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ARTS

Palmer COA Art Show



Turley photos by Marcelo Gusmao
 Kathryn Costa encouraged everyone to "Vanna White" for their artwork.

By Marcelo Gusmao
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PALMER – The Council On Aging hosted an art show last Friday, where artwork made over the last year of art classes was displayed and sold.

Held in the upper floor of the old Senior Center building, the gallery featured tables for each of the attendants to display their artwork, which were sold during the show. The small group of seven or eight painters come up with their own ideas and then paint them during

their classes. "We had a decent amount of people coming through," said Lisa Jacques, the Senior Center's Activities and Volunteer Coordinator. "In my book it was a success, and we hope to expand on it again next year. It was a little bit better than last year's, and we're always looking to improve."

Jacques said that there were a couple of people that bought the paintings made by the students, and at the end of the show, the painters generously donated the paintings

ART SHOW | page 8

COMMUNITY



Abby MacCurtain is shown smiling alongside dad Greg MacCurtain after her first time water skiing.

Athletes of all abilities

Annual adaptive water skiing event held at Hamilton Reservoir

By Dallas Gagnon
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HOLLAND – In a celebration of human potential and inclusion, the Webster Water Ski Collective,

Aqua Riders of Holland and Team Hoyt New England joined forces to support athletes of all abilities at an adaptive water skiing event.

The annual event, established by Webster Water Ski Collective, offered 26 athletes with various disabilities an opportunity to ski alongside volunteers from each organization on Hamilton Reservoir last Wednesday.

After viewing a Facebook post of last year's event, Team Hoyt

New England Secretary, Kathy Boyer said she reached out to Webster Water Ski Collective President, Ryan DesRoches to inquire about hosting this year's event in Holland.

According to Boyer, between 12-14 Team Hoyt athletes participated in the event.

"Traditionally, a lot of people with disabilities are not included [in sports] because people assume they can't do things...Well, we

know they can because it has been done," said Boyer.

Team Hoyt New England is a nonprofit organization with a mission to raise awareness of inclusion, educate, inspire and enrich the lives of individuals, families and communities by pairing athletes' with differing capabilities in endurance events.

Webster Water Ski Collective
 ATHLETES | page 7

FUNDRAISER

Rivest Memorial raises 10k in spite of rain

By Marcelo Gusmao
 Staff Writer
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MONSON – Despite torrential rain this weekend, a steady flow of town residents attended the Carol Rivest Memorial Fundraiser that was held at the Westview Creamery.

June 24 was the ninth annual fundraiser for the Carol Rivest Memorial Foundation that was started by Sheila Rivest in memory of her sister, which is dedicated to raising

awareness for domestic violence. Rivest attributes the ongoing success of her event to the volunteers and Board members that help her to coordinate it every year.

"We are so blessed with so many supporters who came out anyway," Rivest said. "They weathered the storm, they came in the morning, and we were happy to get a steady flow of people coming in."

The event started at noon

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Submitted Photos
 Performers are shown playing live music at the 9th annual Carol Rivest Memorial Foundation Benefit.

SENIORS

Seniors against scams

Spreading scam and fraud awareness to older adults

By Dallas Gagnon
 Staff Writer
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MONSON – When the Monson Council on Aging's cook stepped out for a few days, Police Lieutenant Nicholas Gasperini and Officer Mai Grover stepped in, serving more than just breakfast.

Seniors started their Tuesday morning with a plate of french toast



Turley Photos By Dallas Gagnon
 Monson Lieutenant Gasperini and Council on Aging Director Lori Stacy are shown in the kitchen after Gasperini cooked breakfast for the seniors.

and sausage, and ended it with a presentation on senior scamming awareness.

Gasperini reviewed a "Seniors Against Scams" packet created by the National Council on Aging to inform seniors of the top 10 scams targeting older adults, how to avoid them and how to protect their identity.

Gasperini said scammers often believe seniors own their own homes and "have disposable money," though he doesn't personally "know anybody with disposable money."

He added "once you get hit with one of these financial scams, it is very hard to recover from," - especially for those living on a fixed

SCAMS | page 5

LIBRARY



Turley photo by Marcelo Gusmao
 Sara Menard brought her daughters, Lily, age 8, Autumn, age 7, and Violet, age 4.

Mini-Golf kicks off Summer Reading Program

By Marcelo Gusmao
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PALMER – The library has made something of a tradition by kicking off its Summer Reading program with Mobile Mini-Golf.

"I've been doing this for like seven years, with the library here," said the company's owner, Joe Buckley, "we usually do it to kick off the Summer Reading."

Buckley said the company

LIBRARY | page 8



Palmer Public Library hosts summer scavenger hunt



Colleen Seymour, Riley Krasnecky, Stephanie Chichakly and Stacie Chichakly are shown smiling in front of a fish tank inside the Palmer Public Library.



Brooke Tousaint is shown holding a slinky she found during the scavenger hunt.



Colleen Seymour and Stacie Chichakly are shown reading in the children's library while relatives participate in the scavenger hunt.



Graydon and Jeremiah are sitting by the computers as Jeremiah prepares to play a game.



Shown are buckets set-up for children to vote on their favorite summer activity.



Ethan, Nolan, Julian and Tiffany Martinez are shown standing in front of the fish tank before participating in the scavenger hunt.

Palmer Public Library Summer kick-off

The Palmer Public Library is hosting a series of events for youth, adults and teens throughout the summer.

Below is a list of summer programs.

JULY

Wed., July 5

Birds of Prey 10:30 a.m., youth

Thurs., July 6

Paint and Popsicles 4 p.m., youth

Mon., July 10

Fic & Flick Book Club 3:30 p.m., youth

Tues., July 11

Soap Making 2 p.m., teen

Wed., July 12

Music Performance 10:30 a.m., youth

Thurs., July 13

Take & Make Cornbread in a Mug Pickup Start, youth

Teen Writers Workshop with Danielle Jones 2 p.m., teen

Wed., July 19

Magician 10:30 a.m., youth

*Crafternoon: Mosaic Coaster 2 p.m., adult

Thurs., July 20

Cupcake Wars 2 p.m., teen

Disney Trivia 4 p.m., youth

Mon., July 24

Fic & Flick Book Club 3:30 p.m., youth

Tues., July 25

*Antique Textiles Identification Clinic 6 p.m., adult

Wed., July 26

Yo-Yo Performance 10:30 a.m., youth

LIBRARY EVENTS | page 5

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
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PALMER – Many feet patted the floors of the Palmer Public Library as children set out in search of brown paper bags filled with slinkies, pop-its, candy and other prizes.

Youth Librarian Assistant, Olivia Chartrand told participants “there are six clues and six different surprise bags, you can take one prize from each bag.”

Chartrand said the scavenger hunt lasts an entire week, ending on Friday, June 30.

“This is one of our biggest programs every season,” said Chartrand.

Teen Librarian Bridget Kennedy said it is so popular that “in the past, we’ve run out [of prizes].”

Chartrand said she hid the goodie bags around the library for children to find and was responsible for putting together clues.

“I wanted people to explore different parts of the library they haven’t explored yet,” said Chartrand.

She said the library receives “new

things all the time” and people may not always see them. She added the scavenger hunt may help people discover them.

Some of the newest items include lawn games, which are available for sign out.

While some scavenger hunters were familiar with the library, to others, everything was new.

Ware resident Ashley McClain said when she and her daughter Brooke Tousaint visited on Monday, it was their first time.

McClain said the scavenger hunt “was neat, especially for our first time here...to see all of the corners of the library.”

Belchertown resident Tiffany Martinez said she “used to come here all the time,” adding “they always have fun things for the kids.”

A row of containers labeled with different activities and programs were placed on top of a shelving unit.

Chartrand asked children to place a ticket into the container labeled with their favorite activity.

Though the scavenger hunt is considered one of the more popular events,

Martinez’s son, Ethan Martinez said his favorite was making slime.

Colleen Seymour said she and her relatives “love the library,” as “there is so much going on,” and “plenty to do.”

Stacie Chichakly said she enjoys the library because “it’s awesome,” and likes to read.

While Seymour and Chichakly read, “the little ones” participated in the scavenger hunt and played in the newly updated Imagination Station.

The Imagination Station is a play room in the children’s library that reopened in May after being closed for three years due to the pandemic.

“The Imagination Station is a place for play and for parents to sit comfortably,” said Chartrand.

Some updates to the space include a sensory table, a soft chair, a new kitchenette and a doll house.

Kennedy said the library is a “great way [for kids] to interact with other kids.”

She added it is a “free space and they are not expected to do anything.”

Graydon and son Jeremiah of Belchertown said they have been to the Palmer Public Library several times.

Although they did not participate in the scavenger hunt, Jeremiah played games on the computers.

“They have tons of games,” said Jeremiah.

Graydon said this library is “the nicest” around.

“They offer so much...There is always something new [and] they have a lot of different events,” said Graydon.

He pointed out a collection of backpacks available for people to sign out, organized by age range.

The bags are stocked with different activities for children to take home and enjoy.

Seymour said the library has “something for all age groups.”

The library is hosting several upcoming summer events.

The next event for the youth program is a Birds of Prey event on July 5 at 10:30 a.m.

Other events include a Paint and Popsicle event on July 6 at 4 p.m., a Music Performance July 12 at 10:30 a.m and a magic act July 19 at 10:30 a.m.

Corrections

The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send information to Editor at mharrison@turley.com, or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.

DEADLINE

The Journal Register has changed its firm deadline for public submissions to Mondays. To get your submission in for that week’s edition, email Editor at mharrison@turley.com or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.

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Pet of the Week



YOGI & RICO

This is Yogi and Rico! They are both from Palmer and live with their family with two birds and another cat. Rico is 11 years old and only has three legs. Yogi is one and a half and makes sure Rico uses all three of those legs every day to chase them around the house. If you see these two crazy guys around town, taking a walk with their cat, make sure you stop to say hello. We feature your pets here and on our Facebook page. Is your fur friend a dog, cat, chicken, lizard, horse, bird, mouse...you get the point. Is there a pet you're fostering and trying to re-home? All pets are welcome! Email a high-resolution jpg of your pet with a little information to mharrison@turley.com.

Ludlow 250th Fundraiser at Lupa Zoo

Lupa Zoo is hosting a fundraiser for the Ludlow 250th Committee Saturday, July 8 from 5 – 8pm at the zoo.

Special discounted family rate of only \$25 for a family of 4 (\$5 for each additional person)

Visit the animals & welcome Mary the antelope back. Vanished Valley Brewing, live music with AcousticA, and food offered.

All proceeds will benefit the Ludlow 250th Celebration.

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 \$100, 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.

Keep hosting pre-4th ice cream social

MONSON — Start celebrating Independence Day with a visit to the Keep Homestead Museum for its Ice Cream Social on 1 to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 2.

Come and enjoy making a sundae with Rondeau's ice cream and various toppings and then tour the museum to view new exhibits. Sunbonnets and straw hats will add to the fun.

All are welcome to this free event, though donations are welcome.

Keep Homestead Museum is located at 35 Ely Rd. in Monson.

Holland Community Center Let's Dance

Pride Month Equality for All

This Friday, June 30 The Holland Community Center will be hosting our First Annual Pride Dance from 6:30-8 p.m. Our Center is very proud to be inclusive and we welcome you to come join us at 40 Brimfield Road, Holland.

River events rescheduled

Recent river events organized by the Chicopee Watershed had to be postponed due to rain and have been rescheduled:

The Upper Ware paddle, about 4.5 miles over 90 minutes, will now be held in August at a date TBD. RSVP to chicopeewatershed@gmail.com.

In restoration work, the Water Chestnut Pull will now be held on July 2 at Oxford Marsh. It is a work party pulling invasive water chestnuts out of the marsh to protect the ecosystem. Be prepared to get a bit wet and muddy while doing a service to restore the lower river.

RSVP to chicopeewatershed@gmail.com.

BHN's Kamp for Kids open house is July 18

WESTFIELD — Kamp for Kids, a summer day camp for children and young adults with and without disabilities, will be holding an open house event, Kamp Welcome Day, from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, July 18, at Camp Togowauk.

Camp Togowauk is at 754 Russell Road in Westfield. Kamp for Kids is for children and young adults ages 3 to 22 and offers an opportunity to experience growth, inclusion and fun in a summer camp setting that includes a spray park, expressive arts, outdoor education, arts and crafts and non-competitive sports.

State Senator John Velis will be in attendance, along with other public officials, representatives of Behavioral Health Network and parents and friends of Kamp for Kids. A brief program will be held, including remarks by officials and BHN staff and "Kampers" will give demonstrations they prepared of their creative work, including skits, songs and artwork.

Kamp for Kids was founded by Judy Hoyt, whose son Rick was the inspiration behind the camp. Rick Hoyt, who became famous through his participation in several Boston Marathons with his father Dick, passed away in May at the age of 61. They inspired the #TeamHoyt online community with followers from around the globe.

The camp operates every summer during July and August with about 150 Kampers over three sessions. This year, Kamp runs 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday to Friday from July 10 through Aug. 18. For more information, visit bhnc.org/kamp-kids.

'An Accidental Wedding'

Monson Council on Aging hosts comedic play

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
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MONSON — The seniors of Monson's Council on Aging burst with laughter as they watched the tale of a gentleman run to escape a promised, yet doomed, marriage unfold.

On June 22 a performance of "An Accidental Wedding", follows the story of a devoted niece, Miss LeCat, chasing her "Dear ole" auntie's promised groom in hopes of wedding the pair before the play ends.



Shown are Linda Slozak and Steve Henderson acting out a scene from "An Accidental Wedding".



"Ignore-amous" is shown explaining himself to the audience.

Seniors not only laughed during the performance, but participated through interactive prompting.

Playwright, Actor and Director Steve Henderson said, "People are receptive to take part in it," adding he believes the seniors may have "had a better time than they have had in quite some time."

Henderson said, "Theater, and this brand of theater in particular, is extremely helpful."

He has been involved in theater for "many, many years," and has worked with several organizations, including the Monson Council on Aging, to share theater experiences with seniors.

Monson Council on Aging Executive Director Lori Stacy said she and Henderson have worked together in the past, and that he previously helped organize a senior community theater program in Monson.

While the program lasted for a few years, Stacy said COVID had an impact on keeping the program going.

However, she said it is something they may consider doing again.

Stacy said Henderson's work is "designed for the senior communi-



Shown is actress Linda Slozak acting as Miss LeCat.

ty," and in her experience, "he led us to what he needed from us."

Opposed to expecting actors to memorize scripts, Henderson's screenplays allow actors to hold their lines on a script throughout their performances. Lines are also printed in large font, making them easier to read.

Henderson said he has "never turned an actor away."

He added "a great joy" theater has afforded him, is being able to see others "just belonging."

While working with the Monson seniors on the community theater program, Stacy said Henderson "made them feel as included as anybody else."

Actress Linda Slozak, acting as Miss LeCat, said as a senior she enjoys performing for other seniors.

"It's the look on their faces when they know you are there to see

and entertain them," said Slozak. She added it is a "delight" to "be able to laugh [and] share friendship" through theater.

Henderson extended his thanks to the Monson Cultural Council and Massachusetts Cultural Council for supporting the performance.

Stacy said the Monson and Massachusetts Cultural Councils have been "extremely generous," in sponsoring Henderson and several other programs at the Senior Center.

Henderson also thanked Stacy for "making it easy," for him to perform at the Senior Center and drawing in a crowd.

"Not everyone can be an accountant, and not everyone can be an actress...a lot of us are in the middle," said Stacy.

"It's nice to have our folks use the creative side of their brains," she said.

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Viewpoints

OPINION/GUEST COLUMN

Massachusetts,
it's time for a new
state symbol

The state seal and flag of Massachusetts need to be changed.

Our state flag and seal, the symbol we hold up to the world and to our own residents, depicts a white hand holding a Colonial broadsword over the head of an Indigenous person, with a Latin motto beneath that translates: "She seeks a quiet peace under the sword, but peace with liberty."

This symbol has been the subject of protest by our Indigenous brothers and sisters in Massachusetts for more than 50 years. It is a symbol of violence and, as Brian Weeden, the chairperson of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe has succinctly stated, it is a reminder of "the oppression of Native people."

The state flag and seal of Massachusetts has been changed many times in the past, the last time 140 years ago.

In June, the town meeting voters of Brookfield and West Brookfield voted to join 75 other towns and cities in Massachusetts, from the Berkshires to the Cape Cod, in support of changing this shameful symbol, and more towns, such as Southbridge, are considering adding their voices soon to the push for a much needed change.

For one thing, the current image is not historically accurate, as it was modeled after a native person from Montana rather than Massachusetts.

The broadsword on our state seal is modeled after one used by Miles Standish to behead Native people. Not a great image for our young children to study in school.

Today, for the first time in 140 years, Massachusetts is undertaking a thorough review of our state symbol, and the structures are finally in place to make this update happen.

There is bipartisan support on a recently appointed bipartisan special commission, with indigenous representation, appointed by the former Republican Governor, Charles Baker, to make final recommendations for the design of a new state flag, seal and motto that may better reflect harmony among all the people who now call the Commonwealth their home.

Soon, the special commission will be conducting a statewide poll that will enable all of us to give input over the coming months on elements for a new design. The cost of change will be minimal, as stationery and flags and signs need to be gradually replaced anyway due to wear and tear.

Although 77 towns in Massachusetts - over 20% - have supported this positive change so far, some of them unanimously, we need to put some pressure behind these votes in order for this 40-years-in-the-making change to finally occur!

Massachusetts is the last state in the union to fly a flag with symbols of violence against one race of people. This needs to change as soon as possible.

As members of the commission themselves state, they want to find "symbols and terms that might replace harm with inspiration" and that "reflect Massachusetts' commitment to 'peace, justice, liberty and equality and to spreading the opportunities and advantages of education.'"

We urge all citizens to make your voices heard, both to your state senator and representative, asking them to push for the recommendations of this commission to be heard and enacted, and to join in the upcoming statewide polling to gather input for a new flag design we can all believe in. This is a truly historic process in which we can all participate.

As this process unfolds, we can take a great deal of pride in the willingness of the town meeting voters of Brookfield and West Brookfield to step forward and register their support for a new flag and seal for Massachusetts!

Sherry Zitter, LICSW lives in Brookfield and spearheaded the town warrant article that recently passed 2-1 to change our state seal and flag. She loves gardening, walking her dog, playing guitar and making the world a fairer place for all.

David Detmold is coordinator of the statewide campaign Changethemassflag.com and lives in Montague.



Gotta love astilbes

I love to walk around my yard admiring the blooming plants.

Within the last few days my beautiful frosty pink astilbe has burst on to the scene in my shade garden, stealing the show from what is left of the mountain laurel flowers.

I love astilbe, and when they are happy, they certainly perform. They work well with other shade lovers - hostas and ferns come to mind first - off.

The astilbe has two things going for it: nice flowers and handsome leaves; traits desirable in the vase as well as the garden!

Nothing is worse in my opinion than perennials that bloom for a relatively short amount of time but leave you with drab or high maintenance foliage for the rest of the season. Not the case with astilbes, that is, as long as they are grown correctly. Most appreciate light to full shade and moist, humus-rich soil. They may do okay in the sun as long as the soil is right. Take my word that they will struggle in dry ground, and will be far less attractive than their sunny counterparts.

For years I tried to grow a division of one of Mom's plants on the north side of my old house. Sure, I had great shade, but no matter how much I watered it, the soil drained too readily, and it struggled until I finally gave up and gave it away.

To make the first astilbe happier I should have amended the soil with lots of compost prior to planting. This can be accomplished easily by loosening a space in the garden twice the width of your astilbe and a foot or more deep.

Once it is friable, add a four inch layer of compost on top and mix it into the soil. Now you are ready to plant.

Dig a hole and position the astilbe at the same depth it was growing in the container, with the crown of the plant an inch or two below the soil surface. Back fill and gently firm down the area.

Water well until your new plant is

established, as well as during periods of drought. Mulch is very beneficial to astilbes; it helps conserve vital moisture and reduce competition from weeds.

If flowers become sparse or the plant encroaches on its neighbors, division may be necessary. Wait until spring, and at the first sign of new growth lift and separate the clump.

The freshest parts of the plant will be towards the edge, so be sure to replant those sections. No doubt you will have many gardening friends ready and able to take any divisions you have left.

Where you place your astilbe in the border depends on the variety you are growing. They can range in height from less than one foot to over three!

There are also numerous variations in flower and foliage coloration. Flowers can be brick red, salmon, mauve, lavender pink, white and many shades in between.

Leaves can have a red or bronze tint, or be deep or even "electric" green. Some astilbe plumes are upright, while others are arching.

They may be light and airy or rather dense. Certainly, with this many options to choose from there is an astilbe for each and every taste!

Do try growing them along with hostas and ferns - a classic and hard to beat combination. Another plus: this plant is rarely bothered by deer or rabbits; I have both!

But beware, it may be harvested regularly for your next floral creation. It will last a good long time in the vase, especially if picked at the first sign of bloom.

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.



Green-tailed towhee

I received a note from a Williamsburg resident along with a newspaper clipping about a green-tailed towhee spotted in Newport, Rhode Island at Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge.

She said they are native to the Southwestern United States and "having gotten so far, they might be here any day now." The green-tailed towhee is the smallest towhee. They are small, but chunky songbirds with a big head, stocky body and a medium to long tail. Their bill is thick.

They are fairly common in the western mountains and spend most of their time in dense, low thickets where they forages on the ground. It has a gray body, fairly greenish wings and tail with a rufous crown and white throat. These towhees do sometimes wander east.

The female lays three to four white eggs with heavy dots of brown or gray, often concentrated at the larger end of the egg. They build their nests on the ground or in low shrubs. It is a large, deep cup loosely made of twigs, grass, weeds, strips of bark and lined with finer grasses, rootlets and animal hair.

They eat mainly seeds and insects, but they will sometimes feed on berries or small fruits. They make a cat like meowing sound.

Best cities for birdwatching

New York, New York recently was ranked the number one city for birdwatching; I assume because of Central Park and the sea coast. Other cities on the list from two to ten were: San Diego, California; Houston, Texas; Seattle, Washington, Los Angeles, California; San Francisco, California; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Phoenix, Arizona; Austin, Texas and Chicago, Illinois.

On the worst cities for birdwatching list Kansas City, Kansas came in at number one. Other cities were Montgomery, Alabama; Olathe, Kansas; Overland Park, Kansas and Mobile, Alabama (tied for fourth place); Des Moines, Iowa; Huntsville, Alabama; Murfreesboro, Tennessee; Sioux Falls, South Dakota and Henderson, Nevada.

Wild turkeys

I recently saw a hen turkey with her poults on the edge of the road. The hen was standing on the edge of the road and her young were in the tall grass so I was unable to accurately count how many she had.

Geese and goslings

Last week, I saw two pairs of adult Canada geese with some young goslings in my hayfield. I spotted the adults heads in the tall grass and stopped to watch. I could see the goslings when they jumped up or stretched their necks to eat grass.

Nesting cardinal

One of my daughters had a cardinal nesting in her rhododendron bush. They could be observed from a window in the living room and not be disturbed. The nest is now empty and I hope they fledged and did not meet up with a predator.

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.

Working widow seeks to maximize
Social Security benefits

Dear Rusty: I was widowed years ago and, when I approached age 60, I looked into Social Security survivor benefits based on my late husband's record. He started receiving Social Security shortly before he died at \$1,200 per month. My income at age 60 was \$42,000 and, since Social Security would keep \$1 for every \$2 above the limit (around \$15,000 at that time), I did not apply.

Next year I will reach my full retirement age of 66½, but I plan to work until I am 70. Will I be able to receive full survivor benefits next year if I continue to work? I plan to switch to my own Social Security benefit at age 70, which will be higher than my husband received.

Since I am waiting to apply for survivor benefits, will there be an increase in the amount I receive? I am a municipal employee and when I retire, I will collect from the state retirement system. I paid into the state retirement system and also paid Social Security taxes, so will my state pension have any impact on my Social Security?

Signed: Still Working

Dear Still Working: Congratulations on having an excellent strategy for maximizing your survivor benefit as well as your personal SS retirement benefit. Once you reach your Full Retirement Age next year, you are no longer subject to Social Security's "earnings



test" and can collect Social Security benefits without those benefits being affected by your work earnings.

Your surviving spouse benefit will be more because you are waiting until your full retirement age to claim it. At your FRA you can claim your full survivor benefit from your deceased husband without reduction and collect only that while still allowing your personal SS retirement benefit to grow to maximum when you are 70. Then, at age 70, you can switch from your smaller survivor benefit to your maximum SS retirement benefit and collect that higher amount for the rest of your life. Essentially, your survivor benefit reaches maximum at your FRA and your personal SS retirement benefit reaches maximum at age 70.

Note that you should apply for your benefits a couple of months before you wish them to start. For example, if you reach your FRA in May of next year you can apply for your survivor benefit in February or March, specifying that you wish your survivor benefit to begin in May 2024 at your full retirement age. Just be sure to emphasize that you are

applying only for your survivor benefit and wish your personal SS retirement benefit to continue to grow by earning Delayed Retirement Credits until you are 70.

You cannot apply for your survivor benefit online, so you will need to call Social Security, at either the national number (1.800.772.1213) or your local Social Security office, to make an appointment to apply for your benefit as your husband's widow.

And to answer your last question, your state pension won't affect your monthly Social Security payments because you paid Social Security FICA payroll taxes from your municipal earnings.

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

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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Please send opinions to:
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Letter to the Editor
24 Water St.,
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or by e-mail to:
mharrison@turley.com

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters
to the editor
welcome

The *Journal Register* welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to mharrison@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call editor Michael Harrison at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news
As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Journal Register.

OPPORTUNITY

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Lions Club fireworks/concert rescheduled to July 9

WARE – The Ware Lions Club has rescheduled its annual fireworks celebration to Sunday, July 9 starting at 5 p.m. in Grenville Park.

There will be food vendors, music by Never Say Never and a DJ, games and of course fireworks.

Fireworks are expected to start around 9 p.m.

For more information, visit the Ware Lions Club website <http://e-clubhouse.org/site/ware/> or find them on Facebook. Checks can be mailed to P.O. Box 913, Ware, MA 01082 or hand delivered to Nat Falk, 64 Main St.



Turley Photos By Dallas Gagnon

Rose Murphy, Carol Pascale and Niki Liquori are shown with their "Seniors Against Scam" packets.

SCAM | from page 1

income.

He said 90% of financial scams are caused by family members and most victims do not report it.

"Immediately report it - we have a better chance at successfully resolving it," said Gasperini.

Top 10 scams targeting older adults

According to the National Council on Aging, some of top scams targeting seniors are Social Security impersonations, romance scams, telemarketing/robocalls, investment schemes and tech support/internet fraud.

Social Security impersonation scams involve scammers calling and asking for personal information such as Social Security numbers, date of births and bank account information.

Gasperini said it is "very rare" Social Security would call someone, and very unlikely they would send an email.

When receiving unsolicited or suspicious emails, Gasperini suggested clicking the sender's information, as the username may reveal it is fraudulent.

He added a lot of times fraudulent emails will contain many grammatical errors.

Romance scams are second on the list of top scams targeting seniors.

With the age of online dating, scammers pretend to be someone or something they are not, as a way of tricking older adults into believing they have a relationship.

Eventually, the scammer will ask their target to send money to cover travel expenses for the scammer to visit the victim.

In some cases, a scammer may ask the victim to deposit a check they sent and become an accomplice of money laundering without knowing.

"When in doubt, give us a call," said Gasperini.

He added the Police Department is open 24/7, 365 days a year.

Telemarketing scams are another popular form of scamming and are considered "very hard to trace," as there are no face-to-face interaction or paper trails.

Robocalls are a form of telemarketing scams that use pre-recorded messages to impersonate real people and organizations.

A common robocall scam are Internal Revenue Service impersonations, where callers disguise their number as legitimate agencies.

Other common scams targeting older adults include tech support and internet fraud, medicare/medicaid fraud, contractor scams, sweepstakes/lottery scams and "the grandparent scam."

Gasperini said the grandparent scam "has been going on for a while."

He said scammers will approach the interaction like a fortune teller at a fair - starting off by prompting people with general questions and gaining per-

sonal information.

They will then use that information against the victim.

Scammers often claim a target's relative is held hostage or in a serious predicament that requires the "grandparent" to help by sending money.

Gasperini said his grandfather received a call claiming Gasperini was arrested in Florida and needed bail money.

However, his grandfather knew that was not the case and did not fall victim to the scam.

Gasperini said the sweepstakes scam is another common one.

He said victims receive a call claiming they have won the lottery but are asked to pay a fee before they can access their prize.

In some cases, scammers ask the victim to purchase visa gift cards and share card information with the scammer. The scammer will then have access to those funds and leave no paper-trail.

Gasperini said the Police Department and many local businesses such as CVS and Walgreens are aware of this scam.

He said one gentleman went to the CVS in Palmer to purchase gift cards several times until a clerk recognized what was happening.

According to Gasperini, by the time all was said and done, the gentleman was "out like \$8,000."

Avoiding scams
To avoid scams, it is advised not to give personal information over the phone, including credit card, banking, Social Security and Medicare information.

It is also recommended to use a shredder to destroy sensitive documents and be skeptical of any offered, unrequested services.

When doing business, it is people should make sure they are familiar with the company they are working with and ask for a guarantee. This includes not paying for services before they are completed.

Asking for physical copies of a salesperson's or company's information is also advised, as it can be shared with a trusted source to help determine if something suspicious is going on.

It also allows people to check the accuracy of the information provided.

In any business transaction, it is important people take their time before making any decisions, know who they are dealing with and understand completely what is going on.

"If it seems to be good to be true - it usually is," said Gasperini.

Izyk presented first Conservation Leadership Award



Submitted photo

Council Conservation Committee Chair, National Conservation Committee member and Vice Chair of the National Jamboree Conservation Trail Stephen P. Scannell DDS presents Peter with the Conservation Leadership Award.

At the Western Massachusetts Council's Annual Meeting and Recognition Dinner held at Stanley Park in Westfield on June 19th, Peter B. Izyk was presented with the first Conservation Leadership Award. The award is presented in recognition of exceptional environmental leadership and a commitment to conservation education of youth.

Peter has been a member of the council Conservation Committee since its inception in 2014, has taught nature many years at Cub Scout Resident Camp

at Horace A. Moses Scout Reservation and has done nature and ecology presentations at the camps Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures. He served as staff on the Conservation Trail at the 2017 National Jamboree and will be on the Conservation Trail again for the 2023 Jamboree. Peter has also been a member of Palmer's Conservation Commission for over 40 years and has worked on many town conservation projects and town wide clean ups.

LIBRARY EVENTS | from page 2

Thurs., July 27
Mini Photo Album Craft 2 p.m., teen
Minute to Win It Family Tournament 4 p.m., youth

August

Wed., Aug. 2
Storyteller 10:30 a.m., youth
Thurs., Aug. 3
Perler Bead Craft 2 p.m., teen
Clay Critter Making 4 p.m., youth

Mon., Aug. 7
Fic & Flick Book Club 3:30 p.m., youth
Tues., Aug. 8
*Poetry Open Mic Night 6:30 p.m., adult
Wed., Aug. 9
Acrobat 10:30 a.m., youth
Intro to Tarot Class 2 p.m., teen
Thurs., Aug. 10
Clay Critter Painting 4 p.m., youth

Tues., Aug. 15
Concert Railroad in song 6 p.m., adult
Wed., Aug. 16
Toe Jam Puppet Band 10:30 a.m., youth
*Mini Canvas Art 2 p.m., adult
Thurs., Aug. 17
Take and Make Slime pickup start, youth

*Registration
Registration is required for many adult programs.

Events that require registration include Mosaic Coaster, held July 19, Antique Textile Identification Clinic, on July 25 Mini Canvas Art, on Aug. 16 and Poetry Night Open Mic on Aug. 8.

Registration for open mic is only required for poetry readers.
American Sign Language is offered to adults every Tuesday night from July 5 until Aug. 2 starting at 6 p.m.

CAMPUS NOTES

University of Rhode Island

The following local students were named to the Dean's List at the University of Rhode Island for the 2023 spring semester:

Jack Leland of Brimfield; Leanna Craven of Monson; Evan Murray of Palmer; Miranda Sandoval of Palmer; and Mary Godek of Wales.

To be included on the Dean's List, full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable during a semester and achieved at least a 3.30 quality-point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable earning at least a 3.30 quality point average.

Holyoke Community College

The following local students were named recipients of Holyoke Community College Foundation scholarships for the 2023-'24 academic year:

Cassandra Florence, Joanne Lavallee and Andrea Morris, all of Palmer; Catherine Caney, Kelly Gregory and Angela Tindell-Gula, all of Three Rivers; and Kristal Bready, Amanda Corbett and Kristy Pivcio, all of Monson.

Clark University

The following local residents were named to the Dean's List at Clark University for the 2023 spring semester:

Esau Marley Bernstein of Brimfield, who was named to second honors, and Maya E. Senquiz of Monson, who was named to second honors.

Students must have a GPA of 3.8 or above for first honors or a GPA between 3.50 and 3.79 for second honors.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

E-mail items to mharrison@turley.com or mail to Calendar Editor, Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, for receipt by Monday of week for publication.

The Journal Register encourages readers to contact event coordinators and organizers for updated event times. Have an event to promote? Email the information (in sentence form and as a Word doc or plain email text – no PDFs or flyers, please – to mharrison@turley.com.

THIS WEEK

WARE GRANGE'S NEXT GARDENING WORKSHOP: Pollinator Gardens, will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 30, in the Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road in Ware. At this workshop, presenter Allison Rosendale will teach you how to encourage pollinators to your backyard and provide practical information for any space from a terrace to a farm to attract and help pollinators thrive. Visit us on Facebook or at waregrange.org for more information.

KEEP HOMESTEAD MUSEUM: 35 Ely Rd. in Monson invites everyone to its free Ice Cream Social on 1 to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 2. Make a sundae with Rondeau's ice cream and various toppings and then tour the museum to view new exhibits. All are welcome to this free event, though donations are welcome.

RIVER EVENTS: Recent river events organized by the Chicopee Watershed had to be postponed due to rain and have been rescheduled: The Upper Ware paddle, about 4.5 miles over 90 minutes, will now be held in August at

a date TBD. RSVP to chicopeewatershed@gmail.com. In restoration work, the Water Chestnut Pull will now be held on July 2 at Oxford Marsh. It is a work party pulling invasive water chestnuts out of the marsh to protect the ecosystem. Be prepared to get a bit wet and muddy while doing a service to restore the lower river. RSVP to chicopeewatershed@gmail.com.

UPCOMING

JIMMY FUND WALK: Registration is now open for the 2023 Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk Scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 1. Proceeds from the event support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at one of the nation's premier cancer centers, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. All four routes will culminate at the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line in the Fenway neighborhood. If walkers want to participate a bit closer to home, the Jimmy Fund Walk has flexible opportunities, including virtually. Register as an individual walker, team member or start a team at JimmyFundWalk.org or by calling 866-531-9255.

GOLF TOURNEY FOR PETS: Second Chance Animal Services' 11th annual Charity Golf Tournament will be held at Cold Spring Country Club on Monday, July 24. The event offers golfers a great golf outing on a world-class course and will benefit programs assisting the underserved at Second Chance Community Veterinary Hospitals in the region. Individuals and foursomes are

welcome. Second Chance encourages golfers to purchase tickets early. Check in will be 9 a.m. and the tournament will commence with a shotgun start at 10 a.m. Registration and information on sponsorships and item donations can be found at secondchanceanimals.org/events/golf/.

INTERESTS

CRAFTERNOONS: Drop in 2-4 p.m. daily at the Holland Public Library, 23 Sturbridge Rd. to learn or practice different crafts. New crafts every Wednesday. For more information, call 413-245-3607.

KEEP HOMESTEAD MUSEUM: Located at 35 Ely Rd., Monson, nature trails are open daily until dusk for hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Trail maps can be found in the parking lot. The Phillips Sculpture Garden is open year-round (handouts in box on one of the sign posts). For more information call 413-267-4137, email khm@keephomesteadmuseum.org or visit keephomesteadmuseum.org.

QUABOAG VALLEY QUILTERS GUILD: Members meet at 1 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month in the Amvets post at 2150 Main St., Three Rivers. The Guild is a no-pressure group with varying degrees of accomplishments, from novice to Big E "Best In Show" winners. Dues are \$55 a year. For more information, contact Barbara Beaulieu at 267-4044 or Mery Mombourquette at 283-7577. Follow

them on Facebook for more.

ONGOING

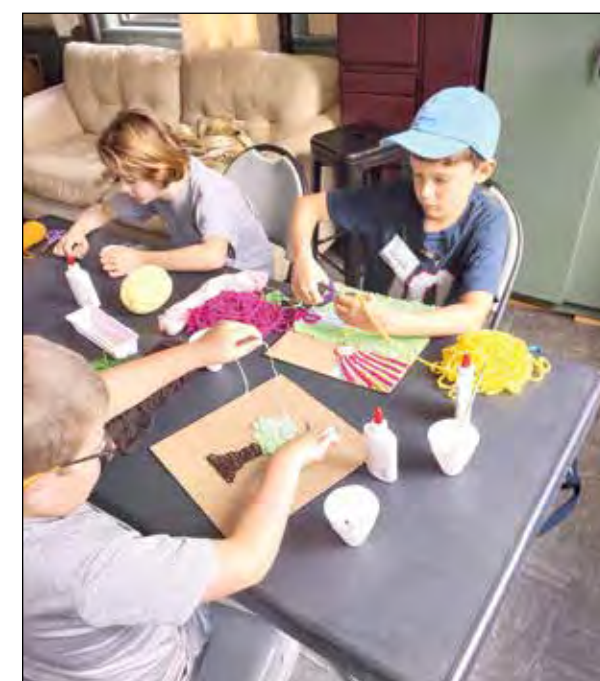
LINE DANCING CLASS: 3-5 p.m. and/or 6:30-8:30 p.m., every Thursday at the Monson Polish Club, 7 Bliss St, Monson. Rose's line dancing classes include absolute beginners and beginners, and participants get to dance to all types of music. \$10 per class. Please wear comfortable footwear, no sandals.

GAME NIGHT: 6-7:45 p.m. the second Tuesday of every month at Top Floor Learning (third floor of the Palmer Library at 1455 N. Main St.). Free and open to the public. Play available board and card games or bring your own. Must be 16 or older unless accompanied by an adult. No Registration Required – just show up! Questions? Call 283-2329, or 283-3691, or email palewis19@yahoo.com.

NOTCH VISITOR CENTER OPEN FOR WINTER SEASON: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday-Monday. The center is located on Rt 116, at the center of the Holyoke Range State Park. DCR Interpretive staff will be available for visitors. Coming in January, programs will also be offered to highlight the Range's special nature in winter, see the park web site for details.

QI GONG: 6 p.m., every Tuesday night at Memorial Hall with Randy Emerson. Free, no registration. Presented by Monson Parks & Rec and the Monson Free Library.

Hitchcock hosts summer days program



Submitted photo

Arts and crafts is one of the many activities at Hitchcock's Summer Days program.

BRIMFIELD -- Area families with kids ages 4-10 looking for a half or full day enrichment offerings can register for Hitchcock's affordable and fun week-long experiences. From July 17 through Aug. 11, Hitchcock will host its annual Summer Days program, this year with offerings from STEAM Education Leader Challenge Island.

The morning Summer Days program will run from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., while the afternoon program will run from 1 to 4 p.m. Extended morning is available from 8:30 to 9 a.m. daily. For registrants enrolled in both the morning and afternoon program, lunch supervision will be provided. Lunches must be packed and sent in with each child.

Registration starts at \$110 for each weekly program, \$235 for the full day. Early drop-off is also available.

Each week, kids will experience active fun combined with creative enrichment. Mornings and afternoons for the younger group as well as mornings for the older group will include arts and crafts and sports and games. For the older group, afternoons will be led by Challenge Island, a national franchised STEAM program.

"We are excited to partner with Challenge Island this year," says Summer Days Program Coordinator Katy Taricano. "Making engineering accessible to kids through hands-on projects is such a great way to engage their minds in the summer while keeping it really fun. And we're always proud of the program Hitchcock puts together; it's a nice variety of activities to keep kids busy and having fun. They always have a blast and make memories."

Hitchcock's summer program is a decades-long established offering which aims to combine good old-fashioned fun and games with creative exploration, fully engaging kids physically and mentally, guiding their hands, feet, and imagination with a variety of activities designed by seasoned educators and facilitated by energetic staff.

Challenge Island's program and curriculum are "designed to meet the needs of two entities: today's playful, imaginative child and tomorrow's empowered, globally-successful adult."

Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Road in Brimfield serving the community with educational, recreational, and cultural programming. More information can be found at www.hitchcockacademy.org.

New bill sets to permanently increase federal funding for school meals

WASHINGTON, D.C. --U.S. Representative James P. McGovern (D-MA), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee and a nationwide leader in the fight to end hunger and improve nutrition, introduced legislation permanently increasing the federal reimbursement level for school meals to help address funding challenges, enhance menus, increase access to locally grown food, and support expanded services like afterschool snacks and breakfast in the classroom.

H.R. 1269, the Healthy Meals Help Kids Learn Act, permanently increases the federal reimbursement level for all free, reduced-price, and paid-rate school meals by 45 cents for every lunch served and 28 cents for every breakfast served, with a yearly adjustment.

School meals help shape lifelong healthy eating habits, and research shows that students who participate in school meal programs have better overall diet quality than nonparticipants. Higher food costs are adding to the urgency of this legislation, and a permanent solution will give school districts certainty as they upgrade their meal programs and plan for the future.

"If we want America's kids to remain competitive in the 21st century global economy, we can't just teach them science and math. We need to ensure they have access to healthy, nutritious food at school," said Congressman McGovern in a press release. "The next generation of Americans—our future doctors, nurses, engineers, mechanics, and leaders in every field across the

country—all need us to step up and improve the quality of food in our schools. Food is just as important to their education as a textbook or a laptop. And if we can give our children healthy breakfasts and lunches as a part of their school day while supporting locally sourced foods and scratch-cooked meals, it will be a win-win for our economy, our farmers, and our students."

"School meal programs face crippling cost increases for the food, labor and supplies that are critical to ensuring students receive nutritious school meals that fuel their success," said School Nutrition Association President Lori Adkins, MS, SNS, CHE. "When the additional funds Congress provided in the bipartisan Keep Kids Fed Act expire in July, school meal programs will be

incapable of covering costs. H.R. 1269 will help avert a financial crisis and ensure school meal programs can continue offering students meals that promote healthy eating habits."

The Healthy Meals Help Kids Learn Act is endorsed by leading policy and advocacy organizations including the School Nutrition Association, American Heart Association, Food Research & Action Center, Share our Strength, Save the Children, National Education Association, Mayors Alliance to End Childhood Hunger, Chef Ann Foundation, ScratchWorks, Project Bread, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, Chop Chop Family, Children's HealthWatch, and the School Nutrition Association of Massachusetts.

There are just a few weeks of summer left and back-to-school preparations to begin!

This handy guide will help parents plan late summer activities and prepare for the upcoming school year.

in the CLASSROOM

preschool • elementary • middle school • high school • college • trades

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CLUES ACROSS

- Excited movements
- Soap opera actress Patsy
- Unknown
- Dangerous mosquitos
- Exaggerated and sensationalized
- Military policeman
- Touch softly
- Wrap
- A story of one's life
- Midway between east and southeast
- Toward the mouth or oral region
- A list of dishes available at a restaurant
- Changes the meaning of
- Semitic Sun god
- Sneaker parts
- Capital of Zimbabwe
- Breezed through
- Partner to pedi
- Becomes less intense
- Bottoms
- Tested
- Vistas
- Take care of
- Traditional rhythmic pattern
- S. African political party
- Cologne
- Men
- The Science Guy
- Gospel author (abbr.)
- Act of signing up
- Human feet
- A very short time
- Streetcars
- Cuplike cavities
- Malaise
- Seasoned
- A pair
- Young male
- Make a mistake
- Experienced
- It often accompanies injury
- Old world, new
- Commercial
- Course of lectures
- Promote
- Female horses
- Greek mythological figure
- Small amount
- Orthodox church altar
- Actress Tomei
- Excited
- Looked directly at
- Popular cold desserts
- More reasonable
- Disk above the
- head of a saint
- Devoted to the extreme
- Make an effort
- It's in the surf
- Member of aboriginal people of Japan
- Discounts
- Cliff in Hawaii
- Extremely wild person
- All persons
- Aromas
- Popular kids' game
- A difficult situation
- Popular Georgia rockers
- It's in all living cells
- Unspoken language
- 'Talk to you' abbreviation
- Influential lawyer

CLUES DOWN

- A type of pool

JOB OPENING

STAFF WRITER

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

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

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- Ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style

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

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

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Athletes of all abilities



Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon
Tiffany Lund and son Morty Gove are shown smiling before Gove goes water skiing.



Shown are volunteers pushing Braeden Roache out of the water.



Shown are volunteers side spotting an athlete as they take off.



A volunteer is shown smiling as they help Jameson Roache enter the water.



Athletes Braeden Roache and Jameson Roache are shown alongside parents Kristen and Mike, as they prepare to go skiing.



Abby MacCurtain is shown exiting the water.

ATHLETES | from page 1

is also a nonprofit organization and is dedicated to promoting water skiing while “fostering a sense of community among water sports enthusiasts.”

Money raised through events and donations are reinvested into the organization. DesRoches said adaptive sports equipment is expensive and the water skis alone cost about \$5,000.

“It took about three years to build our program,” said DesRoches.

The ski equipment resembles a chair that is fixed on two skis. Athletes are secured by straps and sit with pool noodles tucked around their waists.

To ensure safe skiing, DesRoches said every boat had seven volunteers, including two side skiers.

Sam Naples, a Holland Aqua Riders volunteer, said she has met many friends through water skiing and attended several Webster Water Ski Collective events in the past.

She said the adaptive water skiing event “is a great opportunity for

our club to give back to the community.”

“It’s rewarding to see people do something they might not usually get to do,” said Naples.

Webster Water Ski Collective member, Cindi Gazda said adaptive sports are “really important,” adding she experienced a brain injury and “without organizations like these [she] would have given up.”

“All it is, is doctor after doctor...to be able to do something active [and] adaptive that gets you doing the things you love is important,” said Gazda.

Sarah Weirich of Amherst said her son Tristan Weirich skied around the lake twice during Wednesday’s event, adding it was his first time water skiing.

Weirich said Tristan is a “thrill seeker” and she was glad to find “something fun and affordable.”

Abby MacCurtain also participated in water skiing for the first time during the event.

Abby’s Dad, Greg MacCurtain said “she had a blast.”

MacCurtain added the adaptive skiing event was “a great thing” for

the organizations to host.

Holland Aqua Riders volunteer Logan St Clair of Sturbridge said it was “awesome how many people showed up from different ski teams.”

He added the event was a great “opportunity to allow people to do things they don’t normally get to do.”

Gazda thanked all of the volunteers who made the event possible, including volunteers from Team Hoyt New England, Holland Aqua Riders and Webster Water Ski Collective.

“Without volunteers these organizations would not exist,” said Gazda.

Team Hoyt New England President, Beth Craig said “it takes a village.”

Webster Water Ski Collective has announced the organization will host another adaptive ski event at Hamilton Reservoir next year, though the date has not been set.

DesRoches said, “this is what we do...we provide opportunities to our rider athletes.”



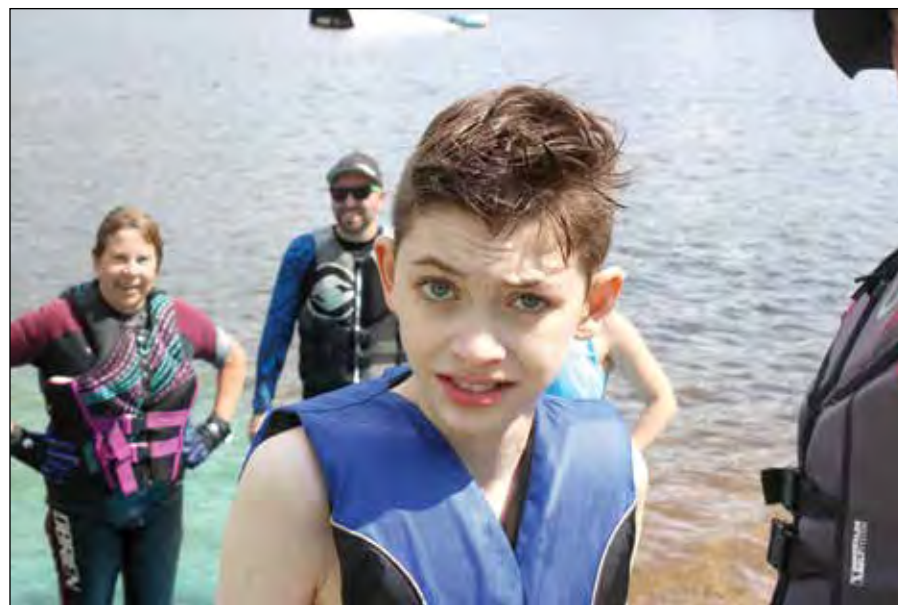
Beth Craig and Barbara Singleton are shown smiling in front of the water.



Lisa Fracalosi is shown smiling after two rounds of water skiing.



Jameson Roache and a volunteer are shown high fiving one another as Roache exits the water.



Shown is Tristan Weirich in front of the water.



Tristan Weirich is shown being embraced by mom Sarah Weirich after two rounds of skiing.



Scan QR code to donate to Webster Water Ski Collective.



Volunteers are shown supporting athletes as they prepare to ski.

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Aug. 16 - Monson Town Offices

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Come learn how to play Cribbage or brush up on your skills before our Summer Cribbage Club starts on July 13. Registration is required. You do not

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Wed., July 26 Chess 4-6 p.m.
Thurs., Aug. 3 Party Games 4-6 p.m.

Movie Trivia
All ages, show your skills and win a prize.
Thurs., July 20 3-5 p.m.
Join by yourself or with a team.

LIBRARY | from page 1

tends to host between 30 and 40 library events each year, with about as many corporate events as well as some at retirement communities.

According to the company's website, it has been organizing hundreds of putt-putt events over the last 10 years, and have entertained participants in the thousands. "We bring 17 years of team-building experience, creating exciting opportunities for engagement and discovery," the website reads.

Buckley started the company shortly after college, after he and his roommates turned a house into a miniature golf course for a blockbuster house party, with obstacles built out of cardboard, tape, and things found around the house. After the party was held on a Saturday in April, the event "became lore and legend that would be remembered as a really fun party," according to the company's website.

Nowadays, Mobile Mini-Golf still caters to college parties, albeit less of-

ten than libraries. "They usually keep me up way too late, and the music's way too loud," Buckley joked.

The company has 24 unique and different golf holes available for their setup, but most of their clients host nine-hole tournaments.

"When space is available, we like to bring a bonus tenth hole with a memorable challenge for the teams to finish their round," the website reads.

"I love these, it's a great way for the family to get together, and you see the dads and moms are all playing with them."

To see about setting up an indoor mini-golf course with Buckley's company, you can fill out the form on their website at mobile-minigolf.com.

Turley photo by Marcelo Gusmao
Company owner Joe Buckley strikes a pose, alongside Maelyn, age 5, Fabian, age 2, and their dad, Clifton Clarke.



The Palmer Senior Center's artists stood in front of their artwork (from left), Marcia Topor, Mel Gustafson, Lisa Jacques, Kathryn Costa, Sue Keough, Dee Brennan, and John Cebula.



Turley photos by Marcelo Gusmao
Mel Gustafson gave us a chance to look over her many still-lives.

ART SHOW | from page 1

that were left over to the Center and to other people who were at the Center.

Jacques has been with the Council on Aging for three years, but said that the art shows predate her time there. Previously, the shows were held at the library, but now the show uses the space at the Senior Center instead.

"Due to COVID, we didn't have them," Jacques said, "so then last year was our first art show after COVID, and the first one that I was involved with."

Art classes run from September through June. During the summer, local seniors will continue to come in at their convenience to keep up the habit of painting.

"With the summer and vacations and stuff, it's sporadic," Jacques said, but added that new members are always welcome to join, even during the off-season.

"It's great socialization for them," Jacques said, "it's an outing where they can concentrate on their work."

When asked about her favorite paintings, Jacques could not pick just one. "Each artist has their own unique style, and each one offers a different appeal to each person, so it depends what you're partial to," Jacques said, "they had nature scenes, they had flowers, they had animals, so it's all kinds of different appeals."

If you'd like to sign up for the Council on Aging's art classes, you can visit the address at 1029 Central Street, or ask for Lisa Jacques by phone at 413-283-3670.



Dianne "Dee" Brennan, pictured with her many illustrations of animals.



John Cebula displays the paintings he's made over the last year.



Marcia Topor proudly displays a variety of paintings of different sizes and canvases.



Sue Keough welcomed visitors to the Senior Center Art Show.

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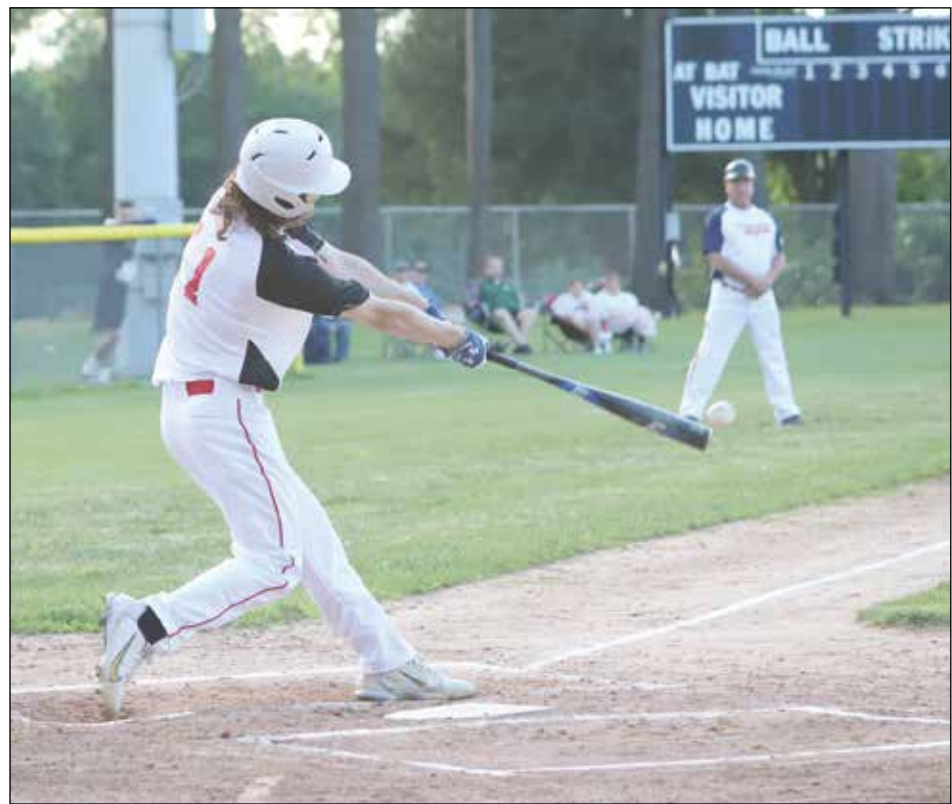
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BASEBALL

Post 241 scores big win over Aldenville



Ty Miller swings and connects.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE—Despite having runners on base in six of the seven innings that they batted, Aldenville Post 337 only scored one run in last Wednesday night's Senior Legion baseball game against Monson Post 241.

Monson, who scored all their runs in the fifth inning, remained undefeated with a 3-1 win at Szot Park in Chicopee.

"This was a low scoring game against a very good Aldenville team," said Monson manager Steve Tripp. "We only had runners in scoring position in a couple of innings, but we were able to capitalize

on them. It was a fun game tonight." The road win improved Monson's record to 3-0, while Aldenville had a 2-2 record.

"I thought it was a great pitcher's duel tonight," said Aldenville manager Mason Scott. "We just had one bad inning defensively, which wound up hurting us."

Monson righthander John Mumper won his second game of the Legion season. He went the distance allowing one run on six hits with eight strikeouts. He only issued one walk and threw a total of 82 pitches.

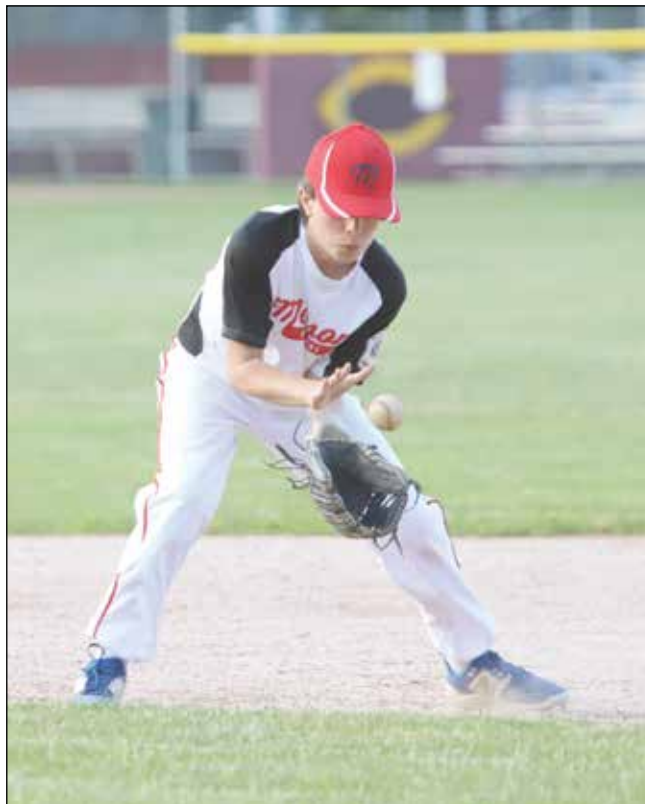
"Johnny was lights out again tonight," Tripp said. "He just pounds the strike zone and changes speed well. He just pitched a great

game. I couldn't say enough good things about his performance on the mound."

The home team had a golden opportunity to take a 1-0 against Mumper, who was the ace of the Ware High School pitching staff, in the bottom of the first inning.

Second baseman Luis Dejesus hit a grounder to the Monson third baseman leading off the bottom of the first inning. He wound up at third base following a throwing error.

After Mumper struck out the next batter, shortstop Nathan Carillon hit a flyball that was caught by Monson right fielder Ty Miller. His throw to the plate bounced away from catcher Dylan Sutkaitis. The



Niko Matthieu smothers a bouncer to second.

ball was picked up by Mumper. He tossed it back to Sutkaitis, who put the tag on DeJesus for the final out of the frame.

"That was a huge play in the bottom of the first inning," Tripp said. "If they scored a run there, they would've been all fired up. The key thing was Johnny backing up the play."

Aldenville left two more runners on base in the second inning.

"We just need to capitalize on our scoring chances," Scott said. "That's been one of our problems so far this season."

Meanwhile, Aldenville lefthander Brady Burnett, who

LEGION | page 10

BASEBALL

Bankers roll into first place

Photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com



Dave Clark makes a catch in right.



Ryan Franczek makes a throw to first.



Cam McDonald makes a quick throw for an out.



Pitcher Danny Gaines starts for PeoplesBank.

HOLYOKE — After a slow start, the reigning, defending playoff champion PeoplesBank are now in first place thanks to wins

over the Chicopee Falls Tigers, DiFranco Realty, and St. Joe's during the past week. PeoplesBank is now 6-1 this season, with 12

points to lead all teams. The Bankers, a Tri-County team with eight straight playoff championship and drawing great players from all over

the region, sees their season continues this week.

BASEBALL

Sturbridge Legion's rally falls short in loss

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

FISKDALE—Almost half of the players listed on the Sturbridge Post 109 Legion baseball roster were also members of the Tantasqua varsity baseball team.

While it was a very successful season for the Warriors, things haven't started out very well for the Post 109 squad.

After being shutout in their first three legion games, Sturbridge was trailing Cherry Valley Post 443, 7-1, entering the bottom of the third inning in last Monday night's game. The Post 109 squad battled back, but they suffered a 9-5 loss at Emrich Field.

"Not all of the players have

been showing up and we've been playing a lot of young players in our first couple of games of the season," said Sturbridge Legion manager Jim Rosseel. "At least we battled back in tonight's game. We had one bad inning, which killed us."

Rosseel was forced to reschedule several of the Legion games because the Warriors advanced into the round of eight in the Division 3 state tournament.

The first game of the Legion baseball season, which was at Milford Post 59, took place a day after Tantasqua's season ended following a 3-2 loss at Oakmont Regional. They also lost at Framingham the next night.

"We did play well in the first three innings of those two games,"

Rosseel said. "Then we fell behind and couldn't catch up."

Sturbridge, who didn't win a game last year, also lost their home opener against Leominster Post 151 on June 18.

"I never thought this year would be a mirror image of last year," Rosseel added. "We do have several very good players who play for the high school team."

Righthander Ben Yarter, who graduated from Tantasqua Regional a year ago, was Sturbridge's starting pitcher against Cherry Valley. He recently completed his freshman year as a Sports Management Major at Nichols College.

Cherry Valley (2-3) grabbed a 1-0 lead with two outs in the top of the first inning.

With two outs in bottom of the frame, Devin Krochmalnyckyj, who graduated from Tantasqua on June 4, tied the score by launching a home run over the fence just inside the left field foul pole.

"That was our first run of the season, and it was nice to finally break the ice," Rosseel said. "Devin has been a member of the Legion team for the past several years and he's one of our leaders."

The contest didn't remain tied for very long.

Cherry Valley scored six unearned runs with the help of four costly errors in the top of the second inning. All six of their runs crossed the plate with two outs.

"We gave them six runs in that

SOCCER



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Hannah Murphy moves up the field with the ball.

Monson girls soccer keep on winning

MONSON — The Monson girls summer soccer team has continued to stay on the winning side, and their offense has continued to produce. The Mustangs have defeated South Hadley, Northampton, and Hampshire to go to a perfect 3-0 now this summer. Monson is hoping to go to the A Division playoff once again this summer.



Claire Wahlund gets ready to send a free kick away.



Addison Peterson turns toward the opposing goal.



Emily Provost tries to make a save.



Hannah Murphy sends a pass away.

STURBRIDGE | page 10

Williams gets another big win

THOMPSON, Conn. — Ronnie Williams used a late caution to win the Icebreaker 125 for the Outlaw Open Modified Series at Thompson Speedway back in April. Wednesday night, Williams didn't need a late caution - he did it in dominating fashion. Williams took the lead early and rolled to the win after holding off Chris Pasteryak and on a flurry of late restarts. The victory came in the first of the summer Dash For Cash 50-lap, \$5,000 to win races for the Outlaw Open Modifieds at the Connecticut oval in 2023.

Williams had a tough challenge on the final restart with Pasteryak closing in on the back bumper. Pasteryak was close on the final lap when the field took the white flag, but got loose off turn two and had to settle for second. Joey Mucciacciaro posted a strong third-place finish with Kurt Vigeant and Swanson finishing the top-five.

Former Thompson champion Nick Johnson rolled to victory in the 25-lap Late Model race, taking the lead using the bottom lane. Johnson passed Matthew Lowinski-Loh for the second spot on the bottom, then passed Devin Deshaies for the lead just before halfway. Although Lowinski-Loh was closing in during the final laps, Johnson was able to seal the win. Lowinski-Loh finished in second, with Andrew Moelleur wrapping the race in third. Oddly enough, even though Johnson won the championship in the Late Models in 2019, it was his first



Submitted photo

Ronnie Williams captured a win in the Outlaw Open Modifieds.

career track Late Model win, he said in Victory Lane.

The New England Super-modifieds rolled into Thompson to supply pure speed and power and it was a dominant performance by Ben Seitz. The driver of the No. 11 jumped out to the lead passing Anthony Nocella for the top spot and never looked back en route to picking up the dominating victory. Danny Bowes was second and Rob Summers third at the end of their 30-lap feature.

Tyler Chapman collected the extra-distance prize in the SK Light Modifieds at the end of their 30-lap feature, worth \$750 to win. Much of the middle portion of the race saw Chapman chasing Danny Cates for the lead, with Alexander Pearl not far behind in third. Chapman would pass Cates for the lead with just under 10 laps remaining and go

unchallenged the remainder of the laps to win. Cates would lose second to Pearl in the final laps, but the two did complete the podium. The division not only had extra laps and extra prize money, but also infield pitting during the race for the first time during their Thompson tenure.

Corey Fanning made it two-for-two on the 2023 season in the Limited Sportsman, outlasting a stout group of contenders during a wild green-white-checked finish to take the win in the 30-lap EdenRaffety Clash For Cash. The \$750 to win race looked to be in the control of Ryan Waterman as the field took the white flag, but a caution for a spinning car in turn four slowed the race and set up the dash to the finish with a green-white-checked. Waterman and Chicolas brought the field down for the green with Waterman jumping away with

the lead into turn one. When the field hit turn one after taking the white flag a lap later, contact between Waterman and Chicolas sent Waterman drifting up the track sideways. Chicolas took advantage to grab the lead, but Fanning snagged the bottom lane and drag-raced him for the lead down the backstretch and Waterman rallied to chase them both in third. Off turn four to the checkered, Fanning jumped out to control and crossed for the win. Chicolas was second and Waterman third.

It was a dominant type of night for Kyle Wing in the Mini Stocks. Wing won his qualifying heat in dominant fashion, then followed it up by leading all 15 laps to win the Mini Stock feature race. It was his first career win in racing, he said in Victory Lane. Kevin Moore crossed the stripe second and Glynn Roy in third.

Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park's oval track is promoted by the American-Canadian Tour and Pro All Star Series again in 2023. The track will return to racing action on Wednesday, July 26, with the Twisted Tea Open Modified Dash For Cash round two, set for 50 laps and \$5,000 to win. The SK Light Modifieds will run double features, while the Late Models, Limited Sportsman and Mini Stocks will also be in action. Racing begins at 6PM and a full schedule of events will be released one week prior to race day.

Blue Sox hit tough skid, lose four straight

HOLYOKE — The Valley Blue Sox were defeated by the Danbury Westerners on Sunday by a score of 9-5. The team fell to 8-8 on the season.

It was a tale of two halves of this game for the Blue Sox. Danbury jumped out to an early 3-0 lead after an early two-run homer. Valley was able to fight back in the bottom of the fifth inning, scoring two runs making it a 3-2 game.

Danbury quickly increased their lead, scoring six combined runs in the sixth and seventh innings. The Westerners hit three home runs in this game after none had been hit in MacKenzie Stadium in the first nine games at home this season.

Terry Murray started for the Blue Sox and struck out four batters in four innings, allowing three runs.

Harrison Durow and James Vaughn both pitched two innings out of the bullpen, allowing three runs each.

Zach Cameron pitched a clean top of the ninth, with one strikeout.

Right Fielder EJ Kreutzmann broke out of a slump today, batting 2-for-4 with a double and two RBIs.

The utilityman Michael Zarrillo also went 2-for-4 with an

RBI double.

Last Saturday evening, the Blue Sox were defeated by the North Shore Navigators by a score of 4-0.

Valley was limited to just four hits thanks to solid pitching from start to finish from the Navigators. North Shore starter Nate Espelin pitched six shutout innings. Espelin had no strikeouts on the night, but was able to force soft contact and limit traffic on the bases, stifling Valley's offense.

Kurt Thomas started the game for the Blue Sox, and pitched four innings, allowing three runs and four walks, with no strikeouts.

The ball was turned over to Thomas Ballard who pitched two innings, allowing one run off of two hits while striking out four batters.

The back end of the bullpen continued to shine for the Blue Sox, with Michael Weidinger and Jason Arrigo both tossing shut-out innings. Both pitchers struck out two batters in their inning of work.

Eliot Dix went 2-for-2 on the night, reaching base in all three of his at-bats.

Matt Bergevin went 1-for-2 with two walks, continuing to see the ball well at the plate as he has all season.

Athletes invited to participate in sports clinics

LUDLOW — Lions Pride Sports Clinics are back. Young

inspiring athletes have the opportunity to participate in one or all

of our exciting clinics. The 2023 lineup consists of, Soccer session 1 from June 26 to 30, Soccer Session 2 from July 17 to July 21. Athlete Prep strength and conditioning program from June 27 to Aug. 10, Basketball from July 10 to 14, High School and Beach Volleyball June 20

to Aug. 15, Volleyball Basics July to Aug. 16, and Wrestling July 10 to Aug. 16. All clinics are held on the campus of Ludlow High School and are geared toward the development of fundamental skills. For more information log on to lionspridesc.wix.com/lpsc or contact Tim Brillo TBrillo1723@gmail.com. Registration is now online at https://www.familyid.com/organizations/lions-den-sports-clinics

STURBRIDGE | from page 9

inning," Rosseel said. "We had a couple of players playing out of position."

Cherry Valley added two more runs on a double into right field by shortstop Evan Remington in the top of the third inning.

Trailing, 9-1, Sturbridge put-together a rally against Cherry Valley righty Jacob Delvalle with one-out in the bottom half of the frame.

Following back-to-back walks by catcher Colby Scanlon and third baseman Brandon Phillips, Krochmalnyckyj drove home both runners

by hitting a double that just landed fair down the right field line. Designated hitter Keenan Wetherbee also had a run scoring single to center before scoring on a wild pitch.

Sturbridge's only other base hit against Cherry Valley came with two-outs in the fifth when second baseman Ethan Laplante singled to right field.

Post 109 also played three other games last week. They lost a pair of one run road games to Hudson, 5-4, and North Country, 1-0, before losing to Northborough in a home game.

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Turleysports

Athlete of the Week

Hunter Griswold

Pathfinder

Griswold got Monson Post 241's offense going by being the first to get on base in a close win over Aldenville

To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

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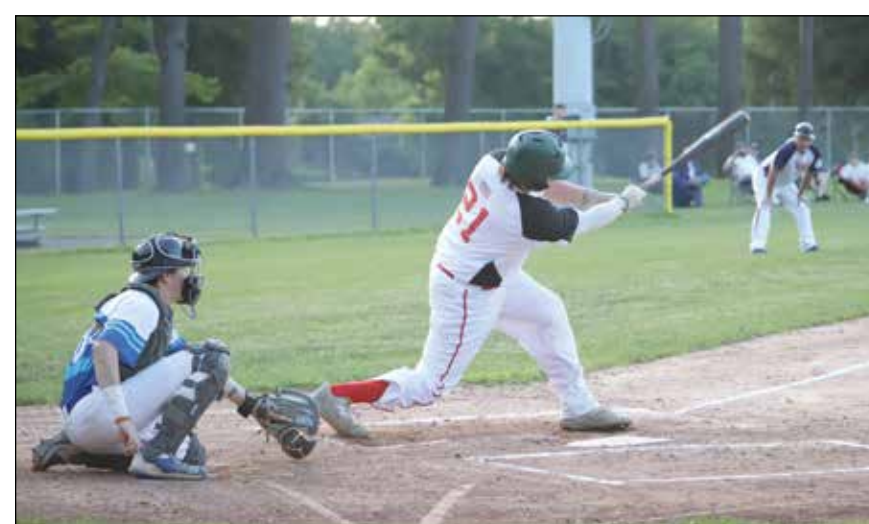
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Dylan Sutkaitis fouls off a pitch.

LEGION | from page 9

graduated from Chicopee High School on June 2, retired the first nine Monson batters that he faced.

"Brady's performance was stellar tonight," Scott said. "He's a very good lefty pitcher for us."

Monson shortstop Hunter Griswold broke-up Burnett's perfect game bid by lining a single into left field leading off the top of the fourth inning. After stealing second base, Griswold was thrown out trying to steal third by Aldenville catcher Nikolas Misiaszek.

With two outs in the frame Sutkaitis drew a walk and designated hitter Don Allen reached on an infield hit before Burnett escaped the jam with a flyball out.

Burnett wasn't as fortunate in the following inning.

After Monson loaded the bases with two outs with the help of a fielding error, Miller knocked home two runs with a single into right field.

"Ty fouled off a couple of pitches before getting the base hit in the fifth inning," Tripp said. "That was the biggest hit of the game."

Brayden Mega, who was hit by a pitch, also scored on the play following a throwing error.

Burnett, who allowed three unearned runs on four hits, was replaced on the mound by righthander Race Drobiak in the sixth inning.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Hunter Griswold slings a throw to first from short.

Aldenville ended Mumper's shut-out bid in their final at bats.

Centerfielder Devan Santos led off the bottom of the seventh inning with a double down the right field line. He scored when right fielder Nathan Serrano grounded into a fielder's choice play.

The home team couldn't score any more runs against Mumper.

Monson lost, 6-5, to Belchertown Post 239 in their home opener, last Friday night.



John Mumper start for the Monson Post 241.

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DEATH NOTICES

Arooth Jr., James E. Died June 19, 2023. Funeral June 27, 2023. Robinson, Donna Marie. Died June 21, 2023. Services July 8, 2023.

Bray, Martin A. Died June 21, 2023. Services June 29, 2023.



The Journal Register 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 \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

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

O B I T U A R I E S

James E. Arooth, Jr. 1972-2023

MONSON — James E. Arooth, Jr., 50, passed away Monday June 19, 2023 at Bay-state Wing Hospital in Palmer. Jim was born in Springfield, MA October 28, 1972 to James E. Arooth and the late Carmen M. (Bernier) Arooth.

wife Ellen Arooth in 2019, and his sister, Francine Cavanaugh in 2021. He leaves his father James E. Arooth of Monson; his fiancée, Amy Cook of Palmer; a sister, Dena Plante and her husband Bill of Monson; a nephew, Michael Plante and nieces, Catherine Plante and Lisa Cavanaugh, along with cousins and extended family members.

Visiting hours were held, Monday June 26, 2023 at Lombard Funeral Home 3 Bridge St.,



Monson. A graveside service was held Tuesday June 27, 2023 at Hillcrest Cemetery in Monson. Family and friends were asked to gather directly at the Cemetery. In lieu of flowers please consider a memorial donation to Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Animal Sanctuary in Brimfield 180 Sturbridge Rd, Brimfield, MA 01010. For on line condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com

Martin A. Bray, 1968 – 2023

PALMER—Martin Alan Bray, 54, of Palmer, was called safely home on June 21, 2023. Marty, as he liked to be called, was a lifelong Palmer resident. One of five children, he was the son of the late James and Kathleen Bray. Marty graduated from Palmer High School in 1986, then in 1993 he joined the Air Force, proudly serving 22 years, retiring in 2015, after a long and prestigious career.

field and Amanda Bray of Palmer and three grandchildren, two step daughters; Leslie Goncalves of Ludlow and Tiffany Gagnon and her husband Steven of Ludlow and 4 step grandchildren, three sisters; Jamie Lazarick of Thorndike, Jody Cusson of Granby and Lisa Bray of Dalton, brother William Bray and his wife Heather of Palmer as well as many nieces, nephews and extended family



members. Family and friends are invited to attend Marty's Graveside Service with Military Honors on Thursday, June 29th at 10:00 AM at West Cemetery on West Street in Granby, MA. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, PO Box 758516, Topeka, KS 66675 or online at www.woundedwarriorproject.org.

Donna Marie Robinson, 73

WALES—Donna Marie Robinson, 73, passed away June 21, 2023. She was born on March 17, 1950 in Chelsea, Massachusetts. She resided at the Monson Development Center for many years until 1997 when she relocated to the home of her caregivers who quickly became family. Donna loved to go shopping and going to the beach. She also enjoyed vacationing and visiting exciting places like the zoo and aquarium. She loved her family and friends dearly.

Donna was preceded in death by one of her dear friends and roommate, David Adams. She will be forever missed by her caretakers, Sharon and David Pfeiffer, and their children, Thomas Lamprey, Amber Pfeiffer, and Shelly Lane; her guardian, Cheryl Murray; roommate and dear friend, Suzie; as well as many extended family and friends.



Visitation will be held on July 8, 2023 from 9:30-11:30am at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home. A graveside service will immediately follow in Wales Cemetery #4. Donations in Donna's memory can be made to Overlook Hospice, 88 Masonic Home Rd. Charlton, MA 01507. Please visit www.beersandstory.com to extend online condolences.

Tips for driving safe with pets this summer

Distracted driving is of most concern in summer, when more people take the opportunity to travel, explore and visit family. Traveling with pets compounds this concern, as unrestrained pets can both cause distractions and make accidents more dangerous. "Pets can easily take a driver's attention from the road, posing a serious risk not only to the pet but also to the passengers riding in the same vehicle," says Michael Leung, co-founder and lead product designer of Sleepypod, a manufacturer of premium pet carriers and pet restraint systems. "If

there is nothing restraining a pet in a hard stop or car accident, the pet can become a projectile and potentially collide with fellow pets or human passengers." Such a collision could be catastrophic, regardless of a pet's size. A 10-pound dog in a 50-mile-an-hour car crash exerts 500 pounds of force. Meanwhile, an 80-pound dog in a 30-mile-per-hour crash exerts 2,400 pounds of force. Unrestrained pets may also fall or jump out of open windows or flee the car in fear after a crash, potentially becoming lost, injured, or worse.

that, while more than 80% of drivers admitted that they recognize the dangers of driving with an unrestrained pet, only 16% used pet restraints. Leung spearheaded Sleepypod's rigorous advanced crash-testing program. He and his research and development team gather real-life accident data through Sleepypod's crash replacement program, which offers customers who have used a pet safety restraint while in an accident replacement pet restraints or discounts on new pet restraints. Follow these tips for minimizing pet-related distractions and keeping pets safe during accidents: Pets should always be restrained in a back seat to prevent them from injury if an airbag is deployed. If the pet cannot restrain your pet with a reputable, tested car restraint, the next safest option is to place the pet in the footwell behind the front seat. Smaller pets are safer when fully contained in a restrained carrier, while larger dogs should ride in a car safety harness that does not connect the pet with an extension tether. Pets should be unable to slide forward far enough to "submarine," or drop off the seat, at any point during a collision.

Word search grid with letters and black squares.

A quality, rigorously tested pet restraint can make all the difference in preventing distracted driving and keeping human and pet passengers safe during an accident. Interestingly, an American Automobile Association survey found

Police/Fire

Police Logs

Palmer Police Dept.

The Palmer Police Department reported 485 incidents on its logs for June 20-27 including:

June 21 Lily Patrice Plotkin, 21, of 6 Country Lane in Pelham, was arrested and charged with OUI liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle and a marked lanes violation on S. Main Street. Also that day, police responded to a breaking and entering burglary complaint on State Street in Bondsville.

June 22 Police responded to a complaint of assault and battery on State Street in Bondsville.

June 23

Alton Kyle Northrup, 62, of 71 Hilldale Rd. in WWest Hartford, Connecticut, was arrested as a fugitive from justice without a warrant. No other details were provided.

June 24

James T. Mange, 35, of 2303 Main Street Apt. 1 in West Warren, was arrested and charged with assault and battery on a police officer, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct after an incident at a package store on Park Street. No other details were provided. Also that day, police responded to an auto break-in complaint on Springfield Street in Three Rivers and responded with mutual aid to a fire in the vicinity of Thorndike Street near the Mass Pike.

Monson Police Dept.

The incidents reported by the Monson Police Dept. for the period June 18-24 included the following arrested:

June 21

Damian Lee Greenlaw, 18 of 268 Palmer Rd., Apt. 34 in Monson was arrested on a warrant. No other details were provided.

June 24

George Micheal Hopkins, 30 of 1 Shannon Street in Lewiston, Maine, was arrested on a fugitive from justice warrant, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, destruction of property, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and reckless operation of motor vehicle and other charges. No other details were provided.

Fire Logs

MONSON

The Monson Fire Department responded to two fire calls and 29 emergency medical service calls from June 19-25.

June 22 at 4:33 p.m. Responded to Main Street for a smoke investigation. Returned to service at 5:00 p.m.

June 23 at 11:38 p.m. Responded to Bridge Street for a smoke investigation. Returned to service at 12:12 a.m.

PALMER

The Palmer Fire Department responded to nine fire calls and three medical assist calls from June 20-27:

June 20 at 3:21 p.m. Responded to Central Street for a smoke detector activation. Returned to service at 3:35 p.m.

June 22 at 6:09 a.m. Responded to North Main Street for a detector activation. Returned to service at 6:21 a.m.

June 22 at 3:40 p.m. Responded to Central Street for a motor vehicle accident with fluid spill. Returned to service at 3:58 p.m.

June 23 at 11:43 p.m. Responded to Beacon Drive for a detector activation. Returned to service at

12:07 a.m.

June 24 at 12:07 a.m. Responded to Mass Pike for a motor vehicle accident with fluid spill. Returned to service at 2:06 a.m.

June 24 at 8:38 a.m. Responded to Ware Street for a motor vehicle accident with fluid spill. Returned to service at 9:05 a.m.

June 24 at 7:23 p.m. Responded to Pine Street for a detector malfunction. Returned to service at 7:57 p.m.

June 25 at 7:58 p.m. Responded to High Street in Thorndike for an unauthorized burning. Returned to service at 8:55 p.m.

June 27 at 4:16 a.m. Responded to Birch Hill Drive for arcing electrical equipment. Returned to service at 5:21 a.m.

NFPA report 'Fatal Firefighter Injuries in the U.S.' shows 96 on-duty deaths

REGION - The National Fire Protection Association released a new report, "Fatal Firefighter Injuries in the U.S. in 2022", which showed a total of 96 on-duty U.S. firefighter fatalities in 2022. Of these deaths, 51 were volunteer firefighters, 38 were career firefighters, six were contractors for federal or state land management agencies, and one was a full-time federal land management employee.

The number of injury and cardiac-related fatalities in 2022 is higher than past years, largely due to the inclusion of deaths occurring within 24 hours of duty, which were previously not counted in the report unless there was a specific physical complaint while on duty. The report now includes fatal injuries and cardiac deaths that occurred within 24 hours of duty, irrespective of manifested or reported symptoms.

"Sudden cardiac deaths or cardiac conditions regularly account for the largest share of on-duty firefighter deaths," said Richard Campbell, author of the report and a senior research analyst at NFPA. "By adjusting the reporting period by 24 hours, we were able to more fully capture cardiac failure among firefighters, allowing us to more accurately identify the serious health risks firefighters face on the job."

However, Campbell notes, an unknown number of deaths due to unspecified medical causes in 2022 were likely cardiac related, so the reported number of cardiac deaths likely continues to underestimate the true total.

The report categorizes the type of duty that firefighters were engaged in when the deaths occurred, including deaths that occurred:

- on the fireground;
at a non-fire emergency;
responding to or returning from emergency calls; and during training.

Trauma injuries accounted for 33 firefighter deaths, including 20 internal trauma deaths, six deaths by crushing, five deaths due to unspecified traumatic injuries and two deaths due to gunshot injuries or projectile wounds.

In addition, six multiple fatali-



ty incidents occurred in 2022, tying for the highest number of multiple fatality incidents since 2009. Four of the incidents involved vehicles, each resulting in two fatalities. The two remaining incidents involved structure fires, one in which three firefighters were killed in a building collapse and the other in which two firefighters died after sending a mayday from the second floor of a house.

Just over one-fifth of firefighter deaths (21) occurred while responding to or returning from emergencies. The report also showed that overexertion and stress accounted for just over one-half of the deaths in 2022. Of the 49 deaths in this category:

- 34 were sudden cardiac incidents and one was due to cardiac symptoms;
11 deaths included an unspecified medical cause;
one was due to a stroke or aneurysm; and
two deaths were the result of drug overdoses.

According to the report, excluding the 340 firefighter deaths that occurred on 9/11, the highest fatal injury total was 174 firefighter deaths in 1978 and the lowest was 48 deaths in 2019. This overall downward trend is an encouraging indication that firefighter injury prevention and health and wellness efforts through the years

are being met with success. At the same time, the data shows that work as a firefighter includes significant physical demands, taking place in environments that involve a range of hazardous conditions and presenting risks not only at fire scenes, but during training activities, non-fire emergencies, and transport to and from emergency scenes.

"While significant strides have been made over time to better protect firefighters on the job, firefighters continue to take on more roles and responsibilities, placing significant physical and mental stresses on them that can have fatal consequences," said Campbell. "Ongoing efforts to adequately address these issues will be needed in order to see meaningful reductions."

This firefighter fatal injuries study is made possible by the cooperation and assistance of the United States fire service, CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, the United States Fire Administration, the Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Land Management of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

For this release and other announcements about NFPA initiatives, research and resources, please visit the NFPA press room.

Health

GUEST OPINION

What drew me to caring for people in my community

By Hannah Niemiec

I have wanted to be a nurse since I was young.

My journey into the health field began while in high school when I signed up for a Certified Nurse Assistant program and this started me on my career path. Since graduating from nursing school, I completed the Baystate Health Nurse Residency Program and have been working at Baystate Wing Hospital since July, 2022.

I completed my one-on-one preceptorship for nursing school at Baystate Wing on the Med/Surg Unit during my last semester of nursing school. Being able to start a job on the same floor I had done my clinical rotation on gave me great headway in the world of nursing and I felt so welcome in the unit when I took a full-time job there.

I became a nurse to make a difference. I love being able to be a light to my patients on some of their darkest days. Caring for people living in my community is another important part of what I do, and I am proud of the knowledge, compassion, and skill that go into the care I provide each shift I work.

I love coming to work! Each day I learn something new, from skills, to fun facts, and about different diseases. Being a nurse means being committed to constant learning, practice, and reflection for continuous improvement.

My favorite moments with patients are the everyday moments of caring for them and spending time getting to know them better. I love when I can discharge a patient home and can see the improvement they have made. I love when they thank our team for the care we have given them that makes them feel better and able to go home with the education we give them to stay healthy.

We have a great team, and we work so well together. Our team makes each member feel welcomed and valued. I am grateful for the great relationship I have with all my coworkers. The Patient Care Technicians I work with daily play a huge role in the care I give to each patient. We all work side by side and make each day a good day while taking care of our patients as a team from admission to discharge.

I make compassionate connections with my patients each shift. Each connection I make is different and how to make that connection sometimes has to change based on the patient and their personalities. Because I am from the local area and live in the community, I can relate to my patients many times.

Something many people would find surprising about being a nurse is a nurse's role is more than just being a nurse. We can have different roles each day depending on the needs of our patients. Many would not know how many different types of patients/diagnoses and skills we use and see on a day-to-day basis.

These experiences help build a good foundation for each nurse. I am grateful for the team I work with each day.

Hannah Niemiec, BSN, RN, works in the Med/Surg Unit at Baystate Wing Hospital in Palmer. For more information visit Baystatehealth.org/wing



HEALTH TIPS

When it comes to poison ivy, prevention takes priority

PALMER — Problems with poison ivy are most prominent during the spring and summer. However, poison ivy can cause a problem any time of the year," said Dr. Joseph Sills, chief of Emergency Medicine at Baystate Wing Hospital.

"An allergic reaction to the oil in these plants, called urushiol, produces the rash," Sills said.

"Exposure to poison ivy can happen when people are hiking, camping or at home gardening, clearing brush, cutting vines or carrying and burning wood. Every part of the plant — the leaves, stem, vines, flowers and roots — contains urushiol," he explained.

"Once you're exposed to urushiol, a rash can occur from several hours to three days after contact with the plant. While direct skin-to-plant contact with poison ivy, oak, or sumac is probably the most frequent cause of the rash, the irritants from the plants can also be passed on indirectly by pets, garden tools, shoes or virtually anything that touches a plant."

What to do if you have come into contact with poison ivy?

"Rinsing your skin immediately after touching the poison ivy, oak, or sumac, with lukewarm water, may help to rinse off some of the oil and lessen or avoid the rash," Sills said.

"Beware that the oil can stick to clothing and other surfaces as well, so be sure to also wash the clothes you were wearing when you came into contact with the poisonous plant, as well as gardening tools, golf clubs, leashes, and even a pet's fur."

Most people — 85% — develop a rash when they get urushiol on their skin. The first time you get this oil on your skin, you may not get a rash. The next time this oil gets on your skin you can become sensitive to it. Once you are sensitive to it, a rash appears. The rash caused by these plants is not contagious and does not spread.

Scratching the rash or the leaking fluid from the blisters does not spread the rash, although it can cause scarring and potential infection.

"Urushiol can remain active for years," Sills said.

"For that reason, even dead poison ivy, oak or sumac plants must be handled with care. Plants should never be burned or shredded,

as airborne particles can spread the oil to sensitive areas like the face and eyes and may potentially cause damage to lungs."

Knowledge is power

According to Dr. Sills, "Prevention is the best approach; know what the plant looks like and teach your family to avoid it.

If you do have contact with one of the poison plants and the rash has set in, the three main goals of treatment are to stop the itching, decrease inflammation and prevent infection."

If infected, it can last at least a week.

"The rash from poison ivy, oak, or sumac usually lasts one to three weeks," Sills said.

"Most rashes go away without treatment and while your skin heals, it more than likely will continue to itch. If the eruption is mild, applying calamine lotion three or four times a day can help with the itchiness. If the rash covers a large area of the body, oatmeal or baking soda baths may help reduce itching and discomfort. Avoid those preparations containing anesthet-



Poison Ivy Plant

ics or antihistamines, as often they can cause allergic eruptions themselves. Infections can occur if blisters break and bacteria enters the open wound. Keep the rash clean and any open blisters bandaged to help lessen the chance of infection."

Seeking medical help might not be necessary, but varies by



Dr. Joseph Sills

case.

"A rash from poison ivy, poison oak, or poison sumac, can usually be treated at home," Sills said.

"If the rash is severe, on your face or extensive parts of your body, seeing a doctor is important; You may need a prescribed steroid ointment that you can apply to the skin, or to be placed on an oral steroid like prednisone," he said.

If you have any of the following symptoms, or if you have a serious reaction, seek immediate medical care by going to the emergency room, including:

- Trouble breathing or swallowing
- A rash that covers most of your body
- You have many rashes or blisters
- Swelling, especially if an eyelid swells shut
- The rash develops anywhere on your face or genitals
- Much of your skin itches and nothing seems to ease the itch.
- Signs of a bacterial infection, such as pain, increased red-

Expert grilling safety tips to help prevent accidents and injuries

SPRINGFIELD — There's nothing like a backyard barbecue on a beautiful summer day, but it's important to remember that grills can also cause serious damage and injuries if not used safely. According to the National Fire Protection Association, U.S. fire departments respond to an average of 10,600 fires involving grills each year, and nearly 20,000 people seek medical care annually because of grill-related injuries, about half of which are burns. The experts at Rocky's Ace Hardware stress the importance of grill safety, especially as we enter the most popular months for grilling.

"We are big fans of the grilling lifestyle, but it's only fun if it's safe," said Rocky's Ace Hardware President Rocco Falcone. "This starts with having a working fire extinguisher on hand every time you grill. Hopefully, you'll never need it, but you'll be glad it's there if you do. Remember, water doesn't work on a grease fire, so a nearby hose is not enough."

Falcone said ongoing grill maintenance is a key safety factor. He recommends doing a thorough grill inspection at the start of the season to look for rust, cracks or damage to the fuel line and other parts.

"Address any issues you find before you fire up the grill," he said. "That may mean buying replacement parts or a whole new grill, depending on the extent of the problem."

A deep clean at the start of the season, and then regular cleaning after every use, is also advisable.

"Not only will your food taste better on a clean grill, but you'll head off potential hazards as well," said Falcone. "Based on the type of grill you have, empty ashes and unburnt coal, check for clogs on burners and in tubes and thoroughly clean the grease pan. Depending on how often you use the grill, check these items periodically throughout the year."

When it comes to the grates, Falcone advised cleaning them before and after each use. "There are a variety of tools designed for this, including wire brushes and scrapers," he said. "If you opt for a wire brush, be sure to inspect the grill carefully afterward to ensure none of the wire bristles remain on the grill, as they can be very harmful if they attach to food and are swallowed."

To prevent flare-ups, Falcone noted that best practices include trimming excess fat from meats, keeping the lid open when searing high-fat foods, leaving space on the grill to move food away from a flareup and avoiding grilling in windy areas.

In terms of grill placement, Falcone said to choose a flat, open area at least 10 feet from the home or other structures.

"Never grill in your garage, even with the door open, or on a covered patio," he said. "Also, never leave a grill unattended, and make sure children and pets stay at least 10 feet away."

In closing, Falcone reminded area grillers to familiarize themselves with their grills and follow the instructions for each model as well as any safety recommendations. The experts at Rocky's Ace Hardware are available to answer questions and offer advice when needed.

Community Newspaper EDITOR WANTED

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

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

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

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

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

Qualifications should include:

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

Please send resume and writing examples to:

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



Palmer Senior Center

Monday, July 3
Spinach and Tomato Penne Bake
Steamed Peas
Whole Wheat Bread
Apple Juice
Chilled Peaches

Wednesday, July 5
4th of July BBQ
Hot Dog w/Bun*
Italian Pasta Salad
Baked Beans
Ketchup/Mustard
Fresh Fruit

Friday, July 7
Baked Ham w/Pineapple *
Green Beans
Au Gratin Potatoes
Dinner Roll
Cookie/Diet Cookie

Monday, July 10
Mac & Cheese
Stewed Tomatoes
Whole Wheat Bread
Cranberry Juice
Reg/Diet Cookie

Wednesday, July 12
Birthday Celebration
BBQ Pulled Pork
Coleslaw
½ Baked Sweet Potato
WW Burger Bun
Birthday Cake/Diet Cake

Friday, July 14
Rosé Chicken
California Blend Veg
Penne Pasta w/Sauce
Whole Wheat Bread
Fresh Fruit

Monday, July 17
American Chop Suey
Roman Blend Veg
Wheat Roll
Rice Krispie Treat

Wednesday, July 19
Turkey Divan*
Steamed Broccoli
Egg Noodles
Wheat Dinner Roll
Spiced Peaches

Friday, July 21
Penne Pasta Primavera
Tossed Salad w/Italian
Garlic Toast
Reg/Diet Jello w/Topping

Monday, July 24
Seasoned Braised Pork
California Blend Veg
Rice and Beans
Whole Wheat Roll
Fresh Fruit

Wednesday, July 26
Cold Plate
Dill Salmon Salad over
Tossed Salad w/ranch
Citrus Carrot Salad
Whole Wheat Bread
Chilled Peas

Friday, July 28
Meatloaf w/Mushroom Gravy
Steamed Peas
Mashed Potatoes
Whole Wheat Bread
Cookie/Diet Cookie

Monday, July 31
Roasted Red Pepper Ravioli
Italian Blend Veg
Italian Bread
Oreo Cookie

Suggested voluntary donation \$2/meal
Menu subject to change without notice. If you have a special concern regarding the sodium, contact the Nutritionist. Call GSSSI 781-8806 X 136 for more information.



Monson Senior Center

Activities

July 3
CLOSED

July 4
CLOSED

Wednesday, July 5
Strength Training 10:00
Card Making 6:00
Crafts & Laughs 6:00

Thursday, July 6
Chair Massage 11:00
Yoga 4:30

Friday, July 7
Strength Training 10:00
Wii Bowling 12:30
BP Clinic 1:00
Pitch 6:00

Monday, July 10
Strength Training 10:00
Card Class 1:00

Tuesday, July 11
Foot Care 9:00
Birthday Party 12:00
Canasta 12:30
Line Dancing 4:00

Wednesday, July 12
Strength Training 10:00
Rep. Ashe's Aide 10-11
BINGO 1:00
Crafts & Laughs 6:00

Thursday, July 13
Lunch Bunch 11:30
Yoga 4:30

Friday, July 14
Walmart 9:00
Strength Training 10:00

MENU

Wednesday, July 5
Peachy Chicken, Sweet Potato
Peas, WWB, Oranges

Thursday, July 6
American Chop Suey, Carrots, Corn
WWB, Juice, Mixed Fruit

Friday, July 7
Fish, Oven Roasted Potatoes
Mixed Vegetables, WWB
Jell-O w/Fruit

Monday, July 10
Tarragon Mushroom Chicken, Rice, Broccoli, Rye Bread, Peaches

Tuesday, July 11
Meatloaf Mashed Potatoes
Mixed Vegetables, WWB, Applesauce

Wednesday, July 12
Sweet & Sour Meatballs w/Peppers
Egg Noodles, Corn, WWB, Pineapple

Thursday, July 13
Broccoli Cheese Quiche, Potatoes, Beets,
Rye Bread, Pudding

Friday, July 14
Roast Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Spinach,
WWB, Cookies

Suggested donation \$2.50 for participants 60 and over. Guests under 60 must pay \$3.50. Federal guidelines specify that food should not be taken from the lunch site. The only exceptions are bread, fruit, and milk or non-perishable items.

The Nutrition and Transportation programs we are able to offer are funded in part by Greater Springfield Senior Services and our Outreach & Human Services are funded in part by GSSSI, MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs and the Federal Admin. for Community Living.



Contributed photo

Monson Savings Bank President and CEO Dan Moriarty, (far left) along with other members of the Springfield community at the World's Largest Pancake Breakfast Chairperson's Reception.

Monson Savings Bank celebrates World's Largest Pancake Breakfast chair

MONSON — Like the Spirit of Springfield, Monson Savings Bank has been a longtime supporter of the communities and the residents of Western Massachusetts.

As a continued sponsor of the cherished Pancake Breakfast, Monson Savings Bank recently attended the 2023 World's Largest Pancake Breakfast chairperson announcement to kick off the celebration.

MSB President and CEO Dan Moriarty was in attendance at the World's Largest Pancake Breakfast Honorary Chairperson's Reception when the exciting announcement was made that Springfield Police Superintendent Cheryl Clapprood would be this year's Chairperson.

"Cheryl has made countless contributions to the Springfield community, and it is certainly a better place because of her," Moriarty said in a press release.

"It was an exciting moment when

it was announced that she would be the Chairperson."

The World's Largest Pancake Breakfast, presented by the Spirit of Springfield, took place on May 13. Monson Savings Bank made a \$3,500 contribution to support this annual tradition.

"This is the second year in a row that the Bank has been a part of the World's Largest Pancake Breakfast," Moriarty said.

"We are honored to have the opportunity to not only be a sponsor of this event but also attend and interact with the community at the breakfast."

This year, the community bank hosted several fun activities at the breakfast. This included balloons for attendees, corn hole, giant Jenga towers and free giveaways.

To learn more about Monson Savings Bank, go to monsonsavings.bank.

To learn more about the Spirit of Springfield, go to spiritofspringfield.org.

Camp Putnam fundraiser returns to NBSB

REGION — North Brookfield Savings Bank recently announced that the Camp Putnam fundraiser will return once again during July.

According to a press release, the bank is encouraging its communities to join forces with them to help support local campers this summer. Nestled in the fields and forests of New Braintree, Camp Putnam provides an authentic, nature-based camping experience for children and is made affordable for all families regardless of income.

"It is amazing to see some campers during their first few meals at camp as they realize that there is 'plenty' of food," Executive Camp Director Todd Stewart said.

"Usually around the second or third day, the overall pace slows down and kids begin to realize that they don't need to rush, don't need to save food for later and that there will be plenty of food at this meal and every other."

Camp Putnam, which spends nearly \$40,000 on food per summer, proudly serves campers tasty and healthy home-cooked and "kid-friendly" meals such as homemade mac and cheese, tacos, Shepherd's pie, fresh fruits and veggies, pancakes, French toast and more in a family-style atmosphere.

"Although it is heartbreaking to realize just how many children come from situations where securing their next meal is a concern, it is a wonderful experience to see over 100 kids, from a wide-range of backgrounds, happily enjoying a delicious meal as one large family before, during, or after a great day experiencing nature in the carefree way all children should be afforded," Stewart said.

"This is why donations from organizations like North Brookfield

Savings Bank and our generous communities are vital and so appreciated."

About the camp

Camp Putnam, located on 150 acres of fields and forest in rural New Braintree, has been serving local children for over 65 years. The camp provides a safe and healthy summer camp experience that is affordable for all families, regardless of income and is camp in the truest sense of the word — a place where kids and staff interact with nature all day, every day. Camp Putnam encourages and promotes emotional, social, intellectual and personal discovery for children in a safe, structured environment. To learn more about Camp Putnam, visit campputnam.org.

Want to help?

Anyone can make a donation into the designated collection jars displayed along the teller line at any North Brookfield Savings Bank branch location, with branches located in North Brookfield, East Brookfield, West Brookfield, Ware, Belcher-town and Three Rivers.

"North Brookfield Savings Bank is proud to partner with and support organizations like Camp Putnam, whose efforts help aid in the health and happiness of our young, local community members," NBSB Marketing Manager Nicole Syriac said.

"Camp Putnam provides a safe, nurturing, healthy and fun environment for campers to make friends and experience personal growth. We are hopeful that with our support and the benevolent generosity of our community members we will once again reach and exceed our goal to help feed campers well-rounded, nutritious meals."



Submitted Photo

Diana Lussier graduates from Stonier Graduate School of Banking.

Country Bank Announces Stonier Graduate

WARE— Country Bank is pleased to congratulate one of its Difference Makers, Dianna Lussier, vice president of risk, on her recent graduation from the American Bankers Association, Stonier Graduate School of Banking.

"During the past three years, I gained valuable insights into leadership, innovation, ethics, business strategy, and change management. I've learned new perspectives and skillsets and built meaningful connections with leaders in the banking industry across the country. I know these connections will be a great resource for me throughout my career. Thank you to Country Bank for providing me with this opportunity to advance my leadership and other developmental skills that will make a difference in my career, for my team, and the Bank," said Lussier.

"We couldn't be prouder of Dianna for her dedication to the completion of the American Bankers Association Stonier School of Banking. She has worked hard over the course of this three-year program designed to enhance her leadership skills as a banker, a risk professional and a thought leader for the bank. Dianna has always been enthusiastic about the learning opportunities offered by the Bank through her career at Country Bank and we are appreciative of her continued commitment to excellence," said Miriam Siegel, FSVP, Chief Culture & Development Officer.

Dakin Humane Society discount drop-in July 1

50% off adoption fees

REGION — Dakin Humane Society will be reducing adoption fees for all animals by 50% from 12:30 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, July 1, at its Springfield location at 171 Union Street.

Dakin typically shelters cats, dogs and a variety of other small animals including (based on availability) birds, guinea pigs, rabbits, ferrets, chinchillas, hamsters, gerbils, mice and rats. Dakin anticipates a large turn out, so adopters should plan on spending at least one-to-two hours at the event.

The shelter is holding the special adoption event in response to increasing animal population numbers for this season, a press release states.

"Summer is always the busiest time at Dakin," Meg Talbert, executive director of Dakin, said.

"We always see an uptick in our numbers during the warm weather months, but this year we saw a sharp increase way earlier than we normally would. In April and May we were welcoming as many pets as we would expect to see in July or August."

Talbert said the shelter needs to get ready for the next influx.

"We wanted to hold this event to spur adoptions and get as many animals as possible into loving homes to make room for the next pets who will be coming forward and will need our help," Talbert said.

"When you adopt from a shelter, you are saving two lives; the pet you bring home with you, and the next one waiting in line. Summer is an ideal time for many people to adopt, especially those with children who can spend their school vacation bonding with a new best friend."

People interested in adopting a specific pet currently listed on Dakin's website at dakinhumane.org are advised to adopt that pet prior to Saturday, as there are no holds or guarantees of an animal's availability once the event begins. Likewise, Dakin recommends that potential adopters visit Dakin's website just prior to attending and select a few pets of interest with the understanding that their top choices may not be available.

Adoption fees at Dakin include a variety of services and treatments in-

cluding a veterinary exam, spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, microchip and registration, deworming treatment, a rabies vaccine (if pet is over 12 weeks of age), a behavior evaluation, access to behavior support, a free post-adoption veterinary exam at participating clinics and a food starter pack.

Other features include a feline leukemia test, FIV test, flea and ear mite treatment (for cats), and a heartworm test, flea and tick treatment, and heartworm prevention (for dogs). According to Talbert, the average pre-adoption cost of care for each adoptable animal that comes to Dakin averages \$705.

Dakin Humane Society delivers effective, innovative services that improve the lives of animals in need and the people who care about them. In a typical year, the organization shelters, treats and fosters more than 20,000 animals and has performed over 100,000 spay/neuter surgeries since 2009, making it New England's largest spay/neuter provider, the press release states. Dakin is a local non-profit organization that relies solely on contributions from individuals and businesses that care about animals to bring its services to the community.

For more information, visit dakinhumane.org.



Submitted photo

A Dakin Animal Resource Counselor assists in an adoption. The shelter is offering 50% off adoption fees on July 1.

Send Us Your Autumn Event Information

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event FREE OF CHARGE in our Autumn Fest Supplement which will be published September 13, 2023.

Total circulation of 85,000 reaching over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley.

Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 16.

Community Autumn Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO:

Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email* jamie@turley.com

*Be sure to indicate "Autumn Event" in the subject line of your email.

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.

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TAG SALE

TAG SALE: JULY 1ST & 2ND, 9am-5pm. Household items, some antiques, power tools, mechanics tools, tig welder, many items to see. **26 Aspen St., Ware MA.** Rain or shine.

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

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EVENTS

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Call Pete 413-433-0356.

HELP WANTED

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TOWN OF WILBRAHAM FIREFIGHTER/EMT

The Town of Wilbraham is looking to fill a vacancy for Firefighter/EMT. For application and more information please visit www.wilbraham-ma.gov. Open until filled. EOE

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINE

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of July 4th, the Classifieds have an **EARLY AD DEADLINE.**

To advertise, place your ad no later than **NOON Thursday, June 29**

Thank you!

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Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE MONSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 131, §.40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, July 12, 2023 at 7:20 PM** in the Public Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main Street Monson, MA. Under consideration is a **Request for Determination of Applicability** to determine if the work associated with installation of a 12ft X 24ft shed on piers within Bordering Land Subject to Flooding for the property identified as Assessors Map 113 Parcel 055, 19 Chestnut St., Monson, MA, is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. The property owner is Jesse Griswold.
 Submitted by:
 Monson Conservation Commission

Glenn Colburn, Chairman
 06/29/2023

LEGAL NOTICE MONSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 131, §.40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday July 12, 2023 at 7:10 PM** in the Public Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main Street Monson, MA. Under consideration is a **Request for Determination of Applicability** to determine if the work associated with installation of an above ground pool within the Riverfront Area for the property identified as Assessors Map 115 Parcel 086, 22 Park Ave, Monson, MA, is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. The property owner is Brenda Newton.
 Submitted by:
 Monson Conservation Commission
 Glenn Colburn, Chairman
 06/29/2023

March 10, 2023 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Carl Gustavson of Monson, MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Carl Gustavson of Monson, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.
 The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
 06/29/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court

50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758
 Docket No. HD23C0176CA
In the matter of: Elizabeth Tara-Marie Hogan
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of **Adult** has been filed by **Elizabeth Tara-Marie Hogan of Brimfield, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Elizabeth Tara-Marie Grubbs IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of **07/14/2023**.
 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. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: June 26, 2023
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
 06/29/2023

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 or call: 413-283-8393

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DEADLINES: QUABBIN & SUBURBAN - FRIDAY AT NOON
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Public Notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23A0097AD
In the matter of:
Aubree Nicole Hubbard
CITATION
G.L. c. 210, § 6
TO:
 any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.
 A petition has been presented to said court by:
Melinda Savicki of Palmer, MA
Reise Harrington of Palmer, MA

requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to
Aubree Nicole Harrington
 If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person.

An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3.10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT Springfield ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 07/07/2023.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: June 13, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 06/29/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD22P0114EA
Estate of:
Wayne T Peck
Date of Death: 03/16/2021
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by **Dennis F Gorman, Esq.** of Worcester, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including a determination of testacy and heirs at law and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

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 07/21/2023.**

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.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: June 26, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 06/29/2023

Town of Monson Planning Board
LEGAL NOTICE
 In accordance with Section 7.3 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing, **Tuesday, July 18, 2023**

at **7:00 P.M.** in the Select Board meeting room at the Town Administration Building, 110 Main Street, Monson on the application of Bradford Medeiros for Site Plan Approval \$7.4 and a Special Permit for Stormwater Management \$6.19 and a Special Permit for work within the Water Supply Protection Overlay District \$4.2 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The petitioner proposes to construct a self-storage facility comprised of four (4) buildings on a 2.558-acre site located on Bliss Street, Map 116, Parcel 055 Zoned Industrial. A copy of the application is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, Zoning Board of Appeals and is available for viewing during regular office hours.
 Craig Sweitzer, Chairman
 06/29, 07/06/2023

PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 11, M.G.L. the Palmer Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, July 10, 2023 at 7:15 PM** in the Town Administrative Building, 4417 Main St, Palmer MA.

The applicant, RDL Associates, LLC, 136 Carmelina Circle, Ludlow MA 01056, is seeking a Special Permit as required by section 171.73 of the Palmer Zoning Ordinance to remove Earth materials for a two year term (2023-2024) from the property located off Palmer Street, Bondsville, also known as Assessor's Map 24 Lot 66.

A copy of the application may be inspected at the Planning Department office in the Town Administration Building Monday-Thursday 8am - 4:30pm

Anyone interested in more information or wishing to be heard on the application can contact the Planning Department at 413-283-2605 or appear at the time and place designated above.

This notice shall also be posted on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association's (MNPA) website (<http://masspublicnotices.org>).

Michael Marciniac,
 Chairman
 06/22, 06/29/2023

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT HAMPDEN, Div. Probate & Family Court Dept. HD23E0029PP

To Jacqueline Splaine and Elissa Y Splaine of Brimfield, in the County of Hampden, Serenity L. Allen and Michael J Splaine of Worcester County, and to all other persons interested.

A petition has been presented to said Court by Kimberly J. Moran of Chesapeake, Virginia, representing that they hold as tenants in common in an undivided part or share of land lying in Brimfield, in the County of Hampden, setting forth that they desire that all of said land may be sold at private sale or public auction for not less than Four Hundred Thousand (\$400,000.00) Dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof after full adjudication of the equitable claims contained in said petition and supplemental memorandum filed with the Court.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney, should file a written appearance in said Court at **Springfield** before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the **eight day of August 2023**, the return day of this citation.
 Witness, BARBARA M.

HYLAND, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this 8th day of June 2023.
Rosemary A. Saccomani
 Register
 06/29, 07/06/06, 07/13/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23P1285EA
Estate of:
Maureen Marie Valliere
Also known as:
Maureen M. Valliere
Date of Death: 05/28/2023
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 **Debra Peterson of Palmer, 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: **Debra Peterson of Palmer, 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 07/19/2023.

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 unsuper-

vised 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: June 21, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 06/30/2023

Town of Monson Zoning Board of Appeals
LEGAL NOTICE
 In accordance with Chapter 40A M.G. L. §.11,

the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing **Thursday, July 27, 2023 at 7:10 P.M.** in the Select Board meeting room at the Town Administration Building, 110 Main Street on the application of Bradford Medeiros 149 Bumstead Road, Monson, MA for a special permit as provided by §6.6 Earth Removal of the Monson Zoning Bylaws to conduct an Earth Removal operation. The property is zoned Industrial and located on Bliss Street, Map 116, Parcel 055. A copy of the application is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, Zoning Board of Appeals and is available for viewing during regular office hours.
 David Beaudoin, Chairman
 06/29, 07/06/2023

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.



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Resident installed as new Zonta Club president

REGION — On Monday June 19, Zonta District Governor Donna Sroka of Northampton inducted four new members and installed the 2024 Board of Directors of the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley during its annual meeting at the Ludlow Country Club.

Cynthia Melcher of Palmer was installed as board president.

The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley is part of Zonta International, a global organization intent on making a better world for women and girls by advocating for equality, education, and an end to child marriage and gender-based violence.

For more, search on social media using #zonta.org #zontadistrict1.org #zontaqv.org.



The 2024 Board of Directors of the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley was recently installed. They are: Past President Dana Burton (Belchertown), Board Member Kerry Chenausky (Belchertown), Treasurer Susan Seaver (Springfield), Board Member Patricia Pupek (Westfield), Co-Vice Presidents Karen Keough-Huff and Christine Keough-Huff (Belchertown), Secretary Mary Knight (Belchertown) and District Governor Donna Sroka. Missing from the photo is newly elected President Cynthia Melcher (Palmer).



Adirondack chairs donated by the Hampden County Jail and House of Corrections were one of the raffle prizes.



A wine basket that was just one of the raffle prizes that were donated for the 9th Annual Carol Rivest Memorial Foundation.



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JULY LINE UP

1st	Tim Cecchitelli
8th	Charlie Bongiovi
15th	Irv Lewis
22nd	Peter Newland
29th	TBA

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CRMF Board members Kim McClintock, Sheila Rivest, Hailey Rivest, Lindsey LaFlamme, Sarah Gloster and Lisa-Lin Allen from last year's fundraiser.

MEMORIAL | from page 1

on Saturday and ran until 7 p.m., featuring live performances, raffles, and plenty of food and activities. Though Rivest notes that the crowd was smaller than would have been expected had the weather cooperated, she said in a Facebook post that "It was a smaller crowd than would be on a nicer day, and I really appreciate all who came."

13-year-old Jordyn Doyle performed in the first couple hours of the event, with Rivest describing her as being "so professional," despite the bad weather.

"Everyone was just so impressed, her voice is so angelic," Rivest said, praising Doyle for her patience during the storm. Though Rivest was worried about Doyle's equipment getting damaged by the rain, she praised the performer's patience.

"She has great family support, which was nice to see," Rivest said.

After 3 p.m., entertainment was provided by the Time Trippers. At one point, Doyle was even invited to perform with the Time Trippers, and sang a song alongside them.

"They're so generous with their time," Rivest said, "not worrying about the weather, they were amazing to work with. They were very kind and played all the songs everyone loves, they really helped the day go smoothly."

Though the fundraiser didn't meet its goal, Rivest was happy to report that her organization was able to make an impact, and raised over \$10,000.

"We can't control Mother Nature," Rivest mused, "it's one of the risks I take by having an outdoor event, but people love being outside."

Rivest extended a special thank you to Donnie and Kathy Foster of Westview Farms Creamery, who "were excellent to work with."

"They kept me in check, like, 'It's gonna be okay,'" Rivest said.

Rivest also thanked the Holyoke Women's Shelter, who had a representative present through the storm, and The Network from Enfield, CT, who were present to provide resources and information.

"I had supporters and friends from Enfield that made the drive in the storm to get there, my friend from the Cape came, and my local friends from Palmer and Monson," Rivest said, "so many people that have been there for me throughout the years, and I really appreciate their support and continued generosity."

At about 4 p.m., the rain cleared up, and the sun came out to shine on the attendants who had stayed to weather the storm.

To contact the Carol Rivest Memorial Foundation, you can fill out the form on their website at CarolRivestFoundation.org. The site also accepts donations through PayPal, or you can send a check to Carol Rivest Memorial Foundation, P.O. Box 552, Monson, MA 01057.



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