586-8500
Docket No. HS23C0123CA
In the matter of:
Jennifer Laura Coico
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Jennifer Laura Coico of Middlefield, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Jennifer Coico Meadow
IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampshire Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/28/2023.**

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

WITNESS, Hon. Diana S. Velez Harris, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 16, 2023
Michael J. Carey
Register of Probate
11/30/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampshire Probate and

**Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413)586-8500
Docket No. HS23P0744EA
Estate of:
Casimir R. Kazimierczak
Date of Death: 10/05/2023
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Jan M. Mastej of Chicopee, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Jan M. Mastej of Chicopee, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve With Personal Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/27/2023.

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

timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Diana S. Velez Harris, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 16, 2023
Michael J. Carey,
Register of Probate
11/30/2023

**TOWN OF CHESTER
Performance Hearing
Monday,
December 18 2023,
at 6:00 PM
FY 2020 & 2021 CDBG
Performance Hearing**

The Town of Chester, on behalf of the Towns of Huntington and

Middlefield, in association with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, will conduct a performance hearing regarding the town's ongoing FY20 & FY21 Community Development Block Grant Programs. The hearing will take place at **6:00 PM on Monday, December 18, 2023**, in person at the Town Hall, 15 Middlefield Road, Chester, MA 01011.

The hearing will review the projects funded through the town's FY20 & FY21 Community Development Block Grant Programs including Phase I of the Prospect Street Improvement Project, public social services, and housing rehabilitation. These activities received funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, Massachusetts CDBG program.

All persons with questions or comments regarding the performance hearing will have an opportunity to submit comments up until and through the public hearing. Please submit comments to Joseph Hagopian at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission @ jhagopi-

an@pvpc.org or 413-781-6045. Persons who require special accommodations should contact the Town prior to the hearing date at 413-354-7760.
11/30/2023

**Town of Blandford
Conservation
Commission
Public Notice**

At its regularly scheduled meeting on **Monday, December 11, 2023 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 the DG Massachusetts Solar, LLC. The RDA is related to the proposed construction of a 3.75MW AC ground-mount solar photovoltaic powergenerating facility and 12MW of Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at 12 George Millard Road tax parcel ID 409-0-43.12. 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.

Nicolas Pietroniro,
Conservation Agent
Town of Blandford
Conservation Commission
11/30/2023

**Legal Notice:
NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING**

The Middlefield Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Saturday, December 16, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Middlefield Town Hall, 188 Skyline Trail, Middlefield MA to present proposed standards and condition bylaw changes:

Article 1: Bylaw Section 3: General Use Regulations Table 3.0 Use Regulations, Town of Middlefield, Types of Land Use Standards and Conditions for 3.05,3.052,3.054,3.055

Article 2: Bylaw Section 3 General Use Regulations: 3.2 Non-Conforming Uses, Discontinuance, Alteration Extension, Reconstruction

Article 3: Bylaw Section 7 Definitions: Adding definition for Accessory Building and Conforming Residence

Article 4: Section 4 Special Land Use Regulations: Mobile Homes, Travel Trailers and Camping
11/23, 11/30/2023

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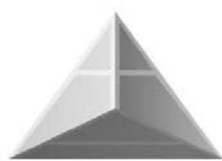
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REGION

Marine Toys for Tots announces Child Poverty Day Initiative

Triangle, VA – Across the Nation, 41% of children live at or below the poverty level.

These children face obstacles and hardships every day of the year, and their parents struggle to provide even the basic necessities. As the holiday season approaches, parents are feeling the effects of record-high inflation more than ever; they simply don't have the means to buy gifts for their bright-eyed and hopeful children.

Marine Toys for Tots believes that no child should ever have to face the challenges associated with living in poverty and they want to put smiles on their faces and hope in their hearts. That is why they strive to be a year-round force for good and deliver joy to children no matter the time of year.

As part of Program's year-round mission, they continue to look for ways to provide comfort and emotional relief to children living in poverty.

Oct. 17 was Child Poverty Day and Toys for Tots fully understands that needs are not seasonal and con-

tinue throughout the year. They want to amplify how critical it is to provide hope and joy at Christmastime and beyond to these children. Today's children are tomorrow's leaders and together, we can provide hope for a brighter tomorrow and remind them that, no matter their circumstances, no doors are closed to them in life.

Support Marine Toys for Tots today to help us expand their horizons and give them the tools they need to learn and grow. Because that's the unparalleled power of play: its ability to stretch imaginations, spur development, and help America's children dream big.

A better, brighter chapter is possible for economically disadvantaged children when supporters contribute in honor of Child Poverty Day. The support people provide today will provide a lifetime of nourishment to the minds of this Nation's children and put joy in their hearts. People may visit <https://secure.toysfortots.org/a/evergreen-news> to donate and be a force for good today.

Girl Scouts chief executive officer stepping down

HOLYOKE – Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts announced that the nonprofit organization's Chief Executive Officer, Pattie Hallberg, is stepping down at the end of 2023. Pattie's decision to leave the Girl Scouts will bring to a close a remarkable 16 years of service to GSCWM.

"Pattie's legacy at Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts is nothing short of extraordinary," says Nicole Messier, GSCWM Board President. "Her leadership has been instrumental in shaping the organization into what it is today. We are profoundly grateful for her unwavering dedication, expertise, and vision, which have empowered countless girls and women to embrace their potential. As we embark on this transition, we remain steadfast to upholding the values and mission that Pattie has championed throughout her tenure. The GSCWM board is committed to finding a worthy successor who will carry on Pattie's legacy and uphold our mission to nurture

the future female leaders of tomorrow."

"It has been my honor and a sincere privilege to lead Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts, an organization dedicated to the development of a girl's personal leadership journey. I am proud of the organization we are today and the impact we've made, working with thousands of fabulous girls and adults to further the Girl Scout mission to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place," said Hallberg. "Our sustainability through a global pandemic and our current growth both in membership and revenue represents the collective effort of an incredibly talented staff, a dedicated board of directors, generous funding partners, and an innovative and dedicated membership. I couldn't be more excited about what's next for this important organization."

The GSCWM board will oversee the process to choose Pattie's successor. The board of directors has engaged the search firm, Find Good People (FGP) to assist with the transition.

Gas prices decrease two cents after holiday

WESTWOOD – As millions of Americans took to the road over the Thanksgiving holiday, gas prices barely budged here in the Northeast, but still managed to eke out declines for a tenth straight week.

Meanwhile, the average price for a gallon of gas is below \$3 a gallon in 14 states and that number is climbing. Petroleum markets took a breather over the holiday after the unexpected postponement of Wednesday's OPEC+ meeting to Nov. 30 when a decision on extending the cartel's production cuts is expected. Additionally, the Energy Information Administration reported lower gasoline

demand figures for the week preceding the holiday.

The average gas price in Massachusetts is down two cents from last week (\$3.42), averaging \$3.40 per gallon. Today's price is 18 cents lower than a month ago (\$3.58), and 36 cents lower than Nov. 27, 2022 (\$3.76). Massachusetts' average gas price is 15 cents higher than the national average.

"Even with near-record Thanksgiving travel and the potential for further output cuts from oil producers in the Middle East and elsewhere, domestic oil and gasoline inventories surged last week, sending prices lower," said AAA Northeast Senior

Spokesperson Mark Schieldrop. "And that trend is likely to continue."

AAA Northeast's Nov. 27 survey of fuel prices found the current national average to be five cents lower than last week (\$3.30), averaging \$3.25 a gallon. Today's national average price is 26 cents lower than a month ago (\$3.51) and is 30 cents lower than this day last year (\$3.55)

AAA Northeast is a not-for-profit auto club with 67 offices in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, New Hampshire and New York, providing more than 6 million local AAA members with travel, insurance, finance and auto-related services.

November moon known as Beaver Moon

The Beaver Moon, the November Full Moon, made its debut in the wee hours Monday morning, Nov. 27.

And it's still glowing strong, best viewed in the early hours of the day well before sunrise. According to the Farmers' Almanac, the Beaver Moon is so-called because for "decades, the Almanac has referenced the monthly full Moons with names tied to early Native American, Colonial American, and European folklore. Traditionally, each full Moon name was applied to the entire lunar month in which it occurred and through all of the Moon's phases—not only the full Moon."

The Beaver Moon was so-named because at this time the animals head for the safety of their lodges. When the fur trade was most active, this was the time to trap the critters because their pelts had become heavy in preparation for the winter.

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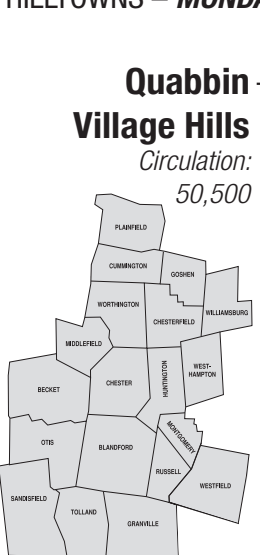
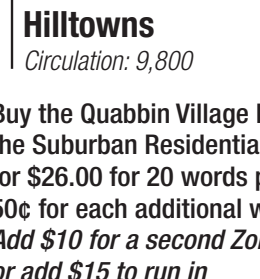
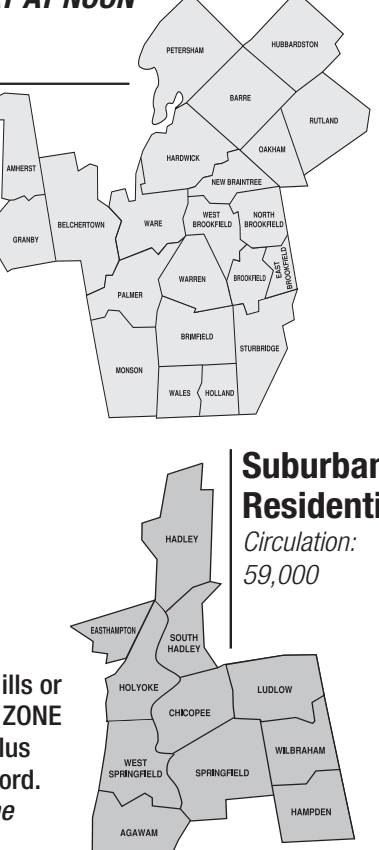
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Hiking to Lanesborough marble caves

LANESBOROUGH – The natural rock and mineral formations in Western Massachusetts are amazing. The Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers found some unexpected site in Lanesborough on a recent hike. They found marble caves formed from glacial melt run off on the Taconic Crest and a disappearing brook known as a Karst.

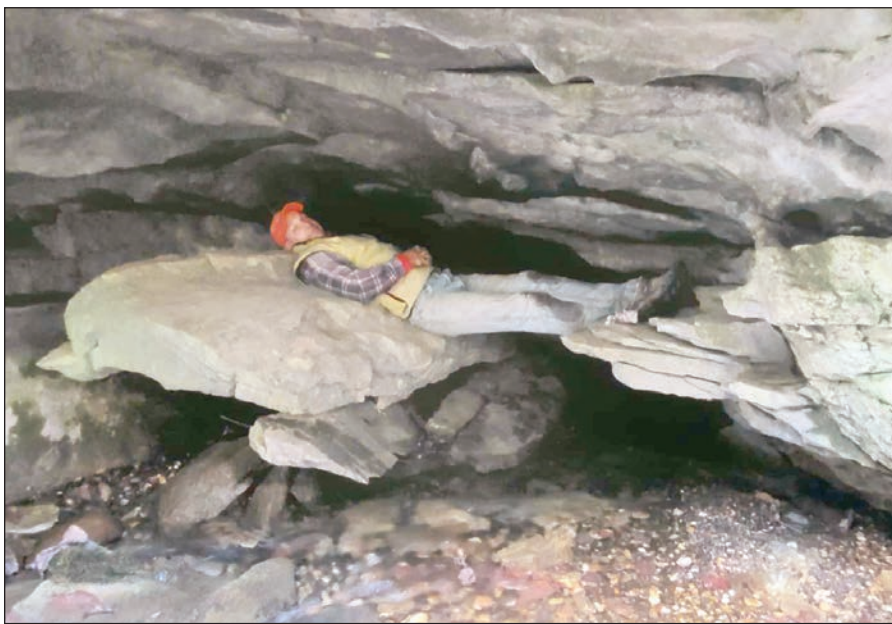
A running stream still exists as the stream disappears after an old stone dam underground and then pops out again carving about a fifty foot section in the marble. A natural bridge formation can be found inside this cave.



Some of the Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers rest by one of the cave entrances on a recent hike to Lanesborough.



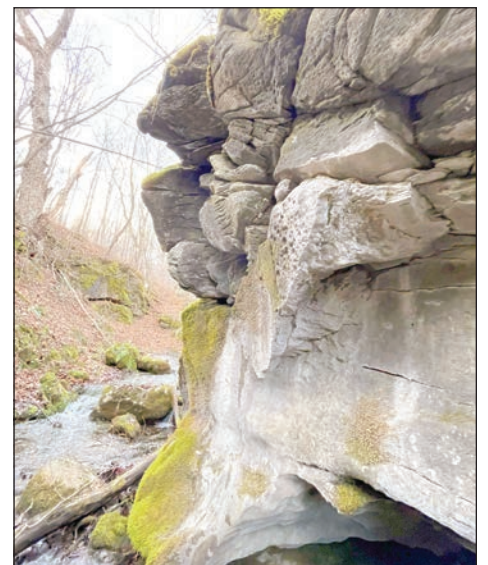
Disappearing Brook also known as a Karst flows under a fifty foot section of marble and reappears. *Submitted photos*



One of the Hilltown Hikers lies a marble slab above the Disappearing Brook.



A Hilltown Hiker looks into the river as it emerges from the marble rocks.



The Karst flows under the marble rock and will reemerge about fifty feet on the other side of the marble rock.

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