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MONSON

Hazard Mitigation Plan nears completion

By Dallas Gagnon
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MONSON – The Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee held a public meeting in conjunction with Project Manager Jamie Caplan, revealing the near completion of the town's Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The meeting afforded members of the public an opportunity to gain a “sense of what [they’ll] see when [they] look at the plan, have a good understanding of what’s in the plan, why Monson has the plan,” and provide feedback, said Caplan.

According to Caplan, hazard mitigation development planning began in January with an initial meeting with Conservation Agent Toni Uliana, followed by the establishment of a Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee.

Caplan said the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee has been active throughout the entire planning process and is composed of town leaders including Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz, Emergency Management Director Brian Harris, Building Commissioner Justin Larivee and Uliana.

Caplan said the HMPC is “responsible for assisting the consulting team with identifying and prioritizing a list of mitigation actions,” as well as reviewing the draft plan to ensure it “accurately reflects what is in town.”

“We are good at what we do but we [Jamie Caplan LLC] don’t know anything about your town - that’s why we want to have meetings like this to engage with you and make sure we put together a plan that represents you well,” said Caplan.

As of July 20, Caplan said the Hazard Mitigation Plan would be complete and ready for review within the “next couple of weeks.”

While creating the plan, Caplan said the consulting team sought “any kind of sustained action that [could] be taken to reduce or eliminate risk to people and property.”

Only natural hazards were considered in the development of this plan.

She added the team focuses on the town’s greatest resources and vulnerabilities to ensure money and energy is spent where it is needed most.

“The plan communicates your [Monson’s] priorities... We review all of the plans the town has in place as well as have meetings and other engagement activities to get a good sense of what your priorities are and make sure the plan aligns with your priorities or objectives,” said Caplan.

Participants said some of their natural hazard concerns included wildfires, flooding, invasive species, erosion, hurricanes/tornadoes, air quality, warming winters, severe storm damage and snow.

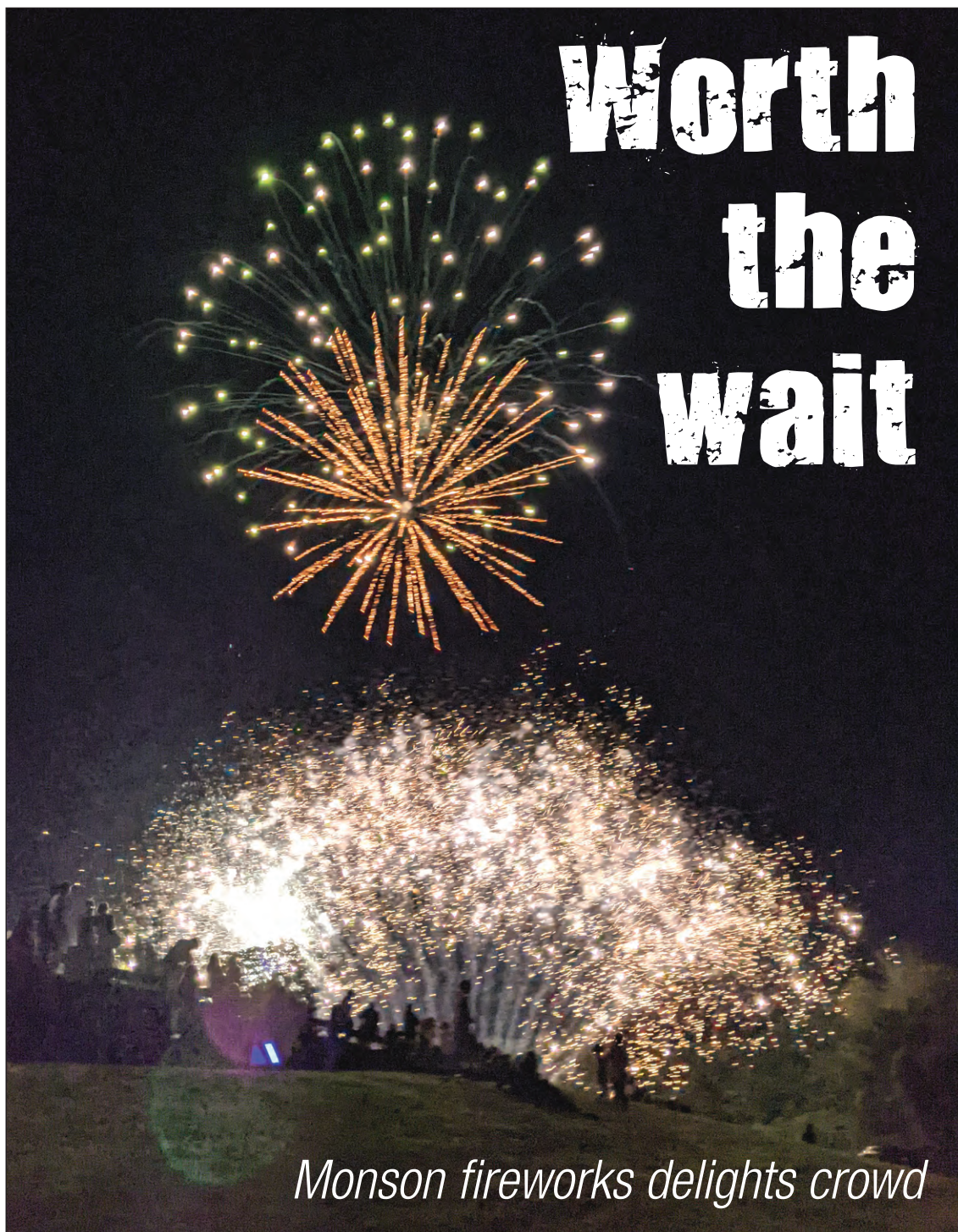
“One thing to consider is climate change... we don’t consider it a stand alone hazard. We look at it in terms of how it may impact other hazards,” said Caplan.

The draft plan is separated into two categories - primary climate change interaction, and natural hazards.

According to Caplan, the commonwealth organizes the “state plan” in the same fashion.

The town’s draft identifies changes in precipitation, rising temperatures and extreme weather as primary climate change interactions impacting natural hazards such as

MITIGATION | page 5



Worth the wait

Monson fireworks delights crowd

Fireworks go off over the crowd of residents at Quarry Hill School.



Palmer residents shown from left to right are Jeff Zajac, Tucker, age 8, Amy Zajac, Levi, age 10, Samantha Wilkerson, and Max, age 10. For photos see pages 6 & 7.

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Staff Writer
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MONSON – After weeks of postponing due to bad weather, the Summerfest fireworks show was held on Saturday.

Attendees arrived at Quarry Hill School at 5 p.m. on July 22, with parking starting at the High School for a fee of five dollars.

The fields in front of the school were filled with bounce houses and residents who brought chairs and blankets to sit on while they watched fireworks. Families with children, adults with their friends, and town officials turned up to attend the long-awaited event.

Numerous vendors showed up to provide food and activities for the event. Among them were JND’s Amusements and TJ’s Gourmet Popcorn, which sold sweets and snacks,

Jomayra and Jerica Acevedo, Kayliahnie Hernandez, Clarissa Martinez, and Logan Morales sat on a blanket to enjoy the festivities.



BUSINESS



Turley Publications photo by Michael Harrison

A Dollar Tree is moving into the space that had been a Goodwill thrift shop in Depot Plaza. The company expanded the space to include what used to be Tang’s Chinese restaurant, which then moved into the former Verizon store on the end of the plaza.

Dollar Tree getting ready to open in downtown’s Depot Plaza

Tang’s restaurant set to reopen soon

By Michael Harrison
 Correspondent

PALMER – The once gaping hole in the middle of Depot Plaza is about to be filled.

A Dollar Tree is expected to open in the North Main Street shopping center by late summer or early fall. The discount variety store is still completing renovations in the space that used to be occupied by a Goodwill thrift shop before it closed about a year ago.

The new retailer also expanded that space by taking over the storefront that used to be Tang’s, a Chi-

nese restaurant that is getting ready to re-open just a few steps away on one end of the strip mall where Verizon Wireless used to be. That means Depot Plaza will be bookended by restaurants with Apollo 1 Pizzeria entrenched on the other end.

With the new Dollar Tree in the middle, the 46,100 square-foot shopping center also includes Lena’s Salon, H&R Block, Criterion Child Enrichment and a pair of Bank of America ATMs. Rocky’s Ace Hardware is across the parking lot, essentially giving Depot Plaza two “anchors” when Dollar Tree opens, officials said.

“All the spaces will be filled and that is fantastic,” Palmer Town Plan-

DOLLAR TREE | page 2

PALMER

Dedicated staff makes Kids Corner a great place



Turley photo by Marcelo Gusmão

The Kids’ Corner staff “love(s) each other like family,” said Samantha Herring. (Back row) Ali, Derrick, Julia, Cathy Les, Samantha, Francesca, Megan, Lainey, Jessica, Heather (Front row) Vinnie, Alannah, Stephen, Emma, and Kylie.

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Staff Writer
 mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – The Kids’ Corner at Old Mill Pond School provides a fun and healthy “third place” for kids to go to between home and school.

Cathy Les has been running the Kids’ Corner for nearly seven years, having started it from nothing and built it from the ground up. “There are not many schools that have before, after, and during programs,” Les said.

“We just offer that home away from home, with so many fun things to do,” Les said. “During

the school year we have 100 children enrolled, and every day in the afternoon we have between 60 and 70 kids.”

The Kids’ Corner serves as a “third place” that kids can go outside of home and school. The Jordan Harbinger Show described a third place as “a place outside your home or work where you can relax and hang out.”

This is exactly what Kids’ Corner provides; a friendly environment where kids can play with other kids and participate in activities without the pressures that come with being in the classroom.

KIDS CORNER | page 6

Pet of the Week



GEORGE

George is a paralyzed rescue puppy from Palmer. He lives with his friend Amanda, who rescued him from Long Island bulldog rescue. George is a wonderful puppy who loves to cuddle and meet new people. He's hoping that soon he'll get some wheels so he can run around in the yard. 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.

Wildlife on Wheels Aug. 6

MONSON—Forest Park's Wildlife on Wheels program is coming to the Keep Homestead Museum in Monson on Sunday, Aug. 6, at 1:30 p.m. It is a free educational outreach program that will bring seven ambassador animals to the museum. Information will be provided on the animals' special adaptations, habitats, behavior, diets, and status in the wild. Q & A period to follow the presentation.

The program will be held on the lawn, weather permitting. Bring a blanket or chair for viewing. If there is inclement weather, it will take place in the barn.

Admission is free, but donations are welcome.

Reading with rats



Juliana Vargas smiling at Bruno.



Abigail Taylor is shown holding one of the rats in attendance.



Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon
Teen Library Coordinator Sarah Thomas smiles as a rat climbs on her shoulder.



Isabel Mossa trying to prevent a rat from scurrying off.

Monson hosts interactive summer reading program

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
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MONSON – As part of an ongoing series of Teen Summer Read events, several “furry friends” made an appearance at the Monson Free Library, July 19.

A total of 9 rats from Bard Rattery of Malden were in attendance, allowing each teen an opportunity to hold a rodent during the meet and greet.

Monson teen Isabel Mossa said the event was “ratastic,” and gave it “five stars.”

Teen Library Coordinator Sarah Thomas said she invited Ruby Bard of Bard Rattery to bring their rodents to the library after learning of their ethical breeding and myth busting practices.

“Rats mean the world to them... when they talk, the passion just comes out,” said Thomas.

Bard said they “love working with kids,” and wanted to do some myth busting while at the event.

They added one common miscon-

ception about rats is that they are dirty. “[Rats] groom more than cats, they are cleaner than dogs and they are very clean if you keep their environment clean,” said Bard.

Bard said they first became interested in rats when they were in elementary school studying how different liquids affect growth rates.

Years later, when Bard decided they wanted an Emotional Support Animal, they chose their first set of rats.

“I needed something to help ground me...[rats] keep you on a schedule, and keep you responsible,” said Bard.

Nearly all the rats in attendance were descendants of Bard's first ESA rat, Matthew.

“Matthew knew before I had a [panic] attack that I was going to have an attack,” said Bard.

Bard described Matthew as “quint-essentially perfect,” and did not want to lose him.

Due to his good temperament and disposition, Bard started breeding rats.

“It's half nature, half nurture... I pick the one[s] with the best temperament and spend tons of time with them since birth,” said Bard.

They added rats make excellent Emotional Support Animals because they are very social creatures, love to play and are intelligent.

“They like lots of enrichment... bird food puzzles, digging, nesting, hammocks - the more

activity the better,” said Bard.

Thomas said she “specifically wanted rats,” for the program as this year's reading assignment is Terry Pratchett's “The Amazing Maurice and His Educated Rodents.”

Thomas describes the novel as “one of the funniest books [she's] ever read.”

The novel follows the tale of a cat and several rodents who plan to fake a rat plague in hopes of making a profit off of the ordeal.

Thomas said the story explores several complex questions about culture, home and identity, while managing to be “silly” and “funny.”

The library has handed out over 30 free copies of the book to summer reading participants, some of which said they “couldn't put the book down.”

Once summer reading participants complete their reading log[s] and finish the novel, readers can return them in exchange for a gift certificate to River Hollow for free ice cream and mini golf.

The library is still handing out reading logs and hosting several upcoming, interactive reading events.



Desmond Newland and Kaden Mossa looking at the rats together.



Rat Stormy is the oldest of the bunch, at two years old.

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CAMPUS NOTES

The dean's list at Coastal Carolina University

CONWAY, SC-- More than 2,400 undergraduate students at Coastal Carolina University were named to the dean's list for the spring semester, including Isabella Huckins, from Wales.

Bryant University's spring dean's list

SMITHFIELD, RI-- Shayla Hulbert of Monson was named to Bryant University's spring dean's list.



Submitted photo

Old Coots ready to give advice at last year's celebration.

Brimfield Old Home Day celebration community gathering

BRIMFIELD — Brimfield will celebrate Old Home Day on Saturday, July 29, from 2 to 9 p.m., on the grounds of Brimfield Auction Acres at 35 Main St. The event will be free admission. At 9 p.m. is when a display by American Thunder Fireworks will light up the night sky.

There will be a variety of activities for kids of all ages. Local artisans will show their wares along with several non-profit organizations.

The Brimfield Fire Department is on hand to show their interactive display and will participate in the town kickball game. The Hampden County Sheriff's department will bring a K9 unit.

There will also be a playground that will include Badminton, Volleyball, Cornhole, Kan Jam, yard zee and many more as well as board games and coloring activities.

There will be face painting, popcorn, cotton candy and ice cream. There will be live music throughout the day with a lineup of local musicians that includes Josh Noone playing from 2 to 4 p.m. followed by Jason Wood from 4 to 6 p.m. At 6 p.m. The James Paul Band will perform until shortly before the fireworks.

Volunteers are a key element to help pull the day off and keep everything run-

ning smoothly. There is always room for more volunteers to help with various duties throughout the day. If interested, please email brimoldhomeday@gmail.com

This day would not be possible without the support of our community says committee member Billie Jean Petrie. "We have so many great businesses located here in Brimfield who love this town as much as our committee does and are very grateful for their support."

They are presenting sponsors Mercurdy Insurance, Green Acres Antiques & Flea Market, and Country Bank. Platinum sponsors include AJS Restoration & Construction and the Brimfield Cultural Council, a program of the Mass Cultural Council. Gold level sponsors include Auction Acres, F&N Contractors, New England Motel Antique Shows, Precise Paving, RPM Heating & Air, Soper Construction and Value Mechanical.

For additional details check the Brimfield Old Home Day Facebook page or the events page at Hitchcockacademy.org. The rain date for the event is Sunday, July 30.



Last year's fireworks celebration.

Baystate Health holding blood drive next week

PALMER — The Baystate Health Blood Donation team will host a blood drive 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 2, at Baystate Wing Hospital.

According to a news release from the hospital, blood drives will be held every other month on Wednesdays throughout the year at Baystate Wing, including on Oct. 4 and Dec. 6.

"When you donate blood to Baystate Health, your precious gift remains in our local communities," Nicole Vanzandt, supervisor, BRL Blood Donor Services, said.

"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, the release states. To donate blood, you 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 gift card or a Big E ticket while supplies last.

There is a constant need for blood donations, which can be lifesaving for many people facing health conditions or problems that might require a transfusion, according to Baystate Health. 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, call the Blood Donor Center at 413-794-4600. Be sure to note Baystate Wing Hospital as the location you would like to make your donation when you make your appointment.

9th Annual Sip and Stars event

BRIMFIELD — As the Perseids Meteor Shower hits its annual summer peak, Hitchcock Academy is hosting its 9th annual Sip and Stars fundraiser for the nonprofit community center. Saturday, Aug. 12 starting at 6pm.

Admission includes a full pour of Brimfield Winery's own wine or Rapsallion beer. In the early hours before sunset, crowds will enjoy live music from Brickyard Sessions. BT's Smokehouse will be on site selling food. While picnics may also be brought in, no outside alcoholic beverages are allowed.

Tickets are \$25 for patrons 21 and over; under 21 tickets are \$10. They can be purchased at www.hitchcockacademy.org or on site while supplies last; advance purchase is encouraged. Attendees should bring blankets or chairs, bug spray and flashlights. Telescopes are also encouraged.

In case of inclement weather, the event will be moved to Aug. 13. A move will be announced on Hitchcock's Facebook page, and an email will be sent out to all ticket holders. With generous support from Country Bank, Rapsallion Brewery, Brimfield Winery and B.T.'s Smokehouse, Hitchcock will welcome stargazers to the fields of the Brimfield Winery on for a guided tour of the night

sky, complemented by sips of local beer and wine. The summer celebration highlights the community building and life-long learning for which Hitchcock is known, while encouraging us all to slow down and enjoy one of life's simplest pleasures.

Visibility is expected to be especially clear due to the waning of the moon. Guests can expect to learn about constellations, the planets, meteors, and more as members of the Aldrich Astronomical Society offer a guided tour of the night sky as well as telescopes for up-close viewing of the meteors. The Perseids Meteor Shower has been known to boast 50 to 100 meteors per hour. Aldrich Astronomical Society was founded in 1932 and is one of the oldest amateur astronomy clubs in the United States and is dedicated to promoting an understanding of the night sky.

"Learning is at the heart of Hitchcock's mission, along with building community," says Executive Director Cindy Skowrya. "So this event is a special one for us, in that it showcases what we are all about, and is one of several key fundraisers that allow us to continue to offer opportunities for learning and connection to the community."

HCC STEM scholarship deadline Tuesday, Aug. 1

HOLYOKE — Students enrolled full time in chemistry, biology, engineering, mathematics, physics or other STEM fields at Holyoke Community College have until Tuesday, Aug. 1, to apply for a National Science Foundation scholarship of up to \$10,000 a year.

Through HCC, the National Science Foundation Scholarship offers on average \$6,500 per year to qualified full-time students and prorated amounts for part-time students.

New and current HCC students are encouraged to apply. The application deadline for the fall 2023 semester is Aug. 1. Scholarship awardees will be notified by Aug. 20.

Students chosen for the NSF scholarship become members of HCC's STEM scholars 2.0 Program, also known as STEM Cohorts for Research & Engagement.

STEM scholars are expected to maintain enrollment in a STEM program, be in good academic standing,

complete an associate degree at HCC, and/or transfer to an accredited STEM degree program at a four-year institution. The scholarships are renewable every year as long as students continue to meet the eligibility criteria.

Beside the financial awards, STEM Scholars become part of a learning community that fosters a sense of belonging and academic success, and includes mentoring, research, and honors experiences, community service, and internships.

The application and eligibility guidelines can be viewed at hcc.edu/stem-scholarship.

STEM disciplines include biological sciences, physical sciences, math, computer and information services, geosciences, and engineering.

The program is led by HCC math professor Ileana Vasu, coordinator of the STEM Scholars program. She can be reached at ivasu@hcc.edu or 413-552-2438.

The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$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.

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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Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Will WEP and GPO affect my wife's spousal benefit?

Dear Rusty: My wife worked for the U.S. Postal Service in New York for about 22 years and then in the private sector for about 15 years. She began collecting her "deferred annuity" from the USPS at age 62 and she plans to collect her Social Security benefits at age 67, which is her Full Retirement Age.

Her Social Security benefit before the Windfall Elimination Provision is less than 50% of my Primary Insurance Amount, so the plan is for her to start collecting a "spousal" benefit from me at age 67. My question is: will my wife's spousal benefit be reduced by both the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset?

Signed: Inquiring Husband

Dear Inquiring Husband: Your wife cannot separate her personally earned Social Security retirement benefit from her Social Security spousal entitlement from you whenever she applies for Social Security, your wife will be automatically deemed to be filing for all benefits she is entitled to when she claims.

Because your wife has a "non-covered pension" from the U.S. Postal Service and assuming that pension is under the older Civil Service Retirement System, your wife's personally earned SS retirement benefit will be reduced by the Windfall Elimination Provision. WEP reduces Social Security retirement benefits for anyone, who also has a pension earned while not contributing to Social Security.

The Government Pension Offset is different: the GPO will affect any additional amount your wife is entitled to as your spouse, which we refer to as her "spousal boost." The "spousal boost" amount is the difference between your wife's pre-WEP FRA entitlement and 50% of your FRA entitlement, which is your Primary Insurance Amount. Because of her USPS pension, GPO will reduce your wife's "spousal boost" by 2/3rds of the amount of her non-covered pension, which may eliminate her potential spousal boost.

So WEP will affect your wife's personally earned SS benefit and the GPO will affect her spousal entitlement from you. But, depending on the amount of her USPS pension, your wife will not be entitled to an additional amount as your spouse if 2/3rds of her USPS pension amount is more than her "spousal boost" amount. And if the GPO doesn't completely eliminate your wife's spousal boost, it will at least drastically reduce it.

I have previously published several articles about both WEP and GPO and how each provision works, which you are welcome to review by visiting the AMAC Foundation's special Social Security website at www.SocialSecurityReport.org. In particular, one such article providing more detail on how the GPO works can be found by visiting this link www.socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-government-pension-offset-gpo/.

Social Security will make the final determination about your wife's benefit entitlement under WEP and GPO when she applies for her Social Security benefits, but I'm afraid your wife's entitlement may be much less than you are anticipating because of these two provisions. If you have additional questions, please feel free to email us directly at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org or call 1-888-750-2622.

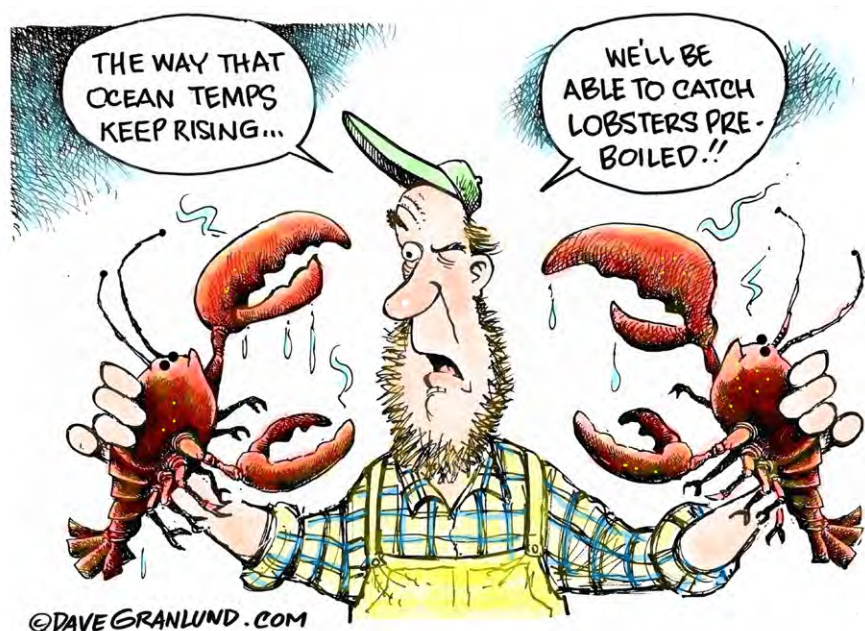
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Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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Get out of the garden with a few good books

The saying goes like this: "If you can't handle the heat, stay out of the kitchen!"

I'd like to switch it up to say "garden" in place of "kitchen" in light of the fact that I really can't handle the summer heat as well as I used to. These last few weeks, gardening has been accomplished early in the day or during the evening hours instead of midday.

What does a gardening fanatic do if they aren't actually gardening? Read about gardening, of course!

Call me old-fashioned, but I still prefer books over on-line text. I like to see and hold my books, curl the pages and even write in the margins.

Sometimes, just for fun, I'll pick a book and flip the pages to see where my finger will land. What interesting topic will I read about?

Today I'll choose three books and end up with the topics for today's column that way. Maybe we can all learn something new or at least refresh our skills.

The first pick is from one of my favorite herb books, "Herbs in Bloom" by Jo Ann Gardner (Timber Press). I flip the pages and end up on Feverfew (*Tanacetum parthenium*).

Timely, because Feverfew is blooming in my yard right now.

Feverfew is from the Latin word febrifugus thanks to its past use as a fever reducer. Both its single and its double form (*Flora pleno*) lend themselves to admission into the perennial border; often they bloom the first year from seed.

The plants thrive in both light shade and full sun, with the single flower type resowing itself to almost nuisance status if given the opportunity. The flowering span seems to go on and on, the white daisy flowers lending themselves to use in the vase alongside bee balm, summer phlox, veronicas and more.

I especially like the double flowers, and had great luck drying them, their off-white color the perfect addition to a wreath of hydrangea and dried roses.

Second year plants will return with some winter-kill that will need addressing. After blooming plants will likely not return for year three.

Still, feverfew is a must have for those of us who love herbs in the flower garden. Keep volunteers at bay by dead-heading all but a few of the flowers.

The second pick is ironic, considering the rain we've been getting.

On page 138 of "Secrets to Great Soil" by Elizabeth P. Stell (Storey Books), we learn about improving soggy or poorly drained soils, first by mentioning the use of raised beds.

My stone edged raised beds that usually demand a daily watering in the summer heat are handling all the rain in

stride. Unlike the corner of my vegetable garden that was literally under water after the 3.5" we received on Friday.

In addition to that mention on raised beds, a number of perennials are cited as thriving in moist soil. You'd be surprised to learn that Astilbe (*Astilbe* spp.) falls into this category, as do the more familiar native wetland plants: Joe-Pye Weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*), Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) and its cousin Great Blue Lobelia (*L. siphilitica*), the three of which bloom later in the summer.

Can d-l-abra primrose (*Primula japonica*) was also mentioned. I have purchased this plant two years in a row and it never thrives; now I know the reason: it needs moister soil.

The plants growing under the tree canopy at Positively Perennials are a sight worthy of mention in mid-May when they are in full multi-tiered bloom. Next year, check it out!

We seem to be on a flower theme, so let's see what "The Flower Gardener's Bible" by Lewis and Nancy Hill (Storey Books) has in store. Alas, pick three does not disappoint.

I landed on a page devoted to both the native Coneflowers (*Echinacea* species) and the Globe Thistles (*Echinops* species). Right now, my new border, devoted to our pollinators, is striking with Purple Coneflower as one of the stars.

This plant too, has seemed to enjoy the rain, gaining some height after the shock of being divided and replanted early in May. If you leave the spent flowers in place, self-sown seedlings will emerge next spring, begging to be moved about the landscape or shared with friends and family.

Like Feverfew, from our first pick, *Echinacea* has history as a healing plant and continues to be used today for immune support.

Globe Thistle, with its steel blue globes and deeply cut, silver gray foliage, as stiff as it is, also deserves a place in the garden. It is a true bee magnet!

Stems can be harvested as everlasting once flowers color up but before the individual florets, aka "pickers" on each plant open. Clip and dry them upside down for use in wreaths and arrangements.

Well, it's been fun escaping the heat with you! Read any good books lately?

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



Juvenile red-tailed hawk

Several people spotted a juvenile red-tailed hawk by Coldbrook Road in Oakham last week.

People, who saw the bird, hoped its parents were near by and take care of it. That did not happen.

When no parent appeared by the next day, the bird was brought to a wildlife rehabilitator.

The red-tailed hawk is the most commonly seen hawk in this area. It is about 19 inches long. It gets its name from its reddish upper tail. It also has a white chest with a belly band and markings on the chest. Plumage varies considerably. The immature has a finely, banded gray-brown tail and keeps this plumage for one year.

The female lays one to five bluish white eggs with dark marks in a platform of sticks lined with bark and greens in a tree. The nest can be 15 to 120 feet high.

They often are seen perched in a tree by a field. They make a slurred scream like "tseeaar" often directed at an intruder. Fledglings and adults also make a "klooeek" sound. During courtship or territorial encounters, they make a piercing "chwirrk."

Bird talk

On July 7, I spoke about birds at the Oakham Senior Center. Ava, age 7, won the door prize of a "Squirrel Slammer" feeder. She came to the event with her great-aunt, who also took the photo of the young red-tailed hawk in this column. She related the story of its rescue since it appeared to be abandoned.

One Oakham woman attending the talk said a robin nested near the house. She and her husband could watch it from their home. One day, they saw the mother shove all her babies out of the nest.

Wild turkeys

Recently, I saw a turkey dust bathing along the side of the road. An Oakham resident had one doing the same thing in her yard. At first, she was concerned it was injured, but it did get up and leave.

Several people reported wild turkeys in their yard with youngsters. I saw one group on someone lawn recently. The poult looked adorable.

Loons

Most loon pairs hatch their young the first two weeks of July. Both Wachusett Reservoir and Quabbin Reservoir have nesting loons. Floating nests not only provide suitable nesting sites, but they also rise and fall with the water level. This is especially important this year with all the heavy rain in preventing flooding of the nests.

Massachusetts Audubon Society sighting

In Berkshire County, sightings reported to Massachusetts Audubon Society included a northern goshawk and two hooded warblers in Great Barrington and a single hooded warbler at the Hopkins Memorial Forest in Williamstown. Other sightings were a least bittern at Richmond Marsh and merlins in Pittsfield and Lenox.

In Worcester County, sightings included a Brewster's warbler in Harvard, two black vultures soaring near the Hardwick Winery and five evening grosbeaks.

It is good to hear there are evening grosbeak sightings as many of the people at the bird talk at the Oakham Senior Center said they had not seen evening grosbeaks in some time.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

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

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

Tom Sawyer goes to Washington

Now where has that boy gone to now?
He's always going somewhere . . .

I'm sure I don't know, Aunt Polly, but I hear
He's after more gold to dig up,
Even to the big cities for it.

But Sid, he never liked such places -
And would only pick up its bad habits -
Like rudeness — and insulting people, and
saying things.

Well, he don't do it as much as he used to -
But I hear he's running for high office;
In a house, bigger than the widow Douglas'.
Where it's the ever-fussing capital of the country.

But he did show signs of leadership,
When he had a mind to -
And not go off on adventures forever,

No one loved more -
Tho' he didn't seem to mind at times
If someone got sold down the river, or play
tricks on.

He sure bedeviled me, I never could learn.
But it seems the times are hollowing out,
Unless it's soon tended.
Every town along here I went to can feel it.

Well, no one was better at stirring things up:
Even in church, or the schoolyard.
Tho' I'm not so sure about fixing.
But Judge Thatcher thought highly of him.

And, always wanting to be captain of anything
Going on...Remember? And not just
After stray cats, and slipping out of the house;
Or later hours in cemeteries;
Why'd he go there, do you suppose?
Being more superstitious than I am.

Or, being a pirate? And showing off; throwing
His hair up like a mane. And if you
Said anything to him, or, behind his back?!

It will take strong folks to vote for him -
But he's good-hearted. - And at times
His noble parts would show through.
He's probably out looking for his old adorable
brat,
Becky, - in those times most people come to
want -

And, try again from there? Maybe.
I never did see the beat of that boy . . .
Once he got fixed on something.

— Charles Barnes
Submitted Poetry

Hampden Senior Center to host Alzheimer's Fundraiser Dinner Dance Aug. 5

HAMPDEN – Join the Hampden Senior Center for a fundraiser dinner dance on Aug. 5 at 5:30 p.m. with entertainment provided by Off The Record. Cost is \$30 prepaid, per person. Includes Appetizers, Chicken Parmesan and Pasta, Complimentary Cocktail and Dessert. More details will follow. Cash Bar & Raffle Prizes! Reserve and purchase your tickets today by calling 566-5588. Please make checks payable to the Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens. All proceeds will benefit the Alzheimer's Association.

Main Street Farmers Market

WILBRAHAM – Come support local farms, specialty food producers, artisans, food trucks and community groups every Wednesday from 2-6 p.m. between June 14-Aug. 30. Market is located on the front lawn of Wilbraham United Church, 500 Main Street, Wilbraham. We are grateful to our sponsors for their support of the market: InfinityEd, Iron Horse Flower Farm, Premier Exteriors & Design, Jeni Meil-Coldwell Banker Realty and Katie Beliveau- Geneva Financial Home Loans.

DOLLAR TREE | from page 1

ner Linda Leduc said. "It's good for the town and there's nothing else like this downtown. I think it will be well frequented. And with Rocky's, it has two anchors." Leduc also pointed out the ample parking at the shopping center, its multiple options for getting in and out from N. Main or Shearer Streets and that it's within walking distance of many downtown residences. Like others, Leduc said she was glad that Century Investment, which owns the shopping center, was able to work out a deal to keep Tang's there. "I know they worked hard to stay in the plaza – they very much wanted to stay in Palmer," Leduc said. Andy Cohen, managing partner at Century Investment, said Tang's is expected to re-open sometime in the next week, by Aug. 1. "They just need to conclude inspections from the board of health and planning department," he said. "They are working on it," Cohen said, adding that the restaurant's owners "are really nice people." As for the biggest tenant, the Dollar Tree, Cohen said the company has been doing extensive work inside, including a new HVAC system, flooring and fixtures, and that there have been a few delays out of the company's control. "It's not an easy task to set up and I believe they still have more to do," Cohen said. "They were going to try to shoot for (opening) the end of August. My guess would be the end of September – or before." Cohen said there is one small vacancy in what used to be a physical therapy practice at the plaza, but that his company is in talks with several prospective tenants and he expects it to be filled sooner than later.

More retail coming

In projects elsewhere in town, Leduc said work on the new Liberty Plaza near the Mass Pike, which will include a Starbucks, continues to progress. "We're working on that and there are some exciting things coming," she said. Leduc said the town's first brew pub, Seven Railroads on Park Street, is close to opening with a key hearing in front of state regulators scheduled for July 31. And, despite a setback for the planned Kali Cannabis dispensary, which broke ground on the corner of Thorndike and Shearer streets, Leduc said the project appears to be moving forward. One of the Kali Cannabis partners, Evans Klimavich, dropped out after being accused of serious crimes unrelated to Kali. However, "We just talked with the owner, Suzanne Melanson, and she is making progress with new investors and is looking at building types," Leduc said.

MITIGATION | from page 1

flooding, wildfires and severe storms. Consultants identified hazards through a risk assessment by gathering geographic information as well as information regarding Monson's history of natural hazard occurrences and the probability of hazard occurrence. The draft plan ranks hazards in terms of probability, impact, spatial extent, warning time and duration to determine how the town should prioritize resources. Some mitigation plan goals included in the draft include saving lives, protecting infrastructure, expanding the town's capacity to mitigate risks, protect natural resources and educating stakeholders the value of mitigation.

"Natural resources are a priority. It's something we are learning about more and more...if we protect our natural resources they protect us," said Caplan. Some mitigation actions listed in the draft include repairing or replacing select culverts, mapping critical infrastructure, developing a non-zoning by wetlands bylaw and updating Master Plan. The completed Hazard Mitigation Plan will contain seven chapters

GOVERNMENT

Hadley resident Tom McGee continues decades-long fight for 'fairness, equity'

By Michael Harrison
Correspondent

HADLEY — Tom McGee has a plaque on his desk with a quote from Calvin Coolidge about persistence.

One day, if a bill in the Massachusetts Legislature he spurred becomes law, someone might have a plaque on their desk with a similar quote from McGee.

"Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence," is part of the famous quote attributed to Coolidge, a former Massachusetts governor who became the 30th U.S. president a century ago and said ability and knowledge alone do not guarantee success. It takes tenacity, too.

McGee, a retiree in his 80s who has lived in Hadley for over 30 years, has that by the boatload.

Since 1995 he has been championing legislation to require public access to all state job openings. It became his cause after he realized that only some positions were posted – in a hard copy format typical of the pre-digital age – at regional unemployment offices.

The rest, mostly the prime jobs, he said, were posted on bulletin boards in state offices in Boston or circulated by word of mouth and were available to just "the connected" class, he said.

According to McGee, other than the creation of the Massachusetts Jobs Department website, not much has changed.

"It's an issue of fairness," McGee said.

"It's an issue of equity and fairness in hiring for jobs in Massachusetts and people in Western Massachusetts, people with expertise and training, such as veterans, don't have the opportunity to apply for good jobs they're qualified for."

For decades, McGee filed petition bills through state Sen. Stan Rosenberg and state Rep. John Scibak to try to enact a law requiring all state jobs to be posted publicly across the commonwealth. The bills would go far, but never make it to the finish line.

This legislative session he enlisted the help of their successors, Sen. Jo Comerford and Rep. Daniel Carey, whose districts include Hadley. Both have filed bills in their chambers and Comerford read a statement about them submitted for the record on behalf of both during a hearing last week of the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development.

"Hiring guidelines in Massachusetts already require posting state employment

opportunities publicly to ensure a fair and transparent hiring practice," the statement says.

"However, many state agencies are working around this requirement by obtaining exemption waivers. The current hiring guidelines are not effective for public job seekers because of these exemptions. Furthermore, many residents are unaware of where to find state employment vacancies because of the lack of a centralized referral system.

"Transparency about state employment vacancies will not only garner greater trust from the public in government hiring processes, but will also benefit state agencies which will receive applications from more diverse and qualified candidates. While it is easy for those close to Boston and the State House to hear about state employment opportunities through word of mouth, the members of the public living outside metro Boston are unaware of poorly publicized job vacancies."

If the bills become law, all of the job openings would be accessible online.

According to an email from Comerford's office, "the committee has until early February 2024 to report the bill out favorably, recommend an amendment,

refer the bill for further study or report it out unfavorably."

Asked about his experience working with Comerford and Carey, McGee said it was "excellent" and seeing the bill recognized in the hearing "shows they listen to their constituents."

He said he believes leveling the playing field for state jobs, particularly the higher level positions, would make the commonwealth run more efficiently and prevent systematic failures. He brought up the dozens of deaths at the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic as one example.

After so many years going by without getting a bill passed into law, why McGee is optimistic about its chances this time around seems an obvious question.

"I have confidence in the senators and representatives that they want to ensure fairness and equity in the commonwealth," he said.

"I have confidence they will do the right thing."

And if they don't? "If not, we'll reintroduce it again," McGee said.

"We'll keep pushing. You keep filing a bill until you get it passed."



Sen. Jo Comerford

Protect yourself and others from the heat

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

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

According to Dr. Seth Gemme, FACEP, vice chair, clinical operations for Emergency Medicine, Baystate Health, extreme heat affects the body's ability to safely regulate its temperature, often resulting in heat-related illnesses such as heat exhaustion, heat stroke, or heat cramps. Sweating is the body's natural defense to cooling itself. However, when humidity is high, sweat does not evaporate as quickly, preventing the body from releasing heat quickly and resulting in a rapid rise of body temperature.

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

As with many illnesses, the best defense is prevention, consider the following tips to keep you safe in the high heat: Stay out of the heat. Avoid direct

sunlight and strenuous activity outdoors. If possible, remain indoors. If there is no AC at home, go to a location that does, such as the mall or a movie theater.

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

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

Take it slow and easy with athletic activity and working outdoors. Postpone athletic activity during high heat and humidity. Limit outdoor activities to the morning and evening. Drinking sports beverages can replace lost salt and minerals when sweating. However, those on low-salt diets should check with their doctor before drinking sports beverages. If you work outdoors, in addition to drinking plenty of liquids and dressing appropriately, pace yourself and take frequent short breaks in the shade.

Eat smaller meals. Instead of the usual rule of eating three square meals

a day, eat smaller meals more frequently on days when the sun turns up the heat. Also, avoid high-protein foods which can increase metabolic heat.

Take a cool shower or bath to cool down.

Warning signs of an oncoming heat-related illness could include excessive sweating, leg cramps, flushed skin, nausea and vomiting, dizziness, headache and rapid pulse. If these occur, get out of the heat and drink liquids. If you don't feel better soon, Gemme recommends calling a doctor or visiting a local emergency department. "Since the elderly are at greater risk from the ill-effects of the heat, make it a habit

to check on elderly relatives and neighbors several times a day to make sure they are safe and free from any signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke," Gemme said.

Gemme also reminds parents and caregivers that hot weather and vehicles can be a deadly combination for kids. About 950 children since 1990 died from heat stroke in hot cars when left alone. Most children unknow-

ingly left behind. And, according to the National Safety Council, on average 38 children under the age of 15 die each year after being left in a hot vehicle.

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

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WE REPAIR BIKES!



Kids' Corner staff members Kylie and Heather oversaw preschoolers Ethan, Violet, Christopher, Eleanor, Sara, Noah, Ainsley, Shea, Logan, Javier, and Hannah while cooking.



Second- and third-graders Lily, Rylee, Viola, Elliott, Lydia, and Zachary.

KIDS CORNER | from page 1

"They don't have to do anything, like in school; they don't have to do their math, they just come, they can sit, they can color," Les said. "Or, if they're having a bad morning, they can sit and watch T.V."

"Things are crazy for parents in the morning," Les said. "They're trying to get ready for work, they're trying to get the kids out, so what I stress with my staff is just calm; get them ready for their school day."

If anything can serve as a metric for the program's success, it's the amount of kids who started in the program that have chosen to join the staff.

"So many of my staff have been here from the beginning," Les said, calling over Samantha Herring, who she described as "young, energetic, and photogenic," and "a great addition to the program."

"Our staff is like a big family, if you haven't been able to tell," Herring said. "We fight like family, but we love each other like family."

"I had just finished high school, it was my freshman year of college," Herring recalled. "I always loved working with kids. I started elementary education in college, so [I thought] this would be a good thing to do on the side while I'm in school – and I just have never left."

"I started in the second year of the program," said Derrick Smola, another staff member. "I waited until I turned 15, so I could get my work permit cleared."

"I was coming in and it was kind of still new to everybody," Smola said. "It just felt like another home; all these kids who don't have stuff like this, Cathy's turned it into a place where they come here and do things that they wouldn't be able to."

"I think I was the first kid to actually ever come to Kids' Corner," said Stephen Salmond, a counselor-in-training.

"As soon as I came in the first day, I knew this was gonna be a lot of fun. I started coming here all the way to fifth grade, and I loved it so

much when we were doing all the cool activities and stuff, that I asked Ms. Les if I could work here when I'm at the high school, and she said yes," Salmond said. "Now I'm working here, helping out everybody."

Herring described Les as "an amazing boss."

"She just runs an amazing program, from where it started to where it is now, it's exponentially different from all the things we've been able to offer. We've been able to do four different trips this summer, which is something we've never done."

Herring described taking the kids to the movies to see "Elemental" one week, bringing in animals from Out of the Ark the next, and then plans to go to the Quabbin and to the Connecticut Science Museum. The program lasts for four weeks in the summer, with one field trip per week.

These programs are fully funded by the payment from the families.

"We get no assistance," Les said. "The same thing with the program during the school year, they pay for the program."

"We do offer financial aid for those who qualify," Les added. "We try to help everybody out, so that everybody can use the program, because it's so needed."

"We were talking on the field trip last week about how many kids were just excited to be riding in a bus," Smola said.

"Their parents either are too busy at work, or they drop them off early. To be able to give those kids things that they aren't always able to have – they'll take it with them, stuff that they may have never had in their life. Cathy's really taken this and grown it to such a thing that a lot of schools around



Kids Corner coordinator Cathy Les, with her grandsons, J.J. and Arlo.

us don't have. It's a really wonderful thing that we have and that we can build upon," Smola said.

"It's always growing," Herring said, adding to Les. "If you weren't here, I don't think that would be possible."

Les said that the group has very few behavioral programs, as the kids are very respectful of her and her rules. The group tries to restrict the use of electronic devices, as Les said she knows the kids use them frequently at home.

"Things are different now, so that's why I bring my 'old lady mentality' to my program," Les said. "I was fortunate, I did not have to work. I did part-time when my kids went to school, but it wasn't full-time. My daughter works full-time for [her] two babies; she's tired when she gets home. But to survive, parents have to do that."

Les said that she always hopes to increase enrollment, and hopes to one day see the program get its own building. That said, she felt strongly that "We offer everything I think we can."

"I go home very tired, but it's a good tired," Les said. "There's so many children out there that just need that extra...and we provide it."

Les stated confidently that she has no plans to retire anytime soon. "I love coming to work every day, I really do," Les said. "It gives me purpose, it gives me something to get up for every morning. It's just wonderful."

"I just hope for these young kids that they always have that place to go where they just want to be everyday."

Turley Photos by Marcelo Gusmao

Summerfest fireworks Worth the wait



Steve Slozak, Valerie Boyacz-Beaudoir, and Brian Harris watch over the Monson Fire Truck.



Kim Hatch of West Warren painted many faces, including 8-year-old Sophia.



Kenneth Barnes and Sandie Miller watched the display from their seats in the parking lot.



The First Church of Monson sold popcorn. Shown are Carrie Murphy, Mason, age 12, Richard, age 17, and Allyssa, age 17.

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Enjoying a convenient spot at the top of the hill Jacqui and Larry Arnold, and Sue and Tom Fournier.



Tyrone Elliston, Bryna, age 6, and Amanda Elliston were all smiles while waiting for the fireworks.



Troy Atherton peddled popcorn from a booth for his company, T.J's Gourmet Popcorn.



Mike Howell with 2-year-old Grayson, Cameron, age 10, and Kassie Brown were some of many who attended the show.



Lilah, age 8, and Olivia, age 10, showed off glowing toys that were being sold at Hillios Novelty.



Renee Burger working the table at Hillios Novelty.



The Lions Club Regional President, Curt Jameson, along with Sharon Coles, sold cotton candy to 10-year-old Alex and Eric Okscin. Jameson is the first Lions Club President from Monson since 1966.



Local teenagers Kenley Betters, Kyra Mercier, Abbey Slonka, Natalie Mercier, and Nick John attended the fireworks show together.



Darci McHenry applied a henna tattoo to Natalie, age 11.



Turley Photos by Marcelo Gusmao

Hollywood Roxx performs on the stage in front of Quarry Hill School.

The sun sets behind the line at JND Amusements's concession stand.



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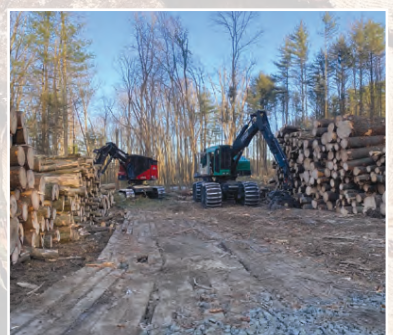
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Brimfield Cat Sanctuary, Here Today Adopted Tomorrow



Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon
Owner Rachael Max and staff members Mika Schneider and Sanna Hart stand before "Here Today, Adopted Tomorrow."

By Dallas Gagnon
 Staff Writer
 dgagnon@turley.com

REGIONAL – Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Animal Sanctuary is a non-profit, cage-free cat adoption center dedicated to helping people and their animals.

"It's a community based organization...We're funded by the community and for the community," said HTAT Executive Director Rachael Max.

Located in Brimfield, the shelter serves nine neighboring communities including Holland, Monson, Palmer, Wales, Warren, Ware, Sturbridge and Southbridge.

HTAT provides several services and resources for local animals and residents such as a food pantry, low cost spay/neuter programs, a safety net foster program and free behavioral help.

"Most people don't want to give up their animals...We do our best to keep the cats in the home," said Max.

Before accepting a cat into the shelter, Max said they may ask pet owners "what if we gave you some behavioral help? Pet food pantry? cat spay or neuter?"

The organization's goal is to give cats "the best care they can get, the best lives that they have and the best homes that they can find - which is back into the community with people and families

who love them," said Max.

While Max has "loved animals [her] entire life," it wasn't until she volunteered at a humane society as a grad student that she realized she wanted to work in a shelter setting.

"I ended up loving that more than what I was actually studying and I really wanted to make a difference on a local level," said Max.

Although she "really enjoyed working at the humane society," Max said it was a very "traditional shelter."

"I saw all the animals in their cages and I just knew I could do a better job," said Max.

Around 2007, Max said she and her mother attended a workshop that introduced her to the cage

free philosophy and how to open your own shelter.

Max said being cage free is "really important" to her as she wants "to give [cats] a lower stress scenario so they can have a high quality of life while they're here."

She added in her studies she found when animals get stressed, "especially cats, they are more likely to get sick."

Providing a cage free environment for the cats allows them to "stay happy and healthy until they are adopted."

"Once I opened this place, I



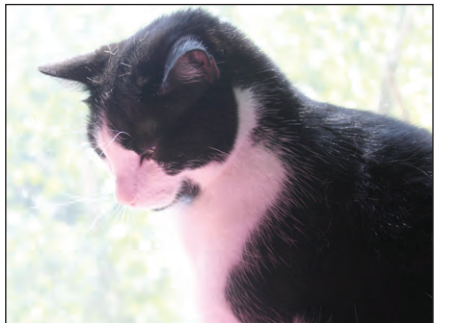
Pipa takes a rest after a morning of socializing.



Shown is a large cat tower for the cats to climb or rest on.



Bunny stands tall while hanging out in the sunroom.



Jericho enjoys relaxing on the window sill.



Pago hiding out in one of the nooks on a cat tower.



Pippa is often found lounging in the sunroom.



Shown are some of the cats available for adoption at the sanctuary.

wanted to help as many cats as I could... I didn't like having to say no.

"In order to help more cats, I had to be able to make more programs. That's when I started getting more into spay/neuter return," said Max.

According to Max, when cats aren't spayed and neutered, it creates more work for the shelters as "that's how we end up with overpopulation [and] more feral cats."

She added neutering and spaying is important to cats' health because the more litters a cat has "the less healthy they become."

She recommends getting animals "fixed as soon as you possibly can," as they can become pregnant as young as four months old or develop fatal infections.

HTAT's low spay/neuter program costs just \$65 and can be applied for online on the HTAT website.

The organization pays for nearly 500 cats to get spayed and neutered annually, and puts 3,000 lbs of food into the community every month.

"We have 5-600 animals depending on us to feed them every month...not including the 'Care for Life' animals," said Max.

HTAT is also responsible for medical bills of special needs cats they've adopted out.

Being a 501 (c) 3, HTAT receives no government funding from either the commonwealth or the town.

Max said "It's definitely the generosity of the community" that helps keep the sanctuary in business.

"We appreciate everything that we can get back and that people are willing to donate towards helping us including the cats here in our care," said Max.

The organization relies on grants, donations and fundraising initiatives and will host a "Feline Family Fun Day" event at Westview Farm Creamery in Monson, Saturday, August 12 from 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

The event will feature 50-60 vendors, raffle tickets, kids table, baked goods, live music, kittens, ice cream and goats.

There are many ways to support HTAT.

The organization is always accepting donation items, funding and volunteer support.

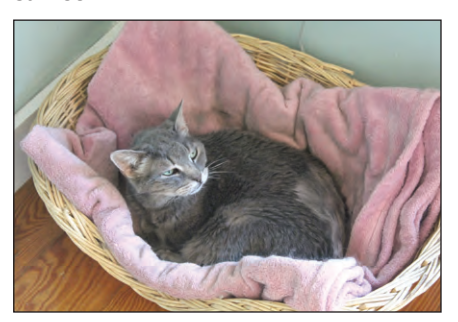
HTAT also has felines looking for their forever homes and are available for adoption.

To donate to the organization, apply for low cost spay and neutering services or plan a visit to consider adopting a cat, please see the HTAT website at <https://www.heretodaysanctuary.org/>.

Adoption hours are Saturdays 1-4 p.m.



Bish soaking up the sun.



Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon
Pam Pam is 17 years old and is a permanent resident at the sanctuary.

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SOCCER

‘Perfect’ Mustangs head for playoffs



Hannah Murphy guides the ball up the field.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

MONSON – Monson High School may be one of the smallest schools in the region, but they can definitely hang with the largest schools in the area. Monson has been playing in the A Division for summer soccer the past few years and has been increasing its high school schedule difficulty as well. The Mustangs are seeing the results of their hard work. The Mustangs defeated Belchertown and East Longmeadow during the past week to improve to a perfect 10-0 in the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League. The girls has just Enfield remaining on their regular season schedule before heading into the playoffs next week with the likely No. 1 seed.



Avery Beaudoin passes the ball to her left.

Sierra Martinson follows through on a free kick.



Grace Berry fights for possession.



Tennessee Murphy makes a pass.

BASEBALL

Playoff berths in Valley Wheel come down to final week

WILBRAHAM – The Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League, which plays its games throughout Western Massachusetts and features adult players from all over the region, has lived up to its reputation for having a league full of parity.

As a result, this final week will be the determining factor when it comes to deciding which teams receive the four playoff spots the league offers.

Following the games of July 9, five of the league’s six teams were in a tie for first place with identical 7-5 records.

The games of July 16 were rained out, pushing the league to finish the final three games of the regular season within in an eight-day period.

Weeks 14 and 15 were scheduled to be played on July 23 and 30, respectively, while the Week 13 matchups were scheduled in between, July 26 and 27.

The Week 14 games found the Athletics, Tigers, and Cubs coming away with wins. That left those three games with 8-5 records while

the Angels and Twins sat at 7-6, both one game out of the first-place tie.

Midweek matchups included the Angels-Orioles, Cubs-Athletics, and Tigers-Twins, which could further complicate the standing heading into Sunday’s final games.

According to the league commissioner, Jim Nason, the first tiebreaker for determining who makes the playoffs will be head-to-head records. Each team plays their opponents three times making a definitive decision if there is a tie between two teams. But in the event of a three-way tie, the next tiebreaker is run differential, which could be used to seed teams as well in the event of a three-way tie for first place.

This weekend, the final matchups are Twins-Angels, Cubs-Orioles, and Tigers-Athletics. Semifinals are scheduled for Aug. 6 at Spec Pond in Wilbraham with game times of 2:30 and 6 p.m. The league championship game is set for Sunday, Aug. 13 at 3 p.m. at Spec Pond.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Gabriel Pacheco sends a free kick away.

Pioneers take season finale, make playoffs

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

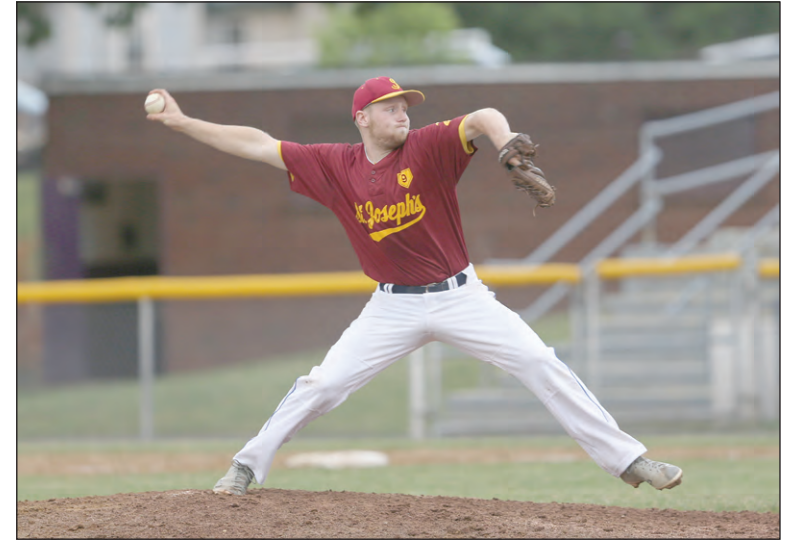
LUDLOW—The atmosphere at Lusitano Stadium is always a lot more festive whenever the Western Mass. Pioneers celebrates a victory.

The Pioneers faithful supporters were in no hurry to head home

following the July 15 5-1 win over AC Connecticut in the regular season finale.

The Pioneers 10th win locked up sole possession of second place in the USL-2 Northeast Division. They also clinched a playoff berth for the fourth time since 2019. The

BASEBALL

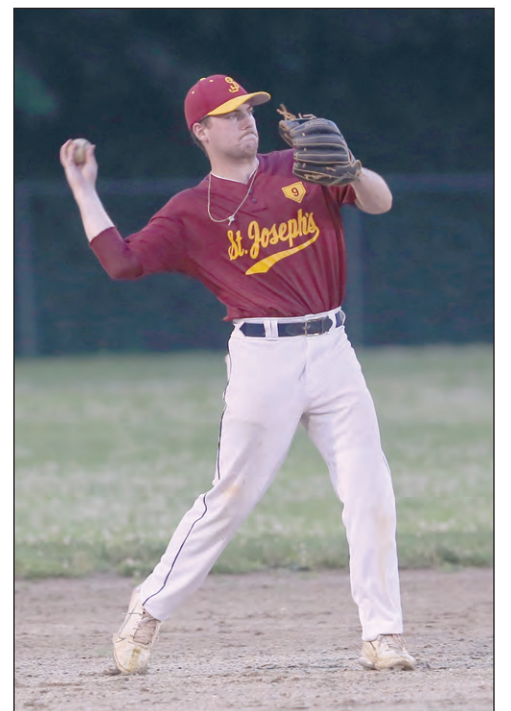


Pitcher Sam Schrieber reaches back and fires to the plate.

Ware's Devin Slattery slings a throw to first base.

St. Joe's begins playoff run

PALMER – It was down to the wire, but a tie thrown into 413ATC's record caused St. Joseph's Saints to receive the No. 4 seed in the Tri-County Baseball League playoffs. As a result, the Saints were placed in the 4-5 matchup with DiFranco Realty. St. Joseph's finished the regular season last week with an 8-10 overall record, and 16 points. If St. Joe's gets by DiFranco in the best-of-three-series, they would face top-seeded and reigning, defending champion PeoplesBank in the league's semifinals.



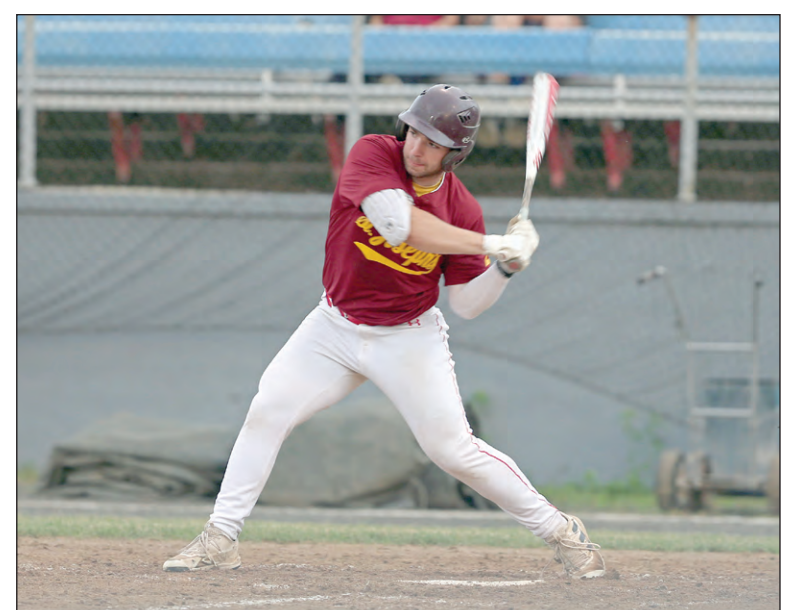
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Greg Vouros winds up for a long throw to first.



Jackson Petrin slides back to first.



A.J. Dillard swings and connects.

Hall takes win in Granite State series

HERMON, ME – The Granite State Pro Stock Series returned to “Vacationland” for the first time since 2021 with Saturday night’s Go FAS Racing 100 at Speedway 95. And against a tough field, Garrett Hall captured his second career GSPSS win in the series’ debut at the Hermon, Maine speedplant.

Seventeen drivers, all but one from the state of Maine, turned out for the GSPSS’ rain-delayed debut at the historic oval just outside Bangor. Wiscasset Speedway regular Josh St. Clair topped the charts in time trials, splitting the heats with home-track ace Mike Hopkins.

But in race trim, it was Hall who prevailed. With reigning GSPSS champion Joey Doiron in the pits, Hall worked the inside line around the third-mile oval en route to victory.

Hall won in his GSPSS debut in 2017, claiming the series’ only trip to Oxford Plains Speedway. With Saturday’s win, the Scarborough native is the first series driver to win twice in the Pine

Tree State. Hopkins, a road warrior with two wins in the Southeast earlier this season, came up short of victory in his second-ever GSPSS appearance, finishing second at his hometown track. St. Clair held on for third in his series debut.

Points leader Travis Benjamin extended his advantage with a fourth-place finish, while Ben Ashline rounded out the top five.

Saturday’s GSPSS show-down capped off a night of racing that included Speedway 95’s local classes. Dalaney Dunn came out on top in the 25-lap Cage Runner feature. Scott Modery took the checkers in the Street Stocks, and Kris Foss won the evening’s Sport 4 feature.

The next race for the Granite State Pro Stock Series is a return to Riverside Speedway on Saturday, August 12, where Travis Benjamin will try to back up his June performance with another win at “Grovetona.” Details on the fifth race of the GSPSS’ twelfth season will be released



Submitted photo

Garrett Hall was the winner up in Maine last Saturday.

shortly.

For more information on the Granite State Pro Stock Series, visit www.gspss.net or find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

RESULTS, Go FAS Racing 100, July 22, 2023

1. (94) Garrett Hall
2. (15ME) Mike Hopkins
3. (14) Josh St. Clair
4. (7B) Travis Benjamin
5. (99) Ben Ashline

6. (32) Brandon Barker
7. (75) Gary Smith
8. (32ME) Nick Jenkins
9. (28R) JR Robinson
10. (7CT) Cory Casagrande
11. (56) Evan Beaulieu
12. (21C) Shane Clark
13. (81) Bryan Lancaster
14. (28) James Doucette
15. (15) Trevor Krouse
16. (21ME) David Oliver
17. (01) Jet Decker

Sports nutrition tips from Boston Children’s Hospital

What should an athlete eat to prepare for a big event? Read on for sound tips from the Sports Medicine Division.

- Carbs are your friend and other game-day nutrition advice
- Like a car, your body needs fuel to run. These foods help you rev up for top performance on game day:
 - Carbohydrates (pasta, fruit, bread, oatmeal, sugar) provide fast energy. Without carbs, an athlete is likely to hit a wall of sluggishness.
 - Fat (nuts, nut butters, ol-

ive oil, avocados, salmon or tuna) provides longer-lasting energy. Fats and carbs work together to fuel performance.

- Protein (chicken, beef, eggs, dairy) builds muscle and repairs tissues. Protein after a practice or game is essential to building and maintaining muscle strength.

Pre-game fueling

- Three to four hours before a practice or game, an ideal pre-game meal includes mainly carbs with some protein and fat.
- peanut butter toast with a banana

- granola bar
 - yogurt and fruit
- Closer to game or practice time, snacks or meals should decrease in volume and be mostly carbs.

- oatmeal
- sports drinks
- Post-game recovery
- A snack or meal with both protein and carbohydrates within 30 to 45 minutes after a game helps muscles recover more rapidly.

- chocolate milk
- banana and peanut butter or almond butter

- graham crackers with peanut butter or almond butter
- yogurt with granola
- turkey sandwich

Foods that work for your teammates might not work for you. Be sure to try out different foods before and after practice and see how they make you feel. When game day rolls around, you’ll know what fuel your body thrives on.

Stay tuned for more news and injury-prevention tips from Boston Children’s Hospital.



Connor Hicks, of Monson, attempts to run down the ball.



Tomas Duben makes his way toward the goal.



Alec Hughes shoots and scores for the Pioneers.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Jordan Koduah makes a pass.

PIONEERS | from page 9

2020 season was canceled due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

“I think making the playoffs is a little more special for us this year,” said Connor Hicks, who’s one of the Pioneers’ veteran players. “Our backs were against the wall a couple of weeks ago, but we were able to make the playoffs again.”

Following a 2-1 home loss against rival Seacoast United on June 23, the Pioneers (10-1-3) closed out the regular season with

five consecutive victories.

“After we lost to Seacoast, most people thought we wouldn’t be making the playoffs this year,” said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. “There was a lot of pressure on us to win every match, but boys worked very hard. It’s not very easy to qualify for the playoffs in this league.”

The Pioneers, who’ll begin their postseason journey this weekend, have posted an impressive 42-6-8 regular season record since the start of the 2019 campaign.

“We’ve changed a lot of players since 2019,” Molinari said. “When the new players join us, they always play very hard, and they also have a good attitude. It has been an outstanding season so far.”

Hicks, who’s from Monson, and Khalid Rose are the only remaining players from the 2019 playoff team.

Hicks, who has been a defender for most of his Pioneers career, was an outside midfielder against AC Connecticut (4-7-3). He had a couple shots on goal, but has never

scored a goal while wearing a Pioneers uniform.

“I did score a goal in my first game with the Pioneers four years ago, but it was disallowed because of off-sides,” said Hicks, who’s planning to play for the Pioneers in 2024. “I was trying to score a goal in tonight’s game.”

Alec Hughes, who’s a first-year member of the Western Mass. Pioneers, led the way offensively with two goals and a pair of assists.

“We really needed to win tonight’s game to make the playoffs,”

Hughes said. “It has been a lot of fun playing for this soccer team this summer.”

The home team, who scored five goals in a home match for the first time since a preseason friendly with KO Elites FC, took a 1-0 lead six minutes into the opening half.

The scoring play began with Gabriel Pacheco sending a pass from the left side of the box to Tomas Duben, who tapped the ball over the goal-line past AC Connecticut goalie Clayton Knibbs.

Less than ten minutes later, Du-

ben was credited with the assist as Hughes fired a shot into the left corner for his first goal of the match.

Duben and Hughes hooked up again during the 32nd minute. A tap in by Hughes increased the Pioneers lead to 3-0, which was the halftime score.

“I always try to put myself in the right spot and let my teammates find me,” Hughes said. “I just want to do anything to help my team win.”

The Pioneers outshot AC Connecticut, 15-1, during the first 45 minutes of the match.

Any thoughts the AC Connecticut players might’ve had of making a second half comeback didn’t last very long.

A goal by Lucio Beron, which was assisted by Hughes in the 58th minute, gave the Pioneers a commanding 4-0 advantage.

AC Connecticut, who also lost the first meeting to the Pioneers, 2-1, received an early Christmas gift following an own goal in the 73rd minute.

A couple of minutes later, Jordan Koduah scored the Pioneers final goal, which was assisted by Hughes.

It was a perfect way to wrap up the regular season for the Pioneers players and their supporters.

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OBITUARY EARLY DEADLINE

The week of August 3rd publication of the *Journal Register* the obituary deadline will be 3 p.m. on Monday, July 31.

DEATH NOTICES

Peritz, David
Died July 17, 2023
Services July 28, 2023

Santos, Walter
Died July 24, 2023
Services July 31, 2023

Weldon, Robert J.
Died July 23, 2023
Services are private

The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$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.

O B I T U A R I E S

David Peritz

On Monday, July 17th, 2023, our beloved son, father, brother, partner, teacher, and friend, David Peritz, age 50, of Palmer passed away in a freak accident at his home. David was a passionate man who lived and loved simply and fully.

David leaves behind his parents, Robert and Kathleen "Pat" Peritz Sr. of Palmer, his beloved children Brandon and Morgan and their mother, Kathy Peritz, and his incredible life partner, Jen Hodgdon, who brought him 11 years of happiness, travels, and never ending adventures. Jen was his rock on the road of life. He also leaves behind his three siblings Robert Peritz Jr. (Colleen Peritz), Ivy Peritz-Smith (Terrance Smith), and Holly Leland (Aaron Leland), 6 nieces and nephews (Samantha Farquhar, Bryce Peritz, Cameron Peritz, Kylie Leland, Haley Leland, & Evan Smith) who he adored, his godmother Laurie Canterbury, the entire McCrystal and Stahelski families, and so many friends and family who loved David beyond words. We would be remiss if we did not mention David & Jen's amazing dog, Bill, who may have spent the first 6 years of life in a lab but now explores the beach, the woods, and so many other happy places.

David was a Palmer High School Class of 1991 graduate. He went on to graduate from Umass Amherst and Westfield State University earning his teaching license. David worked the last twenty years plus as a special education teacher in the Palmer Public Schools helping countless students and families find success including through his work with the Special Olympics. David could care less about the school "paperwork"; he only cared about the needs, dreams, and confidence of the students in front of him, and the many co-workers he also called friends.

David could talk about his family forever. He truly loved being a father, and nobody was better at it. Brandon, Morgan, and Jen were his world, and he never let the world's minutia get in the way of life. David loved music, camping, breweries, and hiking, and he actively shared these passions with his family and friends. David never waited to make adventures happen. Whether it was attending concerts, helping others, or hiking five 4000 footers in VT in just 3 days last month, David was



"all in" with constant smiles and laughter. David found his peace and solitude in the woods and on the ice playing and coaching hockey. David hardly ever asked for help from anyone, but he was always first in line to help. While heartbroken, David's family and friends take solace in knowing that he lived life his way and the right way.

In lieu of flowers, any donations can be sent to Country Bank (Palmer, MA) where an account has been set up for a future scholarship/memorial fitting of David or by visiting <https://gofund.me/fa7e6a64>. We also ask that you take a hike in the woods or a nice long walk in honor of David. Let's remember how David lived...as it was amazing.

"How lucky we are to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."

Calling hours will be held on Thursday, July 27, 2023, from 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home, 1475 N. Main St., Palmer. A graveside service will be held on Friday, July 28th at 10:00 a.m. at St. Thomas Cemetery on Thorn-dike St in Palmer.

Walter (Wally) Santos

PALMER—Walter (Wally) Santos, 98, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on July 24, 2023. Born on December 25, 1924 in Palmer, MA, he was the son of Antonio Santos and Albertina (Chaves). Walter was a life-long resident of Palmer where countless friendships were made, a family was raised, and his faith held him strong as he was a communicant of the Divine Mercy Parish. Growing up on the farm on Baptist Hill with his 14 siblings, Walter's commitment to family was rooted and his appreciation of hard work was established. At the age of 17, Walter joined the Navy and fought in WWII before returning home after witnessing the signing of the Japanese Surrender in Tokyo Bay, a treaty of peace. After returning home, Walter met the love of his life of 61 years, Jeannette Vertefeuille, who predeceased him in 2013. Walter worked hard to grow his family and create a beautiful home with a yard that was the envy of the neighborhood and a garden that could feed the entire

family. Walter loved his work as he worked most of his life in the paving industry, spending many years with his co-workers that he called family at Palmer Paving Corporation and continued working in the paving business, retiring the shovel at the young age of 82. Walter was well known for his social charm, a little bit of luck, his ability to work just as hard as the guy 60 years younger than him, his faith, but most importantly, his pride and love for his family. Whether it was with a visit to family or friends to deliver something delicious from his garden, a game of go fish, a rock on his swing in the yard or a simple shared meal, Walter loved and cherished every moment with his family and friends and always left with a hug and a laugh.

He will be deeply missed by his children, Maureen Gallagher (William), Suzanne Moskal (Edward), Janine LeBlanc (Mi-



chael), Carl Santos (Robin), and Michelle Siddle. His love will also remain with his grandchildren, Jessica Noonan (Ted), Jennifer Johnson (Gabe), Jeffrey Main, Jamie Latozke (Alan), Jacquelyn Siddle, Timothy Siddle (Brittany), Kaitlyn Santos, Connor Santos; six great-grandchildren; and his sister Patricia Jusko and his brother George Santos.

Visitation will be Monday, July 31, from 4-7 PM at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home. Friends and family may either gather at the funeral home on Tuesday at 9 AM or meet directly at Divine Mercy Parish for a 10 AM Funeral Mass. Burial will follow in St. Anne's Cemetery. For those wishing, donations may be made in his memory to Shriver's Hospital, 516 Carew St. Springfield, or Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758516, Topeka, KS, 66675. Please visit www.beersandstory.com.

Robert J. Weldon, 1940-2023

MONSON—Robert J. Weldon, 82, passed away July 23, 2023. Robert was born in Ware, MA, October 28, 1940 to the late Ralph S. and Gertrude (Royce) Weldon. He has been a life long resident of Monson and was a graduate of Springfield Trade School. For many years he was a machine operator at DucPac in East Longmeadow and a mechanic for Palmer Motor Coach. He was a volunteer for the Monson Fire Department and a member of the Day Spring Thomas Lodge of Masons. He enjoyed camping, boating in Maine, long

road trips to nowhere, antique engines and Hemmings Motor News.

Robert leaves his wife of 52 years, Lydia M. (Smith) Weldon, and their children; Robert J. Weldon Jr. and Becky Weldon both of Monson and Roy Weldon and his wife Whitney of E. Longmeadow; four grandchildren, who loved their "Bumpa" dearly; Maddison Weldon, Mackayla Weldon, Benjamin Weldon and



Alexander Weldon; and a nephew, Rich Weldon. Bob was predeceased by his parents and his brother, Ralph Weldon.

Services have been entrusted to Lombard Funeral Home of Monson and will be private. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made in Bob's memory to The Monson Fire Department PO Box 335 Monson, MA 01057.

Police/Fire

Police Logs

PALMER

The Palmer Police Department had 448 incidents for the week July 11-July 18 including:

July 11

Cody Seth Boone, 28, of 175 Osborne Road in Ware was pulled over on State Street and summonsed for uninsured vehicle, suspended registration and no inspection sticker at 2:39 p.m.

Jody M. Sicard, 52, of 43 Lamb St. in South Hadley was arrested on charges of driving under the influence of drugs, multiple counts of drug possession with intent to distribute. Sicard was arrested on Thorn-dike Street at 6:39 p.m.

Tyler Preston Gregoire, 30, of 108 Peterson Road in Palmer was summonsed on charges of assault with a deadly weapon and malicious damage at 11:59 p.m. on Peterson Road.

July 12

Micheal Hunter, 38, of 476 Holiday Drive in Rutland, VT was arrested on multiple charges of possession of firearm or ammunition without firearm ID card, multiple drug charges and possession of a felony firearm. Hunter was arrested on N. Main Street at 8:56 a.m.

Micheal P. Hurley, 52, of 130 Peterson Road in Palmer was pulled over at Ware Street and Brecken-ridge Street for failing to stop/yield. Hurley was arrested on a charge of drug possession at 10:03 p.m.

July 14

Phillie Zikalala, 30, of 1321 Main St. in Palmer was pulled over at 5:18 p.m. and summonsed for uninsured motor vehicle, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, and driving with a suspended registration.

Kevin James Ryder Jr., 24, of 28 River St. in Thorndike was arrested on a warrant at 9:47 p.m. on River Street.

July 15

Janice Abreu, 34, of 20 Hawley St. in Worcester was arrested during a motor vehicle stop on charges of operating a vehicle under the influence of liquor, no inspection/sticker, rate of speed greater than was reasonable and proper. Abreu was stopped on Lawrence Street at 9:30 p.m.

July 16

Joshua Franco, 18, of 56 Haviland St in Ludlow on charges of assault and battery, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, disturbing the peace and trespassing at 2:10 a.m. on Maple Street.

Fire Logs

Bondsville

Bondsville Fire Department for the period July 11-17, Bondsville fire responded to three calls.

On Wednesday, July 12 at 9:18 a.m., the department responded to Thorn-dike St for the smell of something burning. The department returned to service at 10:20 a.m.

On Saturday, July 15 at 7:01 a.m., the department responded to Pine St for the medical assist. The department returned to service at 7:25 a.m.

On Monday, July 17 at 1:25 p.m., the department responded mutual aid to West Ware Road in Palmer for a structure fire. The department returned to service at 1:52 p.m.

Three Rivers

The Three Rivers Fire Department responded to four calls for the week of July 17-24.

On Friday, July 21 at 11:36 p.m. the Department responded to

a motor vehicle accident on Springfield Street. The Department returned to service at 2:58 a.m.

On Saturday, July 22 at 4:48 p.m. the Department responded to an EMS incident on Maple Terrace, returning to service at 5:10 p.m.

On Monday, July 24 at 12:10 a.m., the Department responded to an EMS incident on Palmer Road, returning to service at 12:28 a.m.

At 5 p.m. the same day, the Department responded to a smoke investigation on Anderson Street, returning to service at 5:10 p.m.

SNAP Gap Act to expand eligibility and increase benefits

WASHINGTON—Sen. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), a member of the Senate Health, Labor, Education and Pensions Committee, and Rep. Lori Trahan (MA-03) today introduced the Bridging the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Gap Act, legislation to expand SNAP benefits for young adults, families, and Americans with regular medical expenses by breaking down harmful rules that limit eligibility and benefit levels.

The legislation would ensure that working students ages 17 to 21 can continue to receive their families' benefits and extend existing rules for seniors and people with disabilities so that all SNAP beneficiaries who spend at least \$35 a month on health-related expenses can receive higher monthly benefits.

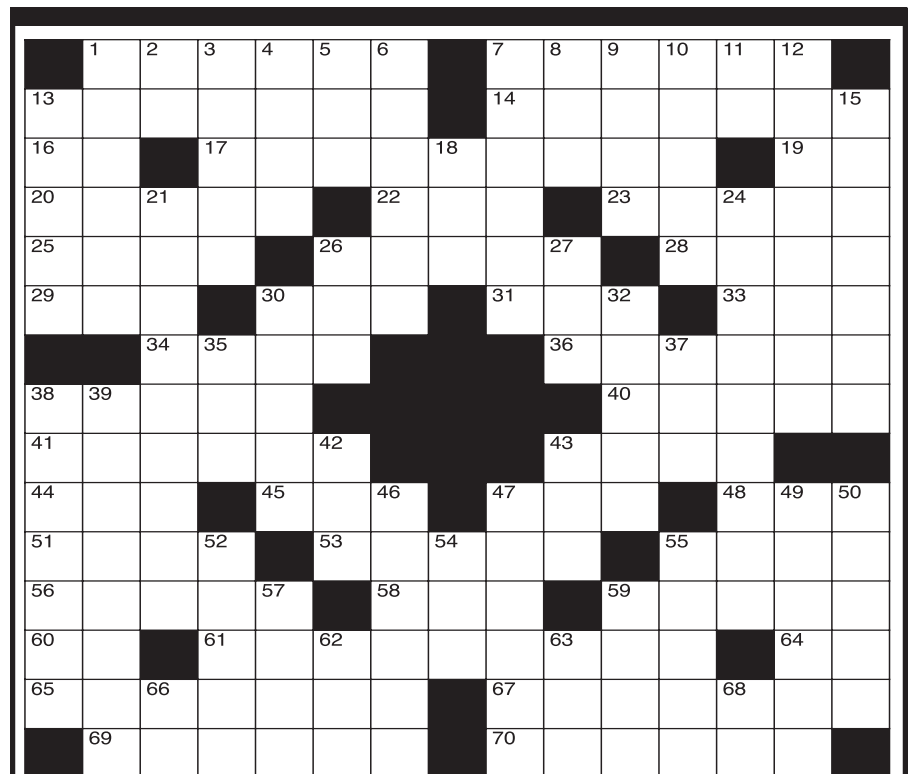
"Nearly one-in-three college students are food insecure. Families across the country are seeing Congress cut their benefits as their medical costs rise. The Bridging the SNAP Gap Act will reverse this trend and help ensure that no student or family falls through the cracks," said Markey. "Families should be able to put food on the table, this shouldn't be controversial."

"For decades, working families have relied on SNAP to help make ends meet and get food on the table. I'm proud to be working with Senator Markey to introduce the Bridging the SNAP Gap Act to strengthen the vital nutritional support that SNAP provides," said Trahan. Specifically, the Bridging the SNAP Gap Act would: Raise the student income exclusion age from 17 to 21 to let young people receive SNAP benefits as part of their parent(s)' household without reducing the amount of SNAP benefits the family can get; Guarantee that all SNAP recipients can get additional benefits if they have at least \$35 of monthly medical expenses; and, Reduce and streamline paperwork

for the medical expense deduction floor, currently at \$165 in 2023, with increases mirroring that of Medicare Part B rates.

In April, Markey led his colleagues in a letter to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Social Security Administration urging them to make SNAP more accessible for Americans who are receiving or are eligible for Supplemental Security Income benefits, including

low-income elderly and individuals with disabilities. In December 2022, Markey successfully advocated to insert a provision to ensure that victims of "SNAP skimming" would have their benefits repaid by requiring the USDA promulgate regulations to reimburse individuals and families whose SNAP benefits were stolen.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Bonus materials
7. Formal names
13. Free from restraints
14. One who scrapes away
16. Type of device
17. Skin cancers
19. The Show Me State
20. Plate glasses
22. Red-brown sea brew
23. Small (Fr)
25. Flightless Australian birds
26. High IQ group
28. Stiff structures
29. Revolutions per minute
30. Where a bachelor lives
31. Licensed for Wall Street
33. A place to park
34. Energy, style and enthusiasm
36. An important creed in Catholic Church

38. 18-year astronomical period
40. Furies
41. Removes from the record
43. Noted child psychiatrist
44. Feline
45. High schoolers' test
47. Not happy
48. They ___
51. On top
53. Precious stones unit of weight
55. Moved quickly
56. Seagulls
58. A seed with hooks or teeth
59. Partner to "ooed"
60. Exclamation of surprise
61. Most unpleasant
64. Organization help service members
65. Type of cockatoo
67. Humorous criticisms
69. Went through and

70. Wakes up
- CLUES DOWN
1. Settle in tents
2. Big
3. Books
4. Masses of eggs in fish
5. Language
6. Not standing
7. Chinese philosophy
8. Computer giant
9. A device to catch
10. Emits coherent radiation
11. Actor O'Neill
12. Smallest interval in western music
13. Not lower
15. Revolves
18. Leavened bread
21. Number above the line in a fraction
24. Cable
26. Adult male
27. Airborne (abbr.)
30. Bullfighting

- maneuvers
32. Broadcast
35. ___ Angeles
37. Vehicle
38. Not religious
39. North American peoples
42. A baglike structure
43. Body art (slang)
46. Picked for a role
47. Actress Tomei
49. Former hoopster "Big Country"
50. Icelandic poems
52. More pleasant
54. It can add flavor to meat
55. Self-immolation by fire rituals
57. Expression of annoyance
59. ___ Spumante (Italian wine)
62. Consumed
63. Body part
66. Thus
68. In reply (abbr.)

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

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

NEXT WEEK

PALMER LIBRARY CONCERT: The library, located at 1455 North Main St., will host one of its free summer concerts from 10:30 to 11:30 on Tuesday, Aug. 2. Storytellers Motoko and Eshu will entertain the crowd.

GAME NIGHT: The Monson Public Library, 2 High St., will hold a teen game night from 4-6 p.m. The theme will be party games.

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.

MONSON CULTURAL PICNIC Performances, songs and dances celebrating people of all different cultures will be held as the Monson Cultural Picnic from 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 12, at Veteran's Field, 110 Main St., in Monson. Admission is free. Free cookout but bring lawn chairs. There will be a petting zoo, vendors, face painting and a disc jockey playing music from around the world. Enjoy the park, playground, skatepark and tennis courts.

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 Road to learn or practice different crafts. There are new crafts every Wednesday. For more information, call 413-245-3607.

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

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

ONGOING

FARMER'S MARKETS: The Brimfield Farmers Market at Hitchcock Academy

is a fun place to find cool, unique products, plants and seasonal produce every Saturday while you meet your neighbors and support Hitchcock and local businesses.

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

LINE DANCING CLASS: 3-5 p.m. and/or 6:30-8:30 p.m., every Thursday at the Monson Polish Club, 7 Bliss St, Mon-

son. 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,

Summer Library notes

Palmer Public Library August Calendar

Programs with an asterisk* require registration. Please register online at <https://www.palmerlibrary.org/events/>.

Tues., Aug. 1

Drop in Craft; all day (youth)
*Summer Book Buddy Story Time; 10:30-11:15 a.m. (youth)

Library on the Lawn; 2-4 p.m. (youth)
Teen Dungeons & Dragons Club; 3:30-5 p.m. (teen)

Wed., Aug. 2

Summer Concert Series, Motoko and Eshu, Storytellers; 10:30-11:30 a.m. (youth)
*Roblox Club; 3:30-5 p.m. (youth)

*100 Everyday Signs, 5 week ASL Workshop; 6:30-7:15 p.m. (adult)

Thurs., Aug. 3

*Teen Perler Bead Workshop; 2-4 p.m. (teen)
Teen Anime Club; 3:30-5 p.m. (teen)
*Clay Critter Making; 4-5 p.m. (youth)

Mon., Aug. 7

Sensory Play Group; 12:30-3 p.m. (youth)

Tues., Aug. 8

Drop in Craft; all day (youth)
*Summer Book Buddy Story Time; 10:30-11:15 a.m. (youth)

Library on the Lawn; 2-4 p.m. (youth)
Teens Dungeons & Dragons Club; 3:30-5 p.m. (teen)
*Poetry Open Mic Night; 6:30-7:45 p.m. (adult/teen)

Wed., Aug. 9

Summer Concert Series, Li Liu Acrobat; 10:30-11:30 a.m. (youth)
*Intro to Tarot for Tweens & Teens; 2-4 p.m. (teen)
*Roblox Club; 3:30-5 p.m. (youth)

Thurs., Aug 10

*Clay Critter Painting; 4-5 p.m. (youth)

Mon., Aug. 14

Sensory Play Group; 12-3 p.m. (youth)
*Fic or Flick; 3:30-4:30 p.m. (youth)

Monson Free Library August Calendar

The Monson Free Library Association is hosting a series of summer reading events, programs and activities for those of all ages.

Programs with an asterisk* require registration. Please register online at <https://monsonlibrary.com/calendar-of-events/>.

Tues., Aug. 1

Summer Comic Book Club; 3:30-4:30 p.m. (children)
Music Tuesdays; 5-7 p.m. (adult)
Qi Going with Randy Emerson 5:45-7 p.m. (adult)

Wed., Aug. 2

Story Time On the Go!; 10:30-11:30 a.m. (children)
Teen Read Book Discussion; 2-4 p.m. (teen)
How to Fight Book Bans; 6:30-7:30 p.m. (adult)

Thurs., Aug. 3

Homeschool Hangout!; 1-2 p.m. (children/teen)
Lego Club; 3:30-5 p.m. (children)
Teen Game Night - Party Games; 4-6 p.m. (teen)

Fri., Aug. 4

Sensory Play on the Patio; 10:30-11:20 a.m. (children)

Tues., Aug. 8

Music Tuesdays; 5-7 p.m. (adult)
Qi Going with Randy Emerson; 5:45-7 p.m. (adult)

Wed., Aug. 9

Story Time On the Go!; 10:30-11:30 a.m. (children)
*Amazing Maurice's Escape Room, 1 p.m. group; 1-2 p.m. (teen)

*Amazing Maurice's Escape Room, 2 p.m. group; 2-3 p.m. (teen)

*Amazing Maurice Escape Room, 3 p.m. group; 3-4 p.m. (teen)

*Cribbage Club; 4:30-6:30 p.m. (adult)

Thurs., Aug. 10

Homeschool Hangout!; 1-2 p.m. (children/teen)
*Dungeons & Dragons, Session I; 2:30-3:30 p.m. (teen)

*Dungeons & Dragons, Session II; 3:30-5 p.m. (teen)

Tues., Aug. 15

Music Tuesdays; 5-7 p.m. (adult)
Qi Going with Randy Emerson; 5:45-7 p.m. (adult)

Wed., Aug. 16

Story Time On the Go!; 10:30-11:30 a.m. (children)
Teen Read Finale Movie!; 6-9 p.m. (teen)

Thurs., Aug. 17

Homeschool Hangout!; 1-2 p.m. (children/teen)

Fri., Aug. 18

Summer Reading Finale!; 10:30-11:30 p.m. (children)

Tues., Aug. 22

*Tech Cafe; 11 a.m.-12 p.m. (adult)
Scrabble; 5-7 p.m. (adult)
Qi Going with Randy Emerson; 5:45-7 p.m. (adult)

Wed., Aug. 23

*Cribbage Club; 4:30-6:30 p.m. (adult)
Sit & Stitch; 5-7 p.m. (adult)

Thurs., Aug. 24

Homeschool Hangout!; 1-2 p.m. (children/teen)
*Dungeons & Dragons, Session I; 2:30-3:30 p.m. (teen)

*Dungeons & Dragons, Session II; 3:30-5 p.m. (teen)

Tues., Aug. 29

Qi Going with Randy Emerson 5:45-7 p.m. (adult)

Thurs., Aug. 31

Homeschool Hangout!; 1-2 p.m. (children)



Maggie McLarey smiles as she works on needle felting a rat.



Zoey Walsh is ready to work on her needle felting.

Submitted Photos by Sarah Thomas



Noella Parker is shown concentrating on her craft.



Instructor Angelina Fleury shares her knowledge of needle felting with teens.

Oh,
rats!

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Public Notices

TOWN OF WALES Conservation Commission Notice of Public Hearing

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act, Chapter 131, Section 40, a Public Hearing will be held by the Wales Conservation Commission on **August 3, 2023**, at the Wales Senior Center (Old Stafford Rd. Wales, MA) at **5:00 PM**, for a Request for Determination of filed by property owner Mark Fredette, with a project location of 47 Fountain Rd. Wales, MA 01081. Please go to www.townofwales.net under Conservation Commission for all information regarding this hearing or email conservation@townofwales.net 07/27/2023

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

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

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

NORTHERLY by Amber Road, 350.67 feet;
EASTERLY by Lot 1 on said plan, 90 feet;
SOUTHERLY by Lots 9, 8, 7 and 6 on said plan, 240 feet;
WESTERLY by Lot 32 on said plan, 20 feet;
SOUTHERLY by said Lot 32, 100 feet; and
WESTERLY by Pleasant Street, 55 feet. Together with a right of way in common with others to use all roads as laid out on said

plan for purposes of travel, and the right in common with others to use a fifty-foot right of way on Mashapaug Road beginning at a point 488 feet northeast of Amber Hill Brook for the purpose of getting to and from Hamilton Reservoir and to keep a boat at same. SUBJECT to restrictive covenants, conditions, easements, agreements and reservations as set forth and as referenced in an instrument dated October 17, 2008 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 17522, Page 192, as the same may still be in force and applicable to locus. For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 22371, Page 551. These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

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

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

TOWN OF PALMER LICENSING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING LIQUOR LICENSE Notice is hereby given to all parties interested that the Licensing Commission will hold a public hearing in the Meeting Room of the Palmer Town Building 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA on

Monday, July 31, 2023, at 5:30 P. M. on the application from Ding Restaurant Inc. D/B/A Yummy Asian Cuisine 1033 Thorndike St. Palmer, for a transfer of license from Hai Jiang to Dingbin Chen. Licensing Commission, Town of Palmer 07/20, 07/27/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD23P1503EA Estate of:

Susan M. Kennedy Date of Death: 06/04/2023 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Megan Read of Charlton, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Megan Read of Charlton, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/15/2023.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the

Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court. Date: July 18, 2023

Rosemary A. Saccomani Register of Probate 07/27/2023

PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 5 M.G.L. the Palmer Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, August 7th, 2023 at 7:15 p.m.** in the Town Hall Administrative Building to consider amending the Town of Palmer Zoning Ordinance, specifically section 171-124 - Marijuana Establishments and Registered Marijuana Dispensaries, to increase the limit of retail establishments from 3 to 4 and to include text that identifies what is needed to qualify as a retail establishment.

A copy of the amended language may be inspected on the Planning Department website at www.townofpalmer.com/planning or at the Planning Department office at the Town Hall Monday through Thursday 8:30am - 4:30pm.

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

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

Michael Marciniac, Chairman 07/20, 07/27/2023

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN ON THE APPLICATION OF PIECE BY PIECE MOVERS, LLC OF 140 BETHANY RD., MONSON, MASSACHUSETTS, FILED BY ITS OWNER, EDWARD MEZER, TO BE A PUBLIC WAREHOUSE

WITHIN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF HAMPDEN, TOWN OF MONSON FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING A GENERAL WAREHOUSE BUSINESS AS PROVIDED IN CHAPTER 105 OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS 07/27, 08/03/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD23P1550EA Estate of:

Paul David Santucci Also known as: Paul D Santucci, Paul Santucci Date of Death: 02/02/2023 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

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

The Petitioner requests that: **Cheryl M Santucci of Brimfield, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/18/2023.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsuper-

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court. Date: July 21, 2023

Rosemary A. Saccomani Register of Probate 07/27/2023

TOWN OF PALMER LICENSING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING LIQUOR LICENSE

Notice is hereby given to all parties interested that the Licensing Commission will hold a public hearing in the Meeting Room of the Palmer Town Building 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA on **Monday, July 31, 2023, at 5:30 P. M.** on the Issuance of a Farmer Series Pour Permit to Seven Railroads Brewing Company LLC located at 1235 Park Street Palmer, MA.

Licensing Commission, Town of Palmer 07/20, 7/27/2023

(SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket 19 SM 005880 ORDER OF NOTICE

To: **Heirs, Devisees and Legal Representatives of the Estate of Thomas K. Tighe, A/k/a Thomas Kevin Tighe; Kathleen Marie Tighe, Individually and as Personal Representative of the Estate of Thomas K. Tighe, a/k/a Thomas Kevin Tighe; Joseph Kevin Tighe; Thomas Aloysius Tighe**

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

U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, for Residential Asset Securities Corporation, Home Equity Mortgage Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-EMX4

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Monson, numbered 84 Bethany Road, given by Thomas K. Tighe to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mortgage Lenders Network USA, Inc., its successors and assigns, dated September 23, 2005, and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 15373, Page 409, as affected by a Loan Modification dated July 10, 2017, and recorded in Said Registry of Deeds in Book 21772, Page 247, and now held by plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **August 28, 2023**, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, **GORDON H. PIPER**, Chief Justice of this Court on July 17, 2023.

Attest: **Deborah J. Patterson** Recorder 19-007818 07/27/2023

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT DOCKET NO. 23 SM 002871 ORDER OF NOTICE TO:

Dennis E. Wentworth, Jr.

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. C. 50 §3901 (et seq):

U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in **Holland, numbered 37 Wales Road**, given by **Dennis E. Wentworth, Jr. to Bank of America, N.A.**, dated February 26, 2010, and recorded in **Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 18203, Page 169**, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **09/04/2023** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, **GORDON H. PIPER** Chief Justice of this Court on 7/21/2023.

Attest: **Deborah J. Patterson,** Recorder 07/27/2023

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

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

If you're a self-starter who enjoys community journalism and who can envision themselves connecting with our communities, we encourage you to apply for this position. Not a remote position.

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- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
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- Proficiency in Associated Press style

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

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

www.turley.com

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

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Contact name & phone number for more information _____



MMWEC Awards Scholarships to Ludlow High School Students

LUDLOW—The Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company has selected three students from the Ludlow High School class of 2023 to receive scholarships.

The scholarships are awarded to deserving graduates pursuing a college education in engineering, environmental sciences, business, finance, accounting, or a related field. Since 1998, MMWEC has awarded \$62,000 in scholarships to help students defray the cost of higher education.

This year's scholarship recipients are Anthony Costa, Michael Costa, and Nina Palmer.

Anthony Costa plans to attend University of Massachusetts-Amherst and major in engineering. In high school, he participated in Leading Lions, the Portuguese Club, and the Stock Market Club. He was a member of the National Honor Society and received the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship.

Palmer will attend the University of Massachusetts-Lowell and study environmental engineering. While at Ludlow High School, she participated in Leading Lions, was captain of the cheer-leading squad, and served as a teacher's assistant in the science department. She was also a member of the

National Honor Society, a scholar athlete, and the recipient of the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship and the Clarkson Book Award.

Michael Costa plans to attend the UMass Amherst Isenberg School of Management and study finance/accounting. At Ludlow High School, he was a member of the Stock Market and Portuguese clubs. He was also a member of the National Honor Society and the recipient of the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship.

"MMWEC's 2023 scholarship recipients embody leadership both inside and outside of the classroom," said MMWEC Chief Executive Officer Ron DeCurzio. "We look forward to their continued success through their collegiate journeys."

MMWEC is a not-for-profit, public corporation that provides a variety of electric power supply, financial, risk management and other services to the commonwealth's consumer-owned municipal utilities. MMWEC is the operator and principal owner of the Stony Brook power plant on Moody Street and has been a corporate resident of Ludlow for over 40 years.

Bipartisan push to end violence against children

WASHINGTON—Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, alongside Rep. Maria Salazar (R-FL) and Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) introduced a major new bill to update and strengthen existing U.S. Government efforts to end global violence against children, improve inter-agency coordination in addressing violence and promote the use of evidence-based strategies and information gathering capabilities.

Globally, half of all children experience violence. Violence includes abuse, neglect, and exploitation and can be physical, sexual, psychological, or emotional in nature. Violence can happen anywhere-in communities, schools, homes, workplaces, and in humanitarian settings. Sexual exploitation and abuse take many forms and include human trafficking, early and forced child marriage, homicide, online exploitation, and gender-based violence.

"America has played a leading role in developing strategies to reduce and end child violence, and our new bipartisan bill builds on that legacy to help put an end to violence against children once and for all," said McGovern.

"We must do more to protect vulnerable children from being exploited by evil individuals across the world," said Salazar. "I am proud to co-lead the Strengthening Efforts to End Violence Against Children Act to help in-

nocent children who are at risk of sexual exploitation, human trafficking, forced child marriages, online abuse, and gender-based violence."

"It is our duty to protect children from exploitation and violence," said Fitzpatrick. "I am grateful to partner with my colleagues on the bipartisan Strengthening Efforts to End Violence Against Children Act to ensure that appropriate resources are directed to protect vulnerable children at risk of violence around the world."

Specifically, the Strengthening Efforts to End Violence Against Children Act will:

Align current interventions for vulnerable children with USAID's Advancing Protection and Care for Children in Adversity Strategy and evidence-based interventions such as the INSPIRE strategies and Violence Against Children Surveys.

Elevate the USAID Special Advisor for Assistance to Orphans and Vulnerable Children and require the Special Advisor to advise USAID offices, bureaus, and field missions and other U.S. government agencies to address violence against children through the current whole-of-government strategy. Update USAID reporting requirements to identify how U.S. agencies are utilizing the INSPIRE strategies and findings from Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys, including in response to the effects of COVID-19.

Greater Springfield YMCA has programs for all ages

SPRINGFIELD—The YMCA of Greater Springfield is a leader when it comes to serving the human needs in greater Springfield by providing programs that promote life-long personal growth and balanced development of spirit, mind and body.

The Y provides care through nationally accredited Early Learning Centers located in Springfield (15m-5y) and Wilbraham (4w-5y).

The Y before and after school programs for children K-6 grade are offered at multiple locations throughout Springfield, Chicopee, and Hampden/Wilbraham. The School Age programs' goal is to nurture young people by providing a safe place to learn foundational skills, develop healthy, trusting relationships, and build self-confidence.

The Y-AIM program is a social intervention program designed to provide positive adult mentors, strong peer relationships, and academic support, in and out of school, to middle and high school students in Springfield.

In addition, the Y operates four summer camp and program sites: Camp Weber in West Springfield, Stony Brook Acres in Wilbraham, and Fun City Summer Program in Springfield, all for ages 6 through 15. Small Fry Summer Program in Springfield is for ages 5 entering Kindergarten.

At two of the health and wellness centers located in Springfield and Wilbraham, members have access to: cardio and strength training equipment, group exercise classes, personal training, wellness programming, steam and sauna, *pools, *gymnasium and *childcare while parents work out (*Wilbraham location). The Scantic Valley Y location offers preschool sports and swim lessons for all ages.

The Y believes in making their programs and services affordable for all. The Y will not turn anyone away based on an inability to pay full fees. Financial assistance is made possible through the generous contributions of YMCA donors.



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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-869-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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Westview Farms hosts Christmas in July

By Mya Walker
Intern Correspondent

MONSON – Westview Farms Creamery of Monson held a “Christmas in July” Craft Fair, featuring over 85 vendors, July 22.

Vendors from near and far were in attendance, selling items such as herbal teas, wood sculptures, pet accessories, and more.

The day was perfect for the festive outing, as the weather was nice - perfect for a Westview vanilla cone.

Some crafters came from as far away as New Hampshire, like new vendor Nicole, selling products from her new business, For the Love of Hair.

One of the more local vendors, Valerie of West Springfield said “The event was advertised very well, and the view was amazing too.”

K-9 demonstrations were sponsored by Palmer based business, Paws 4 Blue K-9 who raise money for K-9 Officers in need.

Valerie said “the K-9 demonstration is really what drew us here today”.

An Interskate 91 booth was also set up, with K-9 Chase from the popular Disney Cartoon Paw Patrol as their mascot, adding a bit of excitement during the demonstration for the children.

Locals were amazed at how well the event turned out and the assortment of things they could do, as Westview Farms also has a goat pasture, playground, and



Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon
Mother daughter duo Erin Kraus and Brenda Foisy-Pelissier of Honey Bear Tea smile behind rows of tea.

outside sitting tables.

Not only did the attendees enjoy their time at the event, but the vendors did as well.

Jamy of Monson, owner of Town

Farm Crafts said she “enjoyed meeting new people.”

“I love making connections with other vendors and talking about what we sell!,” said Jamy.



Turley Photos by Mya Walker
Attendees walk through a field full of local crafters and visiting vendors.



Turley Photos by Mya Walker
While some attendees spent their time looking in booths, others enjoyed live music and ice cream.



Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon

Three generations: Mya Walker, Jamy Gagnon and Claudia Shields share a three generation family photo while participating in the Craft Fair.



Turley Photos by Mya Walker

Shoppers look through a variety of animal apparel, at the Town Farm Craft tent.



Shown are doggie bow-ties crafted by artisan Jamy Gagnon.



Dog collars were on display at the Town Farm Craft tent.



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Paws 4 Blue K-9 held first annual fundraiser

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
dgagnon@turley.com

PALMER/ MONSON – Paws 4 Blue K-9 held the company's first annual fundraiser at Westview Farms Creamery, July 22.

The event featured live K-9 demonstrations, an appearance from Paw Patrol K-9 Chase, a lottery raffle basket and Paws 4 Blue K-9 merchandise for sale.

Police Officers from near and far came to support the fundraising initiatives, with a percentage of Paws 4 Blue K-9 merchandise proceeds donated to the Buddy Foundation and 100% of donations made to the Buddy Foundation.

"It's amazing to see all of the K-9 handlers come out and support the cause," said Officer Sean Ford.

The Buddy Foundation provides grant funds to K-9 handlers from non-

budgeted agencies and retired K-9 without benefits.

Volunteer Shannon Brynes of Brimfield said "these dogs do a really difficult job...they protect their handlers and us."

She added "they put their lives on the line so our brothers, husbands etc. can come home... they don't care about the consequences, they just do it."

According to Ford, K-9s tend to "draw more attention and people pick up on it right away," making them a "force multiplier."

"People may not respect a person, but they will respect a dog," said Ford.

Ware Police Sergeant Diana Gliniecki said dogs are also "great for community policing" as "these dogs bridge a gap between the department and the community."

"They are great for school aged students... sometimes a child's first interaction with an officer is with these dogs,"

said Gliniecki.

She added the Ware Police Department used to attend community reading day with now retired K-9 Officer Sampson, which made that introduction "a memorable one" for the students.

While retired K-9s were simply "enjoying retirement," sports dogs performed a live K-9 demonstration for spectators.

Brynes said her dogs Shiva and Grimlock performed a "defensive handler" demo.

A "bad guy decoy," acted by Amherst Patrol Officer Matthew Frydryk, followed closely behind a handler to which the dog responds defensively.

Video footage of the demonstration shows Shiva nipping at the decoy as he advances towards the handlers. When the decoy retaliates or instigates the

dog, its reaction intensifies.

Once a whistle is blown, the dog relents.

Founder Janice Garabedian recognized the generosity of Westview and thanked them "for hosting the event and for giving all the K-9s a homemade dog sundae after they finished the demos."

She also thanked her team, Mary O'Halloran, Donna LeFleur, Stephanie Harris and Judy Coates for supporting her mission, as well as the support of all the handlers.

"They are a great group of people and without them, the day wouldn't have been possible," said Garabedian.



Ware Police Sergeant Diana Gliniecki and retired K-9 Officer Sampson showed up to the Paws 4 Blue K-9 first annual fundraiser



Monson locals Brooklynn and Mckenna Fontaine pose for a photo with Paw Patrol K-9 Chase.



Ware's retired K-9 Officer Sampson came out to support the Paws 4 Blue K-9 cause.



K-9 Officer Marvin sitting before the Amherst Police Cruiser.



Sports dogs Shiva and Grimlock pose for a photo after performing demo's throughout the event.



Shown are volunteers Judy Coates, Mary O'Halloran, founder Janice Garabedian and volunteers Donna and Gaston LaFluer.

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