

"A diamond is merely a lump of coal that did well under pressure." – Henry Kissinger

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

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

December 14, 2023 | Vol. 45, No. 34 | 75¢

www.countryjournal.turley.com

WILLIAMSBURG

4-H Cattle Club visits dairy farm

By Savannah Judd
Reporter for Hampshire County
4-H Cattle Club

As the fair season winds down, the Hampshire County 4-H Cattle Club is just getting started.

Recently, the club had their first meeting where they discussed their fundraisers and community service ideas. At the first meeting of the season, they held elections for their board and elected Erin Judd, president; Stanley Meacham, vice president; Carson Bisbee, secretary and Brooke Bisbee, treasurer. The 4-H Club meets in Williamsburg and has members from Chesterfield, Goshen, Plainfield, Chester and Huntington.

In November, the club also visited Bree-Z-Knoll farm in

Leyden. There they learned about the dairy's creamery where they bottle their milk. They milk 120 cows with their two Lely astronaut robotic milkers as well as two barn

4-H CATTLE CLUB, page 9



The Hampshire County 4-H Cattle Club visited Bree-Z-Knoll farm in Leyden in November. Savannah Judd, from left is shown with Sadie Wilcox. Submitted photos

LAUREL WREATH HANGS ON WHITE CHURCH DOOR



The Historical Society held a wreath-making afternoon after Thanksgiving on Wednesday, Nov. 29. The Wreath-making committee included Chips Norcross, Nancy Ackley, Melissa Hamm, Judith MacKinnon, Pamela Rideout and Linda Barnard and they produced the laurel wreath which graces the entrance to the White Church.
Turley photo by Mary Kronholm

BLANDFORD

Select Board interviews Town Administrator candidates

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

The Select Board conducted two of the three interviews with candidates for the Town Administrator position at Monday night's meeting.

Attorney Mark Siegars of Lanesborough and Attorney Michael Szlosek of Ludlow were interviewed. The third candidate, Jessie Kelly of Hadley will be interviewed next Monday. She was not able to be at the meeting this week due to a family emergency.

Siegars is legal counsel for the Lanesborough Village Fire and Water District and the Baker Hill Road District, also in Lanesborough. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from the University of Vermont, where he also did graduate studies in Natural Resource Planning. He earned his Juris Doctor degree from the University of New Hampshire.

Szlosek worked as the Business Operations Manager of the Public Works Department in Enfield, Conn. He prepared their operating and cap-

ital budget and managed the daily financial operations for the department which include highway, refuse collection, wastewater, and maintenance/repair of all town buildings. Prior to that he was the Town Administrator for Sterling.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English literature from UMASS, Amherst and a Master of Business Administration in finance, also from UMASS, Amherst. He earned his Juris Doctor degree from Boston University School of Law.

Kelly worked for a Washington, D.C. non-profit Rebuilding Together, an AmeriCorps organization for securing safe and healthy housing. She administered a \$5.6 million portfolio of federal grants for this purpose. She holds a Bachelor Degree in anthropology from Grinnell College and a Master of social work from the University of Pennsylvania.

Hunting issue

Since 1987 the town has permitted hunting on private

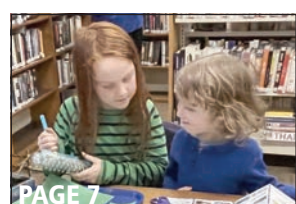
property with written permission from the landowner only. Written permission must be renewed annually and a completed permission form must be on display in hunters' vehicles at all times.

The permits are available at Town Hall; a copy goes to the landowner and another to the police.

Permits are not required for hunting on State Forest property. There is a 58-acre state forest property located in Blandford, one parcel is located off Chester Road but is not directly accessible from Chester Road. This piece of land is located on the Mass Pike, which bisects the entire property leaving 266 acres on the eastbound side. Hunters have parked on adjacent 14-acre property which belongs to AT&T and have been seen on that property. The hunters do not show any permits on their cars.

The main portion of the state forest that is on the eastbound side of the turnpike is accessible off Gore Road via

CANDIDATES, page 6



Blandford.....6, 7	Easthampton8	Opinion.....4, 5	Schools & Youth.....10
Business Directory.....2	Hilltowns2, 3	Otis.....10	Williamsburg.....9
Chesterfield8	Middlefield.....10	Public Notices.....10	Worthington.....8
Classifieds.....11	Northampton8	Puzzle Page.....9	



HILLTOWNS

Chester, Russell receive Asset Management Planning grants

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Clean Water Trust’s Board of Trustees approved \$188,623,774 in new low-interest loans and grants at its meeting on Dec. 6.

The Trust, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, helps communities build or replace water infrastructure that enhances ground and surface water resources, ensures the safety of drinking water, protects public health and develops resilient communities. It accomplishes these objectives by providing low-interest loans and grants to cities, towns and water utilities through the Massachusetts State Revolving Funds. The SRF pro-

grams are partnerships between the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. SRFs function like an environmental infrastructure bank by financing water infrastructure projects in cities and towns across the Commonwealth.

Local towns receiving Asset Management Planning Grants were Chester \$568,100 and Russell \$90,600.

Since its establishment in 1989, the Trust has loaned nearly \$8.6 billion to improve and maintain the quality of water in the Commonwealth. An estimated 97% of Massachusetts’ residents have benefited from the financial assistance of the Trust.

Hilltown CDC seeks applicants for home repairs

The Housing Rehab Program is looking for homeowners, who need help with repairs in Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Peru, Plainfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg and Worthington.

The Hilltown Community Development Center is now accepting applications from homeowners in need of housing repairs. Here is a sample of the work we provide: roof and foundation repairs, heating system repairs, plumbing and electrical repairs, windows replacement, septic repairs and sewer tie-in, handicap accessibility work, new wells drilled, pumps repaired

and lead paint and asbestos removal.

Eligible homeowners will receive a deferred payment loan which has no payments and no interest and is forgiven over 15 years. Homeowners over 70 may receive a loan with accelerated forgiveness. Unforgiven loan balances are recaptured only if the property is sold or changes ownership within the loan period.

People may call Paula Bilodeau at 413-296-4536, extension 109 for more information or to request an application. They can also email Paula at the Hilltown CDC.

Suggestions on surviving the first holiday without a loved one

SPRINGFIELD – There may be no “joy” in the holidays when facing them alone for the first time after the death of a loved one.

Looking at an empty chair at the table can bring a rush of emotions and it doesn’t matter how long it has been, whether this year or in the past, since a family member or friend died. Grief never takes a holiday, noted Dr. Stuart Anfang, vice chair for Clinical Services, Psychiatry at Baystate Health.

“It’s only natural to experience a range of emotions such as sadness, loneliness and a feeling of helplessness and hopelessness as you navigate the hustle and bustle of the holidays alone. Those feelings of grief, especially during Thanksgiving and the December holidays, often become more intense for those preparing to spend these joyous occasions for the first time without a spouse, child or other beloved family member or friend by their side,” said Dr. Anfang.

“Recognize that you are not alone and that mixed or sad feelings during the holidays are not uncommon. Do not suffer in silence and watch for the tendency to isolate or withdraw from others. Denying or bottling up your feelings or self-medicating with alcohol or drugs are worrisome signs,” said Dr. Anfang.

Anticipation of the holidays can cause more stress than the holidays themselves. Dr. Anfang noted that planning for the approaching holidays is the first step in developing your coping strategy, and there is no wrong or right way to deal with the holidays. Begin by making decisions that are comfortable for you and your family.

Use the awareness that things are different to help plan what makes sense. Holiday preparations, traditions and family time may all feel less than normal. It is also important to remember that emotions and energy level are strongly connected. Good self-care routines are important as people prepare and deal with the holiday season. Get plenty of rest and pay attention to healthy eating. Use alcohol in moderation. Plan self-care activities that will feed mind, body and spirit.

Additional tips from the American Psychological Association (APA) for making a plan that works for you include:

Are there some traditions you would rather not do because they are just too painful to relive? Why not introduce something new into your routine?

Do you want to celebrate in the same place and be reminded of your loved one? Maybe you might want to

consider traveling this season instead of staying home.

Who are the people you want to be around? Enjoy their company when they invite you for a visit.

Can you handle an all-day celebration? Be flexible with yourself and let the host know you may only stay for a short while.

The APA also reminds those grieving that once the holiday finally arrives, “just like any other day it only lasts 24 hours.”

Dr. Anfang stressed that it’s okay and not a sign of weakness to ask for help, whether it’s help preparing some holiday treats, decorating the home, shopping or just a shoulder to lean on.

“If you wish, you can find a way of formally remembering your loved one who is not physically present with you. For example, serving their favorite dessert and reflecting on the joy that it brought to your loved one in the past. It is stressful to experience the holiday without your loved one, but you can find ways to honor and include them,” he said.

Together you can share a holiday that is different, but still meaningful and hopeful. As a family, you can add a memory ritual into your holiday by including a special activity such as look-

ing at old photo albums, making or displaying a special holiday decoration with significant ties to the deceased.

Many people also find solace in giving as it is the “season of giving,” noted Dr. Anfang.

According to the American Association of Retired Persons, “it’s amazing how in times of grief, sometimes the biggest comfort is to give to others,” whether it’s a physical present or doing something nice for others in need or who are also hurting. Many people volunteer during the holidays, such as serving meals at a local shelter or distributing toys to needy children.

“If you are noticing more significant symptoms causing impairment at work, school or home, problems with sleep, low energy, dramatic change in appetite or weight, inability to concentrate, frequent crying, easy irritability, thoughts of hurting yourself or wanting to die that may be time to seek some professional evaluation. A good place to start can be your primary care provider or a trusted clergy. Bottom line help is available and do not suffer in silence,” said Dr. Anfang.

People who do not have a primary care provider can find one by visiting <https://www.baystatehealth.org/locations/search-results?loctype=primary%20care>.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

George PROPANE INC.
PROPANE GAS PLUMBING • HEATING
 (413) 268-8360
TOLL FREE 1-800-464-2053
 Family Owned & Operated
 3 Berkshire Trail West (Route 9), P.O. Box 102, Goshen, MA 01032
www.georgepropane.com

Paul's Plumbing & Heating
238-0303
 PAUL GRAHAM
 Mass. License 23299

DOWN TO EARTH EXCAVATING INC
 Highly Regarded Professionals: Complete Site Work, Septic Development and Repairs. Fully Insured.
413 + 667 + 5269
 Paul & Randy LaPointe, Owners Huntington, Mass.

Dale's Structural & Carpentry
 Home Improvement • Additions • Restorations • Remodeling
 Timber Frame Homes Kitchen & Baths
 Residential Drywall • Paint • Trim Work
 Seasonal Homes & Camps Windows • Doors
 Garage Repairs Decks & Stairs
 Carriage & Colonial Barns Interior & Exterior Finishes
Structural Repairs - Wood - Masonry
 Sagging Floors • Beams • Sill Timbers • Columns • Termites Damage
 Foundation Repairs • Piers & Footings • Chimney Rebuilds
413-667-3149

AQUA PUMPS WATER SYSTEMS
 Water Pumps • Sewer Pumps
 Water Conditioners
46 Pitcher Street Montgomery, MA 01085
Donald Washburn 862-3301

Kirke R. Henshaw, Inc.
 Water Well Drilling, Water Pump Sales & Service
 Water Testing System Evaluations
 Water System Repairs Hydrofracture to Increase Flow
HENSHAW
 800-232-4725 • Fax 413-296-4565
Charles R. Henshaw
 130 Cummington Rd., W. Chesterfield, MA • 413-296-4725

ARCHITECT JEFFREY SCOTT PENN
 77 Worthington Road, Huntington, MA 01050
 Tel. 413-531-1868
 Fax. 413-667-3082
 Email: jpspsd@verizon.net
 new construction, renovation, historic preservation

Jeff's Oil Burner Service
 • Tune Ups
 • Installations
 • Oil Tanks
 Huntington, Massachusetts
 Office **413.667.0245**
 Cell **413.530.7037**
jeffoilburnerservice@hotmail.com

FEED • PET SUPPLIES • CLOTHING • COAL
 WOOD PELLETS • WILD & CAGED BIRDSEED
 POOL SUPPLIES • MOTOR OILS • FENCING
 LAWN & GARDEN SUPPLIES • FERTILIZER
GATEWAY FARM & PET
 Poulin Grain RED WING SHOES Carhartt
59 RUSSELL ROAD, HUNTINGTON, MA 01050
1-413-667-2279 M-F 8am-5pm Sat. 8am-4pm
 TARA GRENIER • PAUL GRENIER

GET NOTICED!!!
 To Advertise On The Business Directory
 Contact Your Advertising Representative
Theresa at 413-283-8393 • twegiel@turley.com

Expert Antenna Installations
Schilling TV
 Call AntennaDon
413-443-9235
 Family business since 1948
 for Top Picture Power

HILLTOWNS

ARMBROOK VILLAGE RESIDENTS MAKE FLORAL CENTERPIECES



Residents of Armbrook Village enjoyed making lovely seasonal centerpieces from flowers donated by Dandelion Florist. In Easthampton, Henrietta Davenport arranges a floral center piece during a workshop at Armbrook Village. Jackie Kiernan shows her holiday centerpiece. Kathleen Zawacki displays her floral arrangement. Armbrook Village residents make floral centerpieces.

Submitted photos

Montgomery-Russell Bridge I-90 moves into next phase

MONTGOMERY/RUSSELL – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces construction activities will continue on the Woronoco Bridge project, which carries I-90 over the Westfield River on the Montgomery-Russell line, with a load posting restriction on the bridge.

The new posting went into effect as on Monday, Dec. 4 at 10 a.m. and will last approximately two years.

The current project began in 2020 and is about 60% complete. The bridge was previously rehabbed in 1990, 1994 and 2011. Trucks and other vehicles exceeding the posting (20 tons – 25 tons- 40 tons) will be subject to detour between exits 10 and 41

There will be weight restrictions in place during the remaining construction phases, but these will have no effect on passenger vehicles or most other traffic. Only loads over the bridge posting will be detoured off the roadway between exit 10 in Lee and exit 41 in Westfield.

Loads over posting will be detoured off I-90 onto Routes 20 and 202/10. This is the most direct route as Route 20 mostly parallels I-90 and adds only an additional six miles of total length to a trip. The entirety of the detour is on state highways with the exception of 2.4 miles in the City of Westfield.

Tandem vehicles exceeding the

40-ton posted weight limit will be required to decouple in advance of exit 41 for vehicles heading westbound and in advance of exit 10 for vehicles heading eastbound.

The scope of the project includes staged deck replacement, deck truss spans repairs, gusset plate reinforcement, replacement of rivets with high-strength bolts and paint work. The entire project is budgeted at \$47 million dollars.

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.

MassDOT lists I-90 roadwork schedule

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces crews will be conducting daytime and overnight hour guardrail and bridge operations on I-90 eastbound and westbound in Becket, Blandford, Russell, Lee, West Stockbridge and Stockbridge.

The work will be conducted at various times and locations from now through Friday, Dec. 15. Lane closures will be in place during the construction operations and travel will be allowed through the work zones.

Bridge repair operations in Becket will be conducted at the mile marker 17.4 bridge location on I-90 eastbound and westbound Thursday, Dec. 14 and Friday, Dec. 15 from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. each night. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, Dec. 15 at 5 a.m.

Bridge repair operations in West Stockbridge will be conducted at the mile marker 0.6 bridge location on I-90 eastbound and westbound from Thursday, Dec. 14 through Friday, Dec. 15, from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. each night. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, Dec. 15 by 5 a.m.

Bridge repair operations in Stockbridge will be conducted at the

mile marker 7.5 bridge location on I-90 eastbound and westbound from Thursday, Dec. 14 through Friday, Dec. 15 from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. each night. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, Dec. 15 by 5 a.m.

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

For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to: Download the Mass511 mobile app or visit www.mass511.com to view live cameras, travel times, real-time traffic conditions, and project information before setting out on the road. Users can subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions.

Dial 511 and select a route to hear real-time conditions.

Follow @MassDOT on X, (formerly known as Twitter), to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

MassDOT receives funding for passenger rail service

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces that up to \$500,000 has been awarded to the Rail and Transit Division through the Federal Railroad Administration's Corridor Identification and Development Program to support planning for additional train service connecting Boston and Albany, New York through Springfield.

This corridor would provide up to eight daily round-trip passenger trains on an existing alignment owned by CSX Transportation. Currently, the only passenger service on this corridor is Amtrak's once-daily long-distance Lake Shore Limited. Development of this corridor is part of the Healey-Driscoll Administration's vision to expand and enhance West-East passenger rail service in Massachusetts.

"We are proud to secure this funding to support our administration's efforts to expand passenger rail service across Massachusetts and make West-East Rail a reality. We said from the start that we were going to compete for every federal funding opportunity to bring home dollars to support the infrastructure needs of our communities and we are delivering on that promise," said Governor Maura Healey. "We're grateful to the Biden-Harris Administration for making this funding available and for the strong partnership of our federal delegation and state Legislature."

The Corridor ID Program is a comprehensive intercity passenger rail planning and development program that will help guide intercity passenger rail development throughout the country and cre-

ates a pipeline of intercity passenger rail projects ready for implementation and funding through FRA's Federal-State Partnership-National Network Program.

In addition, the FRA Program has awarded up to \$500,000 to three corridors sponsored by Maine, Vermont, and Connecticut, which will also improve rail service in Massachusetts. These include the Downeaster Corridor, Vermonter Corridor and Hartford Line Corridor.

The funding awarded to MassDOT's Rail and Transit Division for the Boston-Albany corridor builds on \$108 million that Massachusetts secured from the FRA in September of this year, for corridor infrastructure projects planned under the "Connecting the Commonwealth: Early Actions for the Inland Route Project" which will result in new, twice

daily roundtrip Amtrak service between Boston and New Haven, Connecticut via Springfield.

In 2022, MassDOT announced that the Biden Administration had awarded almost \$1.8 million to the state through the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements program for preliminary engineering and environmental review for investments to improve rail infrastructure, enhance safety and operational flexibility, and increase train capacity in Western Massachusetts near Springfield Union Station. MassDOT is providing a 50% match for funds awarded through CRISI. These investments will support the Amtrak Springfield Line the CSX Boston Albany Line and small segments of the former Armory Branch and Knowledge Corridor.

OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



I received an email last month from a Brimfield resident who reported an acquaintance from Hardwick had a fox sparrow and pine siskin in his yard recently.

The fox sparrow is a large sparrow, seven inches. It has rufous sneaking on a gray head and back, whitish underparts and boldly streaked with brown or rufous. It has an irregular central dot on its breast and a reddish brown rump and tail.



Fox sparrow

These sparrows feed on the ground with seeds, fruits and insects making up its diet. They often jump forward and back to remove debris from the ground to uncover food. They come to feeders eating the seeds scattered on the ground by other birds.

The female lays four to six light blue, green eggs with darker marks in a cupcake nest if grasses, lichens and leaves lined with grasses, fur and rootlets. It is placed on the ground under a small tree or shrub. Their song is a series of clear melodious whistles and is more melodic than most sparrows.

Loon life span

In the Loon Preservation Committee newsletter, they discussed the loon life span.

“How long do loons live?” is one of the most common questions that LPC biologists are asked.

The two oldest known loons in the world breed in Michigan, at the Seney Wildlife Refuge. They used to be a pair, however, in recent years they have gone their separate ways. The male’s exact age is known because he was banded the year that he hatched. The female’s exact age is unknown because she was banded as an adult, however, we know her minimum age. This summer, the female was at least 37 years old, while the male turned 36 years old.

New Hampshire has a male loon who was banded as an adult in 2000, making him at least 26 years old. In addition to his advanced age, he has another claim to fame: he is the only loon, so far, in New Hampshire that has produced chicks after surviving lead poisoning.

The oldest known loon in New

Hampshire is a female, who occupies a territory on Lake Umbagog. She was originally banded as an adult in 1993. Because she was banded as an adult, we don’t know her exact age. We only know for sure that she was at least three years old in 1993. However, loons don’t hatch chicks, on average, until they are 6 years old, and this loon hatched chicks the year she was banded. That means she was likely 6 years old or older in 1993. She is at minimum 33 years old, but more likely 36 or older.

Decrease in bird activity

I received an email from a man who said this year he has a very noticeable decrease in bird population.

He reports he has a male and female bobcat and squirrels, rabbits and chipmunks have disappeared. He said “maybe that’s part of it.” He said he started to leave one feeder out overnight testing to see if there are still bears about. Here’s hoping they have all gone into hibernation.

Bird club

A Brimfield resident emailed, “On Nov. 30 I took part in a project for the bird club and afterwards we

went to Forest Park in Springfield and saw a black duck, a chilly looking great blue heron, a hermit thrush and several golden-crowned kinglets.

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.

I’m returning to work; what should I do about Social Security?



Dear Rusty

I started collecting Social Security at age 62 earlier this year.

I had an opportunity to partner in a new business this year that will allow me to earn about \$200,000 in 2024. Because this is significantly above the allowed earnings when collecting early benefits, I need advice on how I handle this with the Social Security Administration.

Am I supposed to call them and advise them of my change in income for 2024? If so, am I going to be penalized in any way? I expect they will stop all payments in 2024 once I alert them to the change. Will I be eligible for Social Security payments when I retire again? This is planned to take place before I reach full retirement age of 67. For information, my 2023 income will not exceed the 2023

allowable income limit.

Signed: Un-retiring Temporarily

Dear Un-retiring

You have a couple of options, considering that you recently claimed early Social Security benefits but are returning to work with income significantly more than the 2024 earnings limit of \$22,320.

The first is to simply contact Social Security and tell them you are returning to the work force and tell them your anticipated 2024 income. They will suspend your SS benefits for all of 2024 to avoid overpaying you and making you return those 2024 payments later. If you plan to continue in your new business beyond 2024, you can advise them of that as well and they will continue the suspension of your benefits, until such time as you either discontinue working or reach your Full Retirement Age, the earnings test no longer applies after you reach your FRA.

At that time, SS will resume your monthly Social Security payments and, at your FRA, will give you time credit for all months your benefits were suspended, providing you

with a higher monthly payment after your full retirement age is attained with an adjustment for benefits already paid).

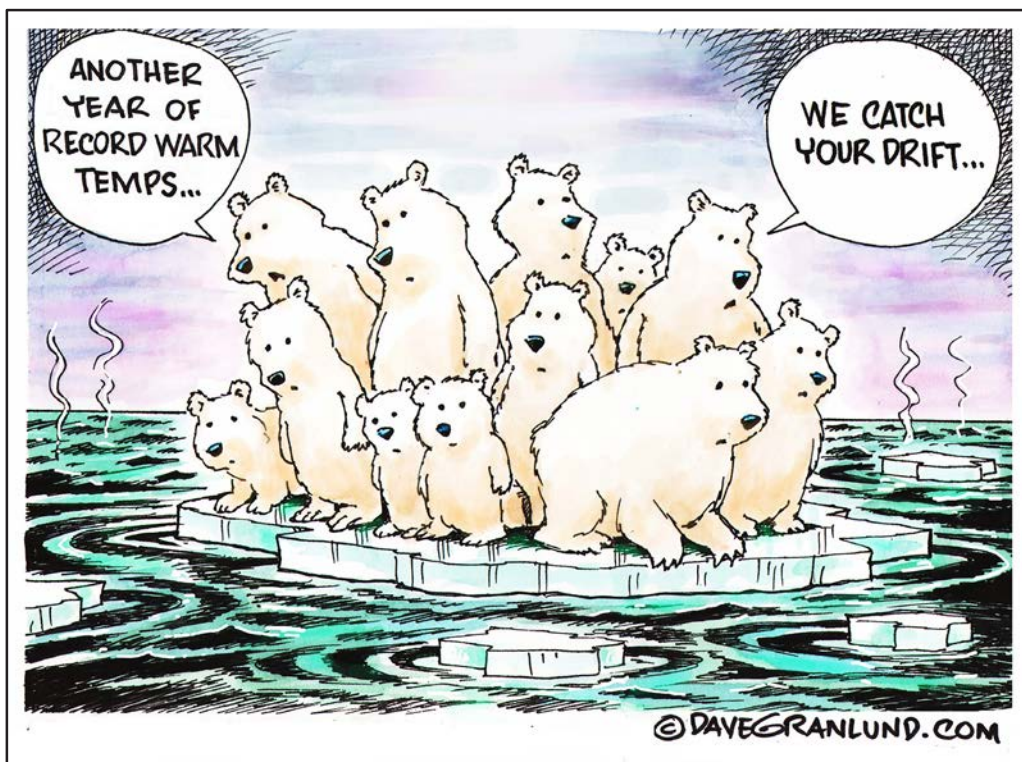
Your other option is to contact Social Security soon and request that your recent application for Social Security benefits submitted earlier this year be withdrawn. You have 12 months from the date of your application to do this, but you will need to repay Social Security all money which they paid to you or on your behalf (including your monthly payments, any income tax you had withheld from those payments, and any dependent benefits which might have been paid based on your record).

That will effectively “wipe the slate clean” with Social Security and will be as though you had never claimed, allowing you to simply wait until you stop working or until your FRA or even beyond your FRA, to re-apply for Social Security at a higher monthly amount. The advantage of this option is that when your benefit restarts there will be no adjustment (reduction) for past benefits paid.

What I suggest you not do is simply wait to see what happens. That would result in Social Security catching up after the IRS informs them of your 2024 earnings, resulting in you receiving an Overpayment Notice from the SSA demanding repayment of 2024 benefits paid.

In that case, you would need to quickly repay Social Security in a large lump-sum or have your SS benefits withheld until the debt for exceeding the earnings limit was repaid. In a nutshell, I suggest you call Social Security and tell them you are returning to work, what your earnings are expected to be, and for how long.

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.



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.

Mail letter to Country Journal, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or mail your letter to: countryjournal@turley.com.



Digital Photos

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS, INC. Purchase a photo that recently ran in one of our publications. Go to newspapers.turley.com/photo-request

ISSN NO. 0747-2471

Country Journal TEAM



EDITOR
Ellenor Downer
countryjournal@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Theresa Wegiel
twegiel@turley.com

The Country Journal (USPS 483-550) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.



@ Country Journal



countryjournal.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager



www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

Experiment with American Holly seeds



I was taking a walk in my yard along the wood line and came across the tiniest holly plant I have ever seen.

I got so excited that I snapped a picture and sent it to my husband. When we bought this house, we inherited a twenty foot tall, pyramid shaped holly bush-tree.

It fruits almost every year. While this year's berry show is mediocre, the year prior was outstanding!

The birds must have dined on some of the red berries awhile back and planted them for me resulting in this photo opportunity. I got to thinking about what needed to happen for holly seeds to germinate in the first place.

Read on for a bit of a botany lesson on a beloved holiday plant.

American Holly (*Ilex opaca*) are native plants and dioecious, meaning there are male plants and female plants. In the home landscape you need one of each nearby for berry production; in natural conditions this typically happens

on its own.

One of my neighbors must have a male so that I end up with berries. The tiny white flowers on my holly bush-tree usually come in such abundance that you hear the buzzing a good distance from the plant.

I get excited about that, too!

It is said that less than 5% of the world's plants are dioecious. Others well-known and ironically, also holiday plants, include a cousin of the American Holly, Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) and Bayberry (*Myrica pennsylvanica*).

If you would like to try and get some holly seeds to germinate, first you need to pick the berries and squish them to get the seeds out. This becomes a little easier after the seeds have sat awhile; mixing them with water also helps.

Once the seeds are separated from the skin, they need to go through a pre-treatment. Not an actual sowing, but a time of waiting whereby the seed coat can break down.

Mix the seed with sand and compost and let it sit outside for the summer and through the following winter, totaling about eighteen months. It's a good idea to protect this mixture from mice who would find the seeds delectable.

As the seed coat breaks down, water can be absorbed, and the germination process begins.

Take a look at the seeds and if you see a root emerging, it's time to plant them in pots. Young holly seedlings do not like to be disturbed, so for that reason the seeds are planted individually, one per 3-4-inch pot.

Keep the pots outside and water as needed.

During the growing season the plants could put on up to seven inches of growth, and by fall, could use a new, bigger pot. Transplant carefully, allowing the plant to grow for another season before finally planting in its permanent location.

American Holly can thrive in varying exposures from sun to shade. It is tolerant of heat and cold, but prefers somewhat acid soil and most soils other than clay.

This is a fun experiment that may encourage you to try your hand at germinating the seeds of other native trees or shrubs. Similar instructions apply!

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.



3 EASY WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE TODAY

Current recipients of our weekly paper, receive town news, updates, local stories and articles of interest throughout the hilltowns.

GREAT GIFT IDEA!

- Each week you'll receive**
- TOWN HALL NEWS
 - BUSINESS HAPPENINGS
 - AREA EVENTS
 - COMMUNITY STORIES
 - SCHOOL COVERAGE
 - CLASSIFIEDS
 - & MORE!

3 WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE

1 Use our website to securely subscribe online at **COUNTRYJOURNAL.TURLEY.COM**

2 **1-413-283-8393**

CALL US

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER!

Yes! I want to subscribe to the Country Journal!

New Renewal Gift A GIFT CARD WILL BE SENT TO ANNOUNCE YOUR GIFT!

Name _____

Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Credit Card #: _____

Exp. Date: _____ CW2 code: _____

Signature: _____

CHECK ENCLOSED CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD

GIFT TO:

Name _____

Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

3 Please complete the form below, and mail it in a secure envelope to:

Country Journal
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069

CJ21TMC

BLANDFORD



Blandford Country Store and Bistro – Jaxon Stafford places a hat on the “Giving Tree” for other children in the Hillside Communities, located at the Blandford Country Store and Bistro, 98 Main St., Blandford. *Submitted photo*

Giving tree donations accepted

BLANDFORD – In partnership with the Hilltown Community Health Center Holiday Help Program, the Blandford Country Store and Bistro, 98 Main St., hosts “giving opportunities” for families in need during this holiday season.

Donations for the mitten tree of gloves, mittens, hats or scarves for children will be accepted through Saturday, Dec. 23. Donations for holiday food baskets are also being collected. Items may

include can or boxed foods, flour, sugar, dried milk, etc. for families in need.

In appreciation to every individual who donates, the Blandford Country Store and Bistro will give a free cup of coffee or hot chocolate. People may drop off donations at the Country Store and Bistro Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. or Sunday from 7 a.m.-1 p.m. People may call Jen Girard at the Blandford Country Store at 413-848-2800.

Blandford events announced

BLANDFORD – People may see displays and information on the 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party at the Historical Society.

Blandford’s resident and then town official Samuel Sloper went to Boston for the event. The Historical Society Boston Tea Party open house will be 8:30 to noon this Saturday, Dec. 16 from 8:30 a.m.-noon. Historical Society President Chips Norcross said, “No tea

will be served,” but there will be refreshments.

The Porter Memorial Library Book Club will meet at 11 a.m. to discuss The Reading List by Sara Nisha Adams. Refreshments will be served.

Saturday evening, Dec. 16 at 6:30 p.m., the First Congregational Church of Blandford presents a Christmas Concert. Pastor Ciprian Droma will sing accompanied by pianist, Brent Chadwick.

CANDIDATES

from page 1

the power line.

When adjacent property owner Lloyd Martin asked to see permission, he was, he told the Select Board at Monday night’s, Dec. 11 meeting, “threatened.” And apparently the threats have been repeated.

The Select Board directed Martin to contact Environmental Police as well as the Chester/Blandford Police.

Highway Department

Highway Department Superintendent David Waldron told selectmen that Monday’s snow squall did not create any issues. He reported that James Start has resigned from the Highway Department to work for Huntington. Chair Cara Letendre said she had had a conversation with Start and learned that “Huntington is out-paying us.”

Contract negotiations between the Town and Highway Department are due to begin soon.

Highway Department employee Ray Hultay was at the meeting and Letendre asked him about pay and Hultay responded that “the Town could pay better.” He also suggested that the town could work out something better.

Waldron told the board that highway vehicles have a difficult time seeing oncoming traffic when pulling out of the salt shed area on Chester Road. Some of the trees will have to be cut back, Waldron proposed, to improve the line of sight. Letendre said she thought there might be some funding available to do this.

Waldron said he had met with

Department, according to Waldron, will begin repair work on the Russell Stage Road leak this week.

Board member Theodore Cousineau told Waldron that he had reached out to the parties involved with the flooding on Beulah Land Road and suggested that the two get together and figure out a way to resolve the problem. The problem is the flooding of Beulah Land Road caused by issues on private property, and the town cannot help in this instance. “We have to protect the road,” said Cousineau, adding that “the beavers are the problem.”

Interim Town Administrator

Interim Town Administrator Ira Brezinsky told the board of the upcoming interviews later in the meeting.

Quotes are required for the electrical work involved for the generator.

He suggested holding off signing the insurance contract because there may be other potential credits. The valuation put on the former town hall building increased from \$594,000 to \$850,000 and that increase Letendre said “seems excessive.” The item was tabled until the next meeting.

Animal Control vehicle

Under unfinished business, the board continued discussion on the Animal Control vehicle.

Chester would be willing to share the vehicle. Letendre said the next step is to have someone look at the vehicle to see if it’s worth keeping. It may possibly end up in Chester.

Other Business

In other business, the board received a letter of appreciation for the work done by the Allen family to clean up Bicentennial Park. The board noted that there is a new bench there, as well, but the donor has not come forward. The bench is much appreciated and will be stored in the Watson Park barn until next spring.

The Water

WE CARRY A WIDE VARIETY OF FROZEN TURKEYS, TURKEY BREAST, DUCKS, GEESE, CORNISH HENS AS WELL AS FRESH HAMS & RED MEAT ROAST FOR YOUR HOLIDAY NEEDS!

HOLIDAY FAVORITES	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN RIBEYE FOR STANDING ROAST CUT FREE \$8.88 lb WHOLE OR HALF	USDA INSP. FRESH HOTEL TURKEY BREAST..... \$1.99 lb USDA INSP. FROZEN WHOLE TURKEYS 99¢ lb USDA INSP. FROZEN CAPONS..... \$5.99 lb
HOLIDAY HAMS	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TENDERLOIN CUT FREE \$9.89 lb	HOLIDAY APPETIZERS
USDA INSP. FRESH PORK CROWN ROAST... \$3.99 lb USDA INSP. FRESH STORE MADE HOLIDAY ROAST BONELESS PORK LOIN STUFFED WITH HAM, CHEESE, PEPPERS, OLIVES, SPICES \$4.49 lb USDA INSP. FROZEN PORK SHOULDER PICNIC \$1.44 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SIRLOIN SPOON ROAST \$5.99 lb USDA INSP. FRESH AMERICAN LAMB LEGS \$3.99 lb USDA INSP. FRESH IMPORTED LAMB RACKS \$15.99 lb	USDA INSP. CHICOPEE PROVISIONS BLUE SEAL KIELBASA \$4.99 lb USDA INSP. STORE MADE ALL VARIETIES FAMILY PAK ITALIAN SAUSAGE..... \$1.99 lb USDA INSP. FULLY COOKED MEATBALLS 5 LB..... \$12.99 ea USDA INSP. ASSORTED VARIETIES ALI MAGS SPRING ROLLS.. \$4.99 ea USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN U PICK COOKED SHRIMP \$11.99 ea 21/25, 26/30, 31/40 CT, 2 LB BAG

90 Meat Outlet
GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE

90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com
 We reserve the right to limit quantities.
 BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

CENTER STREET AUTO PARTS OF CHICOPEE, INC.

We will pay you top dollar for your car AND we will pick it up! Call us for a price!

- Top-Of-The-Line Auto Salvaging Services
- First-Rate Used Auto Parts
- Top-Grade Auto Body Parts
- Sell Your Old or Used Car to Us

“Serving all of Western Mass.”

centerstreetautoparts.com
 651 Center St., Chicopee 413-733-2778

\$\$\$ Money on the Spot for All Vehicles

BLANDFORD



Library Director Nicole Daviau reads William Bee's "And the Train Goes" as from left, Oona Sloane, Katie Farrell with Lucas and Logan Farrell listen.



Edwin Sloane watches as Oona Sloane displays the tiny toy train she has successfully extracted from Albert's jaws.

BOOK SQUIRMS LEARN ABOUT TRAINS

BLANDFORD – Book Squirms meet every Tuesday at 4 p.m. and Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. at the Porter Memorial Library.

This week Library Director Nicole Daviau read William Bee's "And the Train Goes." Albert the Alligator's throat was filled with little letters and small train replicas, which the young patrons had fun retrieving.



Oona Sloane tries to retrieve something from Albert. *Turley photos by Mary Kronholm*



Edwin Sloane, from left, Oona Sloane and Brianna Sloane listen to the story.



Hawthorne, from left, and Edwin Sloane work on a jigsaw puzzle.

Acres of Beautiful Live Christmas Trees

MOSS HILL TREE FARM
Since 1956
The Mason Family

222 Upper Moss Hill Rd.
Russell, MA 01071
413-862-3815
Find us on Facebook at Moss Hill Tree Farm

Open Dawn to Dark until Christmas

SELECT & CUT-YOUR-OWN
Live Spruces • Frazier • Concolor Firs
\$40 - \$75 All Sizes up to 20 feet
On Weekends We Offer **FREE:**
Warming Fires * Helpers * Loaner Saws * Evergreen Boughs

BRING IN THIS AD FOR 10% OFF * Cash or Check Only

health & wellness NETWORK

NEW FORMAT MAGAZINE SIZE

AN ANNUAL SOURCE OF Local Health Professionals
TO BE DISTRIBUTED IN 12 TURLEY NEWSPAPERS

THE REGISTER • COUNTRY JOURNAL
THE CHICOPEE REGISTER
THE JOURNAL REGISTER
WARE RIVER NEWS • BARRE GAZETTE
THE BELCHERTOWN SENTINEL
WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES
AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS
THE SUN • TOWN REMINDER
QUABOAG CURRENT

DEADLINE January 31, 2024
PUBLICATION DATE February 21, 2024

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO
Turley Publications, Inc.
WWW.TURLEY.COM

CALL TODAY TO ADVERTISE 413.283.8393

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

Turley Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
413-283-8393

happy new year!

WORTHINGTON

Whiting Street Fund available to help Worthington residents

WORTHINGTON – The Whiting Street Fund Committee would like to remind Worthington residents about the availability of the Whiting Street Fund.

The fund exists for the sole purpose of providing financial assistance to Worthington residents, who are experiencing short-term financial needs. The fund helps individuals and families with expenses that directly affect their well-being.

In the past assistance has been provided for medical expenses, car repairs, fuel bills and other important needs. Any Worthington resident can apply for financial assistance by contacting a member of the Whiting Street Fund board. The board confidently reviews all applications and if approved, arranges for bills to be paid

with resources from the fund.

For more information or to apply for assistance, either email the board at WhitingStreet@worthington-ma.us or call any member: Bruce Barshefsky at 413-563-8888, Diane Meehan at 413-238-0001 or Cath Whitcomb at 413-238-5968.

Whiting Street, a thrifty 19th center shipping agent, willed trust funds to 22 western Massachusetts communities to be used for the relief and comfort of resident in need. Mr. Street's Last Will and Testament granted Worthington \$3,000. For over 135 years prudent distribution of the interest from this bequest and from other donations to the fund has benefitted many individual and families in our town, who were temporarily in need of some financial assistance.

NORTHAMPTON

Cancer Connection Thrift Shop marks ten year anniversary

NORTHAMPTON – On Dec. 10, Cancer Connection's Thrift Shop, 375 South St., marked a decade since it opened.

The Thrift Shop offers a variety of high-quality, gently-used and sometimes brand-new clothing, jewelry, home goods, books and more. It is a wildly-successful business that is 100% for charity, every dollar spent at the Thrift Shop goes directly to fund Cancer Connection's programs for cancer patients and their loved ones, all offered free of charge.

Led by manager Christine Quinn and assistant manager Chris Rodriguez, with another full-time and two part-time staff members and fifty regular volunteers many of whom have been with the store for years, the Thrift Shop is endlessly popular and busy.

Quinn estimates that the store receives an average of 3-5 boxes of donations every 3-5 minutes, with hundreds of customers shopping each day and in tough economic times, the store is more in-demand than ever. With so much going on behind the scenes and in the store at all times, Quinn laughingly compared a typical day to the iconic "I

Love Lucy" candy factory episode.

"We like a really busy, fun atmosphere that attracts a variety of people," Quinn said. In fact, as proud as they are to reach their tenth birthday, Quinn noted "There isn't even time or room to celebrate. We're too busy."

Making this magic happens takes many hands, and Quinn credits the family feeling of the Cancer Connection Thrift Shop team, likening all the many helpers to the facets of a jewel: "Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers, staff, donors and customers. You make a difference."

The Thrift Shop is open for shopping Tuesday-Saturday from 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. People may visit the website for donation days and hours at <https://www.cancer-connection.org/thrift-shop>

Cancer Connection is the only cancer support center in Hampshire and Franklin Counties and draws additional participants from Hampden County and beyond. All of Cancer Connection's services are provided free of charge.

Cancer Connection is located at 41 Locust St. People may call 413-586-1642, visit www.cancer-connection.org or email info@cancer-connection.org.

GREAT BARRINGTON

Jazz Ensemble to perform

GREAT BARRINGTON – Simon's Rock, 84 Alford Road, will present its Jazz Ensemble Winter Concert on Friday, Dec. 15 at 8 p.m. in the McConnell Theater at the Daniel Arts Center on campus.

Conducted by faculty member, John Myers, the concert will include new arrangements of pieces by Wes

Montgomery, Django Reinhardt, Antonio Carlos Jobim and others, including John Myers' original "Blues for Socrates." Along with the talented student players, the concert will also include faculty guest artist, Allan Dean on trumpet and emeritus faculty guest artist, Bill Dunbar on vocals. This event is free and open to the public.

CHESTERFIELD

CCC to hold Christmas bake sale

CHESTERFIELD – The Chesterfield Congregational Church, located in the center on Route 143, will be having its third annual Christmas bake sale on Saturday, Dec. 23 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and on Sunday, Dec. 24 from 1-4 p.m.

There will be a huge array of items including fancy cakes, pies, coffee cakes, cookie platters of various sizes and assortments, breads including sour-dough loaves, English muffin and various quick breads, whoopie pies including chocolate

with peppermint filling and chocolate chip with fudge filling, regular and gluten-free cookie boxes, fruit, vegetable and Outlook Farm sausage casseroles, white chocolate bark, blond brownies and chocolate surprise center brownies, individual ginger bread/cranberry and chocolate/strawberry trifle cups and many other items.

This will be a great chance to get all the holiday baked items by coming early to the bake sale. All proceeds will benefit the church.

EASTHAMPTON

bankESB recently promotes Tiffany Raines to vice president

EASTHAMPTON – bankESB recently promoted Tiffany Raines to vice president, retail administration.

Raines of Belchertown, joined bankESB in 2018 as assistant vice president, branch officer of the Holyoke branch and was promoted to vice president, branch officer in 2021. She has nearly 25 years of banking experience, including her previous roles as assistant vice president and banking center manager at PeoplesBank in West Springfield and Amherst.

To her new role, Raines brings extensive management and supervisory experience, with a focus on forging new customer relationships, customer service, training and compliance. In this role, she will serve as the liaison between the bank's branch network and as other



Tiffany Raines

departments across bankESB and its parent company, Hometown Financial Group, in order to foster communication, develop organizational awareness and achieve operational excellence.

She will also be responsible for managing the bank's suite of deposit products. Raines currently serves on the board of The Care Center of Holyoke.

Founded in 1869 as Easthampton Savings Bank, bankESB is headquartered in Easthampton and operates 11 branches throughout Western Massachusetts. Through its sponsorship and charitable giving program, The Giving Tree, bankESB and the Easthampton Savings Bank Charitable Foundation support non-profit organizations and causes throughout Hampden and Hampshire counties.

FLORENCE

Florence Bank partners with UMass Sports to 'Ice Out Hunger'

FLORENCE – Florence Bank partnered with UMass Sports Properties and the University of Massachusetts Hockey team to Ice Out Hunger in the Valley and through this innovative new program, the bank will provide \$9,500 in \$500 grants to each of 19 food pantries across the region.

A different food pantry will be highlighted during the first intermission at each Massachusetts home game and a lucky fan will be chosen to ride on the Mullins Center's Zamboni, which has been wrapped with Florence Bank's branding. Riders are selected randomly after submitting an entry form by visiting umassathletics.com/Ride.

Each of the following food pantries will receive \$500: Amherst Survival Center, Easthampton Community Center, Friends of Hampshire County Homeless Individuals, The Parish Cupboard in West Springfield, Northampton Survival Center, Easthampton Congregational Church, Not Bread Alone soup kitchen in Amherst, Gray House in Springfield, Margaret's Pantry at Providence Ministries in Holyoke, Helping Hands Cupboard Food Pantry in Belchertown, Neighbors

Helping Neighbors in South Hadley, Chesterfield Community Food Cupboard, Lorraine's Soup Kitchen in Chicopee, Most Holy Redeemer Church in Hadley, Southampton Community Cupboard, Springfield Rescue Mission, Center for Self Reliance in Greenfield, Manna Soup Kitchen in Northampton and Open Pantry Community Services in Springfield.

Andrew Stuebner, general manager for UMass Sports Properties, the multi-media rights holder for Massachusetts Athletics, said the partnership with Florence Bank has been developed over the past few years with Jim Hickey, the bank's senior vice president / marketing director.

"In exploring high-impact ways to complement Florence Bank's key objectives of building relationships with local organizations and supporting the communities the bank serves, the concept came to light thanks in large part to Jim," Stuebner said, adding that the Rider of the Game and Ice Out Hunger themes evolved to ensure a philanthropic component. "It's a win-win promotion, providing lifelong memories for lucky fans while supporting

those in need."

Matt Garrity, the president and CEO of Florence Bank, said, "Pantry leaders have told us that the funds we are providing will cover the cost of tens of thousands of meals for people in need in the Valley. The success of the Massachusetts Hockey program provides us with a unique way to communicate the issue of food insecurity to folks in the Pioneer Valley. We're pleased to partner with UMass to help Ice Out Hunger in the Valley."

In October, Robin Bialecki, executive director of the Easthampton Community Center, attended a home game with her husband, daughter and son-in-law as the nonprofit sponsored by that game. She accepted the \$500 check out on the ice at intermission, and said the funds will cover the cost of over 1,000 meals.

Easthampton Community Center currently offers support to 3,712 families and serves almost 10,000 people every month. The nonprofit serves 58 towns in Western Massachusetts, offering gluten-free meals and allergy-free meals; many people served are referred from doctors' offices

in Western Mass, Bialecki said.

Mary Lou Guarnera, executive director of Neighbors Helping Neighbors in South Hadley, will attend the Jan. 5, 2024, Minutemen hockey game to enjoy the action on the ice and accept the \$500 grant that will help her organization carry out its mission to feed people in need, improve community health and advocate about food insecurity and nutrition. Each granted dollar will pay for three meals, she said.

The Massachusetts Minutemen Hockey season is in full swing with the team currently ranked number 11 in the country and playing what Stuebner calls "a high-energy brand of hockey." The game schedule can be found by visiting umassathletics.com/sports/mens-ice-hockey/schedule.

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

WILLIAMSBURG

4-H CATTLE CLUB

from page 1

floor scrapers that scrap up the barn floor so they don't have to do it by hand.

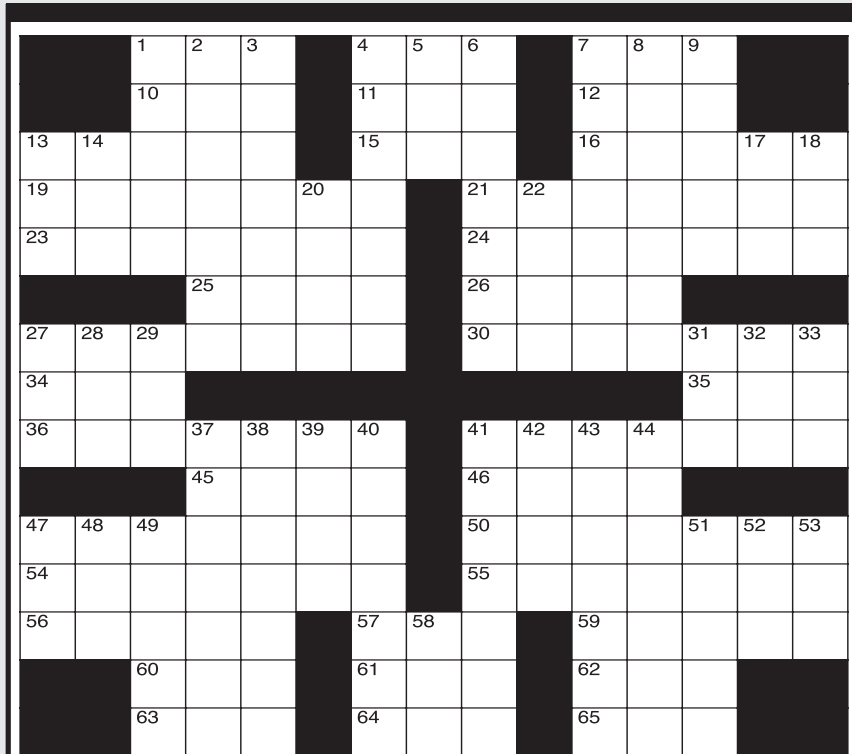
They also have one Juno food pusher that keeps all of the feed for the cows close by. At Bree-Z- Knoll farm their

milk goes into the "Our Family Farm" milk bottles. They also have a unique design where they take a special cow from the herd and model a label for their bottle. The group were able to meet Grinch, the cow who is on the

eggnog bottle. They learned about the robotics behind the farm and loved the experience.

As the holiday season starts back up, the Hampshire County 4-H Cattle Club is decorating a tree for the Fourth

Annual Christmas in Williamsburg. They will decorate their tree with 4-H facts, the club members' names and some other decorations. People may see their tree at the Williamsburg Grange on Sunday, Dec. 17 from 4-5:30 p.m.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Mimic
- 4. Payroll firm
- 7. Perform in a play
- 10. Opine: ___ philosophical
- 11. Crony
- 12. Political action committee
- 13. 1991 Wimbledon winner
- 15. Affirmative
- 16. Exclamation of disgust
- 19. Action of connecting
- 21. A way to calm
- 23. Especially fine or decorative clothing
- 24. Walked proudly
- 25. Group of people related through male heir
- 26. Supplemented with difficulty
- 27. Soft touch
- 30. Erases

- 34. Spanish river
- 35. A princess can detect it
- 36. Clouds of gas
- 41. A way to get through
- 45. Part of a book
- 46. Southwestern US state
- 47. Fields where rice is grown
- 50. Area in Ghana
- 54. Sayings
- 55. Involve deeply
- 56. Compels to act
- 57. "Ignore all rules"
- 59. Indoor entertainment space
- 60. Born of
- 61. Back muscle
- 62. Sea dweller
- 63. Tools that resemble an axe
- 64. Prefix denoting class or kind
- 65. Tooth caregiver

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Inspiring (abbr.)
- 2. Put into a box
- 3. Breathes out
- 4. Pacify
- 5. Patriotic society for women
- 6. Fell down
- 7. Clothing
- 8. Dishwasher detergent brand
- 9. Former French republic
- 13. Single lens reflex
- 14. Men's fashion accessory
- 17. Consumed
- 18. Marry
- 20. ___ up: intensifies
- 22. Body of water
- 27. People of southern Benin
- 28. Decorate a cake with frosting
- 29. Snag
- 31. Yearly tonnage
- 32. Records brain activity (abbr.)
- 33. Car mechanics group
- 37. Brought up to snuff
- 38. ___ faire: Economic approach
- 39. Phil ___, former CIA
- 40. Affixed
- 41. Period of adolescence
- 42. Substance
- 43. Danced
- 44. Baked without its shell
- 47. Parts per billion (abbr.)
- 48. Satisfaction
- 49. Balkans river
- 51. Christmas carols
- 52. Partner to tonic
- 53. "The Godfather" character Johnny
- 58. Swiss river

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20
Take it easy. You may need to coast for a little bit rather than racing that car around every turn. Enjoy all the simple things you can do and cherish the memories.

CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22
Others may tell you to get your head out of the clouds, but you can leave it right there. It pays to dream a little because you never know when great ideas will come to you.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23
Motivations may be running low right now regarding improving your health, Libra. You can start thinking of strategies to put into effect for New Year's resolutions.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, a conversation with a neighbor or colleague can begin on a casual note and then grow into something much more profound. Always keep your eyes open to possibilities.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21
If you cannot be yourself with your friends, then with whom? Let down your defenses and do what you want this week, especially if you are celebrating at a social event. No one will be judging.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23
Put your emotions first. Rather than thinking with your head, you need to think with your heart. You have to trust your gut and make decisions based on intuition right now.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22
Try to keep your feet firmly planted on the ground this week, Scorpio. Various distractions are trying to knock you off course, but you don't have time for that now.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18
There are more ways to increase your income without having to resort to backbreaking work. Look around to explore the possibilities that might be out there.

GEMINI

May 22/June 21
Devote some time to planning your vision of the future, rather than just focusing on the work in front of you. It is wise to be planning months ahead to set yourself up for success.

VIRGO

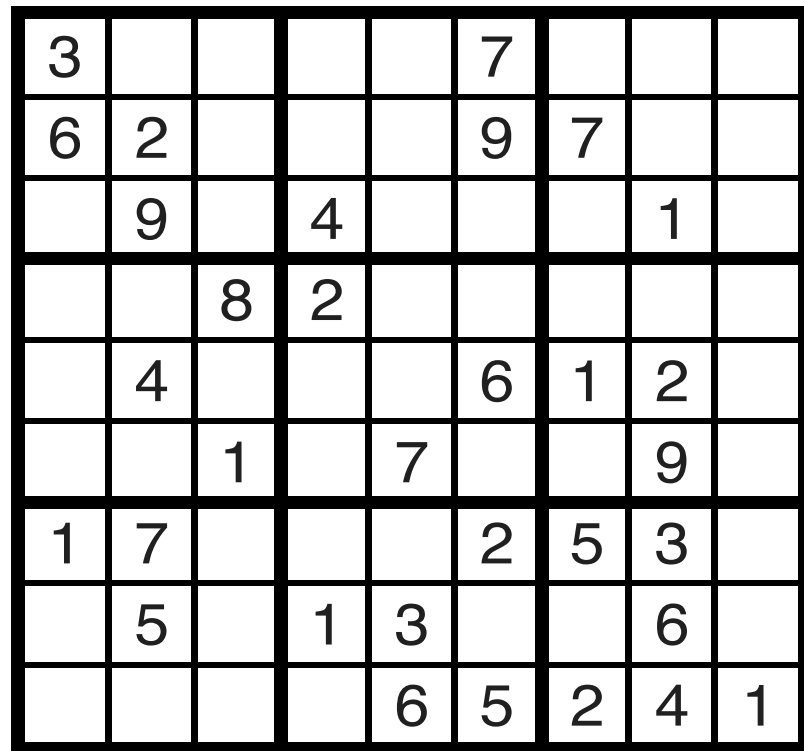
Aug 24/Sept 22
Empathy will come very easily to you, when you can easily put yourself in someone else's shoes and know just what they are feeling. Continue to support your friends.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21
You need to put family first right now, Sagittarius. Every other thing that is in your orbit should take a back seat to familial obligations and the needs of loved ones.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, rather than trying to fit in this week, march to the beat of your own drummer. You'll soon find a squad who thinks similarly to you. Then you can enjoy longlasting friendship.



SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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!

answers

WESTFIELD AUTO PARTS INC

AUTO PARTS & SUPPLIES

NATIONALLY ADVERTISED MERCHANDISE FOR ALL MAKES & MODELS

WHOLESALE RETAIL

★ Complete Auto Machine Shop Service ★ Engine Rebuilding Of All Kinds
★ Authorized Caterpillar Hydraulic Hose Dealer ★ Hydraulic Hoses

Call "DALE" 8-12 BIRGE AVE., WESTFIELD

Dial 568-8944 or 568-1611 FAX # 568-1554

Now stocking Car Quest Filters made by WIX, Amalie Oil, Bailing Twine & Tractor Parts

OTIS

Library lists upcoming events

OTIS – The Otis Library Story Walk is “The Tale of the Unwelcome Guest” by Rebecca Sheir. The story will remain up now through Wednesday, Jan. 3. The walk is located on the Farmington River Trail located behind St. Mary’s of the Lakes Church. Lego Club meets Saturday, Dec. 18 at 1 p.m. in the library, located at 48 North Main Road.

MIDDLEFIELD

Laurel to hold coffee and chat

MIDDLEFIELD – Tamarin Laurel, the newest Select Board member, will be available at the Middlefield Library on Saturday Dec 16 from 9:30-10 a.m. for constituent questions or input. December times and dates for the recurring coffee hour will be unusual with Dec 16 earlier and shortened to allow people to attend the Planning Board’s Hearing at 10 a.m. The next coffee hour will be Saturday, Dec 30 for the normal time from 10-11 a.m. In January, these coffee hours will continue, on the second and fourth Saturdays from 10-11 a.m.

Events at Blossom Community Center

MIDDLEFIELD – Third Friday Crafts meet on Friday, Dec 15 at 5:30 p.m. in the Blossom Community Center, 10 Bell Road. The third Monday potluck dinner will be held Monday, Dec. 18 at 5:30 p.m. In addition, Middlefield Community Service Group will meet on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 11:30 a.m. to assemble holiday gift boxes for isolated neighbors, new neighbors and new baby arrivals. This continues and expands the tradition begun by the Middlefield Grange decades ago.

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

HCC recognizes fall graduates

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College recognizes the following students, who will complete their requirements for graduation at the end of the fall 2023 semester. Local graduates are Liliana Manley of Chesterfield, Reagan Katherine Broadhurst of Easthampton, Charles Karpells of Easthampton, Selma Shea of Easthampton, Samuel Spencer Bridgman of Florence, Alexander Joseph Colson of Florence, Jonas Michael Shea of Florence, Dylan Douglass Nicolle of Huntington, Leah May Wilson of Huntington, Joshua King of Lenox, Jacob Kris of Northampton, Star Dryad Lunaris of Northampton, Jalyn Amelia Morin of Northampton, Jozelyn Chandara Ne of Northampton, Sonia Quizhpi Caguana of Pittsfield, Benjamin Kenneth Adams of Southampton, Colin Avery Bush of Southampton, Colin Francis Henrichon of Southampton Emily Margret Pawlikowski of Southampton, Emily Yan of Southampton, Kristen Booker of Westfield, Alicia Carolina Booth of Westfield, Jamie Renee Collier of Westfield, Lindsey Kristine Dion of Westfield, Timothy Michael Forrett of Westfield, Angelica Gavrilov of Westfield, Caitlyn Gomez of Westfield, Khristina Kukharchuk of Westfield, Adareasheia Rose Pinsky of Westfield, Christian Vera-Salazar of Westfield, Cy Lucien Francis of Westhampton, Alivia Kathleen Brisson of Williamsburg, Kelsey Ann Henshaw of Williamsburg and Jessica Lannon Liimatainen of Williamsburg.

Sico graduates from Univ. of Georgia

ATHENS, GA – Sierra Dawn Sico of Chester is a candidate for graduation in the University of Georgia’s Class of 2023, who will be celebrated during Commencement exercises this week. Sico, is a candidate for a Master’s in Natural Resources. The fall undergraduate ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 15 at 10 a.m. while the fall graduate ceremony will take place Friday, Dec. 15 at 2 p.m. Both ceremonies will take place in Stegeman Coliseum.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
 Hampden Probate and Family Court
 50 State Street
 Springfield, MA 01103
 (413)748-7758
 Docket No. HD23P2480EA
 Estate of:
Timothy Bliven
 Date of Death: 09/12/2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
 To all interested persons:
 A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Jerri-Lynn Bliven of Montgomery, 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: **Jerri-Lynn Bliven of Montgomery, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without 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 01/04/2024.
 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. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: December 06, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 12/14/2023

MORTGAGEE’S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE
 By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Robert T. Briand and Maura A. Gamache to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Full Spectrum Lending, Inc., its successors and assigns, dated February 11, 2004 and recorded with the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds at Book 7694, Page 45, subsequently assigned to The Bank of New York Mellon FKA The Bank of New York, as Trustee for the benefit of the Certificateholders of the CWABS Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2004-3 by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. by assignment recorded in said Hampshire County Registry of Deeds at Book 10905, Page 217 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at **11:00 AM on December 28, 2023** at 40 Littleville Road, Huntington, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:
 That parcel of land located on the Southwesterly side of the highway from Norwich Bridge to Littleville sometimes called the North

Chester Road, in said Huntington, bounded and described as follows:
 Beginning in an iron pin set in the Southwesterly line of said highway at the Southeasterly corner of the track herein conveyed, it being the Northeasterly corner on said highway of land now or formerly of Guy A. Fist Estate,
 thence running Southwesterly along land of said Estate of Guy A. Fist, two hundred thirty-eight feet, four inches, more or less, to an iron pin at a corner;
 thence running Northwesterly along land of said Estate of Guy A. Fist, two hundred forty-eight, five inches, more or less, to an iron pin at a corner;
 thence running Northeasterly along said land of the Estate of Guy A. Fist, ninety-seven feet, six inches, more or less, to an iron pin at a corner,
 thence running Northeasterly one hundred thirty-eight feet, three inches, more or less, along other land of this grantor, Elsie M. LaFond, in a straight line, to an iron pin located on said Southwesterly side of the highway, Northwesterly of the point of beginning;
 thence running Southeasterly along the line of said highway, three hundred eighty-nine feet, four

inches, more or less, to the point of beginning.
 Subject to easement to New England Telephone & Telegraph Company dated July 19, 1937 and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 926, Page 139 if applicable. For our Title see Deed of Robert T. Briand to Robert T. Briand and Maura A. Gamache dated June 1, 2001, recorded on June 1, 2001 at Hampshire Registry of Deeds, Book 6231, Page 69. The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney’s fees and costs.
TERMS OF SALE:
 A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer’s check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check,

bank treasurer’s check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee’s attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee’s attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.
TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.
Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
 The Bank of New York Mellon FKA The Bank of New York, as Trustee for the benefit of the Certificateholders of the CWABS Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2004-3
 Present Holder of said Mortgage,
 By Its Attorneys,
 ORLANS PC
 PO Box 540540
 Waltham, MA 02454
 Phone: (781) 790-7800
 22-004385
 12/07, 12/14, 12/21/2023

Early Deadlines

for all LEGAL NOTICES...

All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 21 at Noon for Publication Dec. 25-29

Happy Holidays!

Happy New Year!

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

Country Journal

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts’ public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY. EXTRAORDINARY performance. Central Boiler certified Classic Edge Titanium HDX OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE. Call today **413-296-4320**.

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD
Fresh cut & split \$200.00
Seasoned cut & split \$300.00
All hardwood.
Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products **(413)477-0083**

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. 26% Tax Credit. Call **(508)882-0178**

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY

ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer-cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising signs, hunting, fishing, signs, and more Donald Roy **(860) 874-8396**

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

QUABBIN & SUBURBAN FRIDAY AT NOON
HILLTOWNS MONDAY AT NOON

WANTED

SERVICES WANTED

NEED SNOW REMOVAL (PLOWING)

Need snow removal service for our 150 ft. long by 12 ft. across driveway, located off Ball Rd., Goshen. Must be reliable. Pays well, Call or text: **413-341-0502**.

SERVICES

JUNK REMOVAL

A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL
Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
We load it & take it.
413-531-1936
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED



2***A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE*******
Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. **(413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868**.

A DUMP TRUCK
Cleaning out attics, cellars, garages, estate cleanouts, scrap metal removal. **413-569-1611 or 413-374-5377**.

BILODEAU AND SON ROOFING.
Established 1976. New re-roofs and repairs. Gutter cleanings and repairs. Licensed/ insured. Call **(413)967-6679**

SERVICES

CHAIR SEAT WEAVING & refinishing - cane, fiber rush & splint - Classroom instructor, 20+ years experience. Call Walt at **(413)289-6670** for estimate.

DRYWALL AND CEILINGS, plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. **(413)563-0487**

HOME IMPROVEMENT

HOME IMPROVEMENTS. RE-MODELING Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. **(413)246-2783** Ron.

HOME REPAIR & REMODELING for all your interior & exterior needs. Carpentry, woodworking, porches, patios, windows, doors, painting, drywall, siding, landscaping, clean-outs. Competitive pricing. References. Please call Brendan **(413)687-5552**

MASONRY

STOP WET BASEMENTS

ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call **(413)569-1611, (413)374-5377**

SERVICES

PAINTING

DUTCH TOUCH PAINTING
Interior only \$199.00 for average 12x16 room. Very neat, references, prompt service call **(508)867-2550**

FORBES & SONS PAINTING & STAINING Interior, residential, commercial and new construction, wallpaper removal, sheetrock and plaster repairs. Quality products. Since 1985. Free estimates. Fully Insured. Call Brad Forbes at **413-887-1987**.

PLUMBING

GREG LAFONTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg **(413)592-1505**

RUBBISH REMOVAL

BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 **(413)537-5090**

TREE WORK

DL & G TREE SERVICE - Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate **(413)478-4212**

SERVICES

TUNE-UPS

SNOWBLOWER & LAWNMOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR
A & M TUNE-UPS
Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers and Small Engine Repair.
Work done at your home.
Call Mike **(413) 348-7967**

STUMP GRINDING

DL & G STUMP GRINDING Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave **413-478-4212**



SAW Stump Grinding
Call for a Free Estimate,
Veteran Owned, Fully Insured
413-213-5470

HELP WANTED

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS WANTED Prefer local person. Will train. Lizak Bus' Warren, MA **(413)436-5262**

Read your local newspaper online at www.newspapers.turley.com

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON HIGHWAY POSITION OPENING

The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest from qualified candidates for the full-time position of **Equipment Operator/General Laborer** in the Town Highway Department. Valid MA CDL operator, Hydraulic Hoister's licenses and OSHA-10 certification is preferred.

Further information can be found on the Town's website: www.worthington-ma.us
Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday - Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; the telephone number is 413-238-5830.

Send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: worthington-highway@gmail.com or to Worthington Highway Department, P. O. Box 643, Worthington, MA. This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled.

The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

AUTO

CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS

FREE TOWING FAST SERVICE CASH PAID AS IS CALL OR TEXT 413-219-6839

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

FOR RENT



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

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

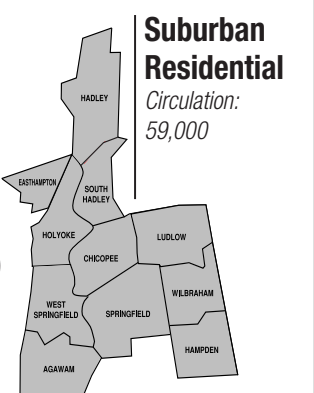
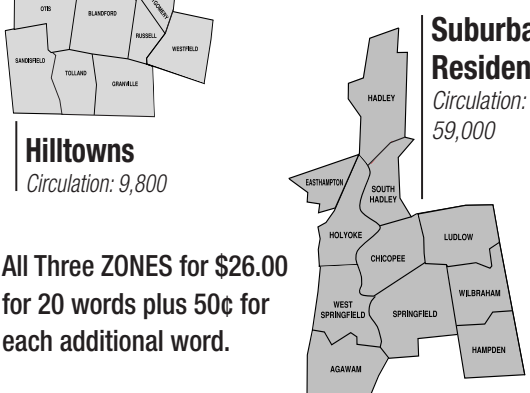
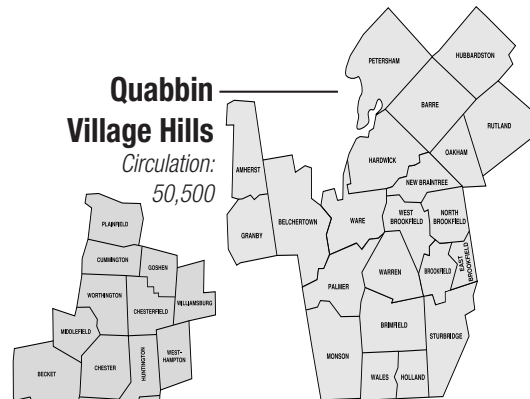
Post your job openings in our classifieds. WE GET RESULTS!

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or call: 413-283-8393

DEADLINES: **MONDAY AT NOON**

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00
23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00
27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
37	Base Price \$34.50	38	Base Price \$35.00
39	Base Price \$35.50	40	Base Price \$36.00



All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



The Hilltown Hikers did not have a float this year. Instead, they walked in the Russell parade lighting the way with their ugly sweaters and glowing attire.



This is a close up of one of the Hilltown Hikers with her dog, who goes on many of the hikes.



The Chester Fire Department's vintage truck was decorated for the parade. *Submitted photos*

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 2024 Career & Education edition publishes **the week of January 10th-12th**
Space reservation deadline is January 3rd.

Turley Publications, Inc.
 is offering a great resource for the communities it serves by showcasing the career & education opportunities available locally.

PRICES AND SPECS:
 All ads are black and white.

1/8 page (4 3/4" across x 4" down)	\$295 total
1/4 page (vertical- 4 3/4" across x 8" down) or (horizontal 9 3/4" across x 4" down)	\$595 total
1/2 page (horizontal- 9 3/4" across x 8" down) or (vertical- 4 3/4" across x 16" down)	\$975 total
Full page (9 3/4" across x 16" down)	\$1,800 total

CALL TODAY TO ADVERTISE
413.283.8393

Hilltown Hikers participate in Russell Parade of Lights

RUSSELL – The Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers didn't have a float this year so they walked the route lit up in ugly sweaters and glow party attire.

The Hilltown Hikers, who participated, had a great time lighting up Main Street, Route 20.

The Town of Russell is the birthplace of the Hilltown Hikers.



This Jeep and truck, covered in lights, were parade participants.



The Montgomery Fire Department Tanker participated in the Russell parade.