



PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Heathcliff

Page 2



SCHOOLS

Pathfinder P.M. Pathways

Page 3



SPORTS

Palmer beats South Hadley

Page 9

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

The Journal Register



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POLICE/FIRE

Fatal West Ware Road fire under investigation

PALMER – A Palmer resident was found deceased following a fire at the resident's property on 17 West Ware Road, on July 17.

The fire involved a shed on the property, according to a press release issued by Palmer Fire Chief William J. Bernat Jr., Palmer Police Chief Christopher J. Burns, State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, and Hampden County District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni.

"Our hearts go out to this man's family and loved ones," said Chief Bernat. "On behalf of the Palmer Fire Department, I want to express our sincere condolences on their tragic loss."

The Palmer Fire Department responded to the area after a passing motorist reported seeing smoke at about 1:18 p.m. On arrival, the first responding personnel found a shed fully involved near the rear of the residence, with fire threatening to spread to the residence and nearby woods.

Palmer firefighters immediately deployed an attack line to suppress the fire and called for mutual aid. The fire departments of Warren, Ware, Bondsville, and Monson responded, bringing additional personnel and tankers to assist in extinguishing the fire.

One resident who had been unaccounted for was discovered deceased inside the shed. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will conduct a formal identification procedure and determine the cause and manner of his death.

Power equipment, gasoline, and other items were found in the area of the fire. Its exact cause has not yet been determined and remains under investigation by the Palmer Fire Department, Palmer Police Department, State Police fire investigators assigned to the State Fire Marshal's office, and State Police assigned to the Hampden District Attorney's office.

COMMUNITY

Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce event "rains" success

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
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PALMER – Friends and family gathered at Hryniewicz Park to support local businesses, live music and a ribbon cutting ceremony for the park's completion at the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce Food Trucks, Farmers and Artisans Market, July 14.

The event featured over 40 vendors, including food trucks, non-profit organizations and hobbyists.

Local vendor Joann Bradley's booth offered hand crafted cards for any occasion with a wide variety of card style and design, including book binding, easel and pop-up cards.

"They are my hobby and all my style," said Bradley.

She said supporting local artisans and businesses is important because "they are the heart of our community," adding "what you put into your community is what you get back."

Many attendees made their rounds checking out booths, grabbing food and sitting back in lawn chairs to listen to The Geezers band.

For youth entertainment, children played on the new playground.

After playing, some attendees cooled off with ice cream cones from Batch Ice Cream - including locals Amy and Spencer Skowrya.

Amy said her favorite part of the event was the food trucks, while Spencer said his was the playground.

Spencer added that the spinning features are "really fast," which he enjoyed.

"I'm so happy it's open. It's a nice place to come together," said Amy.

Three Rivers residents Kimberly, Marty and Rylee Dudek

CHAMBER | page 7



Spencer Skowrya smiles as Tina Burke of Batch Ice Cream hands him a cone.

Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon

TOWN HALL

Software glitch doubles amounts on tax notice

By Marcelo Gusmao
Staff Writer
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PALMER – The Tax Collector and Town Manager have put out a statement clarifying the software glitch that led to incorrect amounts showing up on tax notices.

The glitch in the Munis software doubled the amounts due for quarters one and two of preliminary taxes on 240 accounts and bills, affecting residents who have or are coded for certain exemptions, notably seniors, veterans, and other abatement.

According to Shelby Lamothé, the town's Tax Collector, the software company is rectifying the situation and Town Manager Ryan McNutt will put out a revised notice once it is completed.

"As far as we know, this glitch affected approximately 240 accounts," McNutt said. "The tax services are going to go through the listing, and if they service any of the accounts on the list, they will call or email for the correct amount due."

In a statement online, the Tax Collector's office mentioned that it has reached out to relevant mortgage companies and informed them of this situation.

"The Tax Collector was able to contact all tax services by phone regarding the status of the tax bills due Aug. 1," McNutt said. "They were all provided with the listing from the Assessors of the parcels affected that had exemptions or abatements for Fiscal Year 2023."

McNutt mentioned that the Tax Collector has been in contact with

TAX BILLS | page 5

COMMUNITY

PDVTF launch domestic violence awareness campaign

By Dallas Gagnon
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PALMER – The Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force has given away nearly 500 packets of sunflower seeds as part of a domestic violence awareness campaign and has more to offer.

For those interested in supporting the cause, seeds can be found at the Palmer police station, Town Hall or hanging on various lawn signs throughout town.

"We've been searching for something similar to the purple light campaign," said Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force Coordinator, Crystal.

The purple light campaign is a DV awareness campaign that launched in 2006, asking advocates

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE | page 5



PARKS AND REC

Hryniewicz Park finally open

By Dallas Gagnon
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PALMER – After two years of planning, budgeting and construction, the fence separating Hryniewicz Park and the community has finally come down.

As of July 12, Three Rivers has a completely updated, American Disabilities Act compliant park at the heart of the village.

Community Development Director, John Latour said "from day one when they opened [the park], kids were waiting while they were taking the fence down." Latour said even throughout the school year, children at the bus stop could be seen eyeing the construction site and asking when the project would be completed.

The entire park is new - furnished with updated equipment such as a soft pour-in-place platform, a swing set, jungle gym, climbing ropes, spinning apparatus, slides and a train feature.

In addition to the new equipment, the physical playscape was relocated from one side of the park to another.

Park benches and sidewalks were also added, improving the park's accessibility.

Recreation Director, Andrew St. George said improving the park's accessibility is important because "it's not just the



Henry Cosby and Evan Dufault are shown enjoying the updated park just one day after the fence came down.

Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon

PARK | page 8

ANNUAL EVENT

Brimfield Flea Market hosts July showing

By Dallas Gagnon
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BRIMFIELD – Tents filled with anything from shoes and sweaters, to carnival rides and lawn ornaments lined Main Street and packed fields this past week for the July showing of the Brimfield Antique Flea Market.

Vendors and attendees came from all over the country to support the event, with some travelers from all across New England, Philadelphia and even California.

While some Massachusetts natives stayed close to home, such as Brimfield and Palmer residents,

others commuted from Boston and Wellfleet. Vendors such as James Enders of Philadelphia made an appearance, selling art he created himself and some from other artists.

Enders said the layering and saturated pigments in his art are inspired by the work of Pablo Picasso.

While Enders products focused on visual art, other tents had a wide variety of miscellaneous items organized by theme.

Ed Uditis of Pennsylvania sold many vintage and antique

FLEA MARKET | page 16



Boston resident Norah Burch smiles beside an old carnival horse at the show.

Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon

Pet of the Week



HEATHCLIFF

This photo was submitted on behalf of Jim and Cathie-Ann Barnes, who live in Monson. Heathcliff is very affectionate, loves to follow people around, and does tricks! His favorite is "give paw".

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.



The scouts in attendance at the Cub Scout tag sale were Ryan Alamo, Spencer Skowrya, Den Chief: Cole Chavilier and Popcorn Kernel: Brie Godbout.

Turley photos by Matty Anderson

Cub Scout Pack 164 team up with Demore's Automotive for tag sale

By Matty Anderson
Staff Writer
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PALMER— Demore's Automotive and the Cubscouts teamed up for a Saturday afternoon to remember.

Demore's Automotive has made it their mission to be more involved in the community over the past few years. Over the weekend, they offered up their parking lot to be the venue for the scout's tag sale.

You can't have a tag sale on a hot day without some refreshments, thankfully Batch Ice Cream was there to keep everyone cool with their delicious ice cream. Cubscout, Spencer Skowrya, enjoyed their lemon sorbet with rainbow sprinkles and Jay Demore highly recommends the mint chocolate chip.

Cubmaster, Erin Chevalier, described the event as "a great enriching

family program, you can build a bear, buy some stuff and get some ice cream." Capt'n Cod's Bear Cove And Animal Emporium, offered a Build A Bear-esque station for attendees to create their new best friend.

Attendee, Bethany Dunn said "this was really cute, it's like a Build-A-Bear on wheels. I really want to thank the Demore's this was really cool of them." Her nephew, Carson Chenevert said, "I've already named him Moose-tracks," while proudly showing off his new Moose buddy.

After assisting the pair, Bear Crew member, Nicole Bessette, said "it's so much fun to do this. Even though it's so hot out, these moments make this so worth it. With every child I try to make it special and be full of energy like it's the first animal I stuffed all day"

The company originated in The Cape, hence the name, but luckily for

locals they operate out of Brookfield. Jay Demore said "Nicole is very humble, she literally does this out of the kindness of her heart. She donates a good portion of the earnings from these parties to various charities, she's amazing."

He added, "because this was so successful, I'm thinking of making this a monthly thing." ever since Covid hit Demore has made a strong effort to support the community.

Demore said, "we've been here since 1997, so we really want to give back to our great community and help small businesses. Please continue to support your small businesses, we always choose local businesses over big chains."

During the pandemic, Demore performed many acts of kindness including paying for people's meals at restaurants,



Carson Chenevert and Noah Dunn sit with there stuffed animal creations.



Carson Chenevert, Noah Dunn watch while Nicole Bessette fills the stuffing machine to add to their animals.

Mobile blood donation team is coming to Palmer

PALMER—The Baystate Health Blood Donation team will host a blood drive at Baystate Wing Hospital on Wed., Aug. 2, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Additionally, Blood Drives will be held every other month on Wednesdays throughout the year at Baystate Wing including on Oct. 4 and Dec. 6.

Nicole VanZandt, supervisor, blood donor services shares, "When you donate blood to Baystate Health, your precious gift remains in our local communities. Please help us to ensure a safe and adequate blood supply is available by donating blood with the Baystate Health Blood Donor Program."

Blood donations take approximately one hour to complete, including the interview, donation, and refreshments. To donate blood, donors must be at least 17 years old; weigh at least 110 pounds have a photo ID; be in good health (no colds, or sore throat); and have not donated blood within the past eight weeks.

In appreciation, all eligible donors will receive a \$10.00 gift card or a Big E ticket while supplies last. Blood donations can be lifesaving for many people facing health conditions or problems that might require a transfusion, some of these reasons may include cancer, trauma or injuries, operations, blood disorders, pregnancy, and birth.

For more information or to book an appointment to donate blood please call the Blood Donor Center at 413-794-4600. Please be sure to note Baystate Wing Hospital as the location to make the donation when making the appointment.

Paws 4 Blue K-9 to hold first annual event

PALMER/MONSON — Paws 4 Blue K-9, a business dedicated to raising funds for K-9 Police Officers, is hosting the organization's first annual fundraiser, Saturday, July 22.

The event will take place at Westview Farms Creamery, 109 East Hill Road, Monson, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.,

featuring K-9 demonstrations, opportunities to meet K-9s from neighboring communities, K-9 Chase from Paw Patrol, farm animals, Paws 4 Blue K-9 merchandise and ice cream.

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...They deserve funds in return for their commitment."

All of the proceeds generated at the July 22 event will be donated to The Buddy Foundation - a fund for retired K-9 Officers, or K-9s from nonbudgeted agencies to apply for grants.

For those interested in supporting

the cause but unable to attend the event, donations to The Buddy Foundation can be mailed directly to the foundation at P.O. Box 101, Palmer, MA 01069.

A percentage of merchandise proceeds are also donated to The Buddy Foundation and can be purchased on the Paws 4 Blue K-9 online store at <https://www.paws4bluek9.com>.

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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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Pathfinder recognizes First Class of Evening Students



The electrical cohort, (from left) Victor Figueroa, Jesus Diaz-Laboy, Pedro Mateo, Instructor Eric Simard, Izak Gonzalez, Thomas Riberdy, Shannon Labato, Tyler Rurak, and Kevin Gray.



The plumbing cohort, (from left) Program Coordinator Lindsey Tracy, Aidan Thompson, Instructor Randy Dimitropolis, Jacob Pont, Pedro Esteves, Victor Figueroa, Colby Genest, Luis Morales, Elizabeth Sullivan, and Instructor Steven Lopes.



Pedro Mateo celebrated with family after receiving a Certificate of Completion



Presenting a graduation certificate at the ceremony, (from left) Principal Brenda Turner, Superintendent Eric Duda, Shannon Labato, and Instructor Eric Simard.



Presenting a graduation certificate at the ceremony, (from left) Principal Brenda Turner, Superintendent Eric Duda, Jacob Pont, and Instructor Randy Dimitropolis.

By Marcelo Gusmao
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PALMER – Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School hosted a culmination graduation and certificate commencement ceremony recognizing 24 students in the P.M. Pathways course.

At the July 5 ceremony 12 electrical students and 12 plumbing stu-

dents received awards. Superintendent Eric Duda said the school is “proud to be offering this opportunity in the evening for adults to learn with our trained staff,” and plan to add courses on other subjects, based on interest.

The class was offered through the Career Technical Initiatives Grant, which provided \$280,000 to cover the entire cost of the class, including tools, training, and staff

hours. “It was a very rewarding and unique opportunity for myself and Pathfinder Tech,” said Kyle Lussier, one of the program coordinators.

Lussier said that the coordinators worked closely with the instructors and with MassHire to equip the adult students with the knowledge and skills they would need in the industries they were entering. This involved navigating accommodations

for the students’ life schedules, as well as helping the instructors strategize to ensure that the program was an overall success.

By the end of the courses, which started in January, the graduates had each completed 200 hours of training, as well as working with electrician Eric Simard and plumber Randy DiMitropolis, both of whom are Department Heads at Pathfinder during the daytime, who Duda

was grateful for “stepping up” to help with the evening courses.

“Both of them have decades of experience and a vast degree of knowledge,” Duda said, “these adult learners could not have had more talented individuals training them for these very important and skilled fields.”

Lussier gave a shout-out to “trusted counterpart Lindsey Tracy, the other program coordinator,” saying she was equally involved with the process.

“This adult evening education program was a wonderful learning experience for me,” Tracy said, “It allowed me to be part of something I never have before, and meet unique and driven individuals along the way. It’s been a rewarding experience for me, and I feel very fortunate I was able to be a part of it.”

“To be able to offer a new career path option to members of our community and give them a newfound hope for a stable and successful future,” Lussier said, “made this a rewarding program to be a part of.”

Families were present for the ceremony, where staff awarded each member of the first classes in this program with a Certificate of Completion. There were speeches by Superintendent Duda and newly-appointed Principal Brenda Turner.

“This is a tremendous opportunity for adults in the communities we serve and beyond,” Duda said, “learning in two fields that are in high demand, these trained individuals are part of a solution to the skills gap not only in this area, but in the country.”

Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School will open registration for their Evening Adult Education Course next month.

The classes come at no cost to the student, who needs only to provide their own transportation to the school, proof of residency in the commonwealth, and be willing to seek employment in their fields.

Prospective students can sign up on Pathfinder’s website at pathfindertech.org/adult.

CAMPUS NOTES

Holy Cross’ spring dean’s list

WORCESTER—Delaney Walch of Palmer was named to the College of the Holy Cross Spring Dean’s List.

Spring president’s list at Western New England University

SPRINGFIELD — Adela Storey of Palmer, has been named to the president’s list at Western New England University for the Spring Semester. Storey is working toward a Doctor Pharmacy degree.

Respite for caregivers offered

WestMass ElderCare, a leading provider of services for older adults and individuals with disabilities in Western Massachusetts, recently announced the expansion of its paid caregiver respite service.

According to a news release, the Caregiver Assistance, Respite and Enrichment program is designed to provide relief for caregivers who need a break from their responsibilities, offering peace of mind and an opportunity to recharge.

“Caregiving is a demanding job, and many caregivers struggle to find time for themselves and take care of their own needs. The CARE program from WestMass ElderCare, funded by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, aims to address this need, providing caregivers with a much-needed break while ensuring their loved ones receive the care they need,” the release states.

The CARE program offers flexible scheduling, with caregivers able to choose the length and frequency of their respite sessions. Caregivers have the option of hiring their own respite care provider, which may be a trusted family member or friend or a professional from one of WestMass ElderCare’s partner agencies.

“We understand the challenges that caregivers face, and we’re committed to providing the support they need to succeed,” said Roseann Martoccia, executive director of WestMass ElderCare.

“Our CARE program is just one of the ways we’re working to make caregiving easier and more manageable for families in Western Massachusetts.”

To learn more about the CARE program from WestMass ElderCare, go to wmelder.org/care/ or call 413-538-9020.

Joshua Hyde Public Library hosting Ashley Hope Perez

STURBRIDGE— Wednesday, Aug. 2 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom the Joshua Hyde Public Library in conjunction with other central MA libraries will host Ashley Hope Perez to discuss her book “How to Fight Book Bans & Stand Up for the Right to Read”.

Ashley Hope Perez is an assis-

tant professor of world literature at The Ohio State University and the author of three novels including Out of Darkness (2015), which has been on the American Library Association’s list of Top 10 Most Challenged Books since 2021.

Go to sturbridglibrary.org to register.

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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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Baystate Health's Community Health Centers to offer free health fairs Aug. 6-12

Baystate Health's Community Health Centers to offer free health fairs Aug. 6-12

SPRINGFIELD-- Baystate Medical Center's three community health centers in Springfield will hold free health fairs during National Health Center Week, Aug. 6-12.

The health fairs begin on Wednesday, Aug. 9, from 12 to 2 p.m. at Baystate Brightwood Health Center/Centro de Salud at 280 Plainfield St. The fairs continue on Thursday, Aug. 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Baystate High Street Health Center- Adult and Pediatric at 140 High Street, upper level parking lot, and on Friday, Aug. 11, from noon to 4 p.m. at Baystate Mason Square Neighborhood Health Center at 11 Wilbraham Road.

This year's theme is "The Roadmap to a Stronger America." The public is invited to share in the celebration of the health centers as Baystate shines a light on their rich history of community-centered care and partnerships made possible by their dedicated staff, providers, and patients.

Baystate's three health centers - Baystate Brightwood Health Center - Centro de Salud, Baystate Mason Square

Neighborhood Health Center, and Baystate High Street Health Center Adult Medicine and Pediatrics are anchors of public-health efforts in the neighborhoods they serve, working in partnership with community members and groups to address some of the more pressing health challenges facing the city of Springfield.

The health fairs, including food, music, giveaways, and community resource vendors, are free and open to all.

For more information on Brightwood Day call Migdalia Vega at 413-794-8262 or email Migdalia.Vega@BaystateHealth.org; for more information of High Street Day call Caelin Hallgren for Pediatrics at 413-794-2318 or email Caelin.Hallgren@BaystateHealth.org or Jessenia Sanchez for Adult at 413-896-6110 or email Jessenia.Sanchez@BaystateHealth.org; and for more information of Mason Square Day call Edward (Cameron) Rice at 413-794-0281 or email Edward.Rice2@BaystateHealth.org or Andrea Conteh at 413-794-9947 or email Andrea.Conteh@BaystateHealth.org.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE | from page 1

to plug in purple night lights as a way of showing support and opening the door for DV conversations.

Crystal, a full-time domestic violence advocate with a B.A. in Criminal Justice; Offender Rehabilitation and Victims Advocacy, said a DV victim saw a sunflower picture hanging in her office with an inspirational quote.

Crystal said the victim felt moved by the photo so she gifted it to her.

After their interaction, Crystal said the concept of the sunflower campaign dawned on her.

"I brought up the idea to her and we talked about the framework," said Crystal.

While the PDVTF have handed out sunflower seeds at community events, they will sell home-grown sunflowers to serve DV victims in Palmer in the future.

Since launching the campaign in May, the task force has planted two sunflower gardens for the upcoming fundraising initiatives.

One garden is 30ft by 15ft, and the other is 10ft by 20ft.

The flowers from the first garden will be ready in August, just in time to sell some at the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce event at Hryniewicz Park on the 11th.

The second batch should be ready in September.



Sunflower packets are labeled with inspirational quotes and words of affirmation.



Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon

The Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force hands out free sunflower packets to domestic violence advocates wanting to show support for victims and raise awareness.

"The concern is real - financial is a huge one... addiction, mental illness - they are all intertwined," said Crystal.

She said the task force helps victims find immediate, emergency assistance which is a temporary solution.

However, as a full-time DV advocate, Crystal said the task force can offer referrals/resources with long term solutions, such as shelters and other programs.

Local, Kim Austin-Morin said "its very reassuring knowing this kind of support is in the community."

Crystal said she found setting up booths and participating in community events has helped build a trusting relationship between the task force and the community.

"I hear all the time, 'I wish everyone could have a task force...I wish this was available in my town,'" said Crystal.

She added there are people in surrounding towns that need support.

Crystal said that while many situations differ, case by case, there are also many similarities in DV relationships and she encourages victims to talk about their experiences when they are ready.

"I'm glad the task force is the first step in leaving when they are ready to leave," said Crystal.

The PDVTF is always looking for volunteers and accepting donations.

To volunteer or donate, please contact Crystal at 413-324-8585 or email PalmerDVTF@gmail.com.

BBB tip: Choosing a meal delivery service

Meal delivery services give consumers a more convenient way to make home-cooked dinners by delivering fresh, pre-measured ingredients and easy-to-follow recipes to your doorstep.

But just like any other service, each company is different.

Pricing, ingredients, and preparation requirements vary greatly between services. You'll need to do some homework to pick the one that best meets your family's needs. If the appeal of a meal delivery subscription is learning new recipes and experimenting with ingredients, you might choose one company. But if your main interest is speed and simplicity, another may be a better fit.

The following tips will help select an ideal meal delivery service for your household:

Research the delivery service. Ask friends and family, read reviews, and check BBB.org to learn about past customers' experiences.

Set a budget and check the fine print. Pricing can vary from one company to the next. Make certain the service aligns with your budget. In addition, not all meal delivery services include shipping fees in their pricing and read the fine print.

Know your skill level. Before committing to a plan, research what kind of cooking techniques you'll need to know. If a company's recipes require searing, roasting, and braising, do you know how? If not, make sure you have the time to learn new techniques.

Consider ingredient quality. Not all companies offer organic, non-GMO, or free-range meal ingredients. If these are must-haves for your family, make sure the company offers them.

Determine how much prep work you want. Some companies do more chopping and sauce-making than others. This seemingly small difference can make a big difference in how long each meal takes to make.

Contact customer service. If there ever is a problem - a missing recipe card or ingredient, for example - you want to know you can count on customer service. Make sure there are clear, easy ways to contact the company, even late in the evening. Read the company's reviews and keep an eye out for any indication that customer service is lacking.

Check the cancellation policy. Before making a decision to subscribe to meal delivery, understand the cancellation policy. Each company is different and some may have very strict policies.

Be careful with personal information. Most food delivery services process payments online. Make sure the company is legitimate before offering up personal information such as financial information and address.

Review BBB tips for shopping online. Since meal delivery services don't usually have brick-and-mortar storefronts, consider the tips in BBB's tips for smart shopping online.

TAX BILLS | from page 1

the escrow department at Monson Savings Bank and Country Bank, as well.

"Friendly reminder that the tax collector's office does just that," Lamothe said. "Collect the taxes due billed by the assessors, the Registry of Motor Vehicles, Waste Water Treatment Plant, etc.; we do not generate bills or process exemptions or abatements."

Lamothe referred residents to check the Tax Collector page on the town's website.

"Just to be clear, this 'mix-up' did not only affect our town of Palmer, but other towns who use this municipal software as well," Lamothe said.

"I hope this helps clarify the situation and eases the minds of those affected," Lamothe said.

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Journal Register, please email mharrison@turley.com.

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Submitted Photo

L to R: Dan Moriarty, Monson Savings President & CEO; Jack Hibbard, Monson Savings VP Controller; Stacy Gilmour, River East School-to-Career Scholarship Committee Member & Monson Savings Board of Directors; Stephanie Maher, River East School-to-Career Board Member; Amy Scribner, River East School-to-Career Director; Kevin Lynn, River East School-to-Career President; and Michael Rouette, Monson Savings EVP & COO

Monson Savings Bank is a long-time supporter of the local communities

MONSON--In an effort to support local areas, Monson Savings Bank has supported River East School-to-Career program since 2005.

The mission of this non-profit organization is to promote career education and assist in preparing youth for the demands of the 21st century workplace.

The River East School-to-Career Partnership brings together schools, businesses, and organizations to create exciting career exploration opportunities for students. Their aim is to help students make informed decisions regarding their career and educational goals.

Monson Savings has supported this mission by offering internship opportunities, scholarship sponsorships, board participation, financial support, and participation in career readiness programs.

Monson Savings VP and HR Officer Dodie Carpentier has served on the River East Board of Directors since 2014.

"Working with River East School-to-Career has been so rewarding. The Bank has hosted several interns over the years. I am continuously so impressed by their hard work and dedication!" said Carpentier. "I am always so happy to see the confidence and knowledge these students gain from the hands-on experience they receive during an internship. Career readiness

is a priceless addition to the education they receive at our local schools, and I am proud that Monson Savings has been able to support that through River East."

At this year's River East School-to-Career Annual Recognition Breakfast, it was announced that Monson Savings would receive the Business Champion Award for all the support they have offered to the local non-profit.

"We are so thankful for the partnership we have with Monson Savings Bank," said Amy Scribner, River East School-to-Career director. "So many doors have been opened for students because of the Bank's support of our organization."

During the breakfast ceremony, Monson Savings President and CEO Dan Moriarty made a surprise announcement- the Bank would be donating an additional \$10,000 to River East School-to-Career.

"Being a champion means making the right decision, at the right time, for the right reason. We recognize the value of the programs and opportunities offered through River East School-to-Career and this surprise announcement felt right," said Moriarty. "Today's students are tomorrow's employees and leaders. Thank you to the Career Facilitators, RESTC Board, and Amy Scribner for their dedication to preparing our students to enter the workforce."

NEDAO to open Hitchcock's summer concert series in Brimfield

BRIMFIELD--The Hitchcock Orchestra. The concert will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Brimfield Common on Route 20. The rain date will be July 20.



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Shown is a domestic violence awareness ribbon.

Money raised is recirculated into the task force general funds and used towards supporting DV victims with emergency overnight hotel stays, gift cards for food and programs such as "adopt a family" - which allows the task force to support a few local families in need for the holidays.

Having experienced childhood trauma herself, Crystal said she has always "naturally been an advocate for others."

She added "due to not receiving adequate support for that trauma, I want to be the voice for others that I didn't have."

Within the last six years of working in the DV field, Crystal said six victims she has worked with have been murdered.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

THIS WEEK

MOVIE TRIVIA NIGHT: 3-5 p.m. July 20 at Monson Free Library. Show your trivia knowledge skills and win a prize. Join by yourself or with a team. All ages welcome.

FIREWORKS AND MORE: The rescheduled Monson Fireworks Celebration will be held at 5 p.m. July 22 at the Quarry Hill Community School, 43 Margaret Street in Monson. Live music, a magic show, food trucks, adult beverages and more.

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 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.

CHICKEN BBQ: Noon to 2 p.m. July

23, at Divine Mercy Parish on Main Street in Three Rivers. Tickets are \$20. Call Fred at 413-283-5620 to purchase. At the same time, the Parish will also be holding a Polish food sale: Frozen cabbage pierogi and cheese pierogi for \$15 a dozen and quart of kapusta for \$9 each.

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.

NEXT WEEK

TEEN TIME GAME NIGHT: 4 to 6 p.m. July 26 at the Monson Free Library, 2 High Street. For ages 14-18. Meet new friends and have fun.

ZUMBA WITH KELLY: 10:15 to 11 a.m. July 27 at the Brimfield Senior Center, 23 Main Street. Have fun while getting fit.

FREE CONCERT: The Good Good News Christian Praise group will be per-

forming 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.

COMING SOON

FOOD TRUCK, FARMERS AND ARTISANS MARKET: Over 40 vendors as well as live music, food, magic and other entertainment 3 to 8 p.m. Aug. 11 in Hryniewicz Park in Three Rivers.

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 be-

ing 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 dancing classes include absolute beginners and beginners, and participants get to dance to all types of music. \$10 per class. Please wear comfortable footwear, no sandals.

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

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

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

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Be aware of phony bank text messages

One of scammers' favorite tactics is impersonating a person or organization you know and trust. That's the premise of this new text message scam, which has been popping up in recent BBB Scam Tracker reports. This time, con artists are impersonating your bank.

How the scam works

You receive a text message that looks like a fraud alert from your bank. It claims there is some unusual activity in your account. It may read: "Bank Fraud Alert - Did you approve a transaction for \$1,000? Reply YES or NO." If you reply to the text, the scammer now knows they have an active number - and a person to scam.

The scam doesn't end there. The scammer will call you to fol-

low up, and the number will appear in the caller ID as coming from your bank. When you answer, the caller claims to be a bank representative who can help stop the fraudulent charges. To do so, you need to send money to yourself using Zelle or another digital wallet app. The caller walks you through the process of connecting the app to your bank account. Then, they ask you to verify the connection by sharing the code your bank sent.

Don't do it! If you give the scammer your verification code, the scammer can set up an account with your phone number and email - but their bank account information. If that happens, when you send money to "yourself," you're actually sending money to the scammer. Disputing the charges will be difficult because the scammer has tricked you into approving the transaction. Sending money through a digital wallet app is like using cash, making it very hard to get your money back.

action if I sign into my online account and open the Zelle app. I did this and the caller asked if I saw my name. I told him I saw my name in two places. It looked like I would be sending money to myself. The caller said everything was fine and the money would come back to my account. After the call ended, I got two texts stating funds for \$2,500 and \$1,000 would be deposited in my Wells Fargo account. I went back into my account and there was no evidence of any deposits. What I did see was \$3,500 taken out of my account and a zero account balance."

How to avoid bank fraud scams

Understand your bank's policies. Know that your bank will never ask you to send money to yourself. If someone tries to convince you otherwise, it's a scam.

Watch out for fake caller IDs. Scammers can spoof caller ID names and numbers to make you think you are receiving a call from a reputable source. If you weren't expecting to be contacted by your bank, it's best to avoid answering. Instead, call the number on the back of your ATM card to confirm that there is an issue.

Never share one-time passcodes. Scammers can use one-time passcodes from your bank or any other company to access your accounts and change information. Don't share them with anyone, no exceptions.

Contact your bank if you suspect a scam. If you receive an unsolicited call, text, or email that you suspect is a scam, contact your bank immediately and let them know.

Don't reply to suspicious texts. Ignore any instructions to reply yes or no if you receive an unsolicited, suspicious text message. If you reply to a scammer, they could save your number as "active" and target you with future scams.

For More Information

See the related BBB Scam Alert about phony banking texts and calls and review the BBB Tip on avoiding impostor scams.

If you spot a scam, report it to BBB Scam Tracker. Your report can help others avoid falling victim to similar scams.

Do you want more information about how to avoid getting scammed? Check out the Spot a Scam page and sign up to receive weekly scam alerts.

Send Us Your Autumn Event Information

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

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

Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 16.

MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO:
 Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
 or email* them to: jamie@turley.com
 *Be sure to indicate "Autumn Event" in the subject line of your email.

Community Autumn Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

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

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

CHAMBER

from page 1

also participated in all of the evening's festivities - grabbing ice cream, playing on the playground and supporting vendors.

"It's important to keep everything local and together," said Marty Dudek.

Attendee Germaine Lefebvre added the event was "a great opportunity to support the community," and added the live music was also entertaining.

Lefebvre said she wished the community would get together more often.

Community Development Director, John Latour said the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce Food Trucks, Farmers and Artisans Market is a "great event," and "is for everybody," to enjoy.

Bradley said she has been a vendor at the Chamber's event for two years and believes it is a "super fun, family friendly event."

She added it is an inexpensive way for the community to have fun together.

Latour said the "location and the people involved in planning and organizing are phenomenal," adding it is "a phenomenal event."

Jacqui and Michaela Panasian could be seen enjoying ice cream on one of the new park benches.

Jacqui Panasian said she and her daughter Michaela have attended the event in the past, adding "it is wonderfully organized," and brings "a lot of great things to the community."

Former Community Development Director, Sarah Szczebak of Connecticut said attending "was worth the drive."



Palmer residents, Jacqui and Michaela Panasian enjoy ice cream during the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce event.



Town Officials perform a ribbon cutting ceremony alongside Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce members, to celebrate the opening of the completion of Hryniewicz Park. From left to right are Mark Caci, Robert Lavoie, Ryan McNutt, Matthew Lemieux, John Latour, Jessica Sizer, Andrew St. George and John Sasur.



Vendor, Joann Bradley was one of many vendors at the Chamber of Commerce event. Bradley is shown selling handcrafted cards.



Families gathered at Hryniewicz Park to support the Chamber of Commerce event and the grand opening of Hryniewicz Park. From left to right are Scott Turner, Bonnie Turner, Maxine LaFayette, Kiera LaFayette and Nicholas LaFayette.



Marty, Kimberly and Rylee Dudek of Three Rivers smile as they participate in the event festivities.



Attendees line up to support local vendors and cool off with ice cream.

Having written the Community Development Block Grant responsible for the park's reconstruction, Szczebak said it was "great to see it all come together," and believed the turnout was great.

A ribbon cutting for the park's "soft opening" took place at 5 p.m., with a speech

and "thank you," announced by Town Manager, Ryann McNutt.

The Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce will host their next Food Trucks, Farmers and Artisans Market event at Hryniewicz Park on August 11th, with some new and some repeat vendors.

The Chamber's largest event of the year will also be held at Hryniewicz Park, September 30, followed by a Holiday Harvest Festival at Pathfinder and a Christmas on the Common in December.



Former Community Development Director, Sarah Szczebak and Griffin Peracchio attended the event, taking an opportunity to enjoy the updated park and support local businesses.



Jack and Oliver Parsons of Palmer are shown wearing balloon hats made by Maggie the Clown.



Maggie the Clown was in attendance, crafting balloon animals, performing tricks and hanging out by the new playground.



Jackson and Lincoln Chase enjoy a sweet treat on the lawn at Hryniewicz Park.

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Town's parks and trails offer summertime recreation

By Marcelo Gusmao
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – The town features numerous public fields, parks, and playgrounds that are available for the public to use.

Playgrounds
Hryniewicz Park, off Park Avenue in Three Rivers, features a playground, as well as a gazebo to host musical and entertainment acts.

Depot Park, on the corner of Main Street and Walnut Street, is home to the Recreation Department's concerts, as well as the site of the kickoff celebration for Light Up Palmer.

Endelson Playground, on the corner of Main Street and Depot Street, features a playground, a basketball court, and picnic tables. The splash pad, a must for people looking to cool off in the hot months, has now reopened.

Diamond Playground, on the corner of Main Street and Church Street, features a basketball court and a playground geared toward children ages 2-5 years old. It's right next to New Birth Christian Church.

Legion Field and Eager Park is considered the premier multi-sport facility in town, and is located right next to Converse Middle School, off of French Street. It features picnic tables, tennis courts, and two playgrounds, geared toward children of different ages.

Parks
Lavolette Field, located at 2015 Main St. in Three Rivers, features outdoor fitness areas, a crushed stone path, and on-site bathrooms. If looking to navigate to it, Google Maps erroneously refers to it as "Lavolette Field".

The Water Street Recreation Area is a field on the corner of Water Street and Bridge Street that is very popular for dog-walkers. News fans visiting the park will be



Michelle Rafferty and her son, Ryan, age 10, smile for a picture.



Kerry Kay Williams-Stephen, pictured at Endelson Playground with her kids, Samarie, age 12, and Liam-Clay, age 2.

able to see the Turley Publications building across the street.

The Tennis Courts at Palmer High School are open to the public through the summer, though school activities are given priority. The six newly-surfaced courts are accessible through the main road entrance to the school.

Burleigh Park offers several trails, a basketball court, a number of sports fields and a pavillion for

PARK

from page 1

people using the playground that need to be able to access it, but parents and grandparents bringing kids to the playground too."

He added "this lets them get to where the kids are."

St. George said "providing a safe and fun environment for people coming together," is important to the community.

According to St. George, parks are "one of the top three things businesses look for" when choosing a location - "places that show investment in the community and investment in making the community better."

The \$443,403 project was supported by Community Development Block Grant[s].

Other grants supported the beautification of the park, such as the gazebo renovations.

Where there was once peeling paint and rust, is now a smooth, sealed finish.

Latour said a donation from the Leo S. Walsh Foundation of New York will help fund the addition of flowers and trees.

Palmer residents Henry Cosby and Evan Dufault said the new park is "more fun" than it was before the renovation.

"There are more things...it's better," said Dufault.

Cosby added "the other [park] had no slide."

While Dufault's favorite features are the jungle gym and the seesaw, Cosby said his favorites are the monkey bars and swings.

Resident Josiah Robinson said he gives the park "an S" rating - which is the best.

Robinson said his favorite features were also the swings and the playscape, though he likes the "spiny things" and seesaw too.

Resident Amy Skowrya said she was "so happy" when she



Graysen Callahan and Rick Callahan sit on the new park bench at Hryniewicz.



Grandmother Shannon Chaffee smiles as she pushes granddaughter Ryleigh Chaffee on the swings.



Josiah Robinson poses for a photo while waiting to swing on the new swing set.



Madeline Seymour holds Jeffery O'Shea as they play on the toy train fixture.



Before photo of Hryniewicz Park.



Hryniewicz Park now.

Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon

pulled up to the park with her son, Spencer Skowrya.

Skowrya said the spinning feature turns "really fast" and is one of his favorite features as well.

Many children enjoyed the spinning feature, including Rylee Dudek who said she "loves it."

St. George said the park serves as more than just a place for children to play, but also a gathering space for picnics and lounging.

Three Rivers resident Maxine LaFayette said her family has "been waiting for so long," for the park to open as her daughter "has been eye-

ing it everyday."

At the July 14 ribbon cutting ceremony, Town Manager Ryan McNutt hailed the project as "a labor of love."

He shared the story of Frank Alphonse Hryniewicz, a 1st class U.S. Navy Seaman who went missing in action while aboard the USS Oklahoma (BB-37).

Hryniewicz was killed in an attack at Pearl Harbor in 1941. While Hryniewicz could not be identified after the tragedy, he was buried alongside other "unknowns" at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii.

It wouldn't be until 2019, Hryniewicz remains were identified.

The park is named "Hryniewicz Park" in his honor.

Latour credits the Town Council for their efforts and foresight.

"It is a great community...the whole Council has been instrumental" throughout the entire process.

He added the Department of Public Works "has been instrumental" throughout the entire process.

Latour recognized the Department of Public Works Director, Matt Morse as the "unsung hero," of the event, adding he and his team "were terrific."

He added they were "spot on," and he could not have completed the project without their help.

2023

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YOUTH BASKETBALL

Palmer defeats Agawam

WILBRAHAM – Last week in Spec Pond Summer Basketball League action, Palmer Panthers defeated the Agawam Yellow Jackets 19-14. Palmer is now 2-0-1 on the short summer season. The Panthers will be back in action later this week.



Lainey Hailey makes a run for the hoop.



Harper Brouillette tries to avoid an Agawam player.



Maya Rodriguez watches the ball as she collides with an Agawam player.



Molly Walker takes a shot.



Aria Nompoggi makes her way up the court.

Photos by Sofia DiGrande

SOCCER

Mustangs remain undefeated



Monson girls soccer takes on Wilbraham on July 12.



Last year's high school team reached the state finals.



The girls are gearing up for the fall season.



Monson has been undefeated prior to the Fourth of July holiday.

MONSON – Last week, Monson girls summer soccer defeated Wilbraham A 7-3. Monson improved 7-0 for the summer as they prepare for a spot in the A Division playoffs, which will begin soon. Monson has just a couple of regular season games remaining this summer.

Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAP.smugmug.com

SOCCER



Gianna Perry sweeps a pass to her teammate.

Palmer takes care of South Hadley



Ava Przybycien holds the ball before making a pass.



Annabelle Ladue tries to keep possession under pressure.

PALMER – Last Friday, Palmer girls summer soccer scored a victory 5-1 over South Hadley. For Palmer, they are in position to make the B Division playoffs with a 4-2-2 record with a couple of regular season games remaining.



Aubrey Boucher attempts a save.

SOCCER

Mutiny makes playoffs following tie with Rush

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—The New England Mutiny managed to qualify for the United Women's Soccer (UWS) playoffs for the second consecutive year.

The Mutiny officially clinched a berth in this year's East Conference playoffs following a 2-2 draw against the Connecticut Rush at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow on July 8.

However, it wasn't the result that the Mutiny players or coaches were really looking for in the regular season home finale.

"You don't always get the result that you're looking for in the game of soccer," said Mutiny assistant coach Jill Kochanek. "We tried a slightly different formation with the personal that we had for tonight's match."

First-year Mutiny head coach Mauricio 'Toto' Coimbra was unavailable for comment following the home match.

The Mutiny, who finished the regular season with a 4-2-2 overall record, entered the playoffs as the sixth seed. They were scheduled to make to Lancaster for a quarterfinal match on Wednesday July 12.

"We come into every season expecting to make the playoffs. That's our number one goal," said Meghan Cunningham, who has been playing for the Mutiny for more than ten years. "It's disappointing that we're not a higher seed this year."

The conference semifinals and finals are scheduled to be held at a site to be announced this weekend.

Following a 3-0 road win against the Scorpions SC on June 12, the Mutiny had a 3-0-1 record.

Their leading goal scorer at that point of the regular season was Catherine Berry, who headed back to University of South Carolina to prepare for the upcoming fall soccer season.

Had Berry been able to play in every regular season match, the Mutiny, who posted a 1-2-1 mark



Laura Gauvin gets past an opponent.

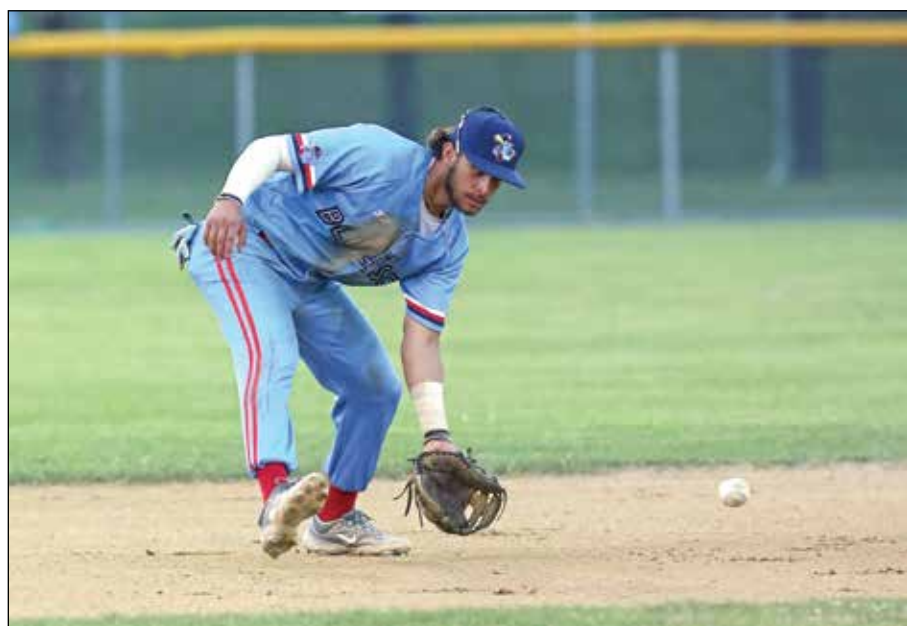
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

during the second half of the regular season, would've probably been hosting a playoff match for the second consecutive year.

A year ago, the Mutiny lost to

FC Buffalo, 2-1, in the East Conference semifinals at Lusitano Stadium.

"Having to play a midweek



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Matthew Garcia fields a grounder.

Blue Sox doubled up by Westerners



Michael Zarrillo gets the out at first.

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox were defeated by the Danbury Westerners by a score of 10-5 last Saturday. The team fell to 16-15-1 on the season.

Sean Scanlon started the game for the Blue Sox, pitching five shutout innings with four strikeouts.

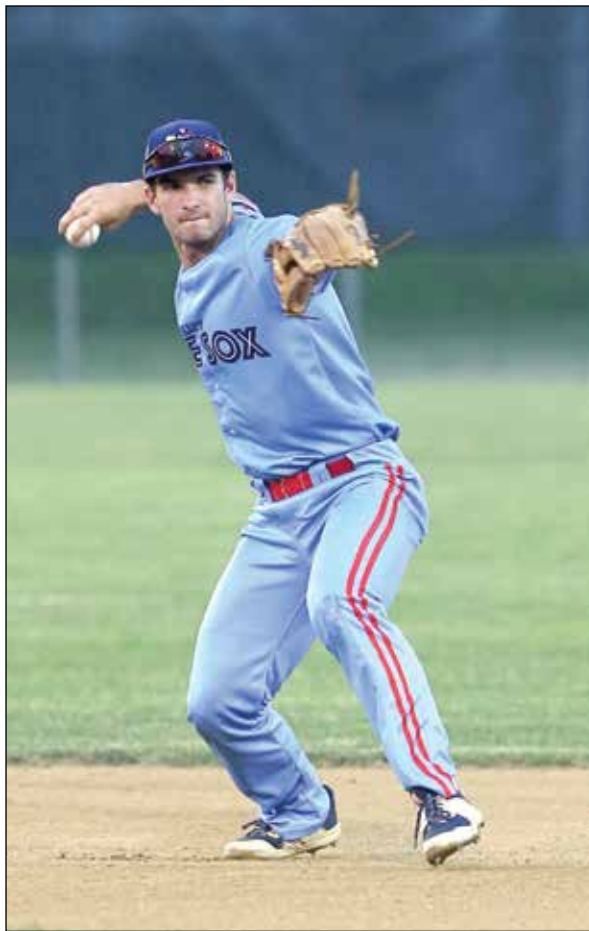
Valley led the game for the first five innings. Eliot Dix leadoff the game with a solo home run, followed by an RBI groundout by Efrain Correa Jr. in the top of the second. Michael Zarrillo added a solo home run in the top of the sixth inning to make it 3-0. Zarrillo batted 2-for-3 on the night with a walk.

The trouble began in the bottom of the sixth inning, when the Blue Sox gave up seven runs off of back-to-back-to-back home runs followed by a fielding error and a sacrifice fly to allow the Westerners to take the lead 7-3.

AJ Guerrero hit a solo home run in the top of the seventh to cut the Danbury lead to three runs. The left fielder went 3-for-5 on the night.

Danbury added three more runs off in the bottom of the seventh following a two run home run and an RBI double, allowing the Westerners to increase their lead 10-4.

Valley would take one more run back following a solo home run from CJ Willis, making the final score 10-5.



Jeff Pierantoni winds up for a long throw.



Jonathan Bautista pitches for the Blue Sox.

Bankers in great shape heading for playoffs

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

HOLYOKE— PeoplesBank has been one of the best baseball teams in the Tri-County League

during the past few decades.

PeoplesBank has won the last nine TCL championship titles and a total of 18 since 1995. They entered the final week of the 2023 regular season with a

15-1 record.

“We were the second seed in last year’s playoffs, which I believe was only the second time that we weren’t the top seeded team during the past nine years,”

said Joe Ferry, who has been the PeoplesBank player/ manager since 2019. “We finished the regular season with the same record as Easthampton Savings Bank, but they won the tiebreaker against us.”

PeoplesBank wound up defeating Easthampton Savings Bank in last year’s finals.

Because Easthampton Savings Bank is no longer a member of the TCL, the Chicopee Falls Tigers will probably be PeoplesBank biggest challenge in this year’s playoffs.

“We’re looking forward to playing any team in the playoffs,” Ferry said. “All of the teams are gunning for us. We do have a big target on our backs, but we know how to deal with the pressure.”

St. Joe’s celebrated a 3-1 home win over PeoplesBank on June 6.

“We haven’t lost a game since St. Joe’s beat us in the second game of the season,” Ferry said. “We won the next three games against them by the final scores of 14-1, 14-0, and 14-4.”

The only other PeoplesBank managers during the past 30 years have been Jim Long, who passed away on July 12, 2017, and Fred Perry.

“I have a tremendous amount of respect for Jim Long,” Ferry said. “He meant a lot to this baseball team and we’re trying our best to carry on the winning tradition here. We just want to have fun and win another championship title.”

Most of the PeoplesBank players have been playing together for many years.

“We do have a very good team chemistry,” Ferry added. “We also have a lot of other guys who can fill in. We’re always looking to add new players every year.”

PeoplesBank will enter this year’s TCL playoffs as the top seed. They clinched first place following a 10-0 home victory against 413 ATC on July 11. Jimmy Flahive hurled a sixth inning no-hitter in that contest.

The other members of the PeoplesBank pitching staff are Johnny Gegetskas, Matt Gardner, Zach Handzal, and Danny Gaines, who’s from Holyoke.

“We do have a solid pitching staff,” Ferry said. “We play a couple of games each week and the starting pitchers know which day they’re going to pitch.”

Ferry was the j.v. baseball coach at Palmer High School when Handzal was a member of the team.

“I just love playing on the same baseball team with Zach. He’s a bulldog on the mound,” Ferry said. “He always gives 110% effort in every game.”

Several other players listed on the PeoplesBank roster are Dave Clark, Pete Hogan, Kyle Platner, Seth Allen, Sam Allen, Rey Rivera, and Aiden Condesine.

The Tri-County League playoffs are scheduled to begin on July 24. Each of the playoff series will be a best of three series.

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Turleysports

Athlete of the Week



NAME: Gianna Perry
SCHOOL: Palmer
Perry has emerged as a big scoring threat for Palmer girls summer soccer so far this summer. She had a two-goal game against Enfield among her accomplishments.

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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Bonsignore wins photo finish at New Hampshire

LOUDON, N.H. – Justin Bonsignore scored his second win of the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour season on Saturday evening at New Hampshire Motor Speedway – and did it in a photo finish coming to the line. The driver of the No. 51 for Ken Massa Motorsports machine was out front when rain hit the track with just under 35 laps to go and the field pulled down pit road.

It looked as though it might be over – but the rain stopped – NASCAR and track officials dried the track – and the Mohegan Sun 100 went back under the green flag. Bonsignore pitted during the caution and had to restart outside the top-10. He charged through the field and was in position to race for the lead in the final few laps in the Phoenix Communications ride.

Bonsignore passed Doug Coby to take the lead when the field crossed at the white flag. Off turn two on the final lap, Coby went to the outside of Bonsignore for the lead with Ron Silk looking three-wide to the bottom. Bonsignore led through the middle of turn three before Coby crossed to the bottom and got inside coming off turn four to the finish line.

Bonsignore and Coby drag-raced to the line and made a little bit of contact, with Bonsignore coming out on top by a small margin. It was the 37th career win for the Holtsville, New York, native and his second points-paying win at New Hampshire.

“It was just crazy,” Bonsignore



Submitted photos
Justin Bonsignore was a winner at New Hampshire Motor Speedway last weekend.

said. “The way we were able to drag-race back to the line and beat Doug, it was amazing. This is our Super Bowl, our Daytona 500. There’s nothing like racing a Modified here. I’m glad we got the race back going and the fans stuck it out. Coby, Silk and I have a good rivalry but there’s a ton of respect involved. I knew where I wanted to be on the last lap.”

Bonsignore will be back on the track at Claremont Motorsports Park for the next NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour event on Saturday, July 29. For more information on the three-time series champion, visit JustinBonsignore.com.

MUTINY | from page 9

playoff game on the road is always a very difficult thing to do,” Cunningham said. “Hopefully, we can get a good group of players for our playoff game. It has been a lot of fun being a member of this soccer team and I’m hoping to come back again next year.”

The start of last Saturday’s match was delayed for an hour due to lightning.

Once the weather did clear up, the Mutiny took a 1-0 lead during the second minute of the opening half.

Jenna Kalwa, who’s the head coach of the University of Saint Joseph women’s soccer team, began the scoring play by sending a pass to Catherine Bean in the middle of the box. Bean finished off the play by blasting a shot into the upper left corner past Rush goalie Alessandra Augur.

Bean, who’s from Westfield, will be a junior on the Bryant University women’s soccer team in the fall.

She gave the Mutiny a 2-0 advantage by converting a rebound goal during the 23rd minute.

The Mutiny other local players, who saw action in the regular season finale, were Hope Santaniello (Agawam), Laura Gouvin (Monson), Ela Kopec (Ludlow), Brooke Samborski (Chicopee), and Alexis Legowski (South Had-



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Hope Santaniello maneuvers t11 through the middle of the field.

ley). Julia Robak (Chicopee) was the back-up goalkeeper.

The Rush (1-6-1) cut the deficit in half a couple of minutes later following Ellery Winkler’s first goal of the contest.

A little more than five minutes into the second half, the Mutiny had another scoring chance on a header in the box by Rachel Marchini following a corner kick, but it just sailed wide.

The Mutiny managed to hold onto the one goal lead until the 74th minute when Winkler fired a low shot into the right corner of the net past Kopac tying the score at 2-2.

Marchini missed another header and the Mutiny had to settle for the draw.

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Police/Fire

Police Logs

PALMER

The Palmer Police Department had 448 incidents for the week July 4- July 11 including:

July 4

Sidra Arif, 38, of 128 North St., in Middleboro, was summonsed on charges of concealing a numbered plate, driving an unregistered uninsured vehicle at 2:44 a.m.

Onel Charlemagne, 50, of 60 Oak Grove Ave., in Springfield, was summonsed for operating a vehicle without at a license at 4:37 p.m.

Jason M. Lopez, 43, of 11 Steuben St., in Indian Orchard, was arrested on multiple charges of possession to distribute drugs, after a motor vehicle stop on South Main

St. at 5:56 p.m.

In the same motor vehicle stop Lisa Lynn Laroche, 40, of 1278 S. Main St., in Palmer, was also arrested on multiple charges of possession to distribute drugs.

Allen St., in Palmer, was arrested on charges of driving under the influence of liquor, speeding, failing to yield and marked lanes violation on Allen Street at 1:31 a.m.

July 9

Leigh K. Cote, 61, of Bangor, Maine, was arrested on Main Street for illegal dumping and walking on the train tracks at 6:18 a.m.

Dylan Robert Grysowska, 20, of 60 Anderson Road, of Ware, on charges of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol on Main Street at 7:02 p.m.

Wesson Lussier, 60, homeless, of Palmer, was arrested on North Main Street for an open container violation at 5:54 p.m.

July 7

Nicole Elaine Patterson, 40, of 270 Old Gilbertville Road, of Ware, was arrested on charges of driving under the influence of drugs and possession of drugs at 5:38 p.m.

Alexander Nunez, 33, of 1282.5 S. Main St., in Palmer, was arrested on warrants at 1:32 p.m. on Thorndike Street and at 7:02 p.m. was rearrested on North Main Street on warrants.

July 8

Gabriele A. Ogoley, 34, of 1

Fire Logs

Three Rivers

The Three Rivers Fire Department responded to three calls for the week of July 10-17.

On Friday, July 14 at 9:30 a.m., the Department responded to an animal problem on New Hampshire Avenue. The Department returned to service at 9:55 a.m.

At 8:59 p.m. the Department responded to an unauthorized burning on Palmer Road, returning to service at 9:09 p.m.

On Saturday, July 15 at 7:20 a.m., the Department responded to an unauthorized burning on Palmer Road, returning to service at 7:50 a.m.

Bondsville fire log

For the period July 4-10, Bondsville fire responded to three calls.

On Friday, July 7 at 5:46 p.m., the department responded mutual aid to Barker Street in Three Rivers to assist with a patient extrication. The department returned to service at 6:59 p.m.

On Monday, July 10 at 1:04 p.m., the department responded mutual aid to Daniel Square in Belchertown for a structure fire. The department returned to service at 5:03 p.m.

On Monday, July 10 at 6:03 p.m., the department responded to Phillips Street for an explosion with a plume of smoke visible. The department returned to service at 6:28 p.m.

Local attends National Jamboree



Peter Izyk outside his tent in Subcamp Alpha at the National Jamboree.

Submitted Photo

Proposed bill faces opposition from law enforcement and sportsmen

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – With some of the strictest gun laws and the lowest gun violence rates in the country, many residents are pushing back against a 140-page gun reform bill authored by state Rep. Michael Day.

In less than a week, over 600 people visited Nenameseck Sportsmen’s Club to sign letters petitioning against the bill, which Club President Calvin Cieslak said, “tramples on the rights” of the commonwealth’s citizens.

On Sunday alone, 510 people took part in the Club’s letter signing day, which was also Cieslak’s birthday. The Club drafted three different letters and allowed people to choose the one that suited them best, to then sign and send to legislators to voice their opposition to the bill.

“Once people hear what’s going on, they want to be involved,” Cieslak said. “A lot of people that don’t usually take a stance.”

This includes current and past gun owners, but also nonowners, from all political, social and economic backgrounds, Cieslak said. But all with the same goal; to fight for their basic Constitutional rights.

“It’s pretty scary, not just for gun owners,” Cieslak said. “There’s been so little information about this bill [HD.4420], they’re trying to steamroll it through.”

On Monday and Tuesday of this week, Speaker of the House Ron Mariano held closed door meetings to brief House members about the bill.

Being called “The Lawful Citizens Imprisonment Act” by Second Amendment supporters, HD.4420 has many questioning if a less-armed society, is actually a safer society.

According to a breakdown of the bill supplied by the Gun Owners Action League, HD.4420 proposes the following changes to the commonwealth’s gun laws, including instituting a new, broad “Assault Weapons Ban,” including firearms already owned by law-abiding citizens; banning all federally legally tax-stamped automatic firearms; gun bans on

possessing any gun, loaded, or unloaded at all state, county, and municipal buildings, all polling places and any private property unless the owner has provided express consent or has posted signage allowing firearms on their property.

The bill also includes mandates for Safe Storage laws, as well as new training requirements including costly written exams and live fire training. It mandates registration of all guns and feeding devices, reporting of any modifications or new parts to a guns and serializing all firearm parts.

Anyone under age 21 would be prevented from acquiring or carrying any semi-automatic rifle or shotgun, and anyone under 15 could not take part in shooting sports and training.

For clubs like Nenameseck, the new age restrictions would eliminate their junior rifle teams, which have served as a skills and confidence building sport for teens, with safety at the forefront Cieslak said. It would also impact families that hunt together to supply food for their households.

One member of the Club’s junior rifle team, ZuZu Demetrius, went on to shoot for the Olympic team and is now a recruit at the State Police Academy.

The bill also places new mandates, protocols, and training requirements on retailers.

Cieslak said the Club will continue to accept letters, which are available on its website nenameseck.com. He’s also put out a challenge to other sportsmen’s clubs, to host similar events as this past Sunday’s.

Nick’s Sport Shop in Palmer has been offering opportunities to sign letters during business hours through Sunday, July 23; Bearded Arms in Chicopee will hold an event Saturday, July 22 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and North Brookfield Sportsmen’s Club will hold a public event on Sunday, July 23 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Other clubs are still in the planning stages of organizing events.

Nenameseck Sportsmen’s Club is preparing for another letter signing day in early August, but Cieslak encourages residents to reach out to the Club at any time, or visit their website or Facebook page.

Ware’s Police Department has issued a statement opposing HD.4420 and encouraging residents to “do their research” regarding the bill and its impact on gunowners and whether it will reduce gun violence or not.

“There is no reason why enabling this new bill is needed,” Chief Shawn Crevier said. “There’s zero stats on legal, licensed gun owners committing violent crimes...that’s zero.”

Officer John Cacula said if enacted, the bill could have the opposite effect and increase the potential for mass shootings, especially within designated “gun-free zones” as outlined in the bill.

“In attempting to cure the symptoms of gun violence, this bill does not address the root causes, such as mental health concerns, societal infrastructure, and lenient sentencing for repeat offenders,” Cacula said. “It’s like wearing a band-aid to heal a brain aneurysm.”

The lack of enforcement of existing gun laws, is the other big part of the gun violence problem, Cacula and Crevier said.

“We have excellent gun laws here in Massachusetts,” Crevier said. “But they’re just not enforced...it would be asinine to add new ones.”

Cacula urged residents to reach out to state representatives by contacting their offices through phone, email or mail; and have their voices heard.

“Remember that our form of government is a Constitutional Republic; and that the individuals we select to represent us are bound to follow the rules established in that Constitution, the heart of which is perpetually maintained and nurtured by the blood of heroes both living and dead,” Cacula said.

Since this bill was proposed, Cacula said he’s been approached by many residents, but especially veterans that all say the same thing: “this is not what I fought for.”

Cieslak encouraged residents to keep reaching out to legislators, even if they’ve already signed a letter.

“We need to show these guys we’re here, and we’re not going away,” he said.

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com. *Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

Dakin Humaine Society halving their adoption fees on all animals for July

SPRINGFIELD—Dakin Humaine Society, 171 Union St., will be reducing adoption fees for all animals by 50% through the month of July. Dakin typically shelters cats, dogs and a variety of other small animals including (based on availability) birds, guinea pigs, rabbits, ferrets, chinchillas, hamsters, gerbils, mice and rats.

“Summer always means lots of pets coming into our shelter,” noted Meg Talbert, executive director of Dakin, “but this season has outpaced previous summers significantly. For example, we anticipate more than 500 kittens arriving in the months ahead, many of them motherless and underage so we need to provide them with significant veterinary care and appropriate time to reach adoption age.”

Recently the shelter discounted adoption fees for some of its pets. Those special fees are also included in the 50% reduction promotion.

“We want all pets to have the best chance of finding new people and loving homes as soon as possible,” said Talbert. “Whatever adoption fee people see on our

website for a particular animal can be cut in half through July 31. In addition, we will be holding special Saturday drop-in adoption hours in July. From 12:30 to 3 p.m. people will be able to visit the shelter in Springfield and see the pets we have with no appointment necessary. However, if there is a particular pet that you want, we would encourage you to not wait until Saturday to adopt, as someone could take that pet home before you can.”

Adoption fees at Dakin include a variety of services and treatments including a veterinary exam, spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, microchip and registration, deworming treatment, a rabies vaccine (if pet is over 12 weeks of age), a behavior evaluation, access to behavior support, a free post-adoption veterinary exam at participating clinics, and a food starter pack. Other features include a feline leukemia test, FIV test, flea and ear mite treatment (for cats), and a heartworm test, flea and tick treatment, and heartworm prevention (for dogs). According to Talbert, the pre-adoption cost of care for each



Dakin Animal Resource Counselor assists in an adoption.

adoptable animal that comes to Dakin averages \$705.

Dakin Humaine Society, located in Springfield, MA, delivers effective, innovative services that improve the lives of animals in need and the people who care about them. In a typical year, the organization shelters, treats and fosters more than 20,000 animals and has performed over 100,000 spay/neuter surgeries since 2009, making it New England’s largest spay/neuter provider.

Dakin’s Pet Health Center, a non-emergency veterinary resource for pet dogs and cats, opened in 2022 and has treated more than 2,500 pets. Dakin is a local non-profit organization that relies solely on contributions from individuals and businesses that care about animals to bring its services to the community. For more information, visit www.dakinhumane.org.

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Rep. Neal Highlights Passage of the PACT Act

SPRINGFIELD- Rep. Richard E. Neal joined U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs officials, local veterans' service officers, and members of the western Massachusetts veteran community to highlight the PACT Act that was signed into law by President Joseph Biden on Aug. 10, 2022.

The PACT Act marks the largest expansion of veteran health care and benefits in generations, extending health coverage to more than 5 million veterans exposed to harmful chemicals from burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic sources. In addition, the PACT Act adds more than twenty new conditions presumed to be service-connected due to various in-service toxic exposures and requires the

VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care. The PACT Act also provides resources to the VA to help improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures.

"When our service members return home, many of them are confronted with a new set of challenges stemming from a service-connected disability or disease. For those struggling with complications resulting from toxic exposure, it has been difficult to treat not only due to the lack of coverage, but because unlike a physical disability, it is not something others can see. Now, with the PACT Act, we have finally delivered the care and treatment that these men and women

deserve," said Neal.

With more than 27,000 new hires in the first six months of the fiscal year, the highest hiring level in the history of the VA, coupled with additional funding and resources authorized by the PACT Act, veterans are promptly receiving treatment. As of May 21, nearly 600,000 PACT Act claims have been filed with the VA and more than 3.5 million veterans have received the VA's new toxic exposure screenings since President Biden signed the PACT Act into law.

Veterans can apply or learn more about the PACT Act by visiting VA.gov/PACT or by calling 1-800-MYVA411.

Evening of magic at Polish American Club

LUDLOW — Prepare to be spellbound as three world-class magicians join local magicians for an unforgettable evening of enchantment at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 19 in the Polish American Citizens Club.

Magic in the Valley will showcase the remarkable talents of internationally renowned Chris Capehart, Jimmy C. and Bill Wisch and local conjurers Rich Gilbert, Bob Hale, Deanna Congo and Jake Dufour. This extraordinary event promises to captivate audiences of all ages with their mind-boggling illusions, comedic performances, and awe-inspiring tricks.

Witness the impossible, laugh until your sides ache and be amazed as these world-class magicians take you on an extraordinary journey that will leave you breathless and wanting more. Magic in the Valley promises an evening of family-friendly entertainment, making it the perfect event for individuals of all ages.

The Magicians

Chris Capehart is known around the world for his award-winning magic and charismatic stage presence, and has been captivating audiences for over four decades. With his expertly crafted routines and interactive performances, Capehart is renowned as one of the most skillful magicians of our time.

Jimmy C., a master of comedy magic, combines quick wit, impeccable timing, and astonishing presti-

gitation to create an experience like no other. With his hilarious antics and mind-blowing tricks, Jimmy C is guaranteed to leave audiences in fits of laughter while scratching their heads in disbelief. A consummate entertainer, Jimmy was the master of ceremonies for the Valley Conjurers' 100th Anniversary show last year.

Bill Wisch is a distinguished sleight of hand artist in the tradition of Slydini, one of the greatest magicians of the 20th century. In fact, he is the only magician specifically endorsed to perform and teach Slydini's tricks. Bill has since performed thousands of shows for parties, graduations, and corporations and lectured over 600 times all over the United States and Canada. He performs regularly in the New York/New Jersey Tri-State area.

Bob Hale, a beloved, regional performer of the highest caliber, has been providing magical entertainment for over 50 years for a variety of audiences. From the Mohegan Sun: Casino and Resort to kids' parties to the Valley Conjurers 100th Anniversary show, Bob is a consummate entertainer. Children and adults alike have been spellbound by his performances, making him a sought-after entertainer for all ages.

Rich Gilbert has been performing at parties, banquets, and special occasions for over 30 years. As well as performing, Rich is an inveterate student of magic and attends magic conventions across the country. He has held numerous offices in the Assembly 17 of the Society of American Magicians. Always a crowd-pleaser, Rich is well-known across the Valley.

DC Magic Girl (Deanna Congo) has been performing magic for 20 years. She became interested in magic as an acting student in New York when she followed a rabbit down the hall of her apartment building to a clown magician who set her on the path to magic. She has performed in New York, performed in LA, and Texas.

Jacob Dufour was 7 years-old and watching Break the Magician's Code when he was bitten by the magic bug. As chance would have it, he was attending a show by the Valley Conjurers and joined the group. He's been practicing magic for eight years and prefers stage illusions with an emphasis on comedy and danger. He and his assistant Sam met at Demented FX, New England's premiere haunted attraction.

Magic in the Valley is a production of the Valley Conjurers, the local affiliate of Society of the American Magicians.

General admission is \$30 for adults and \$15 for children 12 and under, offering exceptional value for an evening of top-tier entertainment. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of a magical experience that will leave you with memories to cherish forever.

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Community Newspaper EDITOR WANTED

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

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

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

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

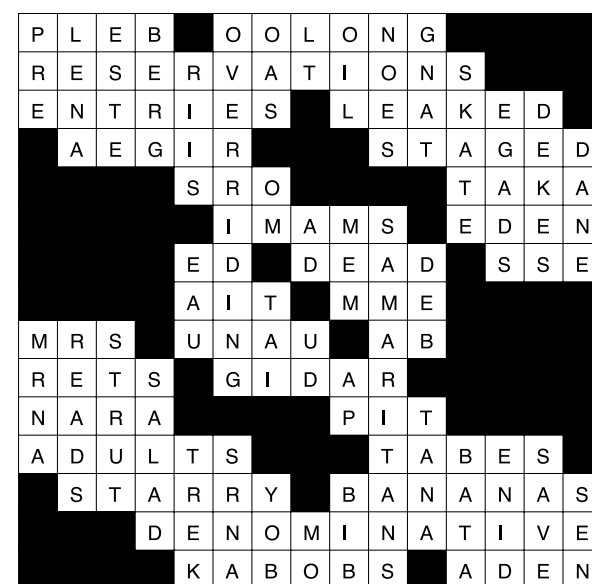
This full-time position with flexible schedule is based in our Palmer office at 24 Water St., this is not a remote position.

Qualifications should include:

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

Please send resume and writing examples to:

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



Community Day highlighted State Police's specialty units



K-9 Knox demonstrates how to apprehend a suspect.



K-9 Knox has secured the suspect.



The State Police had many vehicles displayed at Community Day, including this breast cancer awareness cruiser, dedicated to the memory of Trooper Tamar Bucci.



K-9 Knox responds to his Trooper's command.



Mitchell Avellino, age 2 of Leicester, checks out "Roscoe" the State Police Bomb Squad's robotic dog.



Family and friends of State Police troopers enjoyed lunch in the shade.

NEW BRAINTREE – The State Police Academy hosted what is hoped to become an annual event last Wednesday, with the first ever Community Day.

On July 12, people had the opportunity to get an up close and personal look at the State Police's specialty units and the equipment they use, as well as meet with various Troopers as well as recruits attending the Academy.

Farmer Matt along with the Academy's commissary, Eures, provided free food to the hundreds of people who attended Community Day.

The Mounted Unit was there with horses, as well as the K-9 unit with a variety of dogs to demonstrate their skills.

Remy, an almost 7-year-old black Labrador Retriever, is an accelerant detecting K-9 with the Fire and Explosive Investigation Unit, assigned to the State Fire Marshal, along with her handler, Trooper Dan Riopel.

Riopel said Remy has a high work drive, and is food driven.

Remy has been in training since she was eight weeks old, raised by an inmate through the "Puppies Behind Bars" program.

She attended about six or seven fire

scenes last month, searching for the use of an accelerant, which is about average, Riopel said. He added that the pair travels all around the country as Remy is a federal K-9.

Remy is one of 10 accelerant-detecting K-9s in the state.

"She's a regular dog at home," Riopel said.

K-9 Scout was also raised through the "Puppies Behind Bars" program and is trained in explosives detection, assigned to the Bomb Squad.

Scout, a yellow Labrador Retriever celebrated his 5th birthday in December and lives with Trooper John Ragosa and his other dogs.

While Scout is skilled in his ability to detect explosives, he's also a hide and seek pro, as demonstrated at Community Day, when he quickly hid behind Ragosa when the Trooper covered his eyes.

Other K-9s can be trained to detect cadavers, find lost people or apprehend suspects.

K-9 Knox has received over 580 hours of training and originates from the Czech Republic, while K-9 Barry has received close to 1,000 hours and comes from Hol-



Trooper John Ragosa and K-9 Scout play a game of hide and seek.

land. Central and western Europe are the breeding grounds of some of the top U.S. K-9 breeds, including the Belgian Malinois; a breed that trails closely behind the German Shepherd in K-9 use.

Trooper Nick D'Angelo said for K-9s like Barry and Knox, all of their "fun" is had on the job, and their home life is very



Members of the State Police's Mounted Unit were at the State Police Academy.

calm, maybe even boring at times. Department, Hardwick Fire Department and West Brookfield Rescue Squad. Community Day also offered people the chance to meet with their local law enforcement, as well as first responders, including the Hardwick-New Braintree Police



Colleen Seymour, enjoys Endelson Playground's Splash Pad with her daughters Stacie, age 11, and Riley, age 6.



Turley photos by Marcelo Gusmao
The tennis courts at Palmer High School are available for public use.



Jim Plankey took a break from building back muscle in his leg to take a picture and Laviolette Field.



Ryan, age 10, shouted "get a picture of this," and sat down to block the spout.

town has the Midura Family Conservation Area, which features several trails of natural terrain off Old Warren Road. For more information, including directions and photos of the various parks, visit the Recreation page on the town's website, townofpalmer.com.

PARKS AND TRAILS | from page 8

residents to enjoy. It's located on Waverly Street, accessible from Flynt Street or Old Warren Road.

Chase Memorial Park, named for Walter "Beebe" Chase, is a multi-sport field space at the end of Straw Street, just behind the Dunkin' Donuts on North Main Street.

Bondsville Grammar Park is on 3020-3026 Main St., and a walking path with benches, as well as a few historical and memorial sites.

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FLEA MARKET | from page 1

items, including scuba gear, nautical apparatus and Civil War era household items.

"I don't sell antiques, I sell stories," said Uditis.

He added he has "always been a collector," adding he likes "knowing the history behind pieces."

Having a background in scuba diving and underwater photography himself, Uditis said he tends to gravitate towards items that peak his interest.

At the July showing, Uditis had a vintage scuba helmet and U.S. Navy sextant for sale.

He added the sextant was once used by sailors to navigate through the ocean by following the stars.

"A lot of people don't know the history behind some pieces and think it's a game," said Uditis.

However, Uditis said he enjoys the shows because he meets a lot of interesting people and learns about other pieces.

Christine Boucher, a vendor based in New Bedford, said she has participated in the flea market for many years, as she "inherited the collector gene."

Boucher added her mother was a collector and it was something she fell into naturally.

"The Folklore in Brimfield is intense around July and we like to perpetuate that," said Boucher. She added the pieces she sells are mostly "eye candy," and she doesn't import any of the items sold at her tent.

Instead, Boucher prefers to find them herself.

While one of her displays had baby shoes and vintage wooden blocks, another had a meditation pagoda and glassware.

She said she finds using furniture and fixtures to help organize the items make it easier for thrifters to find new treasures.

While some vendors set up independently, others share tents and work together.

Peter Brewster, Keigan Noseworthy, Matt Smith and Blake Morris of New Hampshire, traveled to the event together and sold T-shirts.

"It's a great community and we couldn't have had a better time for our first event," said Noseworthy.

He added he has met people "from all



Shown is a vintage U.S. Navy sextant for sale at the July, Brimfield Antique Flea Market.



Miscellaneous items were for sale at the Flea Market, including intricately designed and painted tea sets as shown.



A fireplace set designed and crafted in Italy was one of many imported products sold at last week's event.



A hand-crafted table/ beam up for grabs at the market.



Some vendors had display themes in accordance to a time era or product type, such as scuba gear.



Many unique items were on display, including a fashion design mannequin.

ket "every year," in search of anything related to the 1938 New York World's Fair.

"It's the best because this is the place to go," said Burch of the Brimfield Antique Flea Market.

She added the thrift stores in Boston are "all picked over," so the showings are something she looks forward to.

This year, Burch left the show as a happy thrifter, scoring a New York World's Fair medallion.

The next Brimfield Antique Flea Market will take place September 5-10th, running from Tuesday to Sunday.

round."

While it was a two and half hour commute for the New Hampshire natives, Noseworthy said he met some attendees from all the way from California.

The group has already reserved a space for the September market and will be back for the autumn show.

Boston resident Norah Burch was a little closer to home than some others in attendance.

Burch said she attends the flea mar-



Locals Ashely Friend and Emma Chevalier are some of many in attendance at the July market.



Lulu is shown scavenging through old lego figurines with her grandmother Heather.

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Heather and Tom of Connecticut, sold items from their thrift store "John Thomas Treasures" at last week's show.



Peter Brewster, Keigan Noseworthy, Matt Smith and Blake Morris of New Hampshire sold T-shirts as their first time as vendors.



Grace and Janet of Shrewsbury smile after finding a T-shirt at Brewster, Noseworthy, Smith and Morris' tent.

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