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MONSON

Select Board discuss Veterans Field damage

By Dallas Gagnon
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MONSON – The Select Board discussed damages Veterans Field sustained during Monson Summerfest, how to address those damages and plans for the field moving forward.

As a result of heavy rain, a few vehicles parked on the field during the event were pushed or towed out of the mud, leaving behind surface damage and large ruts.

“Due to dangerous conditions,” the Parks and Recreation Department closed Veterans Field, the pickleball court, basketball court and the skatepark on July 7.

The Department announced sections of the field reopened on July 11, with snow fencing around designated areas.

The Board agreed the town has several decisions to make regarding the future of Veterans Field.

Planning discussions included whether the field should be used for recreational use or events, addressing the current damages, and field preservation.

“Between now and the end of September, we have five events on that field,” said Town Administrator, Jennifer Wolowicz.

She added the events have already been approved by the Select Board and the organizations hosting them have secured vendors, entertainment and made deposits.

Wolowicz suggested working with the Highway Department to “try and get a minimum fix of what’s happening now so those events can still go on - weather permitting.”

Summerfest Committee Chair, Steve Slozak said the Committee has already “got the paperwork in order,” to proceed with an insurance claim to fix Summerfest induced damages.

“I think we should go the route of insurance... that’s what we have it for,” said Slozak.

Select Board Chair, Patricia Oney agreed the town should move forward with a liability claim under the Summerfest insurance policy as she does not believe the town should be responsible for paying for those damages.

“All of those subsequent events will also have insurance policies so if they have to make claims under their insurance policies, if there is damage after their events, then we will have to go through the process again,” said Oney.

Select Board Clerk, John Morrell said “fixing the field and future use of the field are two completely different things.”

After fixing the field, Morrell said he “certainly wouldn’t want that thing to happen again.”

Morrell said he believes the field should be used for recreation “as it always has been,” and “the only vehicles that should be on that field are the Parks and Rec. Department vehicles.”

For short term planning, Highway Department Surveyor, Ben Murphy suggested town departments level out the field just enough to be able to mow.

“I know we’re talking about insurance... [but] I think we should get that field in good enough shape

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THREE RIVERS

Chamber presents Food Trucks, Farmers and Artisans Markets

By Dallas Gagnon
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THREE RIVERS – The Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce will host the organization’s first Food Trucks, Farmers and Artisans Market event of the season at Hryniewicz Park, Friday, July 14 from 3:30-8 p.m.

The event aims to support local vendors, food trucks and artisans by offering an opportunity to sell their products while providing a space for the community to come together.

Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce member, Carol Seaver said, “it’s good to come together as a community because it promotes a

sense of oneness.”

She added when people “come together and embrace everybody’s differences and individually [to] have a good time - happy people are nice people.”

Attendees can expect food and beverage from vendors such as Uncle Joey’s Cannolis, Tony’s Happy Valley Pizza, Batch Ice Cream, Patruno’s Place, Rooster’s Roaming Cantina and The Beer Guy.

Seaver said artisans are expected to sell handcrafted items only, such as jewelry, wood work, decorations, crochets and other handmade products.

Exceptions include nonprof-

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Shown is a photo of attendees at last year’s market.

Submitted Photo



Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon

Shown are students Molly Mushenko and Calli Allen swimming in the Quarry Hill School pool during a Summer Fun program.

Parks and Rec. launches Summer Swim Camp for kids

By Dallas Gagnon
 Staff Writer
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MONSON – With school out and the sun up, local children are making a splash this summer, and the Parks and Recreation Department is encouraging more to join in the fun.

The Department’s first ever Kids Summer Swim Camp, offers children ages 4 and up an opportunity to learn to swim, engage with

other kids, play outdoor games and participate in arts and crafts.

The camp will be held in three sessions, with session one taking place from Aug. 7-11, session two from Aug. 14-18, and the final session from Aug. 21-25.

Lessons will be held inside at the Quarry Hill School pool.

The program costs \$150 per week, with drop off time at 8:45 a.m. and pick up at 3 p.m.

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Swimmer Lucas Auclair is shown practicing pool safety while wearing goggles and a floatation device.



MISSION

Army veteran continues four-corners walk of U.S.

By Paula Ouimette
 Editor
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March 16 is an emotionally charged date for Windham, Maine U.S. Army veteran Matt Dyer; not only is it his late wife’s birthday, it’s also when he lost his best friend, Jared, to suicide.

This year, March 16 also marked the day Dyer had to end his mission to walk the four corners of the U.S., having started the 5,600 mile journey at the close of last year.

Dyer had walked from Maine to Virginia, forming friendships as he navigated the winter roads

of New England, spending nights camped out in his tent. These friendships gave him warm places to rest after walking about 16 miles a day.

But all that changed when Dyer had to return to Maine to help care for his mother, who is in a nursing home.

“That was a blow, having to go home,” Dyer said.

Returning to his starting point after covering so much ground, meeting people from all walks of life and amassing thousands of Facebook followers, put Dyer in a dark place mentally.

“The 10 weeks that I went home...was the most depressed

I’ve ever been in my whole life. It was just hard to walk from Maine to Virginia, and try and go back to being normal,” Dyer said. “Living in one spot, driving, seeing the same stuff every day...I could never do that in the first place.”

This desire to keep moving is one reason that Dyer loved being in the U.S. Army, and he continued traveling even after discharging.

“I can’t stay still, I don’t want to...that’s how I am,” he said. “I need to travel; I need to see new things every day.”

On June 1, Dyer started his walk again; armed with a new determination.

When asked what was different about this walk, Dyer said, “everything.”

“I’m happy I started over just because I have much more experience,” he said. “I was able to build a much better cart, which is making the walking easier.”

Even though he is better prepared, and added about 20 pounds from weightlifting during his 10-weeks back home, Dyer is

VETERAN | page 4

Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette
 Windham, Maine U.S. Army veteran Matt Dyer passes through Main Street in Ware.

PALMER

Study finds high levels of phosphorus in Forest Lake

By Marcelo Gusmao
 Staff Writer
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PALMER – This week’s Town Council meeting addressed phosphorus contamination levels in Forest Lake, a new Master Plan Implementation Committee vacancy, approval of a Conservation Restriction Amendment, and appointments to the Conservation Commission and Board of Assessors.

Forest Lake

Town Manager, Linda Leduc introduced Wendy Gendron from Aquatic Restoration Consultants.

“Gendron is an aquatic ecologist and certified Lake Manager,” Leduc said.

She added Gendron has conducted lake and watershed assessments as well as recommendations for protection and restoration measures for over 25 years.

“She assisted the town of Palmer in securing the 604b grant from the Commonwealth to prepare the watershed-based plan for Forest Lake,” said Leduc.

Gendron said, “The whole intent of a watershed base plan is to ensure that the water body, which is a body of water for the Commonwealth of Mass, maintains its fishing, swimming, and support of aquatic habitat, a viability for this state.”

Gendron said a major concern for freshwater sources like Forest Lake are phosphorus levels, which can lead to algae overgrowth or reduced oxygen levels in the water.

In extreme conditions, excessive phosphorus can potentially kill

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NOPHRI

Beth Ayn Curtis lives in Depot Village with her kitty, Nophri. It is pronounced NO-free. Curtis's son wanted to name her something that no other kitty was named and he wanted it to have an unusual spelling. Nophri was born in April of 2020. She is a pandemic kitty and a Ragdoll. All of Curtis's previous kitties were from rescues, but she always wanted a Ragdoll. Hence, Nophri. We feature your pets here. 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.

Volunteering as a candy striper leads to a lifelong career in healthcare

PALMER-- "I started my career in healthcare in 1976 as a candy striper at Mary Lane Hospital," said Patricia Michalski, operations associate at Baystate Wing Hospital.

They were called candy strippers because of the red-and-white striped aprons they wore. As volunteers, the candy strippers did a range of duties to help the nurses comfort their patients. Michalski's first role in healthcare led to her love of caring for people. When she was old enough to get a job, Michalski worked as a nurse's aide and later as a unit secretary on the Med/Surg floor and the Oncology Unit.

In 2016, Michalski moved to Baystate Wing Hospital and now works as an operations associate in the Emergency Department. Throughout her career, Michalski has witnessed many changes and worked through many challenges, but COVID-19 brought the greatest challenges to her team. "Working in the ED during the pandemic was difficult, our patients were very sick, and many of our team members worked long hours to help care for them," said Michalski.

The work of an operations associate in the ED requires Michalski to stay calm and work in a fast-paced environment. Often caring for patients with extreme illnesses, who are in pain and suffering. On busy and hectic



Submitted Photo

Volunteering as a candy striper leads to Patricia Michalski love taking care of people.

days, Michalski keeps things organized and moving. "I have a special place in my heart for older patients and veterans, and my role in the ED allows me to be a friendly face, as I help care for them," said Michalski.

Throughout her career, Michalski has worked in diverse roles and each day has been different. What has not changed is the comradery Michalski has witnessed among her colleagues every day, and the commitment they have to place patients at the center of everything they do.

State lawmakers take aim at censorship

REGION — State Sen. Jake Oliveira and state Rep. Aaron Saunders "have drawn the line and made it clear they're ready for a fight in their hometown of Ludlow" by introducing a bill to counter attempts at censorship, the two said in a news release.

The proposed legislation is intended to defend against what Oliveira calls "an attack on free thought and learning." To stop the recent book ban proposed before the Ludlow School Committee, Oliveira and Saunders have entered the national debate surrounding book bans and filed legislation to declare an "emergency law" in Massachusetts that will "protect against attempts to ban, remove or restrict library access to materials," the release states.

The legislation, filed under SD.2679 in the Senate and HD4443 in the House, comes in response to a recent policy proposed before the Ludlow School Committee in May that would ban books deemed inappropriate and containing certain "content" from library shelves.

But Oliveira isn't buying the argument.

"Let's be clear," he said. "This isn't an attempt to suppress 'content' — this is an attempt to suppress freedom of thought, freedom of expression, diversity and marginalized communities that the proponents of this policy can't accept."

Saunders echoed Oliveira's sentiments.

"This is about protecting the ideals we hold dear in Massachusetts from extremists pushing a fringe political agenda," he said.

"Our children deserve libraries that embrace freedom and not toxic censorship."

When Oliveira first arrived in the Senate, he wasted no time supporting and advocating for libraries in the debate over book banning. In his first Senate address, Oliveira urged his colleagues to acknowledge the importance of protecting public libraries and vote for an amendment he filed to increase regional state aid to libraries in the Senate budget.

Oliveira argued that by "adequately funding our public libraries and their mission, we are sending a clear message to those who seek to harm them and the values we hold dear in Massachusetts that those actions and those intentions will not be tolerated. We're sending a message that we understand the value public libraries have on their communities and that we value diversity, equity and inclusion."

The amendment for an additional \$750,000 in state aid was unanimously approved. According to the news release, he's doubling down on his message that book bans are about everything except protecting children, as proponents of the ban suggest.

"According to the American Library Association, 2,571 titles have been targeted for censorship, most of which were written by or

about people of color and LGBTQ+ people," Oliveira said.

"That's more than 2,500 titles of literature that children and adults could be deprived of. Robbing them of representations of people of color and the LGBTQ+ community, robbing them of stories of equity and diversity, and robbing those represented in those books of acceptance and identity."

When it comes to the policy itself, Oliveira didn't hold back.

"The fact that the proponent of this policy has already admitted that they 'copied and pasted (the policy) from Google' is emblematic of how narrow-minded it is. Whom do we see if we look through the lens of history or the current climate of widespread book bans? Places like the Soviet Union and Communist China. Is that who we want to be associated with regarding policy? Not on my watch."

He added that, "One way or another, we need to work together as a unified Legislature and meet this moment together and show the commonwealth and the nation that the Legislature isn't afraid to stand up to hate and prejudice and fight for free thought, freedom of expression, diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility for all."

Oliveira and Saundser's legislation will now be sent to the Senate and House floors before going to the Rules Committee. The Rules Committee will then send them through committee hearings or refer them out for study.



Submitted Photo

Tracy Carpenter with her award.

Tracy Carpenter nominated for Woman Heroine Award

SPRINGFIELD -- On June 23, the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Woman honored 125 women from the commonwealth. Tracy Carpenter was among those women who were honored with this award.

State Rep. Orlando Ramos, D-Springfield, nominated Carpenter because of her work with seniors in economic and health care. Carpenter provides community advocacy and training to enhance leadership skills for building stronger neighborhoods with Mass Senior Action.

Carpenter has built strategic partnerships with community partners and with state legislators. She is also a champion in the mental health space by advocating and supporting those clinics in Black and Brown communities for more access and equity in care.

"Tracy has been a true leader and advocate for seniors in Western Mass and around the state; It's woman like Tracy who forge ahead to support our most vulnerable population and do it with grace" Ramos said.

Committee approves annual treatment of Hamilton Reservoir

By Marcelo Gusmao
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HOLLAND – Hamilton Reservoir is being treated for pests and weeds, in accordance with the Select Board's subcommittee, the Lake Oversight Committee.

Every year, the town requests a proposal for lake treatments, soliciting quotes from different companies for assessments of the lake's needs. This year, the Committee selected Water and Wetland from Grafton, according to Town Administrator Stacy Stout.

"This is the second year that we've selected them as our weed treatment vendor," Stout said. "They did a survey for us of our weed growth in June and gave us a report of the weed growth areas and types, and from there, they fine-tuned their proposal to finalize the chemicals that would be used for the treatment and the areas that would be treated."

Joe Onorato, an Aquatic Specialist from Water and Wetland, described the process as specifically targeting variable milfoil and fanwort, which are the invasive species that need to be managed in the Hamilton Reservoir.

"We use various [Environmental Protection Agency] and state-approved herbicides in extremely low concentrations, all permitted, predominantly in the southern basin on the Connecticut side," Onorato said.

Onorato said that a survey was done in the spring to identify location densities prior to treatment, in order to better determine how to manage the weeds and pests in the Reservoir.

"It's important to note that we're not trying to eliminate vegetation in the Hamilton Reservoir, we're managing specific invasive species based on surveys," Onorato said. "Our program is based on several surveys throughout the season, which are purely data collection and mapping plants and so on, to really map and identify invasive species, only targeting areas with invasive species."

The treatment is funded by the town's operating budget, from money that is set aside every year for lake maintenance.

"It's critical that we maintain the health and wellbeing of the lake because it's a very important resource for the town," said Stout. "We try to find that balance of treating weeds that need to be treated but also promoting the natural habitat of the lake."

As of July 1, the town is currently restructuring its Lake Oversight Committee in preparation for similar projects in the next year.

CAMPUS NOTES

University of Scranton

Gabriel M. Messier of Palmer was named to the Dean's List at the University of Scranton for the 2023 spring semester. Messier was a freshman mechanical engineering major in the University's College of Arts and Sciences last spring.

A student must have a grade-point average of 3.5 or better with a minimum number of credit hours during the semester to make the Dean's List.

Elms College

The following local students were named to the Dean's List at the College of Our Lady of the Elms for the 2023 spring semester:

Joseph Chartier of Palmer; Hannah Dugan of Palmer; Hailey Magierowski of Brimfield; Olivia Morin of Wales; Samantha Moyer of Monson; Amanda Sakowicz of Monson; and Darleen Welden of Monson.

To qualify, a full-time student must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher, without incompletes.

Le Moyne College

Marie Stewart of Brimfield graduated from Le Moyne College in May 2023 with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and was named to the Dean's List for the spring semester.

To make the list, students must achieve a GPA of 3.5 or above.

Quinnipiac University

Jacob Iby of Monson was named to the Dean's List at Quinnipiac University for the 2023 spring semester. To qualify for the Dean's List, students must earn a grade-point average of at least 3.5 with no grade lower than C.

Merrimack College

Lillian Schaefer-Calderon of Three Rivers has been named the Merrimack College 2022-23 Omicron Delta Kappa Circle Leader of the Year.

Each year, every active ODK circle (chapter) is encouraged to recognize one collegiate member as its outstanding leader for the circle and the campus. Recipients of this award are honored for their contributions to the circle and their campus community. They are selected by their fellow members or the circle's leadership team.

"Omicron Delta Kappa's Circle Leader of the Year honorees are amongst the Society's best collegiate members," Jennifer Waller, ODK president and chief executive officer, said.

"They demonstrate exceptional leadership through outstanding contributions to their circle and campus community. The work and achievements of these members embody the leadership values of ODK."

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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Birds of prey visit Palmer library for educational program

By Marcelo Gusmao
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PALMER – This past week, the library invited Wingmasters to hold a demonstration on birds of prey as part of the Summer Reading Program.

Wingmasters is a partnership between Julie Anne Collier, who ran the program, and Jim Parks, who are licensed raptor rehabilitators based in the state. Their organization is “dedicated to increasing public understanding and appreciation of North American birds of prey,” according to their website.

Collier and Parks have been presenting programs in schools, libraries, and museums since 1994. Youth Services Librarian Angie Sanchez described Collier as “very knowledgeable,” and said that “the program went off very well.”

“Julie and her birds are a repeat program here at the library,” Sanchez said. “She came today with six birds, in addition to many Native American artifacts that used bird feathers in them. She offered thorough explanations about the items and the importance of the animals in Native American culture. With regards to the birds, she talked about the evolutionary advantages that each of the specimens had and how that helped them survive in their respective environments.”

Collier began as a falconer and raptor rehabilitator through an apprenticeship with expert Dick Lucius, who “pioneered the use of non-releasable birds of prey in educational programs,” according to the Wingmasters website.

Collier gathered a group of raptors that she could not release, some of which are with her to this day, to be able to teach her own classes across the state full-time.

Collier and Parks involve raptor-related artifacts as part of their programs, spanning centuries and many diverse cultures. Collier has always had an interest in showing audiences the strong connections between Native Americans and birds of prey, and so she has recreated headdresses, shields, weapons, and clothing that incorporated birds’ molted feathers, to be integrated into her lessons.

This is described as a “unique part” of the educational programs by the Wingmasters’ website.

For the safety of the audience, birds are never flown or handled by anyone but Collier or Parks. Each of the different Wingmasters programs is constructed around teaching a specific category, be it Ancient Civilizations, Falconry and the Medieval World, or Native American Artifacts, and are described on the website as “dovetail(ing) with school curricula.”

Collier and Parks hope that their website, which can be visited at wingmasters.net, will become “a valuable educational resource for teachers and students everywhere.”

The library is offering a variety of educational and entertaining programs through the summer. For more information, check their calendar at palmer-library.org.

The heat is on: How to protect yourself and others

Don't leave your kids or pets in a hot car

SPRINGFIELD – Who doesn't like a bright, sunny day to enjoy at the beach or just while out and about during the summer months?

While it may be OK for you, for others the heat can put their health at risk, according to experts at Baystate Health.

Extreme heat can cause people to suffer from heat-related illness, and even death - each year in the United States more than 700 people, both adults and children, die from the heat.

People suffer heat-related illness when their bodies are unable to properly cool themselves. Older adults, young children, and people with chronic medical conditions are at high risk for heat-related illness and death.

According to Dr. Seth Gemme, FACEP, vice chair, Clinical Operations for Emergency Medicine at Baystate Health, extreme heat affects the body's ability to safely regulate its temperature, often resulting in heat-related illnesses such as heat exhaustion, heat stroke, or heat cramps.

Sweating is the body's natural defense to cooling itself. However, when humidity is high, sweat does not evaporate as quickly, preventing the body from releasing heat quickly and resulting in a rapid rise of body temperature.

However, you can stay cool and safe this summer by observing some important tips to keep you healthy and prevent heat-related illnesses:

Who is at risk

“Those at greatest risk for developing a heat-related illness are children under 5 and people 65 years of age and older, who have the least ability to regulate their body temperatures, as well as those who work outdoors for a living,” Gemme said.

Overweight people and others with chronic illnesses such as heart disease or high blood pressure, as well as those on certain medications, are also at high risk.

Tips for keeping cool

As with many illnesses, the best defense is prevention, consider the following tips to keep you safe in the high heat:

Stay out of the heat. Avoid

direct sunlight and strenuous activity outdoors. If possible, remain indoors. If you do not have air conditioning, consider visiting a location that does, such as a movie theater.

Dress for the weather. Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing and a broad-brimmed hat when outdoors. Stay away from polyester in favor of cotton and linens which are better at repelling the sun's heat. Also, consider wearing sunglasses and putting on sunscreen with an SPF 15 or greater.

Drink plenty of liquids and begin drinking before you go outside; If exercising, drink one quart of liquid an hour to replace lost fluid. Avoid caffeinated beverages and alcohol which can contribute to the loss of more body fluid. Also, if taking water pills or on a fluid restrictive diet, consult with your physician before increasing your liquid intake.

Take it slow and easy with athletic activity and working outdoors during high heat and humidity. Limit outdoor activities to the morning and evening. Drinking sports beverages can replace lost salt and minerals when you sweat.

However, those on low-salt diets should check with their doctor before drinking sports beverages. If you work outdoors, in addition to drinking plenty of liquids and dressing appropriately, pace yourself and take frequent short breaks in the shade.

Eat smaller meals. Instead of the usual rule of eating three square meals a day, eat smaller meals more frequently on days when the sun turns up the heat. Also, avoid high-protein foods which can increase metabolic heat.

Take a cool shower or bath to cool down.

Warning signs

Warning signs of an oncoming heat-related illness could include excessive sweating, leg cramps, flushed skin, nausea and vomiting, dizziness, headache and rapid pulse. If these occur, get out of the heat and drink liquids. If you don't feel better soon, Gemme recommends calling your doctor or visiting your local emergency department because heat stroke can cause death or permanent disability and cause damage to the brain and other vi-

tal organs.

Warning signs of heat stroke can vary, but may include the following: body temperature of 103 degrees or higher, dizziness, throbbing headache, nausea, confusion, a rapid, strong pulse, and in extremely critical cases, unconsciousness.

“Since the elderly are at greater risk from the ill-effects of the heat, make it a habit to check on elderly relatives and neighbors several times a day to make sure they are safe and free from any signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke,” Gemme said.

Kids, pets in hot cars

Gemme also reminds parents and caregivers that hot weather and vehicles can be a deadly combination for kids - about 950 children since 1990 died from heat stroke in hot cars when left alone, most unknowingly left behind. And, according to the National Safety Council, on average 38 children under the age of 15 die each year after being left in a hot vehicle.

Likewise, don't leave pets in vehicles.

Kids and Cars, a nonprofit focused on improving child safety around cars, suggests in a “Look Before You Lock” flier to place an item in the back seat that you will need to get before starting your day such as a laptop, handbag, phone, employee badge and more; keep vehicles locked at all times so young ones can't sneak in unknown to you; and teach kids to honk the horn if they become stuck inside a car.

More tips are available at kidsandcars.org.

Sleeping in the heat

“Even for those who do not suffer from a sleep disorder, getting to sleep can be more of a challenge in New England during the summer months,” said Baystate Health neurologist Dr. Karin Johnson, medical director of Baystate Health Regional Sleep Program and Sleep Section Chair of the Ameri-



Karin Johnson



Seth Gemme

can Academy of Neurology.

“There have been studies done on exactly what room temperatures are beneficial to our sleep. In general, many cite between 60- and 67-degrees Fahrenheit as ideal with temperatures exceeding 75 degrees Fahrenheit and below 54 degrees Fahrenheit as disruptive to our much-needed sleep,” Johnson said.

The National Sleep Foundation offers the following tips to help both young and old sleep better in uncomfortable, hot weather, especially when air conditioning isn't an option:

Use a fan to keep the air circulating. Close the blinds to keep out sunlight. Also, keep the windows closed if the temperature outside is much hotter than inside. Open the windows at night if the temperature is cooler outside than in your house.

Heat rises. So, sleep downstairs in the blistering heat.

If you do not have an air conditioner, and fans just aren't doing the trick, consider asking family or friends who do have

an air conditioner if you can stay with them for a few nights.

Other options include sleeping outdoors under protection from mosquitoes and other insects, or during an extreme heat-wave some communities may open cooling centers in schools or public places that are air-conditioned.

Water is a great cooling agent and taking a cold shower or bath before bed may help.

Wear light bedclothes and light pajamas. There are pajamas made from materials that wick away sweat, meaning the fabric pulls moisture from the body to the exterior of the clothing item where it can evaporate more easily.

Also, check the local news for health and safety updates during high heat and heat waves.

For more information on Baystate Health, visit baystate-health.org.

CHAMBER | from page 1

it organizations and Chamber member vendors.

This year, the Chamber is selling embroidered hats with Palmer and Three Rivers logos to fundraise and help offset event costs to continue supporting community activities.

Seaver said, “it's a fun event where you can walk around to the vendors who help support the event.”

She added many vendors are local people and businesses who help make the Chamber possible.

“Without local businesses, we wouldn't have a Chamber and we wouldn't have events like this,” said Seaver.

She said a part of the Chamber's duty is “to give back to the community,” and “do what [they] can to make a happy healthy community.”

Many nonprofit organizations such as the AMVETS Post 74, Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force and Alianza domestic violence resource center will be in attendance, offering resources, information and products.

Friday's event will also serve as the grand opening of Hryniewicz Park, with a ribbon cutting ceremony taking place at 5 p.m.

According to Community Development Director, John La-

tour, planning and discussion for Hryniewicz Park renovations have been ongoing since 2020.

Seaver said the Chamber wanted to incorporate the opening into the event as a way of promoting “the addition of the beautiful park,” and the Chamber is “quite grateful that all these renovations have been done.”

The markets were established as a way to get the community together during COVID “when outside was the safest place for us to be,” said Seaver.

While the market's initial success prompted the Chamber to continue hosting similar events, Seaver said there wasn't “a whole lot of entertainment for kids,” at the first market.

“The playground needed some serious TLC and that was our kid's entertainment,” said Seaver.

She added the organization “can't wait to see them use this thing.”

Additional entertainment includes a petting zoo, Maggie the Clown and live music.

Live entertainment is supported in part by a grant provided by the Palmer Cultural Council.

“My hope is that everybody comes and has a really good time and enjoys themselves...that's why we did it,” said Seaver.

Latour said, “a very important part of community is coming together...the Chamber is a pivotal group of Three Rivers whose



heart and soul is in the community.”

To enjoy live music, support local crafters, grab a bite to eat or check out the newly renovated park, stop by Hryniewicz Park Friday, July 14 from 3:30-8 p.m.

For those who would like to support the Chamber and are unable to attend Friday's event, donations are accepted and can be sent to P.O. Box 233, Three Rivers, MA 01080.

The Chamber will host additional Food Trucks, Farmers and Artisans Markets on Aug. 11 and Sept. 30.

Submitted Photos
Shown are three different hats offered as part of the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce fundraiser.
Market 2



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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.

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Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Why can't I collect survivor benefits from my deceased wife?

Dear Rusty: I am a 62 year old widower that is still working full time. While my late spouse was in hospice, I was able to get her to apply for Social Security disability and she received one payment before she passed away two years ago. I was told that I could collect a survivor benefit, so I called my local Social Security office, but they told me that I could not collect any type of benefits from my wife and that all the money she paid into SS for all of those years was basically gone for good. Would you please advise what I can do and if this is true? I was also told that Social Security's agents will do everything they can to avoid paying out benefits.

Signed: Frustrated Widower

Dear Frustrated Widower: I suspect that the reason Social Security said you were not eligible for benefits as a widower is because you are working full time. At age 62, you are subject to Social Security's "earnings test" which limits how much you can earn while collecting early Social Security benefits. The 2023 earnings limit is \$21,240 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. If your earnings are high enough, that could make you temporarily ineligible to collect benefits until 1) your earnings are less, or 2) you reach your Full Retirement Age (FRA) when the earnings test no longer applies.

Assuming you have not yet claimed your personal SS retirement benefit, you are still eligible to collect a survivor benefit from your wife when your earnings are less or after you reach your full retirement age. One strategy you may wish to consider, if you plan to keep working full time, is to wait and claim only your surviving spouse benefit at your FRA (67), thus allowing your personal SS retirement benefit to continue growing until you are 70 when your personal SS retirement benefit will be about 75% more than it would be now. Although your survivor benefit reaches maximum at your FRA, your personal benefit doesn't reach maximum until age 70, so it's possible to collect your smaller survivor benefit from your wife first and claim your higher personal benefit later.

You were apparently given some confusing information when you contacted Social Security. If you haven't already claimed your own SS retirement benefit, you are still eligible for a surviving spouse benefit from your wife but likely cannot collect a widower benefit at this time because you're working full time. However, that doesn't mean you can never collect a survivor benefit; only that you can't collect it at this time because of the "earnings test." The earnings test goes away when you reach age 67, so you can claim only your survivor benefit at that time or before if you no longer work full time and allow your personal SS retirement benefit to continue to grow to age 70 if you like.

From our experience with the Social Security Administration, the skill level of SSA representatives varies, but we have never suspected their goal was trying to avoid paying benefits due. Nevertheless, depending on the agent you spoke with, the information provided may have been less clear about the best claiming strategy for you, which is why the AMAC Foundation's Social Security Advisory Service exists. Our advisors are all highly experienced and strive to provide you with complete and clear information which enables you to make an informed choice about how and when to claim the Social Security benefits you are entitled to. I hope we have succeeded.

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

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

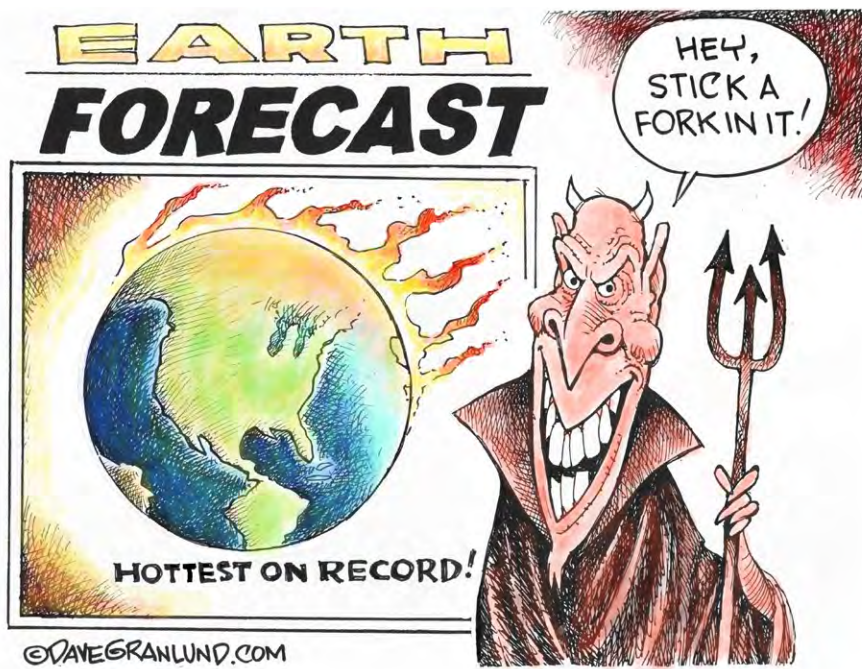
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death 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.



Dog days equal a good balance of maintenance and reward

I am not sure if it is the heat or the calendar that causes my annual shift from planting mode to maintenance mode.

A cooler June extended the former somewhat, but with the last week or so of hot, sticky weather, I am mostly done planting anything but a few succession crops of lettuce or green beans.

From here on out it's maintenance full steam ahead, and yet, enjoying the fruits (and vegetables) of our labors.

What have I been up to you ask? Well, here goes:

Deadheading is the number one priority in my flower gardens. We clip off old flowers to keep the new flowers coming.

If we let spent flowers form seed pods, the plant thinks it has fulfilled its job of reproducing itself and it will begin to decline. In addition to deadheading, I am ever mindful of plants that may need a little perking up.

If flowers are sparse and leaves look a little pale, some balanced organic fertilizer applied at the base of those plants should encourage more blooms and healthy foliage. Liquid feeding can also be effective.

Brew your own compost tea by filling a coffee filter with aged manure or good compost and securing it with a twist-tie. Let it soak in your watering can overnight and then it's ready to use.

Water the foliage and also let it sink in to the surrounding soil.

Earlier today I cut back my strawberry plants. I am not doing a full renovation this year, where I'd pull up the oldest plants and replace them with newly rooted runners.

I did that last year. This year, I simply cut the plants back.

My patch isn't huge, so it was accomplished by hand with a good pair of scissors. I basically grabbed a fist full of the plant, and chopped it back to about four inches tall.

I also weeded and thinned as I went. A push style lawn mower set on the highest setting can be used to get the job done in bigger plantings.

After the plants were cut back, I loosened the soil, sprinkled organic fertilizer around the plants and had about an hour before it started raining. I'll reapply mulch to keep the weeds down and that should be all the patch requires until winter.

I have been harvesting kale and peas

so far, and in abundance. I continue to shuck, then blanch shelled peas for ninety seconds before freezing, first loose on a cookie sheet then poured into plastic containers whereby I can take out what I need for a specific recipe.

I no longer do any pretreatment prior to freezing kale. I simply rinse, shake the excess water off, rip the tender part of the leaf away from the midrib then pack in baggies, approximately 6-7 leaves

per bag.

I try to get all the air out of the bag best I can. Kale, frozen like this, is a wonderful addition to soups, stews and green drinks.

The more you pick it the more it grows!

My herbs are also growing well now that the nights have warmed up. This is especially noticeable with basil.

All the rain and some early thinning has produced some awesome dill foliage as well. Basil is not flavorful dried, but dill weed is.

I've been picking small bunches, securing them with a rubber band and hanging them in my hot attic to dry.

Basil, on the other hand, is best preserved in pesto. I make my own version less the pine nuts by filling a food processor with basil leaves (no stems or flowers), a few garlic cloves and olive oil.

Once it reaches the desired consistency, I spoon it into ice cube trays. Once frozen, I pop out the cubes into gallon size freezer bags.

These can be added to all kinds of recipes or turned into real pesto (plus the pine nuts!) as needed. In the event that you can't harvest basil, keep that foliage coming by pinching the flower heads off, otherwise it too will think it has done it's job and it will begin to decline.

Be on the lookout for Japanese beetles on your plants- cover them if you see the foliage getting eaten up or be diligent about hand picking the insects off into a bath of soapy water.

Enjoy the dog days of summer. The maintenance outweighs the reward.

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.

VETERAN | from page 1

One being the summer insects, and the other being the incredible amount of rainfall the northeast has received in the past few weeks.

"My legs just look completely torn apart by bugs...if I picked up a horsefly here, it would probably follow me all the way to Teresa's [Restaurant]," Dyer said with a laugh.

He admitted that the rain has been "brutal," but said he didn't want to complain about it too much.

Just like before, people are opening their doors for him, eager to share their stories with the 29-year-old veteran who has already experienced a lifetime of loss.

Dyer said he is sticking to about 95% of his original route, making minor detours to avoid problematic or dangerous travel areas.

When he walked into Barre after stopping for the day in Gardner, Dyer decided to avoid Williamsville Road, coming in from Route 62 instead.

The hills, however, were unavoidable as he reached the Common.

While in Barre, Dyer caught up with Randy and Lauri Marsden, two people who had shown him great kindness during his first walk, and spent a night in Cooks Canyon.

As he traveled from Barre into Hardwick, Dyer was greeted by his followers along the way.

He reconnected with Patrick Howe of Ware and his family, and was even able to meet Howe's mother Cheryl and his 92-year-old grandfather, Richard.

Arriving in Ware late Monday night, Dyer stayed at an Airbnb on Church Street, getting some much needed rest before leaving late Tuesday afternoon, traveling down to Main Street then to Teresa's Restaurant where he enjoyed good food and conversation until the sun went down.

Dyer was heading to Ludlow for the next part of his journey, another town he had received a warm welcome in during his first walk.

He will also stop at the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, adding that he still plays the sport regularly.

As an athlete, Dyer sees this walk as his own personal "Super Bowl."

"This is the one thing that I can do that no one else can do," Dyer said. "That is what I always have been and most excited about. Just accomplishing something that is an incredible feat of athletics and will."

Virginia-based energy drink maker Soldier Fuel donated \$1,000 to help construct a sturdier cart for Dyer to pull on this walk, and has continued to be a supporter of his efforts. Proceeds from each drink sold go to organizations that support veterans and military mem-



Great crested flycatcher

A Brimfield resident reported a great crested flycatcher using a nest box in his yard, a first for him for this species.

He said he saw them several times in his yard this year and recently saw a bird enter the box. He set up a wildlife camera and got a photo of the flycatcher at the nest box.

The great crested flycatcher is about eight inches long and has a crest as its name implies. The belly is bright yellow and the tail is reddish brown. The bird is gray overall with a darker gray throat and two white wing bars.

It raises its crest in alarm or curiosity. During aggressive displays it shows the reddish-brown feathers on its wings and tail by spreading them open. Its warning call is a loud, ascending "wheep" and a "preeet."

The female lays five to six whitish eggs with darker marks in a new lined with grass, fur, bits of paper and occasionally bits of snakeskin. It will nest in a natural cavity, old woodpecker hole or nest box. They breed in the east and middle states in the north and south and some parts of Canada.

The great crested flycatcher inhabits woods and wooded urban areas. It flies from a perch to catch insects and often feeds high in the tree tops. Occasionally, it eats berries.

Flycatcher at Lake Winnisquam

Sunday, June 25 I spent the day at my camp on Lake Winnisquam in Meredith, New Hampshire with one of my daughters and granddaughters. While standing on the dock, I noticed a great crested flycatcher flying out from tree branches along the shore. Its yellow belly was the identifying mark.

Other birds at the lake

I also saw double-crested cormorants. One swam by the dock and another landed on a rock in the lake.

I did hear the loon, but I did not see them. The call came from a cove across the lake where the Loon Preservation Committee maintains a loon sanctuary with a floating nest.

There were several boats anchored in the cove. I think one boater got too near the roped off area as the loon started making its tremolo call, an alarm call. Loon chicks usually hatch sometime around the Fourth of July week or second week in July.

The water was quite warm and great for swimming. I hoped to make the trip to the lake again on the Fourth of July, but the weather did not cooperate.

Fledglings in Brimfield

I received an email from a Brimfield resident the end of June. He reported several fledglings in his yard. He saw at least three cardinals with dark bills being fed by their parents.

Other youngsters included three fledging downy woodpeckers following their mother and begging for food, a young chipping sparrow, eastern towhee and a red-bellied woodpecker. He said the eastern towhee resembled the female, but it had a streaked breast. He saw the red-bellied at the feeder.

He also said, "House wren have nested in the yard for several years, unfortunately they stuff several nesting boxes with sticks that don't get used. On at least two occasions have evicted black-capped chickadees, who had stared to use a box.

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.

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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.



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

Matt Dyer constructed a new cart to haul his belongings for his second journey to walk approximately 5,600 miles.

bers.

Dyer's Facebook following on his page 2023walkusa continues to grow, and he hopes sharing his story will help others going through difficult phases of their lives.

"If I weren't telling my life story, I don't think I would do the Facebook page," Dyer said. "Part of this for me is healing...I can help people because I've been through a lot, but I need to help myself first. 'To thine own self be true'...that phrase resonates with me a lot."

Monson Parks and Rec. *hosts fun in the sun*



Students Molly Walker, Willa Howard and Aurora Maiorano are shown pool ready.



One student is shown sprinting to first base in hopes of securing a win for his team.



Students are shown on first base during an intense game of kickball. Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon



Dakotah Glidden, Jennifer Courtney and Ruby Corsi are shown smiling by the pool during the Summer Fun Week Camp.



Kailyn Graves-Harrison is shown running towards the ball.



Shown are students engaging in a game of penny tag.



Logan Derouin is shown prepared to kick the ball out of the park.



Hunter Walker, Logan Derouin, Madelyn Moreau and Kailyn Graves-Harrison are shown sitting in the grass after playing field games Tuesday morning.



Students are shown alongside camp counselors after a game of penny tag and kickball.

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
dgagnon@turley.com

MONSON – The Parks and Recreation Department is hosting a series of summer camps for local children to engage in summer activities while interacting with other children.

This week kicked off the season's first week of camps with a Summer Fun Week and Summer Art Camp/Young at Art segment.

Students involved in the Summer Fun Week could be seen running in the field behind Quarry Hill School, chasing one another in hopes of securing a penny from another player.

The game resembled a sort of flag football, though the rules of penny tag are "every man for themselves."

In another field, students spent their morning lining up and launching kickballs across the baseball field. Some players used a bunting strategy to throw off their

opponents and sprint to first base.

Following the field play, Summer Fun Week participants cooled off in the pool.

While some swimmers gently waded in the water, others catapulted them-

selves into the air - performing elaborate tricks before splashing into the pool.

Camp counselors joined in on the fun, performing "cannonballs," jumping higher than the campers and causing the larger splashes.

Students enrolled in the Young at Art program, spent their morning engaging in arts and crafts designed for young children.

Upcoming camps include another Summer Fun Week and Summer Art

Camp from July 17-21, Summer Fun Week from July 24-28, Mustang Track and Field Program from July 24- Aug. 4 and a Mustang Basketball Clinic from July 31-Aug. 4.

MONSON | from page 1

that way we can mow it, otherwise it's going to turn into a hay field," said Murphy.

Wolowicz said a concern residents have brought to her attention is the high water table around the playground.

"Young children can drown in a very small amount of water," said Wolowicz.

She added it is a safety concern.

Board member, Peter Warren said while he was pushing cars out of the field during Summerfest, he considered the possibility of adding "some sort of contingency," regarding the use of Veterans Field for events.

He said it rained days before Summerfest, throughout the event and several days after.

While Warren said he is not sure "what window of opportunity" there would be to notify the town and police of an event location change,

Board members agreed a policy should be in place to preserve the field.

"I don't want to see the field destroyed every time we have an event," said Morrell.

Oney said "to the best of our ability we will allow [events] to go forward but there may just be times where it is not appropriate."

"I think that this is going to be a fairly involved and lengthy discussion... I think there are a lot of stakeholders here," said Oney.

She added the stakeholders include the Select Board, Parks and Recreation, event organizers and the Conservation Commission.

Warren said he believes "having the residents involved would be key," as "residents would have a lot to say about it."

The Board will host a public discussion regarding plans for Veterans Field on July 25 at 6 p.m.

The meeting will be held in the Town Office building.

PALMER | from page 1

pets that swim and drink the water.

According to Gendron, previous regulations recommended 25 micrograms per liter, though current studies indicate that this is "only protective (of aquatic resources) about 50% of the time."

ARC's study of Forest Lake found as much as 75 micrograms per liter on average.

"We're at a point in the lake where we know we need to reduce the phosphorus in the lake to be protective of the future," said Gendron.

She added, she "fear[s] we're potentially at a tipping point...where anything could put us over the edge - extreme climate conditions could put us over the edge."

Gendron said if this becomes the lake's new natural state, "it's really hard to get something out of that realm and go back to a more pristine condition."

Gendron said fanwort is another concern for the lake.

She added there is a protected species of fish that lives in Forest Lake, the Bridle Shiner, and it is essential to keep the lake in balance.

Gendron presented data showing where much of the contamination is coming from, and discussed potential solutions.

"The River Street stormwater drainage is potentially the lowest hanging fruit," said Gendron.

She said, "thankfully, the state may have come up with a solution for us."

According to Gendron, when the state moved the boat ramp, they included a bio retention basin, which captures and infiltrates stormwater.

"When you infiltrate water, phosphorus doesn't travel very far from where it goes into the ground," said Gendron.

She added, "If you can infiltrate water, that is the best way to prevent phosphorus from entering the lake."

According to Gendron, capturing the water this way would require a buy-in from the state, though it is "the best solution," compared to more expensive options of redirecting the water, or pursuing grants to work with homeowners on Forest Lake Road.

Master Plan Implementation Committee

Tim Zentiva, Chairman of the

Master Plan Implementation Committee, resigned from his position in June due to relocation.

"I just felt it was a responsibility of mine to present to you what had been done when I was in charge," Zentiva said at the Town Council meeting.

Zentiva said the Master Plan Implementation Committee's goal is "to meet with town agencies and find out what they are doing to ensure the town's Master Plan actions are received and being worked on, what challenges these entities are dealing with to make implementation accomplished, and report the findings to all of you."

Zentiva then talked about meeting with the Historical Commission to look for a location for the town's historical items, which are currently being displayed at the library, and how the Committee met with Recreation Director Andrew St. George to discuss setting up a disc golf course at Burleigh Park.

"If they purchase that land, [St. George] was thinking about doing an 18-hole course...if not, it was going to be a nine-hole course," said Zentiva.

Conservation Restriction Amendment

Leslie Duffy went before the Council seeking an amendment to the conservation restriction at 2 Robinson Road, which was passed by the Council in December of 2021.

"This [conservation restriction] needs to have an amendment to comply with the newly implemented IRS regulations," said Duffy.

They added, "It's called a Safe Harbor amendment... It does not change anything with regard to the allowed uses or the prohibited activities on the property, it's just simply in regard to the IRS laws that have changed."

Town Council voted unanimously to approve this change.

Appointments
Town Council voted unanimously to appoint Nicholas Zeo to the Conservation Commission, with a term ending in 2026.

The Council voted unanimously to appoint Brenda Mizuzki to the Board of Assessors, with a term ending in 2026.

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Brimfield to hold meeting for hazard mitigation and municipal vulnerably preparedness

BRIMFIELD—On Mon., July 31 at 6:00 p.m. at the Brimfield Town Hall, 23 Main Street, there will be a meeting about the Town of Brimfield Hazard Mitigation and Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness plan and provide comments at a public meeting.

This will be part of a regularly scheduled selectboard meeting.

The purpose of the Hazard Mitigation Plan is to identify and assess Brimfield's natural hazard risks and develop action strategies to minimize and manage them. A mitigation action is any action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life

and property from hazards.

The meeting will include an overview of the Hazard Mitigation and Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness planning process. A discussion of existing mitigation strategies to address natural hazards in Brimfield, and strategies currently proposed by the committee. Municipal officials and PVPC staff will be available to answer questions and hear input about the project. All members of the public are encouraged to attend the event.

For more information, please contact PVPC's Mimi Kaplan at mkaplan@pvpc.org or (413) 781-6045.

Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary awards scholarships to area Students

PALMER—The Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary recently presented \$3500 in scholarships to area high school students pursuing careers in healthcare. Each year the scholarships are financed by the hard work and dedicated fundraising efforts of its members.

The Auxiliary awarded scholarships to seniors graduating from Belchertown, Ludlow, Monson, Palmer, Pathfinder, Minnechaug, and Ware High schools who are pursuing higher education in the healthcare field. The students were chosen based on their academic excellence, volunteer efforts and related community service, work experience, and dedication to their goals.

The scholarship award recipients are: Madeline Jaszek from Belchertown High School, Kaylee Lyman from Ludlow High School, Nikolas Supczak from Minnechaug Regional High School, Maggie Ronaldson from Monson High School, Colton Santarelli from Palmer High School, Morgan Austin from Pathfinder Regional High School, and Callie Orszu-

lak from Ware High School.

"Our Auxilians work hard each year to raise funds for scholarships because it is very important to them to support our future healthcare professionals," said Ursula St. Amand, chair of the scholarship committee. "We are extremely proud of these students and grateful to the Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary members for their continued dedication to our hospital and our communities."

For over 75 years, the Auxiliary has been actively supporting Baystate Wing Hospital through its sponsorship of special events and management of the gift shop. This diverse group of women and men includes teachers, nurses, and business owners, both young and retirees, who live in many different communities and are united by a shared commitment to support the mission of the hospital. "We are thankful to the Auxiliary members for their continued commitment and support," said Teresa Grove, philanthropy officer for Baystate Health's Eastern Region.

Summer Eats Awareness begins

BOSTON — Summer Eats Awareness Week is July 10-14.

The Summer Eats program is in full swing across Massachusetts, providing free meals to children and teens 18 years old and younger at hundreds of meal sites statewide. In July 2022 alone, over 2.3 million meals were served across almost 1,500 sites in Massachusetts through the Summer Eats program, a news release states.

Summer Eats is an especially critical resource this summer, according to the release. Throughout the school year, children in Massachusetts rely on free school meals to meet most of their daily nutrition needs, and Summer Eats serves to close the gap when the school year ends.

As of May this year, one in four households with children in the commonwealth are experiencing food insecurity. This is nearly double the pre-pandemic numbers, and many families are still struggling to afford enough food more than three years after the pandemic first hit.

Summer Eats assists families by providing free meals to children and teens to ensure they continue growing, learning and thriving over summer break. Participating meal providers operate and staff meal sites, often in conjunction with activities and educational programming.

All are welcome. No registration or ID is required.

"Hunger doesn't disappear in the summer," says Erin McAleer, Project Bread CEO.

"The same students who count on universal free school meals for more than half their daily nutrition are at risk for summer hunger and learning loss when school is on break and those meals are unavailable. Meal providers and staff bring the community together and take some of the pressure off of

families' grocery budgets, going above and beyond to make healthy meals easy to access for all kids and teens."

Families previously eligible to receive Pandemic-EBT during the 2022-23 school year will qualify to continue to receive this benefit (\$120 per child per family) over the summer. P-EBT is a federal child nutrition program created during the COVID-19 public health emergency to promote increased food security for students who are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals through the United States Department of Agriculture's National School Lunch Program and missed school due to COVID-19.

To see who qualifies, visit Mass.gov.

For more than 20 years, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and statewide anti-hunger nonprofit Project Bread have partnered to support meal providers in offering Summer Eats meals to children in Massachusetts. This year, summer meal sites are operating a communal model of feeding kids onsite.

Project Bread and DESE have helped meal providers to adapt throughout the pandemic and beyond to continue feeding kids seamlessly. During the school year, Project Bread and DESE also partner to expand access to and participation in school meal programs.

"Summer Eats is a great resource that brings youth together while enjoying a healthy meal," McAleer said.

"The program is free for all to participate, helping to reduce stigma and foster community - a win-win."

For more information about Summer Eats, including meal site locations, visit www.projectbread.org/summer-eats, text FOOD or COMIDA to 304-304, or call 1-800-645-8333 for help in any language.

Cousins, Weston Brothers and Lucas Auclair are shown enjoying the pool.



Logan Pedder is shown submerged in the Quarry Hill School pool.



Just keep swimming



Madison Strom is shown performing a swim test while a lifeguard watches from beside the pool.



Logan Derouin and Forrest Farnum are shown holding onto the pool's edge after using the diving board.

SWIM CAMP | from page 1

Pool Director, Elizabeth Manley said, "I am big on safety...swimming is a good sport for you but it is a potentially dangerous sport if you don't know water safety."

Manley said she thought about starting summer swim camp last year, but waited until she could gather enough help and participation to organize a program.



Scan to register for the Kids Summer Swim Camp.

"Swimming is one of the most important skills to have, especially around here where there is so much water," said Manley.

She added there aren't a lot of learn-to-swim opportunities in the area and wanted to provide that.

The staff who will help instruct the swimming lessons are individuals Manley has worked with in the past and have taught alongside her during other programs.

"I give [students] a swim test at the beginning...If they can't swim at all, they have to wear a belt the entire time they're in the water," said Manley.

The belt is a floatation device

students use to keep their heads above water and learn to balance.

Younger students will be taught at the shallow end of the pool, which is three feet deep.

Manley said no more than eight students will be in one group at a time, and will be accompanied by one teacher and one teacher assistant, with younger students in even smaller groups.

In addition to the two instructors, Parks and Recreation Director/Program Coordinator, Timothy Pascale said several lifeguards will be on duty outside of the pool.

He added there will be at least one guard per 20 children, though there will likely be more on hand.

"We'll look at the numbers, keep everybody safe and have a good time," said Manley.

Students will receive about two hours of swimming time by the end of each day, with a 45-minute lesson in the morning and one hour of free swim in the afternoon.

Children will also participate in different age-appropriate arts and crafts as well as outside activities.



Forrest Farnum is shown preparing to jump off of the diving board.

Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon

"We try to do something different every day...kids have different interests," said Manley.

While students will be separated loosely by age and interest, Manley said the program offers children an opportunity to be exposed to "different types of people."

"It's a good learning experience...the younger kids look up to the older kids," said Manley.

She added "it's a fun time to work on skills."

Registration is now open, with registration for the Aug. 7-11 session closing on July 28.

Registration for the Aug. 14-18 session will close Aug. 4, and registration for the Aug. 21-25 session will close Aug. 4.

Whether a child is seeking to learn a new survival skill, interact with other students or simply cool off in the pool, the Kids Summer Swim Camp provides a space to enjoy all the action.

Please visit <https://unipaygold.unibank.com/transactioninfo.aspx> to register or scan the QR code provided.

Recovery Center hosts Community Meal July 21

WARE — The Recovery Center of HOPE is hosting its first ever Community Meal on Friday, July 21 from 5:30-7 p.m. at United Church of Ware, 49 Church St.

These community dinners are supported by the Northwestern District Attorney David E. Sullivan. The Recovery Center of HOPE is a program of the Western Massachu-

setts Training Consortium.

Please RSVP by July 14 at the Recovery Center of HOPE, 52 Main St., or by emailing mbabineau@wmtcinfo.org.



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BASEBALL

Monson comeback falls short against West Side

By **Tim Peterson**
Sports Correspondent

PALMER— Monson Post 241 Legion baseball manager Steve Tripp wasn't very pleased with his squad's defense performance during the first three innings against West Springfield Post 207.

Monson, who was trailing 6-0, did battle back during the late innings, but they could never catch up. West Springfield posted a 10-7 victory at historic Legion Field in Palmer, last Wednesday night. The contest took almost three hours to complete.

"We just couldn't overcome all of the mistakes that we made early in the game," Tripp said. "The first inning was awful. Ty Miller retired the first two batters on groundball outs, and we should've been out of that inning without allowing any runs." West Springfield (6-2) scored three unearned runs with two outs in the top of the first inning. They also accomplished the same feat two innings later.

Monson (5-3) scored their first run in the bottom of the third inning.

With one-out in the frame, third baseman Mike Mayberry lined a single into left field. After the next batter struck out, shortstop Jake Beaupre blasted a double to right field, which scored Mayberry.

"Jake has every tool to become a great baseball player in the future," Tripp said. "He's, smart, he's a very fast runner, and hits the ball very well."

Beaupre, who also plays soccer

and basketball, will be a sophomore at Monson High School in the fall.

After West Springfield scored another run in the top of the fourth, the home team answered right back with a pair of runs.

Monson's first run in the bottom of the four inning scored on a ground ball single into right by Nathan Kaczuwka, who was a defensive replacement. He also scored on a groundout by his younger brother, Kyle, who started the game at second base.

The home team inched a little bit closer in their next at-bats.

Beaupre hit another double to left field leading off the bottom of the fifth inning. With one-out, left fielder James Delaney hit a double to right scoring Beaupre. Delaney scored on a wild pitch cutting Monson's deficit to 7-5.

Following a walk to Miller, the home team had the tying run to the plate with only one-out in the inning.

West Springfield relief pitcher Ben Rodriguez, who's a righty, retired the next two batters on a fly-ball out and a strikeout.

The visitors scored three more runs against Delaney, who's a side-arm pitcher, in the top of the sixth, which increased the lead to 10-5.

"Every little mistake that we made cost us some runs," Tripp said. "You can't afford to make that many mistakes at this level."

Monson added two more runs in the sixth.

Please see **MONSON**, page 9



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Pitcher Mike Mayberry fires to first for Post 241.

SOCCER



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Gianluca Cersosimo sends a kick away.

Pioneers score shutout to keep playoff chances

By **Tim Peterson**
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Mamadi Jiana was one of the seven reserve players listed on the Western Mass. Pioneers starting line-up sheet for last Friday night's USL League Two match-up with Vermont Green FC.

Jiana, who was a member of the boys' varsity soccer team at Chicopee High School a couple of years ago, entered the match during the 78th minute. Two minutes later, he scored what turned out to be the game winning goal. The Pioneers kept their postseason dreams alive with an exciting 1-0 victory before the largest crowd

of the regular season at Lusitano Stadium.

"The tempo was very high when I came into the game late in the second half, and I was ready for the moment," Jiana said. "When I saw the scoring opportunity, I knew that I had to capitalize on it. We played very well tonight, and it just feels amazing. I'm very proud of the guys."

It was Jiana's third goal of the regular season and all of them were game winners.

"We can't win games with just eleven players," said Pioneers longtime head coach Federico Molinari. "We need contributions

Please see **PIONEERS**, page 9

BASEBALL

Sturbridge Legion falls to Northbridge

By **Tim Peterson**
Sports Correspondent

WHITINSVILLE—Sturbridge Post 109 and Northbridge Post 343 were both looking to celebrate their first victories of the season entering last Thursday's Zone 4 Legion baseball game.

After Sturbridge took a 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning, Northbridge responded with five unanswered runs leading to a 5-2 home victory.

"We were up 2-0 with the bases loaded with no outs in the first inning," said Sturbridge manager Jim Rossel. "We had their pitcher on the

ropes and all we needed was one hit to break the game wide open, but we didn't get it. We only had a couple of hits during the rest of the game. It's another frustrating loss for us."

Sturbridge, who haven't won a game in two years, had a 0-10 record following the road loss.

"We're a young team this year," Rossel said. "We have a bunch of 15 and 16 year olds playing against 18 year olds. Our defense also made some costly errors in tonight's game."

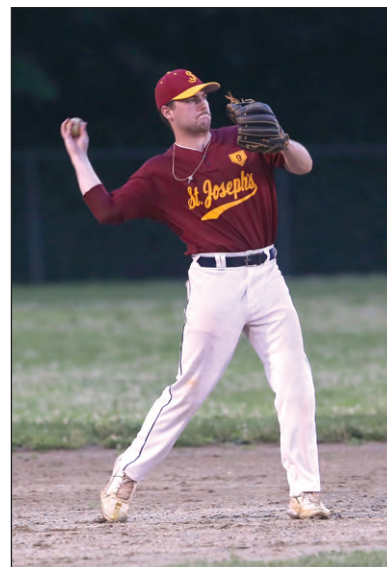
Sturbridge began their first inning with back-to-back walks by second baseman Jarel Martinez and catcher Brandon Phillips. The

visiting team then loaded the bases when third baseman Ethan Laplante was safe at first base following a fielding error by the Northbridge first baseman.

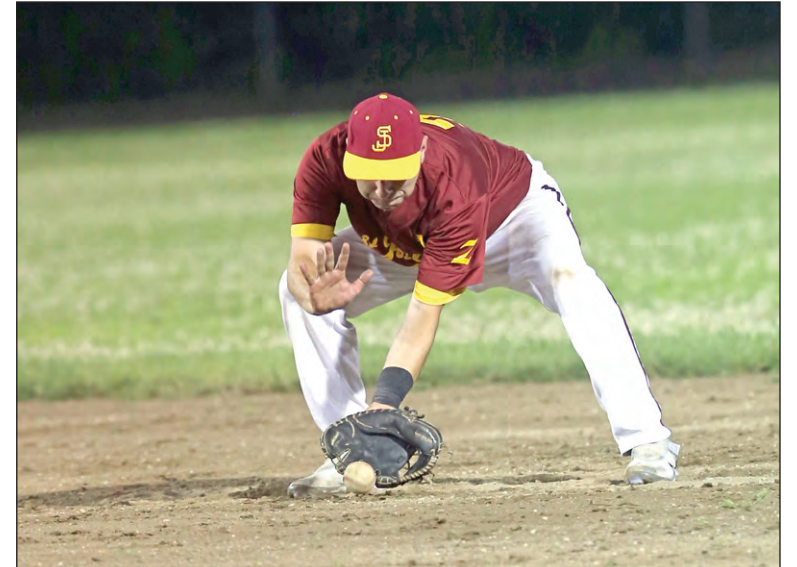
Shortstop Devin Krochmalnyckj drove home the game's first run with a ground ball single up the middle into centerfield. Phillips scored Sturbridge's second run of the opening frame on an infield hit by left fielder Ryan Kelly. The inning continued with centerfielder CJ Harrell grounding into a fielder's choice play before Northbridge righthander Chase Falcon struck out the next batters.

Please see **LEGION**, page 9

St. Joe's holds down third



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Ware's Devin Slattery makes a throw.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Greg Vouros gets low to field the grounder.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Dave Clark makes a good throw to first.

Bankers rolling to first place finish

HOLYOKE – PeoplesBank are the elite of the Tri-County Baseball League, and are now 13-1 heading into the final stretch of the season. Last week, the Bankers scored at 14-4 win over St. Joe's, and a 12-1 win over DiFranco Realty. Those wins took place on consecutive

nights and the Bankers now have a five-point lead for first place. The Chicopee Falls Tigers hold second place at 10-5-1. St. Joe's has moved into third place at 7-8. The regular season is heading for a close during the next two weeks.



Cam McDonald winds up for a long throw for an out.



James Flahive continues to rack up wins for PeoplesBank.



Jackson Petrin slides back to second.



Brenden Clark throws to first.



Brandon Magni, a long time Saint, pitches for his squad.

PALMER – With the final week of the Tri-County Baseball League regular season looming, St. Joe's a perennial member of the league, is looking to get back above .500. St. Joe's fell to PeoplesBank at the end of last week, but did defeat DiFranco Realty 11-1 last Wednesday in their first action since the Fourth of July holiday. St. Joe's has 14 points with a 7-8 record. They are scheduled to face the Longmeadow Cardinals on July 12 followed by the Chicopee Falls Tigers on July 13. Both are home games at St. Joe's Field scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Blue Sox score doubleheader sweep

HOLYOKE – Last Saturday, the Valley Blue Sox swept a doubleheader versus another North Division opponent. The team defeated the Upper Valley Nighthawks 4-1 to climb back to .500 on the season at 14-14. Valley now leads the West Division by one game over the Bristol Blues.

As in the first game, the Nighthawks got on the board first, following a sacrifice fly in the top of the second.

Blue Sox pitching was rock solid in the ballgame, only allowing one run off five hits. Dillon Ryan started the game for the team, pitching three innings allowing one run while striking out two batters.

Michael Weidinger would relieve Ryan in the top of the fourth inning, pitching two shut-out innings and striking out five batters.

All of the runs for the Blue Sox came in the bottom of the fifth following a huge rally, even with the team only recording two

hits in the inning. Efrain Correa Jr. was hit by a pitch, Will Gale singled, and newcomer Jack Power walked to make it bases loaded with no outs.

Jeff Pierantoni and Eliot Dix both hit RBI fielder's choices to take the lead for Valley. The team added two more insurance runs off an RBI single from AJ Guerrero, and a throwing error from Upper Valley to allow the final run of the ballgame.

Jason Arrigo would relieve Weidinger to close the game for Valley. Arrigo's curveball was ranked third in the league in RPM. The right-hander pitched two scoreless innings to earn himself the save, and added to his strikeout totals with three more on the night.

AJ Guerrero went 2-for-3 in the game, with an RBI. Will Gale also had two hits, going 2-for-2 with a walk and a stolen base.

In Game 1, another close game throughout the seven-inning contest saw the Blue Sox

rallying back from a three run deficit to claim the victory.

The Nighthawks scored one run in the top of the first inning following an RBI double, then added two more in the top of the second inning off an RBI single.

Sean Scanlon was on the bump to start the game for Valley, pitching four innings while allowing three runs and striking out two batters. In the bottom of the second inning, the Blue Sox took a run back off of an RBI double from Zach Ketterman. Matt Bergevin scored on the play to make it a 3-1 game.

Valley added two more runs to tie the game in the bottom of the third following RBI singles from AJ Guerrero and Matt Bergevin.

The Blue Sox then wasted no time taking the lead, scoring a run in the bottom of the fourth inning following the first home run hit by a Blue Sox player at home this season. Zach Ketter-

man hit a towering solo shot over the right field wall to make it a 4-3 ballgame. The third baseman went 2-for-3 with two RBIs in the contest.

Terry Murray relieved Scanlon in the top of the fifth inning, pitching two innings allowing one unearned run while striking out two.

The Nighthawks rallied back to tie the game 4-4 in the top of the sixth after two straight errors from the Blue Sox.

Zach Cameron pitched a scoreless frame in the top of the seventh to set the Blue Sox up to walk it off in the bottom half of the inning.

Jeff Pierantoni walked in the bottom of the seventh, then AJ Guerrero hit a double to put runners on second and third with only one out. EJ Kreuzmann hit a ground ball down the third base line allowing Jeff Pierantoni to score. The Blue Sox secured their second walk-off victory of the season 5-4.

Wall Stadium Speedway to host big race

MILFORD – Six-time NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion Doug Coby will look to add yet another track to his winners list this Saturday night. Wall Stadium Speedway, located in New Jersey, is a high-banked, high-speed track that has tight corners and often produces exciting side-by-side racing.

When the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour rolls into town for the Jersey Shore 150, Coby will drive the Tommy Baldwin

Racing, Mayhew Tools No. 7NY. With one win this season (Monadnock Speedway), Coby enters the race third, 30 points back in the championship standings on the Whelen Modified Tour circuit entering the eighth race of the season.

In his 35 career wins, Coby has been to Victory Lane at 12 different tracks. At Wall Stadium, Coby has three career Tour starts, with only one coming in the last 18 years. Coby started sixth, led

72 laps and finished 10th in 2019. He did not compete in the Whelen Modified Tour event at Wall last year, but Jimmy Blewett won in the Tommy Baldwin Racing entry Coby will be driving for this event.

"I watched the race last year and it didn't seem like it was similar to the one in 2019," Coby said. "It seemed like the groove had moved around. Wall is one of those places that can throw a lot at you – and a lot can happen

quickly. Our car will be good. I've never won there and it's on my bucket list of tracks where I want to win. I got my first pole there, used to race at Little Wall as a kid, and I've always liked the facility."

Saturday's practice session will roll from 3:30-4:30 p.m., followed by Mayhew Tools qualifying and the Jersey Shore 150 at 8 p.m. The main event will be live on FloRacing.TV for those who would like to watch from home.

HoopHall introduces new board members

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced four new board members. Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Executive Director of the National Basketball Players Association Foundation, was named to the Board of Governors. Executive Chairman of Delano Media Group, Todd Delano; Former NBA Head Coach and Player, Vinny Del Negro; and Thomas Tull, Chairman of the USIT

Fund, and Chairman of Tulco Holdings, were named to the Board of Trustees.

"We are very pleased to be adding Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Todd Delano, Vinny Del Negro, and Thomas Tull as board members," said Jerry Colangelo, Board Chair of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. "Each new member brings unique perspectives which will be invaluable in supporting the

Hall of Fame's mission to promote and preserve the game."

"I look forward to working closely with our new Board members," said John Doleva, President and CEO of the Hall of Fame. "We have a significant amount of investment coming to the Hall over the next few years, and the Board's input and guidance is critical to the success of our organizational goals."

Board members serve as am-

bassadors of the Hall while also being responsible for preserving the fundamental mission and financial well-being of the Basketball Hall of Fame. The Board is made up of individuals that work in or have worked in the game, as well as business leaders that have supported the game in Springfield, Mass., or on a national or global level.

LEGION | from page 7

Falcon, who graduated from Sutton High School in June, only allowed three base runners during the final 5 1/3 innings he was standing on the mound. Falcon finished his outing with two runs on four base hits. He walked three and struck out twelve.

With two outs in the top of the second inning, Phillips grounded a single into left field. Three innings later, Phillips hit a flyball single to left field with one out before stealing second base.

Falcon, who had retired eight in a row, set down the next two batters on a strikeout and groundout.

Sturbridge's only other base runner was first baseman Chase Bond, who walked with one out in the seventh inning.

Falcon struck out the next batter before reaching the pitch limit. Zack Feeney, who started at second base, only threw one pitch to end the game on a groundout.

Sturbridge righthander Addrian De Choudens went the distance, but he didn't receive very much support from the defense. He allowed five runs (three earned) on seven hits and struck out three.

After Northbridge (1-9) cut the deficit in half in the second inning, they took the lead by scoring two unearned runs in the following frame.

The home team added single runs in the fifth and sixth innings.



Ty Miller delivers a pitch for Monson.



Kyle Kaczuwka makes a quick throw after fielding a grounder.

MONSON | from page 7

Their first run of the frame scored on Dom Allen's double to centerfield. Allen also crossed the plate on a wild pitch.

West Springfield was helped out with a double play in the seventh, which halted Monson's comeback bid.

Monson also lost to Sheffield Post 340, 10-5, in another home game last Friday night. They did squeak out a 3-2 home win versus North Adams Post 125 the following morning.

Post 241 entered the final week of the Legion regular season in seventh place in the standings.



Jarrett Skowyra works behind the plate.

PIONEERS | from page 7

from all 18 players to be successful. Mamadi is a local player and we're very happy to have him on our team this year."

Jiana scored his first goal wearing a Pioneers uniform in a 2-1 road win against AC Connecticut on June 10. A little more than two weeks later, Jiana, who currently lives in Westfield, was a starter in another road match against Pathfinder FC. He netted the only goal of that contest.

During the past two years, Jiana scored 17 goals and had 13 assists for a total of 47 points as a member of the men's soccer team at Norwich University, which competes at the Division 3 level. He recently entered the NCAA transfer portal and is hoping to play soccer for a Division 1 school in the fall. Jiana has two more years of college eligibility remaining.

The Norwich University men's soccer coach was Adam Pfeifer, who retired at the end of last season. Pfeifer is currently the Athletic Director at Kimball Union Academy and is also the Vermont Green head coach.

The first and second place finishers in the Northeast Division will qualify for the playoffs.

The Pioneers (8-1-3) and Vermont (9-3-0) are battling for one of those two spots, along with the Seacoast United Phantoms. If the Pioneers can win their final two regular season matches at Albany, which was scheduled to be played on Tuesday night, and at home against AC Connecticut on Saturday night, they should lock up a playoff berth. The last time that the Pioneers didn't qualify for the playoffs was in 2018.

"This is a very good win for us tonight," Molinari said. "We made a couple of changes at halftime, and we played a lot better in the second half."

Alec Hughes, who entered the match at the start of the second half, had a couple of opportunities to give the home team a 1-0 advantage.

Hughes' breakthrough shot in the 58th minute was flicked over the end-line by Vermont goalie Nathan Schmur resulting in a corner kick.

Less than ten minutes later, Hughes had another wide open shot, but his chip shot clanked off the cross bar.



Connor Hicks, of Monson, runs down the ball.

The Pioneers didn't miss their third scoring chance.

The scoring play began when Connor Bagdon, who had also entered the match at halftime, intercepted a pass before delivering a pass to Lucio Berron. After dribbling the ball over the midfield line, Berron made a short pass to Ignacio Albo, who then found Jiana open on the left side. Jiana dribbled the ball into the box before firing a rocket shot into the right corner past Schmur, who made a diving attempt to make the save.

"I was wide open, and Ignacio passed the ball to me," Jiana said. "Then I shot the ball with my right foot into the corner. As soon as I shot the ball, I knew that it was going to go into the net."

When the Pioneers made the trek north to the University of Vermont on June 17, Albo scored the only goal of the match.

A year ago, the Pioneers pulled out a thrilling 3-2 come-from-behind home victory over the Vermont Green.

In the first ever meeting between the USL-League two rivals.

During the first half of last Friday's home match, Western Mass. goalie Gianluca Cerosimo (4 saves) made a couple of outstanding saves, which allowed Jiana to score his third game winner of the season with ten minutes remaining in regulation.

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Turleysports

Athlete of the Week

Mike Mayberry
Palmer

Mayberry helped start a scoring rally for Monson Post 241 with a hit in the third inning against West Springfield.

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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O B I T U A R I E S

Holly Prater, 79

Family Therapist Holly Prater Dies at 79 Palmer native Holly Anne Prater has died, just days after her 79th birthday. Holly was well-known in Western Massa as a family therapist, child welfare advocate, and Guardian Ad Litem for institutionalized children. She opened Westfield's first private therapy practice in 1976 and worked over the years as supervisor, consultant, and social worker for many state agencies, service providers, and counseling services. She was also a child welfare investigator for the Massachusetts trial courts and among the state's first Licensed (vs. accredited) Independent Clinical Social

Workers (LICSW). Holly earned a BA from The Elms and an MSW from UConn, where she played with the Huskies women's basketball team. A prodigious gardener and amateur arborists, Holly restored historic homes in Springfield, Chicopee, and Russell with her partner, Marsha Montori, with whom she shared 26 dogs and cats over the years. She lived most recently in Westfield, where she had many friends and donated time to Stanley Park, the Westfield Animal Shelter, and the Farmer's Market. Holly



was predeceased by her parents, Harriet and Carl Prater. She leaves eight cousins: Scott, Bruce, and James Haley and Kendrick Prater of Palmer; Barbara Prater Stanley and Beverly Prater of Georgetown, MA; Anne Prater Barfield of Reynolds, GA; and Mary Jane Moore of Pensacola, FL. She also leaves a longtime business partner, Barbara Defazio of DeBary, FL, and many friends and caregivers. A family gathering will be held in late July. For more information visit www.beersandstory.com

John ("Py") Pyzocha Jr., 73



John ("Py") Pyzocha Jr., 73, died peacefully on July 7, 2023 with his loving family by his side. Born in Palmer, MA on December 11th 1949, he was the son of John and Irene (Syper) Pyzocha. He was a lifelong resident of Palmer and was proud to serve his country in the US Army Reserves during the late 1960s and often talked about being a medic. He was a Commercial Landscape Foreman for New England Landscape and Irrigation for many years. John was the happiest and most content tending to his garden, taking care of the many animals he had during his life, and cooking for his family and friends. Many local residents enjoyed his honey, farm fresh eggs and vegetables. He was known for his generous nature. Family and friends regularly stopped by for a chat,

and no one left the house without a sampling of his freshly cooked meals or his most recent harvest. He also enjoyed hunting, fishing and being a weather enthusiast. Predeceased by his parents John and Irene, his infant brother Gary and loving wife of 44 years, Sylvia (Sasur) Pyzocha. His memory will forever remain with his children; his daughter, Michelle and husband, Se-Min Sohn, of West Hartford CT; son, John Pyzocha of Three Rivers; and son, Michael Pyzocha and wife, Anne, of Philadelphia, PA; grandchildren, Evan, Matthew and Robin; as well as his sister Karen Brown and husband Jim and his father's wife, Rita Pyzocha. His sister and brother



in laws; Sandra Walsh and her companion Douglas Van Slyke; John and Heather Sasur and Linda Viens and life companion Reggie Sandiford. He also leaves nieces, Laura, Lisa, Devon, Jayme and nephews Steven and Timothy. He will be missed by his dear friends Sue Draper, Kathy Malo and Rick Wytek, Deb & Pete Chabot, Gary & Judy Haas, as well as many close friends throughout the community. A memorial service will be held on September 9th at 11:00 at Bethany Charismatic Catholic Church 167 Dunhamtown-Palmer Rd. Brimfield MA. Please visit www.beersandstory.com

Holland Fire Department hosts regional training for local towns

REGIONAL – Firefighters from six neighboring communities participated in regional training, hosted by the Holland Fire Department on June 25.

According to a release by the Holland Fire Department, the training offered fire respondents from Bondsville, Monson, Holland, Wales, Sturbridge and Brimfield an opportunity to learn about the Rural Hitch water supply - a method that allows responders to use water tankers without deploying 3,500 gallon portable water tanks.

Through the use of a wye valve, or "Rural Hitch," two 4-inch diameter hose supply lines from alternating tankers are combined, supplying water to one large diameter hose.

The combined water supply then uses the single LDH to supply water to a fire attack engine.

This method takes up less space on the roadway, allowing more apparatus to access the scene. The extra space also improves apparatus accessibility for changing and relocating equipment.

By combining two water supplies through the use of the Rural Hitch, a pressurized water system is created, replicating a sort of "mobile pressurized fire hydrant system."

This system also eliminates the need to vacuum water from portable water tanks, saving setup and breakdown time, reducing risk of firefighter injury from deploying the portable tanks, and improving the reliability of the water supply operation.



Holland Firefighters, Matt Phillips and Nick Colangione are shown walking through rushing water as they take part in regional training.



Holland Firefighters, Chris Tyler and Dylan Tetreault are shown holding a firehose as they engage in training.



Holland Fire Lieutenant Daniel Berg and Firefighter Jason Dufresne are shown looking at gauges on the side of a fire engine during training.



Wales Captain Mike Richter and Lieutenant Owen Shaw are shown beside a fire engine as they participate in training.



Holland Chief James Gagne, Deputy Chief Rebecca Gagne and Sturbridge Lieutenant Matthew Roderick are shown overseeing the June 25 regional training. Holland is credited for hosting the training while Lieutenant Roderick is recognized for his oversight.



Wales Fire Department Captain, Mike Richter is shown training ready while in uniform.



Holland Fire Investigator, Gordon Holstrom is shown engaging in conversation with Mike Richter and Owen Shaw during regional training.

Police/Fire

Police Logs

Palmer

The Palmer Police Department reported 582 incidents on its logs for June 27-July 4 including:

June 29

Police responded to an assault and battery complaint at Palmer Healthcare Center on Shearer Street. No other details were provided.

June 30

Rodolfo Curbelo Jr., 68, of 269 Tyler Street in Springfield, was arrested at Hryniewicz Park on Springfield Street in Three Rivers and charged with assault and battery on a person age 60 or older, disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, negligent operation of a motor vehicle and refusing to identify himself to police.

July 2

Jason William Chenier, 33, of 72 E. Allen Ridge Rd in Springfield, was arrested on Park Street and charged with OUI liquor, illegal possession of

fireworks and a tire tread depth violation.

Also that day, James W. Hasselman Jr., 35, of 28 Cottage Street in Warren, was arrested on a warrant. No other details were provided.

July 1

Rachel Colen, 33, no address, was arrested on two warrants in the vicinity of the Mass Pike and charged with disorderly conduct, vandalizing property and giving false information to police.

Also that day, Daniel Scott Mari, 40, of 12 Spring Street Apt. 11 in Ware, was arrested on N. Main Street and charged with disorderly conduct and possession of a Class E drug.

July 3

Nicole Taylor Patterson, 27, of 4048 Main Street in Thorndike, was arrested on High Street and charged with OUI liquor and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

Monson

The incidents reported by the Monson Police Dept. for the period July 2-July 8 included the following arrests:

July 2

Allen Roy Meserve, 62, of 103 Wood Hill Rd. in Monson, was arrested and charged with OUI liquor, second offense.

July 6

Jesus Manuel Rivera, 38, of 23 Elm Street in Monson, was arrested and charged with driving with a suspended license, possessing or selling an electric stun gun, carrying a dangerous weapon, second offense, negligent operation of motor vehicle, speeding, failing to stop or yield, possession of a Class A drug and refusing to provide police with identification.

Also that day, Robert Henry Ward Jr., 50, of 31 Stafford Rd. in Hampden, was arrested and charged with OUI liquor, negligent operation of motor vehicle and speeding.

Fire Logs

BONDSVILLE

The Bondsville Fire Department responded to three calls from July 4-10.

July 7 at 5:46 p.m. Responded with mutual aid for Three Rivers to Barker Street for assistance with a patient extrication. Returned to service at 6:59 p.m.

July 10 at 1:04 p.m. Responded with mutual aid for Belchertown to Barker Street for a structure fire. Returned to service at 5:03 p.m.

July 10 at 6:03 p.m. Responded to Phillips Street for an explosion with a plume of smoke visible. Returned to service at 6:28 p.m.

PALMER

The Palmer Fire Department responded to seven fire calls and two medical assist calls from July 4-11:

July 4 at 12:27 p.m. Responded to Depot Street for an alarm activation. Returned to service at 12:55 p.m.

July 4 at 4:12 p.m. Responded to Breckenridge Street for arcing electrical equipment. Returned to service at 4:55 p.m.

July 6 at 9:23 a.m. Responded to South Main Street for a detector activation. Returned to service at 9:35 a.m.

July 8 at 4:10 p.m. Responded to Beaugard Street for an unauthorized burning. Returned to service at 4:43 p.m.

July 8 at 6:46 p.m. Responded to North Main Street for an unauthorized burning. Returned to service at 7:08 p.m.

July 10 at 1:07 p.m. Responded with mutual aid for Belchertown to Daniel Square for an unauthorized burning. Returned to service at 6:45 p.m.

July 10 at 4:00 p.m. Responded to Stimson Street for a furnace malfunction. Returned to service at 6:40 p.m.

THREE RIVERS

The Three Rivers Fire Department responded to three calls for the week of July 3-10.

On Friday, July 7, the Department responded to an EMS incident on Sykes Street at midnight. The Department returned to service at 12:20 a.m.

At 5:37 p.m., the Department responded to an EMS/Rescue incident on Burton Trail, returning to service at 6:55 p.m.

On Monday, July 10 at 2:40 p.m. the Department responded to an accident investigation on Springfield Street, returning to service at 2:55 p.m.

Public Notices

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 24, 2023 at 7:30 PM in the Town Administrative Building, 4417 Main St, Palmer MA.

The applicant, Palmer Paving Corp. (PPC) is seeking a Special Permit as required by section 171.73 of the Palmer Zoning Ordinance to remove Earth materials for a one year term, on the property located at 863 Ware Street, Palmer MA, also known as Assessor's Map 31 Lot 28.

A copy of the application may be inspected at the Planning Department office in the Town Administrative Building Monday-Thursday 8:30am - 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 07/06, 07/13/2023

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 24, 2023 at 7:15 PM in the Town Administrative Building, 4417 Main St, Palmer MA.

The applicant, Palmer Paving Corp. (formally known as JJC Materials) is seeking a Special Permit as required by section 171.73 of the Palmer Zoning Ordinance to remove Earth materials for a one year term, on the property located at 1310/1312 Park Street, Palmer MA, also known as Assessor's Map, 7 Lot 13 and Map 56 Lots 78, 79, 80 & 83.

A copy of the application may be inspected at the Planning Department office in the Town Administrative Building Monday-Thursday 8:30am - 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 07/06, 07/13/2023

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Heather M. Carson to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Residential Mortgage Services, Inc., dated September 24, 2018 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 22371, Page 553, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Residential Mortgage Services, Inc., its successors and assigns to Specialized Loan Servicing LLC, recorded on February 15, 2022, in Book No. 24405, at Page 526 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 PM on August 7, 2023, on the mortgaged premises located at 9 Amber Road, Holland, Hampden County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, TO WIT:

The land in Holland, Hampden County, Massachusetts, with the buildings thereon, situated on the southerly side of Amber Road, being Lots 2, 3, 4, 5 and 33 on a Plan of Amber Park by Smith and Wallen, Engineers, dated April 1948 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book of Plans 27, Page 98, together bounded and described as follows:

NORTHERLY by Amber Road, 350.67 feet; EASTERLY by Lot 1 on said plan, 90 feet; SOUTHERLY by Lots 9, 8, 7 and 6 on said plan, 240 feet;

WESTERLY by Lot 32 on said plan, 20 feet; SOUTHERLY by said Lot 32, 100 feet; and

WESTERLY by Pleasant Street, 55 feet. Together with a right of way in common with others to use all roads as laid out on said plan for purposes of travel, and the right in common with others to use a fifty-foot right of way on Mashapaug Road beginning at a point 488 feet northeast of Amber Hill Brook for the purpose of getting to and from Hamilton Reservoir and to keep a boat at same. SUBJECT to restrictive covenants, conditions, easements, agreements and reservations as set forth and as referenced in an instrument

dated October 17, 2008 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 17522, Page 192, as the same may still be in force and applicable to locus. For mortgagor's(s)' title see deed recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 22371, Page 551. These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty

(30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale. SPECIALIZED LOAN SERVICING LLC Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys, HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C. 150 California St. Newton, MA 02458 (617)558-0500 23341 07/13, 07/20, 07/27/2023

LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of MA Gen. Laws, Chap. 255, Sec. 39A, the following vehicles will be sold at public auction for towing and storage charges due:

MERCEDES VIN: 4JGAB72EXXA094985 Diana Torado 72 Park Dr. New Britain, CT; MERCEDES VIN: 4JGBF71E98A382394 Margaret Rivera 11 Vernon St. Ware, MA; PONTIAC VIN: 1G2NF52E73C114451 Tami Mateljan 369 East Market St Apt 3 York, PA; MITSUBISHI VIN:

ML32A3HJ5HH015842 Shannon Merkel 18 Coache St Three Rivers, MA.

This auction is to take place on July 21, 2023, 10:00 A.M. at LaBontes & Son LLC, 241 Wilbraham St., Palmer, MA 01069. 07/6, 7/13, 7/20/2023

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 23 SM 002554 ORDER OF NOTICE TO:

Heirs, devisees and/or Legal Representative of the Estate of Theresa Mackiewicz, Kyle J. Mackiewicz, Sara E. Mackiewicz

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 et seq.: Movement Mortgage, LLC

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Palmer a/k/a Bondsville, numbered 3144 Main Street, Unit 3144, a/k/a 3144 Main Street, Unit 23, Palmer a/k/a Bondsville, given by Theresa Mackiewicz to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

(“MERS”), as mortgagee, as nominee for Movement Mortgage, LLC its successors and assigns, dated December 8, 2021, and recorded or filed in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 24290, Page 436, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, has/ have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 08/07/2023 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of this Court on 6/26/2023.

Attest: Deborah J. Patterson Recorder

07/13/2023

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FOR RENT

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: QUABBIN & SUBURBAN - FRIDAY AT NOON HILLTOWNS - MONDAY AT NOON or call: 413-283-8393

Table with 4 columns (1-4) and 10 rows (1-40) for word counts and prices. Includes 'CATEGORY:' and 'Base Price' for various word counts.

Map of Quabbin Village Hills, Hilltowns, and Suburban Residential zones with circulation statistics. Includes text: 'Buy the Quabbin Village Hills or the Suburban Residential ZONE for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word. Add \$10 for a second Zone or add \$15 to run in ALL THREE ZONES.'

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Public Notices

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.*

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

Michael Marciniac, Chairman
 07/06, 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. HD22P1861EA
 Estate of: **Carol A. Cote**
 Also known as: **Carol Ann Cote**
Date of Death: 06/09/2022
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for S/A - **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Scott D Daris 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: **Scott D Daris 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 07/21/2023.**

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.

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: June 26, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 07/13/2023

Coming home to Coventry

Filmmakers turn hospital, historic farm into movie set

By **Paula Ouimette**
 pouimette@turley.com

BROOKFIELD/WARE — For the past few weeks, locations around Brookfield and Ware have been transformed into the fictional small town of Coventry for the filming of the full-length indie movie, "Birthrite".

Late in the afternoon on June 25, the emergency room at Baystate Mary Lane Hospital became part of the movie set, as people dressed in scrubs and uniforms walked into the building to set up for the scene being filmed.

Nurses walked briskly through the busy halls of the hospital, where a woman could be seen talking quietly with a doctor.

The concern was clear on the woman's face as they discussed her partner, who is expecting the couple's first child. Wren is questioning her pregnant partner Mya's sanity.

The couple has been through many changes lately, both with the pregnancy, and moving from the city and into an old house they inherited from Mya's aunt in Coventry.

Wren is played by Juani Feliz of New York, in her first lead role.

Feliz said she has played a number of strong supporting lead roles, appearing in "The Purge: Election Year and Canal Street" as well as various television series including "Blue Bloods", "Power", "Shades of Blue", "One Dollar" and more.

"Birthrite" is a psychological thriller, and the first of this genre that Feliz has acted in.

"It's my favorite genre," she said. Playing Mya is Alice Kremelberg, also from New York, who has acted in a number of television series, including "The Sinner", "Orange is the New Black", and "The Ballad of Renegade Nell" to name a few.

"Being here every day is such a treat," Kremelberg said. "It's been such a group effort. Juani and I are having the best time."

"Birthrite" is directed by Ross Partridge of Los Angeles, California, a respected actor, director and producer.

Partridge has appeared in the hit series "Stranger Things" as Lonnie Byers, the estranged father of Jonathan and Will Byers.

While Ware and Brookfield may seem like unlikely places to film a movie, it feels like home for Partridge and his crew.

His wife, Jennifer Lafleur, who is also an actor, was born at Mary Lane Hospital, and grew up in Brookfield just a few doors down from the historic Elm Hill Farm owned by Bill McCreary.

The impressive 1870 mansion at Elm Hill Farm is surrounded by rolling fields and is still an active horse farm to this day.

In "Birthrite", Elm Hill Farm is transformed into the Coventry home that Wren and Mya move to, with the hope of starting their family in the serenity of the country.

"Bill has just been amazing," Production Manager Kelly Frazier said of farm owner McCreary. "He's just the best."

Frazier, an industry veteran of 25 years, said that when the production team scouted the location for "Birthrite" they knew it was

perfect. Lafleur said her parents built their house near Elm Hill Farm and that she, her husband and their 3-year-old daughter, Alma, spend a lot of time in the area.

"It's so nice to be working locally," she said. Joining the cast is Lafleur's father, Roger and mother, Donna.

"I spent a lot of time visiting my dad here," Lafleur said of the hospital. She also worked as an EMT in Brookfield with her mother.

Roger spent over 30 years in the medical field, starting as a physician's assistant under Dr. Grace for 10 years before becoming a physician in the emergency department. He then moved to the urgent care department until it closed.

"The best person for urgent care is an emergency room doctor," Roger said. "They know what to worry about."

Roger, along with many familiar faces from Mary Lane Hospital, is starring as an extra in the film; his second acting role under his son-in-law's direction.

Donna works as an EMT in Brookfield and remembers spending a lot of time at the hospital.

"It's sad, but it brings back a lot of good memories," she said of returning to the emergency room.

Jean Comeau worked in Mary Lane Hospital's emergency room for 35 of her 50 years as a nurse, retiring before it closed.

"Roger and I were like brother and sister," Comeau said. "All of us worked well together."

Comeau said she and her fellow nurses still get together every six to eight weeks, hailing from Hardwick, Ware, Brookfield, West Brookfield and beyond.

"Some of my best memories were here," she said.

Nurse Michelle Kurilova works in the operating room at Baystate Wing Hospital in Palmer, but looked back fondly on her days spent at Mary Lane Hospital.

"It's wonderful to have the opportunity to see it again," Kurilova said.

Emergency room nurse Marylynn Pratt echoed Kurilova's words, adding that working in the hospital created a deep, lifelong connection between the staff.

"It's family," she said.

Most of the crew working on the film are based in Massachusetts, as are many of the extras.

Frazier thanked McCreary and Baystate Health Services for their hospitality and credited Dan Diaz of Westerman Props Warehouse in Worcester for his work.

The film is expected to be released in 2024 and will premiere locally for all to enjoy.



Actors **Juani Feliz** (left) and **Alice Kremelberg** (right) enjoy a quiet moment with **Jennifer Lafleur** and her daughter, **Alma**.



Shown from left are **Dr. Roger Lafleur**, nurses **Michelle Kurilova** and **Marylynn Pratt** and **David Pratt**.



Director Ross Partridge, (standing, right) directs the actors.



Nurse Jean Comeau and **Brookfield EMT Donna Lafleur** get ready for the day's filming at Baystate Mary Lane Hospital.



The 1870 mansion at **Elm Hill Farm** in **Brookfield** is set as **Wren and Mya's home** in the fictional town of **Coventry**.

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

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.

NEXT WEEK

MOVIE TRIVIA NIGHT: 3-5 p.m. at Monson Free Library. Show your trivia knowledge skills and win a prize. Join by yourself or with a team. All ages welcome.

RIVER PADDLE: Quaboag River Blue Trail - Quaboag Pond to Rt 67/9 to Lucy Stone Park - 9 a.m. Saturday, July 22. 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 for information and updates.

PAWS 4 BLUE: Hosted by Westview Farms Creamery in Monson 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, July 22.

This fundraiser, which supports local police K9 programs, features the creamery's vast variety of ice cream, food from the grill, baby goats, demonstrations and more.

Food Paws 4 Blue K-9 will host its first annual Police K9 Fundraiser on Saturday, July 22 at the Westview Farms Creamery from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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.

COMING SOON

FREE CONCERT: The Good Good News Christian Praise group will be performing a free concert at 4 p.m. on Saturday, July 29, at Second Congregational Church 1080 Pleasant Street in Palmer. The Good Good News is a five-person group which has been playing and singing together for many years throughout the region. All are welcome.

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.

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 Merry Mombourquette at 283-7577. Follow them on Facebook for more.

ONGOING

FARMER'S MARKETS: The Brimfield Farmers Market at Hitchcock Academy is a fun place to find cool, unique products, plants and seasonal produce every Saturday while you meet your neighbors and support Hitchcock and local businesses.

The Wales Baptist Church farmer's market is 9 a.m. to noon every Saturday until Labor Day directly across the street from the church on Route 19 in Wales. Items being sold are baked goods, honey, seasonal vegetables, antiques and crafts.

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 danc-

ing 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.

Paws 4 Blue K-9 hosts first annual fundraiser

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
dgagnon@turley.com

PALMER/MONSON – In an effort to support Police K-9 Officers in need, Paws 4 Blue K-9 will host their first annual fundraiser Saturday, July 22 at Westview Farms Creamery from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The event will feature K-9 demonstrations, opportunities to meet K-9s from neighboring communities, K-9 Chase from Paw Patrol, farm animals, Back the Blue accessories for sale, Buddy T-shirts, K-9 Buddy hoodies, homemade ice cream and fresh food.

Paws 4 Blue K-9 Founder, Janice Garabedian said “all across America, there are many agencies without [K-9] budgets...These dogs put their lives on the line every day to keep us and their handlers’ safe.” She added, “they deserve funds in return for their commitment.”

Garabedian said her inspiration for starting Paws 4 Blue K-9 was the late Palmer Police K-9 Officer, Buddy.

While she said she had known many police departments did not have a budget for K-9 officers, it wasn’t until Buddy got cancer that she saw an urgency to establish an organization that could help.

“The last thing we would ever want to do is turn somebody away...I want them to have access to funds like Buddy did,” said Garabedian.

Paws 4 Blue K-9 donates a percentage of merchandise proceeds to The Buddy Foundation, a memorial fund which allows handlers from non-budgeted agencies and retired K-9s to apply for grants.

All proceeds from the July 22 fundraiser will be donated to The Buddy Foundation.

“When Palmer got Buddy, that’s when I found out most agencies didn’t have a budget and rely on community support,” said Garabedian.

She said she was “really heart-broken because these are officers.”

Funds generated by Paws 4 Blue K-9 and donated to The Buddy Foundation allow retired K-9s and K-9s from non-budgeted agencies access to grants to pay for medical expenses, essential equipment such as vests, emergency care and train-



Founder Janice Garabedian is shown alongside volunteers Donna LaFleur and Gaston LaFleur.



A poster of K-9 Officer “Buddy” at this year’s Monson Summerfest event.



Merchandise available for purchase to support the Paws 4 Blue K-9 mission.

find people fast,” said Garabedian. Buddy was a dual-purpose officer trained in finding substances as well as people.

Garabedian said Buddy found two missing children in Monson a few years ago and has even helped find a man on the brink of committing suicide.

To support the Paws 4 Blue K-9 mission, there are a few ways to contribute.

Paws 4 Blue K-9 is seeking sponsors who will receive recognition for their sponsorships.

While all the proceeds from the July 22 event will be donated to The Buddy Foundation, those who cannot make the event can support the cause by purchasing from the Paws 4 Blue K-9 online store at <https://www.paws4bluek9.com>.

A percentage of proceeds from merchandise sales are donated to the memorial fund, though donations can be mailed directly to The Buddy Foundation at P.O. Box 101, Palmer, MA 01069.

100% of donations go directly to The Buddy Foundation.

ing. If a K-9 officer from a non-budgeted agency is injured on duty, there are no funds to help support the officer.

Most retired K-9 officers lose their benefits, if they had any.

“It really hit me when Buddy got sick,” said Garabedian.

In one month alone, Buddy had undergone three surgeries.

“I’m trying to help K-9s nationally I have so much respect for these dogs,” said Garabedian.

She added the work of K-9 officers is invaluable as “when someone goes missing, time is of the essence.”

Even with search parties, “dogs can do things people can’t - they can



Athletes in formation for two, six person pyramids, side by side.

Turley Photos by Deanna Sloat

Aqua Riders of Holland make a splash



Three athletes suspended in the air after completing a jump.

Free, family fun every Friday

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
dgagnon@turley.com

HOLLAND – Athletes of all ages gather on Hamilton Reservoir to perform a free water ski show every Friday night, starting at 6:30 p.m.

The event is open to the general public and is located on the dock across from “Holland’s Maine Attraction.”

The Aqua Riders of Holland, a non-profit competitive water ski show team, choose a new show theme every season, distinguished by their choice of props, outfits, and music.

Roy Walker, Show Director, said the team went through a list of potential options before deciding on this year’s theme - “Top Gun.”

“It’s family skiing... we chose a storyline to fit the water show,” said Walker.

He added “skiing requires a lot of skills and we’re looking to show the joy of the sport.”

Attendees can expect to see impressive stunts such as pyramids, ramp jumps and ski tricks from athletes anywhere from 8 to 60 years in age.

According to Walker, there are between 50-60 athletes on the team. He added this may be the largest team they have had.

He said the team is continuing to grow and people can expect to

see bigger acts soon.

Show team participant and former show director, Laura Champagne said her family has three generations of family in this year’s show, including her father, Joe Niemiroski, herself and her children.

Champagne said the show is not only fun for participants but

Boards of Directors for the organization, an adult Board and a youth Board.

Walker said “the organization is structured to give youth organization skills... the youth Board of Directors have roles that mimic those of the adult Board.”

Champagne said the Aqua Riders promote fun, water related



A skier performs a 360 degree turn while going over the ski jump.

gives “free entertainment for the community.”

In addition to their weekly recitals, Champagne said athletes practice 3 days a week to fine tune their athletic abilities and stay sharp.

While water skiing is at the heart of the organization, Champagne said they also focus on many other important skills.

“You learn responsibility and spatial awareness,” said Champagne.

She added there are two

activities as well as water safety. Being a 501(c)(3) organization, The Holland Aqua Riders are accepting donations.

Donations help the team and the community by funding learn to ski programs offered through the organization, scholarship opportunities and continuing to provide free shows and leadership opportunities.

Donations can be made by visiting The Aqua Riders website at <http://www.aquariders.org/donations.html>.

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