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SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

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HISTORY

Firefighter unites Okinawa veteran's documents with his family

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer

MONSON – A heartwarming story of family and legacy has been compiled by Monson firefighter Lisa Hamill, which started with the discovery of one U.S. Marine, who had long been thought lost to time.

Henry Sozek was a U.S. Marine from Rhode Island who fought in World War II, received two Purple Hearts and died in the Battle of Okinawa. Monson Fire Capt. Lisa Hamill happened to buy a box that contained photographs of Sozek, along with documents from his service.

"I have been flea-marketing probably about 30 years," Hamill said. "I go every year to the Brimfield Flea Market that comes three times a year, and then to the Marier's Flea Market that comes the week prior to Brimfield."

"In May of this year, we were at Marier's, and I purchased this box of what I believed were just mostly photographs. Once I got home, underneath was a lot of documentation of what I later found out was this Marine."

After looking through the documents and realizing how valuable



Submitted photo
Here is a photo of Henry Sozek, the U.S. Marine whose story was nearly lost, but for a box of his memorabilia bought by Monson Fire Capt. Lisa Hamill.



Turley Publications photo by Marcelo Gusmão
Lisa Hamill holds up a copy of "Beneath Cross 308: The Story of a 1st Marine," which she hopes to donate to the Monson Library.

VETERAN | page 10



Walter Sozek, pictured by his brother's grave.

Submitted photo

COMMUNITY

New CEO finds his sweet spot at QHCC

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com



Robert Lavoie

PALMER – It's been just over one month since Palmer Town Council member Robert Lavoie stepped in as the Chief Executive Officer of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce, and it's certainly been a "treat" so far.

Two weeks ago, Lavoie received a call that 8,000 surplus ice cream sandwiches needed to find a new home, and Lavoie decided he would drive throughout the 15 towns the Chamber covers and give them away.

Lavoie started with the schools, including summer programs at Old Mill Pond School, Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School in Ware and the Quaboag Regional School District, branching out to senior centers, community centers, veterans offices and more. He even donated the ice cream sandwiches to local police departments to give away at National Night Out.

This was, "the coolest thing about becoming CEO," Lavoie said.

But now it's back to business for Lavoie, who is focused on

building membership of the Chamber, as well as strengthening its role in developing the local workforce.

During his visit to the Quaboag Regional School District, Lavoie spoke with Assistant Superintendent of Development Madeline Smola about the need for outreach to local employers for the school's co-op program.

"I'm going to partner with the schools to start," Lavoie said. "They want to be used as a pool for regional employers... that is one of my goals."

Lavoie said the school district has a grant that would not only cover wages for students in the co-op, but it would also cover transportation.

Lavoie plans to work with the school district and meet with students to talk about the merits of participating in the co-op.

"Students can try out a job and see if it's for them or not. I'll sit with them and try to connect the pieces," he said.

Lavoie is well-versed in the importance of job opportunities and training for students, with his

CEO | page 9

ENTERTAINMENT

Local band celebrates 55 years of music with reunion concert

FAT returns to perform at Pulaski Park

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
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PALMER/MONSON – As local band FAT celebrates 55 years of rockin' and rollin' together, the group will host a celebratory concert at Pulaski Park Saturday, Aug. 12, from 2 to 8 p.m.

The celebration will feature live music from four local bands including Allen Brothers from 2 to 3 p.m., Peter J. Newland & RadioX from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., Jim K from 5 to 5:30 p.m. and FAT from 6 to 8 p.m.

Tickets purchased in advance are \$30 and available at St. Stan's in Three Rivers. Tickets purchased at the door are \$35.

FAT lead singer Peter J. Newland said the band had "maybe six to seven legendary concerts," at Pulaski Park in the '80s.

He added Saturday's event will serve as a sort of "revival of that."

"Pulaski Park was always a big favorite of ours," said Newland.

Being a Monson native and having established FAT with other local musicians while attending Holyoke Community College back in the day, Newland said the band has "always had a big following in Monson, Ware, Belchertown [and] Ludlow."

The band plays primarily blues-based rock and roll.

According to Newland, when the band first got together they modeled their style after the Rolling Stones.

"We were lucky because in the '70s there were a lot of really good blues bands coming through the colleges," said Newland.

He added some musicians he's met include Freddie King, Muddy



Shown is an event flier for Saturday's concert.

Submitted Photo

Waters, the Allman Brothers and Junior Wells.

"One of the highlights of my life was meeting those people and being able to play with them," said Newland.

One of the things that sets FAT apart from other bands is they have "always been original," writing and playing all of their own music, he said.

Most of the original members of FAT will be in attendance and performing at Saturday's event, with Newland singing lead and playing acoustic guitar as well as blues harmonica, Guy DeVito on bass, William "Benjie" Benjamin on drums and Jim K [Kaminski] on guitar.

Also performing Saturday, will be Tim Smith of Poco, and Mark Pappas and Cliff Goodwin, of The Joe Cocker Band.

Newland said the band made "local history," with their success in their prime.

In 1969, FAT released a self-titled album on RCA and went on to release a second record called "Footloose" in 1975 before signing a deal with Atlantic Records in 1980.

Unfortunately, Atlantic Records never released the FAT album.

However, the band later released the tracks titled "Past Due" on their own Dream Merchant Label.

While the band took a 10-year hiatus following the loss of the Atlantic Records deal, the band

eventually reunited and now play between five and 10 shows a year.

Newland said while the band was in college, there was another student who "always brought back the new word."

One day, he returned from vacation and "came back with the word FAT," said Newland.

He added, "FAT has been a term in the Urban Lexicon for decades... It began as a Beatnik term meaning cool, then a hippie term which was our time."

At the time, "fat" meant cool.

While the band had a few names that did not stick, Newland said when the other student heard the band perform he "kept saying 'you guys are fat... that's really fat man,' and that's the name that stuck."

According to Newland, "everybody liked it except the record companies."

Although the record deal fell through, Newland said the music scene has been "extremely fulfilling."

"It is creatively so fulfilling... you learn to approach it in other ways beside the money and the fame...there are other ways to 'be successful,'" said Newland.

He said "it is a staggering thing, the percentage of people who make it versus those who don't... The disappointment I experienced happens to a lot of people. It's the nature of the business."

Newland said that while 55

BAND | page 6

COMMUNITY

Residents discuss future of Veteran's field

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
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MONSON – The Monson Select Board recently hosted a public meeting seeking insight from residents regarding their ideas for the future of Veterans' Field.

Veterans' Field sustained damage as a result of heavy rain, traffic and vehicles during this year's Monson Summerfest, leading to the July 25 meeting discussion.

Select Board Chair Patricia Oney said the purpose of the meeting is "to hear from people in town

about how they feel the field should be used."

Oney said she believes the Board is "trying to suss out" whether the community would like the field to be utilized for recreation or events.

"It seems that using it for both has caused a number of problems," said Oney.

Board member Peter Warren suggested creating a contingency plan "to keep vehicles off the field," in the case of excessive rainfall leading up to an event.

"At the end of the day, that field has a high water table. We are never

going to change that without a ton of money," said Warren.

He added the town may eventually "be looking at having [events] on the street."

Though he is "a fan of having [Summerfest] on the field," Warren said he doesn't "ever wanna deal" with pushing or towing cars out of Veterans' Field again.

Resident Aaron Carpenter said in "[his] opinion on the matter, is to make sure that we gauge the sentiment of the public before making any unilateral decisions."

FIELD | page 9

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Baystate Wing hosts first Community Benefit Forum

By Ryan Drago
Correspondent

PALMER – Members of the medical community joined each other at the Palmer Public Library to hear about the Community Health Needs Assessment conducted by Baystate Wing Hospital.

The presentation on July 28 was organized and hosted by leaders of Baystate Wing Hospital and Health New England. The goal of their presentation is to advance community health through their assessment and collective action.

It has always been Baystate Health's mission to improve the health of the people in their communities and it's through these assessments, which happen every three years, officials identify and improve the health needs of community members.

The first to speak and give the introductions was Baystate Health Senior Community Benefits Specialist Brittany Rosario. Rosario, who addressed the at-a-glance report included in the presentation, which would be fleshed out by a myriad of speakers of Baystate Health and Health New England.

CHNA pamphlets were provided to all in attendance. Rosario also noted after the presentation that tables and poster presentations were

available to learn about various programs and grants currently funded by both hosting parties in response to the community's needs.

The first speaker was Baystate Health Regional Hospitals President Ron Bryant, who said he was proud to share his thoughts on the

success Baystate has had in their efforts to provide the best support and care for their communities.

He acknowledged the hospitals' physicians in his remark noting that they are dedicated to the

FORUM | page 6

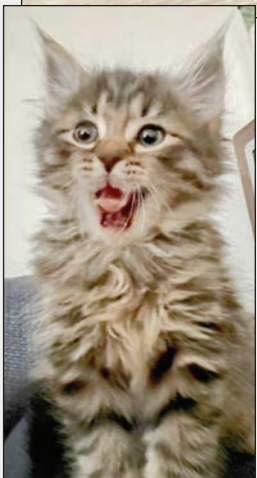


Turley Photo by Ryan Drago
Shown from left is Carol Zins, of Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation, Emily Coderre, of Education to Employment, and Lindsay Aucoin, technical assistance coordinator of QVDC.



0 4 8 7 9 1 3 1 8 0 9

Pet of the Week



AERIS

This is Aeris, from Palmer. Though she be but little, she is fierce!

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.

King of Hearts seeks forever home

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
dgagnon@turley.com

BRIMFIELD – After spending the past month with volunteers and employees of Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Animal Sanctuary in Brimfield, the bright-eyed, bushy-tailed “King of Hearts,” is ready to find his forever home.

“King of Hearts,” or “King” is an orange, adult male cat who was found in Palmer and relocated to the shelter by the Milltown Animal Control Officer on June 30.

“His face definitely lights up anytime anyone enters the room... It is definitely the highlight of his day anytime someone comes to visit,” said Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Founder Rachael Max. “If we could do that on a permanent basis, for the rest of his life, I think that’s what he would want.”

While King is “much happier and has gotten up his strength,” since he first arrived at the shelter, he is battling feline leukemia, an autoimmune disease.

Though it is not cancerous like human leukemia, it is an illness that can affect a cat’s gums, teeth and digestive processes.

In some cases, feline leukemia may be fatal and is highly contagious among other cats. However, the illness cannot be transferred to humans or dogs.

Max said King needs a “fospice” home, which is a combination of a foster and hospice.

“It’s kind of like an adoption, you get to take care of him, you get to do the things, but you keep in close touch with us to make sure everything is going okay,” said Max.

She added HTAT will help with any medical expenses related to the cat’s illness under the condition medical care is sought through the shelter.



King of Hearts is shown sitting prett.

ness under the condition medical care is sought through the shelter.

King is currently on antibiotics for stomach issues which he takes in his food.

Max said the shelter provides him with wet food as the leukemia has increased his teeth sensitivity.

“We don’t know if he’s going to live two weeks, two months, [or] two years...his immune system has gotten to the point of being very weak [and] we don’t know if he can recover from that,” said Max.

She added right now, he “seems to have a good quality of life,” and they “just want to make him happy as long as we can.”

“I think he would rather bond with his own human rather than waiting for someone to come in and visit him. I think that is what he would want; that’s what I would want if I was in his place,” said Max.

She said King is “just what you’d expect of an orange male cat,” adding “the second he sees people he purrs, purrs, purrs.”

According to Max, fospice is one of the “nicest, kindest, things you can do for somebody.”



King is freshly groomed after having matted hair removed. Scan QR code to donate to Here Today Adopted Tomorrow animal sanctuary and support local animals in need of care.



Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon

“A lot of people will say, ‘oh, I can’t do that if I know I’m going to lose the animal in a little while,’ but it takes a very special person to be able to be there for somebody at the end of their life knowing that animal isn’t going to be there forever,” said Max.

She added it is a “very special lesson to teach your children, that every moment of someone’s life is special... they need you just as much at the end as they need you at the beginning.”

To inquire about fostering/adopting King, please call the Here Today Adopted Tomorrow[s] main line at ,413-324-8224 or email smudge@heretodayanimal.org.

Max suggested anyone interested

in “fospicing” King should “have a big heart...be patient with him, give him a lot of love” and expect him to “be babied a little bit.”

He’s very happy to see people, he’s happy all the time - he wants to be around people,” said Max.

Here Today Adopted Tomorrow is hosting an annual fundraiser Saturday, Aug. 12 at Westview Farms Creamery in Monson from 11 a.m to 6 p.m to support programs the organization offers which help animals like King.

The event will feature live music, ice cream, raffles and local vendors.

For those who are unable to attend the event but would like to support HTAT, please scan the QR Code provided.



Juliet Rose Pottery Studio's garden.

Submitted photo

Pottery studio celebrates summer with ceramic exhibit

MONSON – Juliet Rose Pottery Studio, 191 Reimers Road, will hold its 19th annual T-Pot & Tings Exhibition and Sale in the gardens of the studio from Aug. 11 to 14 from 11a.m to 4 p.m. The event is open to the public at no charge.

Potters Linda Spelko and Juliet Bacchas create a wide variety of ceramic art for home and garden use, including teapots, trays, bowls, and many garden sculptures. Visitors are invited to enjoy their beautiful flower garden and the pottery studio. Pottery for home and garden, as well for personal use and as gifts will be available for purchase.

On Friday, Aug.11, at 11:30 a.m.

the potters will open the kiln in the studio to reveal the freshly fired new work.

Special events include a one-hour demonstration of Raku on Saturday, Aug. 12 at Noon. Glazed ceramics are taken from the kiln still glowing red hot and are placed in a material, sawdust or newspaper, to catch fire. This technique starves the piece of oxygen, which creates a myriad of colors within the glaze.

Also, on Sunday Aug. 13 at 1 p.m., Juliet will demonstrate the African Coiling Technique She will also demonstrate her carving technique with the new vessels. For more information , visit the studio at www.julietrosepottery.org. Email: julietrosepottery@gmail.com or call 413-563-9916.

Tax Collector's office closed for three days

PALMER – The Palmer Tax Collector’s Office will be closed Aug. 15, 16 and 17. For the staff to attend the Massachusetts Collector and Treasurer’s Association Annual School at UMass Amherst.

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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Corrections

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

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SUPPORT COMMUNITY BUSINESSES

Finance Committee approves solar field noise test

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer

MONSON – The Finance Committee met this week to conduct routine business and discuss the hiring of a third-party vendor to conduct noise testing on Wilbraham Road.

Noise test

The Committee voted to hire an outside vendor at the cost of \$4,200 for a noise test at 53 Wilbraham

Road in order to fulfill mitigation requirements for the solar field that the town approved.

“It’s important for the town to have an independent party conduct that information for us so we can receive it back,” said Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz.

“There are certain mitigation requirements that the contractor of the field itself and the overseer of the field has to be in compliance with,” Wolowicz said, “This is an opportunity for us to make sure that they

are in compliance with that because there is still a surety bond that’s being held by the town that the contractor has been asking to be turned back to them.”

Wolowicz explained that this is in compliance with the town’s agreement with ZPT Energy Solutions for the solar field that was approved back in 2016.

“The Planning Board (...) has not felt that it has been fulfilled to what they are asking for, so they need to have an independent test-

ing,” Wolowicz said. “We can’t ask the company that put the field in to test it, because that’s the hen checking the chickens – or whatever you farmers talk about, I don’t know.”

At the Town Administrator’s recommendation, the Committee voted unanimously to pay the \$4,200 for the outside vendor. These funds will be allocated from the town’s Reserve Fund, which Wolowicz said historically goes unused.

Other business

At the recent selectmen’s meeting, the town accepted a bid from McCarthy to take over van services, with savings described as close to \$150,000 per year, according to Finance Committee Chairman Peter Fimognari.

“For several years, this (Finance) Committee’s asked for them to put it out to bid, just to see, and it’s been pushed back,” Fimognari said.

“Isn’t it amazing?” said Committee member James Pennington. “I’m going to say this, right now,

publicly, isn’t it amazing that when they put it out to bid, it came in, what, 100 and something thousand dollars less than what they could do in-house? I think it’s amazing that they did that.”

“Oh, it makes me so happy,” Pennington said sarcastically, before adding, “What a joke, come on now, this is ridiculous.”

The Committee also voted unanimously to pay the \$190 bill in dues to the Association of Town Finance Committees.

Veterans’ Field to host a multicultural picnic on Aug. 13

Seth Chaffee
Staff writer

MONSON – On Sunday, Aug. 13, a multicultural picnic will take place at Veterans’ Field from 1 to 5 p.m. Karina Dize is the executive director of AfriKQue, an organization that helps to unite people of

different cultures.

“We focus on the areas of homelessness, poverty and hunger” Dize said.

The main focus of the organization is women empowerment, especially through women artists. AfriKQue brings awareness to the talents of women, such as making

jewelry or being able to sew.

“A lot of the talents of a woman are being highlighted at our event and that’s what AfriKQue really stands for. Working and empowering women,” she said.

This will be shown at the picnic through Colombian dances, live singing, a zumba demo, and a free

cookout. Vendors of local businesses will be supported and there is an emphasis this year on young entrepreneurs. For example, children who attend will be making lemonade and have their own lemonade stand.

This event has been happening for six years now and has been

funded through Monson REDO grants as well as the town of Monson contributing other monies so events like this are possible. Monson Savings Bank has also been a sponsor for the organization.

“Monson Savings has been with us for years, and they’ve been passing out free things to the pub-

lic”, Dize said.

She said she thinks the most important thing about the multicultural picnic is for people to get together with their families because it is a “family-friendly event.” Along with being able to take part in the offered activities, it is important to support the vendors, she said.

North Brookfield Savings Bank hosts Back to School drive

NORTH BROOKFIELD – North Brookfield Savings Bank is a strong supporter of the local school systems and students who attend them. They believe that every child, regardless of their financial circumstances, should have the opportunity to start the school year feeling confident, excited and ready to learn. That is why North Brookfield Savings Bank is kicking off the sixth year of their Back-to-School Supply Drive.

Throughout the entire month of August, North Brookfield Savings Bank will be collecting school supplies and monetary donations at all branch locations in North

Brookfield, East Brookfield, West Brookfield, Ware, Belchertown and Three Rivers. All donations collected will be delivered to local public schools to be distributed to school children who may not have the needed supplies to start their year. To get things underway, the Bank kicked off the fundraiser by purchasing over \$500 in supplies. The branch employees, equipped with brightly patterned backpacks, lunchboxes, pencil cases, notebooks and various other fun supplies, are getting creative with their “Back-to-School” themed tables, in hopes it will encourage those visiting the branch to donate

as well.

Some suggested school supply donation items that can be dropped at any North Brookfield Savings Bank branch location are: New Backpacks (unisex), Lunchboxes, Spiral Notebooks, Pocket Folders, 12” Standard Rulers, #2 Pencils, Pencil Sharpeners, Pencil Case, Colored Pencils, Washable Markers, Erasers, Glue Sticks, Scissors and Tissues.

“North Brookfield Savings Bank is incredibly proud to once again host the Back-to-School Supply Drive. We want all children to begin the school year with the essential supplies they need,

in turn giving them the confidence and enthusiasm that allows them to continue to learn successfully,” said Nicole Syriac, digital marketing strategist. “It was so amazing to witness the generosity displayed during our annual Back to School Supply Drive. Customers, community members and our employees were so giving and really showed how much they care for the children of our schools. We look forward to seeing that same generosity this year.”

To learn more about North Brookfield Savings Bank’s community giving efforts visit www.NorthBrookfieldSavingsBank.com.



NSB employees proudly displays some of the school supplies donated. Submitted Photo

Zucchini Festival and Car show

HOLLAND – The Friends of the Holland Community Center, 40 Brimfield Road, will host their annual Zucchini Festival and Car Show on Sunday, Aug. 22, from 12 to 4 p.m. Admission to the festival is free.

They are looking for more entries for the car show, any makes and models, including motorcycles, small campers, and tractors. This year there will be no judging, but it will be a fun opportunity to show off what you have. Vehicles can start parking at 11:30 a.m.

The Zucchini Cookoff is happening this year after a pandemic hiatus. There is no charge to enter. The categories are appetizers/salads, entrees/casseroles, breads/desserts. There will be no access to the kitchen so the contestants must maintain their own temperatures (think crockpots or icepacks). Participants must have their dishes at

the Center by 12:30 p.m.

The week of the 14 participants can bring their biggest zucchini to the Holland Market to get it weighed on their scale. Then bring it to the festival to see if they win the biggest zucchini.

Crafters will display their handmade crafts, and there will be nonprofit vendors there, like The Last Green Valley, the Trails Committee, Here Today Adopted Tomorrow, The Friends of HRA, and Open Spaces.

For some relaxation try out the giant chess board and corn hole. For family fun try the bubble foam machine for adults and kids to romp through. Ryan from “Out of the Ark Educational Animal Shows” will

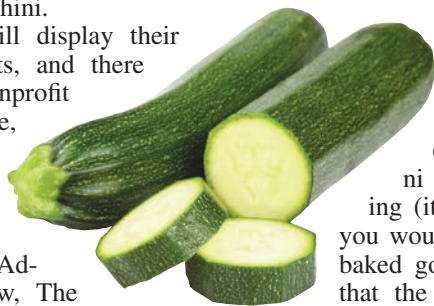
inspire with up-close educational encounters from a variety of his exotic pets.

Girl Scout Troop 163 from Sturbridge will be selling hot dogs, bottled waters and chips.

The Friends will have a baked goods table, and the Center will be passing out sliced zucchini and ranch dressing (it’s delicious). If you would like to donate baked goods you can do that the night before or the morning of the festival.

Drop off times for baked goods at the community center: Saturday, Aug. 19, from 4 to 6 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 20, from 11 to 11:45 a.m.

For more information contact Activities@HollandMA.org or call 413-245-3163.



CAMPUS NOTES

Local Students Receive Bachelor’s Degrees from UMass Amherst

AMHERST – Approximately 5,500 students received bachelor’s degrees in over 100 majors at the University of Massachusetts Amherst’s Undergraduate Commencement on May 26, 2023 at the McGuirk Alumni Stadium. Below is a list of students from your area who earned a degree.

BONDSVILLE
Blayne Tyler Nichols

MONSON
Jacob Ryan Carrier, Aline Pereira Castro, Liam Arthur

James, Liam Michael Metcalfe, Lauren Rose, Nothe, Abigail Katherine Shrewsbury, and John Stephen Wilson.

PALMER
Christopher Scott McGrath Jr
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or call and leave a message at:
508-867-3241

PUBLIC NOTICE BAIL COMMISSIONERS NEEDED EASTERN HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COURT JURISDICTION

The Massachusetts Trial Court hereby gives notice of the availability of one or more Bail Commissioner appointments for the Eastern Hampshire District Court located in Hampshire County.

A Bail Commissioner is appointed by the Massachusetts Trial Court to make release and bail determinations for persons arrested when courts are closed (overnights, weekends and holidays.)

PLEASE NOTE: This is an appointment only. No salary or benefits are included but fees may be collected from the person in custody at the time of release. The base fee is \$40.00.

Bail Commissioners are required to have reliable transportation in order to travel to the Eastern Hampshire District Court and the police departments located in Amherst, Belchertown, Granby, Hadley, Pelham, South Hadley and Ware. Proximity to the communities listed and familiarity with criminal law and procedures helpful.

If you are interested in being considered for appointment please contact:

CATHERINE M. COUGHLIN, ESQUIRE
STATE BAIL ADMINISTRATOR
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE TRIAL COURT
tcbaill@jud.state.ma.us

The appointing authorities do not discriminate against any applicant because of race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, status as a veteran, basis of disability or any other federal, state or local protected class.

Viewpoints

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid

Zucchini and its pests

The zucchini season started out with promise. I sowed my seeds early and covered the hills with Reemay (a light, polyester row cover) to keep out the striped cucumber beetle. From past experience I knew that young seedlings could be decimated by this pest.

Within a few days the seeds had popped. I thinned them to three per hill and continued to water.

Soon they grew too big for their covering, and I figured that at this point in the game they could withstand a little damage. Sure enough, striped cucumber beetles found the plants.

It was harder to sneak up on them during the day, but at night I was able to position a cup of soapy water under a leaf and "tap," sending them in for a swim. My plants endured a bit of leaf damage, but not much more than that.

Populations dropped off and I presumed that it would be smooth sailing from here to harvest. So I thought.

Along came the squash bug, a brownish gray insect about a half-inch long with a triangular top and an oval bottom. Many people confuse squash bugs with stink bugs because they do indeed stink!

Squash bugs have a taste for the foliage and fruit of the cucurbit family, whereas stink bugs don't. Entire plants can be killed if infestations are severe enough.

You'll notice yellow stippling on the leaves first, followed by wilting and browning; they head for the fruit last. Because I was on the look-out for the cucumber beetle I saw the adults before any damage ensued and sent them swimming as well, sometimes "two at a time."

If you miss the grownups, chances are you will have to scout for eggs. Usually they are laid in a "V" pattern on the undersides of the leaves.

They are hard to scrape off, so I crushed them between my two thumbnails. I must have also passed by a few eggs, so next I had to look for young squash bugs called nymphs.

If a bug could ever qualify for cute status, this one would with its one quarter inch light gray body, black legs and head. "Tapping" comes in handy here too - this time I brought a shallow cardboard box out into the garden, gave the leaf a good tap, and the whole team was cornered then dumped in a bath of soapy water.

It's beginning to sound as if all I do is hang out in the garden all day catching bugs - not true. With only two hills of zucchini all this work took just a few seconds each morning and night.

At last, we harvested the first zucchini and summer squash, picked at about six inches. At that size the flesh is tender, and the seeds are barely evident. The cucumber beetle did not transmit a disease.

Nor did the squash bug kill the plant. But while I was busy looking under the leaves for obvious bugs, the squash vine borer was at work inside its stem.

One giveaway that you have it: a mushy, sawdust-like excrement appearing outside of small holes in the stems. Affected plants also have leaves that wilt despite being well watered.

I tried removing the white, wrinkled worms from the hollow stems by making a slit with a needle and removing the insect. I must have missed a few - a strong possibility considering the female moth lays two hundred individual eggs at the plant's base!

The eggs hatch into larva that tunnel into the stems, eventually killing the plant.

As ridiculous as it sounds, wrapping a shiny barrier such as aluminum foil around the plant's base does seem to deter the red bodied, transparent-leaved moth from her egg-laying endeavors.

My dead plants were carried off to the trash, not the compost pile, and I will turn over the soil in both fall and spring to kill any pupae that may be overwintering. Rotating your crops can also help.

Some gardeners wash down their stems daily to dislodge and kill the eggs. Others make a late sowing only; supposedly after July Fourth or so egg laying ceases.

I made a second sowing a couple weeks back. If the borers don't get these, the frost likely will, but I am crossing my fingers that an Indian Summer may mean more zucchini for our household, because what we had certainly wasn't enough!

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.



FAMILIES HEADED TO THE BEACH...



Grandma's Excellent Adventure



A senior's walk into the record books

By J. Mark Powell
jmarkpowell.com

I've been getting into shape recently. But my progress pales compared to what a remarkable senior did nearly 70 years ago.

Emma Gatewood's life was hard. Born in Ohio in 1887, she was one of 15 kids in a family that slept four to a bed.

Her father lost a leg in the Civil War and spent the rest of his life drinking and gambling. Though her formal education ended in the 8th grade, she kept learning by devouring encyclopedias, Greek classics, and books on woods and wildlife.

At age 19 Emma married a 27-year-old teacher and tobacco farmer named P.C. Gatewood. The honeymoon ended quickly, when Emma discovered she was expected to work in the fields alongside the men, plus cook, clean, and raise their 11 kids.

P.C. was mean. He killed a man in 1924 but avoided prison because the judge said his many children would go hungry with him behind bars.

He beat Emma often, sometimes almost to the point of death. When he turned violent, she tried to run into the nearby woods. Safe in the security of her beloved trees and plants, she found peace and solitude.

P.C. repeatedly threatened to send Emma to a mental institution to keep her from divorcing him.

In 1939, he had her jailed in the first step toward having her committed. Seeing Emma's cracked teeth and broken ribs, their town's mayor moved her into his home and helped her get a job.

She divorced P.C. the next year. A series of odd jobs saw her through the next decade until her children were all grown.

Then, as so often happens, fate unexpectedly called. For Emma, it came in the form of an old magazine.

She happened upon a 1949 National Geographic issue featuring an article on the Appalachian Trail.

At that moment an incredible idea took root in her mind. She would become the first woman to walk the entire length of the trail, all 2,200 miles from Springer

Mountain in Georgia to Maine's Mount Katahdin.

At age 66, no less.

The idea grew into an obsession. At a time when people nearing 70 were expected to relax in rocking chairs, Emma began preparing to attempt what no woman before had ever done.

Her legs were strong, she was in good health, so why not?

She began her journey at Mount Katahdin in July 1954 - and promptly met with one disaster after another. She broke her glasses, she got lost, then she ran out of food.

When rangers found her, they persuaded the hapless sexagenarian to go home.

But while Emma Gatewood may have failed, she didn't quit. She told no one about her setback and quietly prepared for a second attempt.

She learned from her initial mistakes and changed her strategy.

In 1955, she started two months earlier this time and began in Georgia. Again, it wasn't easy.

That 1949 article had made her believe the route was a smooth trail. It wasn't, and her Keds tennis shoes were no match for the rugged mountain terrain. She expected to find shelters along the way; there weren't any, forcing her to sleep in piles of leaves.

But she stuck with it and kept walking. Newspapers picked up her story as she went, and soon she acquired a nickname - Grandma Gatewood - along with celebrity status.

She achieved her goal 146 days later when she reached Baxter Peak atop Mount Katahdin. She signed the register, sang "America the Beautiful," and said to herself out loud, "I did it. I said I'd do it, and I've done it."

Grandma Gatewood then appeared on the Today show, was a guest on a TV game show, and was even profiled in Sports Illustrated where she said, "This is no trail. It's a nightmare. For some fool reason, they always lead you right up over the biggest rock on top of the highest mountain they can find."

And she didn't stop walking. She hiked the entire Appalachian Trail a second time two years later, walked all 2,000 miles of the Oregon Trail in 1959, and at age 76 she did the Appalachian Trail yet again (though this time in sections), becoming the first person to walk it three times.

She went right on hiking right up until her death in 1973 at 85.

What was the secret to her success? Grandma Gatewood refused to let anything - failure, adversity, or advanced age - stand in her way.

Holy Cow! History is written by novelist, former TV journalist and diehard history buff J. Mark Powell.

Letters to the Editor

Thank you from Wings of Song

On behalf of the Wings of Song choral group, we would like to thank all those who helped make our Blue Boat Home concerts such a success.

We would also like to thank Melissa Hoffer, Massachusetts Climate Chief for attending our concert at Shepherd Hill Regional High School and speaking about climate change.

With the generous support of all our attendees, friends and contributors, we were able to donate \$300 to the Environmental Defense Fund which was tripled by a special fundraising program they were involved in at the time our donation was made.

Wings of Song will resume rehearsals in the fall on Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. at St. Anne's Church, Fiskdale with our next program, Celtic Noels. We are also resuming our annual auction on Nov. 4 at the Federated Church of Sturbridge/Fiskdale.

Our concerts as always will be admission-free and we strive to keep our membership dues as low as possible. We continue to rely on audience contributions and WoS Friends donations to continue offering high-quality concerts to our community.

If you would like additional information on the chorus or our auction, please visit our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/wingsofsong.us or our website, www.wingsofsong.us. You may also email any questions or a request to be added to our new newsletter announcing anything "Wings of Song" at wingsofsong-chorus@gmail.com.

With much thanks and appreciation for all our followers,

Carol Curtin
President, Wings of Song

Second Chance Animal golf tournament great success

Dear Editor,

I am writing on behalf of everyone at Second Chance Animal Services to express our gratitude and appreciation for the tremendous support we received for the 11th Annual Second Chance Golf Tournament. This event was a great success made possible by generous sponsors and supporters.

The tournament was held to raise funds for programs to benefit the underserved at Second Chance Community Veterinary Hospitals, a cause near and dear to my heart. Our four hospitals in North Brookfield, Southbridge, Springfield, and Worcester provide access to full-service veterinary care. Each location offers subsidized rates to those that qualify so all pets can get the care they need. This helps keep pets in their homes with the people they love.

Thank you to the golfers who joined us for a fun-filled day of golf at Cold Spring Country Club. We are particularly grateful to our sponsors including Ted and Barbara Hebert of Teddy Bear Pools and Spas, as well as all the prize and auction item donors, and volunteers who made this event possible. Your contributions helped us reach our fundraising goals and bring awareness to our mission. The generosity shown by our community is a testament to the importance of animal welfare and highlights the significant role that animals play in our lives. We could not have achieved this success without the support of our community.

On behalf of Second Chance Animal Services, I extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported the event. Your contributions are deeply appreciated.

Lindsay Doray
Chief Development Officer

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Blue grosbeak

Massachusetts Audubon Society reported a blue grosbeak in Hadley. The blue grosbeak is one of just a few birds with blue feathers. The male is dark blue with two reddish-brown wing bars. It has black feathers around the base of its large silver bill.

The female is plain brown overall, with dark wings and tail. She has two buff brown wing bars and a large gray conical shaped bill. Immatures resemble the adult female. The young males in the spring of the next year start to show blue patches. Immature plumage is kept for one year.

Blue grosbeaks forage on the ground, hopping about in search of insects. They also glean foliage, eat spiders, seeds and wild fruits.

The female lays two to five pale blue eggs in a nest of rootlets, grasses, twigs, snakeskins, cotton and bark strips lined with grass. The nest is usually placed in a shrub, vine tangle or tree.

These grosbeaks often twitch and rapidly spread their tails when agitated. During migration, they can be found with buntings.

Their song is a warbled phrase of musical notes and the call a loud "chink."

Poolside visitor

I received an email from a Wilbraham Hampden Times reader. She had a red-tailed hawk land on the side of her swimming pool in July. She said it stayed about five minutes and she was able to get some photos of the hawk.

Update on osprey nest and more

I received an email about an osprey nest in Warren on South Street near a pond. He said the nest is visible from the road. There are also three great blue heron nests on the far shore of the pond, but they are not as noticeable.

He said on a recent visit, "The osprey

chicks looked to be close to fledging, their flight feathers looker fully formed and the two young osprey in the nest each exercised its wings." He said there were still three great blue herons in two different nest.

He said a pond on New Reed Street near the osprey nest often has bald eagles show up and great egrets have been seen there in August.

Massachusetts Audubon Society sightings

In Berkshire County a short-billed dowitcher was seen in Sheffield and single merlins in Pittsfield and Lenox. Franklin County had three sandhill cranes in Ashfield and five semipalmated plovers in Whately.

In addition to the blue grosbeak in Hadley Hampshire County had 18 greater yellowlegs and two sanderlings in the East Meadows in Northampton and three red crossbills at Quabbin Park in Belchertown.

Worcester County had a Bonaparte's gull and an acadian flycatcher at the Quabbin Reservoir in New Salem, four sandhill cranes in Hardwick, two black vultures in Fitchburg, two cliff swallows in Ashburnham and a sora at Bolton Flats Wildlife Management Area in Bolton.

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 edowne@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must confirm authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Please send opinions to:
The Journal Register
Letter to the Editor
24 Water St.,
Palmer MA 01069,
or by e-mail to:
mharrison@turley.com

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

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

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

Police/Fire

Trooper recruits prepare for 88th graduation

NEW BRAINTREE – The 88th Recruit Training Troop is in the final phase of training at the State Police Academy before graduation.

All 167 recruits joined together to complete a tradition that involves running in formation while calling a cadence, as they travel the hills of the town's back roads.

"I want to be a Mass State Trooper," could be heard being called as the recruits crested the top of Wine Road, and made their way down Utley Road, before turning down Memorial Drive where spectators gathered to cheer them on.

A sea of gray and navy-clad recruits could be seen coming down the road, despite the early morning summer haze, as the State Police Pipes & Drums performed moving melodies.

The graduation ceremony will be held on Thursday, Aug. 3 at the MassMutual Center in Springfield. Doors open at 9:30 a.m., and the ceremony will begin at 10:30 a.m. The ceremony will also be livestreamed on the Massachusetts State Police's Facebook page.



The 88th Recruit Training Troop of the State Police Academy ran through New Braintree last Thursday morning.

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette



The State Police Pipes & Drums performed as recruits crossed Memorial Drive.



The 88th RTT prepared to turn down Memorial Drive.



Recruits smiled at their well-wishers.

Fire Logs

BONDSDVILLE

For the period July 25 to July 31, Bondsville fire responded to 1 call.

On Saturday, July 29 at 10:15a.m., the department was dispatched mutual aid to Norma Street in Palmer for a possible structure fire. While in route, Engine 32 was redirected to the Palmer fire station for station coverage. The department returned to service at 11:15a.m.

The Bondsville Fire Department responded to one call from August 1-7.

August 3 at 4:00 p.m. Respond-

ed with mutual aid to Wilbraham Street for a structure fire. Returned to service at 7:30 p.m.

MONSON

The Monson Fire Department responded to five fire calls and 29 emergency medical service calls from July 31-August 6.

July 31 at 11:20 a.m. Responded to Wood Hill Road for a logging skidder vehicle fire, with mutual aid from Palmer and Hampden. Returned to service at 2:11 p.m.

July 31 at 12:23 p.m. Responded to Lakeside Drive for down power lines, with mutual aid from

Wilbraham. Returned to service at 12:40 p.m.

August 2 at 6:59 p.m. Responded to State Avenue for a smoke investigation, with mutual aid from Palmer. Returned to service at 7:21 p.m.

August 3 at 4:06 p.m. Responded with mutual aid for Palmer to Wilbraham Road for a structure fire. Returned to service at 7:20 p.m.

August 6 at 3:01 p.m. Responded to Peaked Mountain on Butler Road to assist Emergency Medical Services with extrication, with mutual aid from Hampden and Wilbraham. Returned to service at 5:05 p.m.

PALMER

The Palmer Fire Department responded to four fire calls and three medical assist calls from July 31-August 5:

August 1 at 8:52 a.m. Responded to Old Warren Road for a detector activation. Returned to service at 9:06 a.m.

August 1 at 3:59 p.m. Responded to Wilbraham Street for a structure fire. Returned to service at 8:40 p.m.

August 3 at 6:19 p.m. Responded to Wright Street for an alarm activation. Returned to service at 6:30 p.m.

August 5 at 4:28 p.m. Responded to Robinson Street for a motor vehicle accident with injury. Returned to service at 5:12 p.m.

Three Rivers

The Three Rivers Fire Department responded to five calls for the week of July 31-Aug. 7.

On Thursday, Aug. 3 at 3:59 p.m. the Department provided mutual aid for Palmer Fire Department for a building fire on Wilbraham Street. The Department returned to service at 7:43 p.m.

On Friday, Aug. 4 at 10:47 a.m. the Department responded to an alarm activation on Maple Lane, returning to service at 10:59 a.m.

On Saturday, Aug. 5 at 10:03 a.m. the Department responded to a smoke detector activation on Terry Street, returning to serve at 10:20 a.m.

That same day, the Department had another call at 10:18 a.m. to respond to an animal problem on Off Lariviere Street, returning to service at 10:24 a.m.

On Monday, Aug. 7 at 8:49 p.m. the Department responded to a tree on a power line on Main Street, returning to service at 11 p.m.

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Forum | from page 1

patients and to each other. "Every day, they want to come in as a team," said Bryant. In agreement with Bryant was Vice President & Chief Nursing Officer/Chief Administrative Officer Karli Barret. Being part of Baystate for 19 years, Barret agreed fully that Baystate's staff has passion and dedication in serving the community. This staff is, "Passionate about the work that they do for this community," Barret said. In their assessment, Baystate Wing Hospital serves communities in Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester counties. All these local communities have certain needs that revolve around varying aspects of health. In partnership with Baystate during this forum was Health New England, and Vice President & General Counsel of HNE Susan Silver O'Connor, who talked about their healthy partnership with Baystate Health. O'Connor referred to the substantial enrollment in their organizations. She said both organizations together serve more than 185,000 members in addition to taking care

of more than 52,000 Mass Health enrollees. To elaborate on certain community health needs was Director of Assessment and Capacity Building at the Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts, Lisa Ranghelli. With more detailed insight on the CHNA, Ranghelli presented an overview of the communities they serve and what are the most common needs. "It is such a broad focus," said Ranghelli. There are different health outcomes and behaviors to look into, and Ranghelli's presentation pointed out all the main health needs. Some of the key building blocks of health include housing, food and transportation. They continue to be prioritized needs in the rural and urban areas in the communities currently served by Baystate Wing Hospital. These needs fall in line with financial health and well-being. During the Covid-19 pandemic, many insecurities revolving around food, transportation and housing brought a lot of financial hardships for families throughout central and western Massachusetts. Violence and trauma were also highlighted as a main health issue,



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago
Kathy Service represented the Alzheimer's Association.

more specifically she said interpersonal and collective violence affect health directly. The other focus in the assessment included mental health, especially youth mental health. In the assessment, it was recorded that 45% of youth felt sad almost every day for two weeks or more during the past 12 months. During the pandemic, 19% of youth experienced post-traumatic stress disorder reactions. It was suggested by the research at Baystate that the best practice and model to build upon supporting youth and their health needs is to provide sup-

port groups and youth centers. Acting on supporting youth mental health was guest speaker, Randy Gratton of Ware. A lifelong member of the town, Gratton is a recovery coach for the Behavioral Health Network and briefly shared his personal experiences and struggles as a youth. Going through substance use treatment in the past, Gratton dedicates himself to supporting youths and their health. "Having mentors is our biggest need," said Gratton. "Continue to help, to listen, continue to mentor." The final speaker to close out



Recovery coach Randy Gratton spoke about taking action regarding youth mental health.

The forum was the Prevention and Community Health Director for the town of Ware and the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance, Gail Gramarossa. In her closing remark, Gramarossa talked about the growing model Baystate and Health New England has built in accommodating the most essential community needs. Gramarossa strongly believes that their model will keep progressing. She acknowledged the new recovery center now open in downtown Ware. The center is located at 52 Main St., and can be reached by calling 413-277-6290.

The center is available for those looking to get into recovery, treatment, and other health options. Their website is recoverycenterof-hope.org. To conclude the benefit forum, members of Baystate and Health New England got a final opportunity to tour different booths and learn about current organizations supporting different health needs in the community. The organizations represented include the Alzheimer's Association, the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation, the Quaboag Connector and Healthy Quaboag.

Band | from page 1

years have gone by, he believes "the time was well lived." "The connection to your fans, the deep and heartfelt experienc-

es... There are other things [beside fame]...Just the joy of playing with people, your experiences and your stories," said Newland. The experiences and stories he's shared and created over the

years have allowed his music and writing to become "richer and more rewarding," he said. "The people I met, the weddings I've played at... those experiences become the stories that I write and it feels right."

New Birth Church hosts Family Fun Day

PALMER – The New Birth Christian Church hold a Community Outreach "Family Fun" Day on Saturday, Aug. 12. Ever since Pastor Bill Webb took over the church in January of 2021 from his father, the late Pastor William Webb Sr., he has intended to get the church to do more community outreach. "We had a setback with COVID," Webb explained. "This is the first event we've been able to plan since all that stuff started."

The main attraction, according to Webb, will be the collection of back-to-school starter kits of school supplies that the church will be handing out to the guests in attendance. About 50 bags were donated to the church, and Webb hopes to distribute them to families in need. "I know a lot of people have moved into the Palmer area, maybe new families that haven't heard of us," Webb said. "We just want to let the community know, we're

reaching out and connecting with everybody. We're in the neighborhood, and if they need any help, assistance, or support, we're here for them." The event is scheduled to take place at the park right next to the church from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Webb said they will be serving hot dogs for lunch, along with chips and drinks. Local entertainer Maggie the Clown, from Sturbridge, will also be at the event, Webb said.

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SOCCKER

Monson caps perfect summer with championship win

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – The expectations are very high for the Monson girls' varsity soccer team every year.

The Monson faithful supporters got a preview of what to expect from this year's squad during the prestigious Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League.

Top-seeded Monson, who entered the summer league playoffs with a perfect 11-0-0 record, posted a 3-0 shutout victory over the sixth-seeded Pope Francis in the A-Division championship match, which took place at historic Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow, last Saturday afternoon.

"There are a lot of talented soccer players on this year's

team, especially the seniors" said Monson summer league coach John Monaghan. "It's probably the strongest group of players that Monson has had during the past ten years. They've now won the summer league title three times. They've also won the Western Mass. title twice and played in the state finals twice. The soccer IQ on this team is very high and it's been a lot of fun coaching them during the past few years."

Monaghan, who most likely won't be returning as the Monson summer league coach next year, has shared the coaching duties with Mark Bodak during the past several years.

The six seniors listed on the Monson summer league soccer roster are Lynzie Bailey, Sierra Martinson, Ciara Monaghan,

Aniah Myrie, Emma Murphy, and Kendall Bodak, who has made a verbal commitment to play Division 1 college soccer at Clemson University next year.

"Kendall is a national player and she always played for the New England Mutiny this summer," coach Monaghan said. "She has received some of the best coaching in the country. She's just a very special soccer player and she's also a good kid."

While the six seniors are the leaders, Monson also have several outstanding underclassmen.

Following the championship match, Emma Murphy's younger sister, Hannah, received the MVP Award.

"Hannah and Aniah Myrie



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
The Monson Girls Summer Soccer team captured the A Division Championship with a win over Pope Francis.

CHAMPIONSHIP | page 8



Hannah Murphy steps in to steal the ball.



Kendall Bodak stutter-steps before faking her opponent.



Chelsea Hull makes her way up the field.



Ciara Monaghan attempts to block a Pope Francis player's progress.



Hannah Murphy, center, is prevented the MVP award from PVSSL League Coordinators Dianna and Chris Kolodziej.

FOOTBALL

Falcons wrap up regular season

WILBRAHAM – With fall football season just a couple short weeks ago, many members of Tantasqua High School football traveled to Minnechaug Regional for 7v7 two-hand touch football. The league host more than a dozen schools from around the region for action Tuesday nights for the past several weeks. The league's playoffs were scheduled for earlier this week.



Isaac Colon tries to make a block.



Adam Howe winds up to make a throw toward the end zone.



Max Cohen lunges to get a tag on a ball carrier.



Gabe Lopez runs toward the sideline.



Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande
Jack Rapose tries to make a catch in traffic.



Drew Wright tries to avoid a two-hand tag from an opponent.

PeoplesBank wrap up another title

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE – Just like they've done during the past decade, PeoplesBank didn't have very much trouble capturing the 2023 Tri-County League championship title.

After posting an 8-0 victory over the second-seeded Chicopee Falls Tigers in game one at Legion Field in Palmer, top-seeded PeoplesBank swept the best of three series following a 15-1 win at Szot Park in Chicopee, last Thursday night.

"All of the players get along very well with each other on and off the field," said PeoplesBank player/manager Joe Ferry. "The target on our backs gets bigger and bigger each year because everyone wants to beat us. Winning the championship title never gets old and the next one is always better than the last one."

PeoplesBank has now won 18 Tri-County League championship titles, including the past ten, since 1995.

TITLE | page 8

BASEBALL

Twins Valley Wheel grab final playoff spot with win, Athletic's take first

WILBRAHAM – Last week, the Twins of the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League edged out the Angels for the final playoff spot thanks to two consecutive wins to finish off the regular season.

The Twins would defeat the Angels last Sunday 6-4 in a very close contest, but then moved in win-or-go-home makeup game against the Tigers last Wednesday night at Spec Pond in Wilbraham.

The Twins were already in the playoffs, but the Twins needed a win to finish a game ahead of the Angels. A loss would have tied the Twins with the Angels, and the Angels would have made the playoffs

through the tiebreaker.

The Tigers, which showed a much-improved offense this season, did jump out to a six-run lead early in the game, but not wanting to use too much pitching with a playoff game looming, the Twins were able to come back and tie the score 7-7 in the fifth inning. In the sixth, the wheels would come undone for the Tigers, as the Twins simply started mashing the ball, batting around nearly twice as they plated the 15 runs needed for the game to end via the mercy-rule for a 22-7 Twins win.

The Athletics would defeat the Tigers last Sunday, July 30, and

then followed that with a 23-12 win over the Cubs to finish the regular season 10-5 and win the top see in the playoffs.

Both the A's and Cubs had also made the playoffs and the game was simply for the opportunity to finish in first place and gain the top seed.

The playoffs began Sunday, Aug. 6 with the Twins and Cubs facing off while the Tigers and A's met in the other semifinal. Results from those games were not available as of press time. The championship game is set for this Sunday, Aug. 13 at 3 p.m. at Spec Pond in Wilbraham.

SOCCKER

West showcased in girls soccer

BOSTON – In last month's Bay State Games, the Western part of the state featured a girls soccer team showcase. Here is a look at how they fared in some of their matchups held July 6-9:

The West started out with a drubbing of the Northeast team 9-1.

In a dominant display of attacking prowess, West's forwards Hannah Murphy (Monson, Monson HS), Gianna Sakowski (Springfield, Minnechaug Regional HS), and Lauren Marjanski (South Hadley, South Hadley HS) each notched two goals, alongside contributions from midfielder Danica Dorozynski (Chicopee, Chicopee Comprehensive HS) and defender Makenna Kennedy (West

Springfield, West Springfield HS), securing an emphatic 9-1 victory. Northeast's midfielder Siena Hesbach (Maynard, Maynard HS) scored the consolation goal, with an assist from midfielder Phoebe Whitcomb (Newburyport, Newburyport HS).

The West would lose one game in the showcase and would play for the bronze medal, defeating Central Mass. 3-2.

In the bronze medal game, Central and West battled fiercely in a close match. Central's forward Bianca Facchetti (Londmeadow, Minnechaug Regional HS) opened the scoring with an assist from forward Kalli White (Granby, Granby HS), holding the lead

at halftime. However, West fought back in the second half, as forward Gianna Sakowski (Springfield, Minnechaug Regional HS) netted a goal off a corner kick. Central responded with a goal of their own from forward Sydney Reed (West Springfield, West Springfield HS), assisted by midfielder Sabina Mackechnie (East Longmeadow, East Longmeadow HS). With tensions high, West was awarded a penalty kick, which Marjanski converted confidently. In the final moments of the match, West midfielder Allison Fleury (South Hadley, South Hadley HS) sealed the victory with an assist from Marjanski, leading West to a thrilling comeback win.

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Turleysports

Athlete of the Week



NAME: Hannah Murphy
TOWN: Monson
 Murphy helped lead the Monson offense to a 3-0 victory over Pope Francis in the finals of the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League playoffs. She received the MVP award following the game.

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

Title | from page 7

Ferry was the starting leftfielder and he's been the PeoplesBank manager since 2019. He dedicated the 2023 season to Tom Bouvier, who's from Ware. Bouvier retired a year ago.

"I would like to dedicate this season to Tom Bouvier," Ferry said. "Tom was our captain and our leadoff hitter."

Holyoke's Danny Gaines, who made just two regular season starts, was the winning pitcher in game two. The lefty didn't allow any runs on six base hits in 5 2/3 innings.

"I can't believe this is our tenth championship title in a row and I'm looking forward to playing for this team again next year," said Gaines, who issued two walks and didn't record any strikeouts. "We were able to take an early lead in tonight's game, which is always a very important thing. My teammates also made the plays behind me. We do have the best defense in the league."

Ferry and Gaines, along with second baseman Dave Clark, catcher Pete Hogan, and pitcher Andy Gaines, are the only PeoplesBank players who have been members of the last ten championship teams.

"We do have a great group of baseball players and we own this league now," Ferry said. "We just fill in the holes every year."

While the PeoplesBank players were celebrating another championship title outside of the first base dugout, the mood was a little bit different on the other side of the field following the game.

"I'm glad that we made it to the finals, but we just didn't play very well in the past two games," said Tigers player/manager Sean Bourgeois. "I'll be moving to New Jersey soon, so this was my final Tri-County League baseball game. I'm hope this team can win the championship title next year."

Bourgeois, who started in left field, would like Mike Truff to replace him as the Tigers manager next year.

PeoplesBank scored an unearned run in the second inning.

Centerfielder Seth Allen (2-for-4) blasted a leadoff double down the left field line against righthander Ryan Magni. The next batter struck out before shortstop Sam Allen drew a walk. Then Hogan bounced into a fielder's choice play. Seth Allen advanced to third on the play before scoring the game's first run on a throwing error by the shortstop.

An RBI line-drive single to center by designated hitter Johnny Gegetskas gave Peo-

plesBank a 2-0 advantage with one-out in the third inning. Then Seth Allen blasted a triple to left field against Magni scoring two more runs.

Bourgeois thinks Magni is one of the top pitchers in the TCL, but he hasn't had very much success against PeoplesBank.

"We've beaten Magni in a number of big games over the years," Ferry said. "At least six of our nine batters have faced him at least 30 times. We know what he throws."

The Tigers had just one base hit during the first three innings before they loaded the bases in the fourth.

With one-out, Right fielder Tom Burzynski hit a flyball just out of the reach of PeoplesBank right fielder Breon Parker Jr., who attempted to make a diving catch. Catcher Nick Kreuzer followed with a single and shortstop Shane Denault walked. Gaines retired the next two batters on a pop-up and flyout ending the threat.

Magni kept PeoplesBank off the scoreboard for the next two innings before allowing four runs in the top of the sixth inning.

Hogan, who had a leadoff single, scored on Ferry's triple to right field. Ferry also scored on a throwing error. Their other two runs crossed the plate on a double by Clark (3-for-5) and a single by first baseman Kyle Platner, who led the way offensively with four hits and a walk.

PeoplesBank scored seven more runs in their final at-bats against a couple of relief pitchers.

The Tigers finally got on the scoreboard in the bottom of the seventh inning against Gegetskas, who replaced Gaines on the mound. Burzynski reached first base on a fielder's choice play which scored pinch hitter Josh DeSouza, who singled leading off the frame.

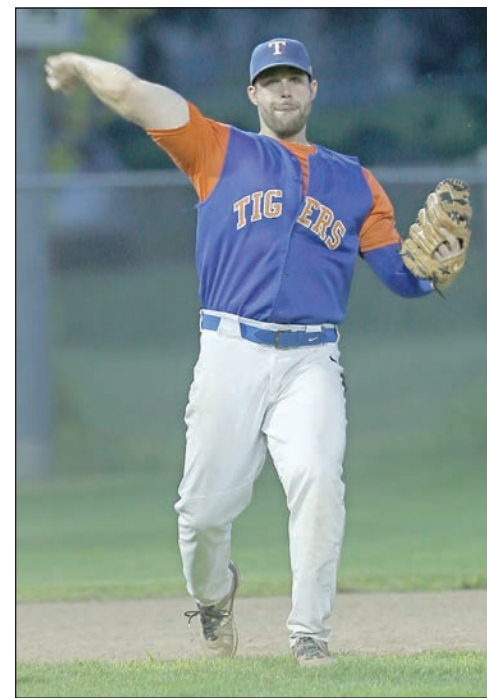
Had there been a game three of the series, righthander Zach Handzel, who graduated from Palmer High School, would've been the starting pitcher for PeoplesBank.

"It just feels awesome to win another championship title," said Handzel, who has been wearing a PeoplesBank uniform for the past six years. "Danny threw a gem tonight and Jimmy Flahive pitched very well in game one. We do have a very strong pitching staff. I'm hoping that we can win another title next year."

Before taking a team picture at home plate, Ferry received the championship trophy from first year Tri-County League President Michael Kennedy, who's a former PeoplesBank player.



Turley photos by David Henry
 Sam Allen slings a throw to first.



Nick Koziol throws to first for the Tigers.

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Championship | from page 7

were the two forwards that we had up top during the summer league season," coach Monaghan said. "Opposing teams won't be able to double team them during the fall season."

Hannah Murphy, who's going to be a sophomore in the fall, has been a member of the summer league team since she was in the eighth grade.

"Winning another summer league championship does feel very good," Hannah Murphy said. "We've worked very hard this summer. Our main goal is to win the state title this year. We came very close to winning the state title last year. I do have a very good feeling about our chances this year."

Hannah Murphy has enjoyed being teammates with her older sister on the same soccer team.

"It's has been a lot of fun playing on the same soccer team with Emma," she said. "I'm looking forward to playing soccer with her for the final time during the fall season."

The other members of the Monson summer league soccer team were Taylor Allen, Avery Beaudoin, Grace Berry, Ella Corthell, Lylia Ellis, Madison Gaudette, Madigan Graves, Chelsea Hull, Natalie Hull, Emma Maziarz, Addison Peterson, Emily Provost, Mackayla St. George, Claire Wahlund, and Tennessee Murphy.

Monson began the summer league playoffs by squeaking out a 6-4 win

over eighth-seeded South Hadley in the quarterfinals. They then dispatched the fifth-seeded Lady Lions, 5-2, in the semifinals.

Monson built a 2-0 lead during the first ten minutes of the opening half.

Following a hand ball in the penalty box during the sixth minute, Monaghan booted the PK into the lower right corner of the net past Pope Francis goalie Eden Kornacki.

A couple of minutes later, Bodak delivered a pass to Hannah Murphy at midfield. Murphy then sent the ball to Myrie, who fired a shot into the net.

"Kendall fed me the ball on that play," Hannah Murphy said. "I was going to take the shot myself, but I

didn't have a big enough opening. Then I found Aniah and she was able to finish off the play. Scoring two early goals took the pressure off us."

With ten minutes remaining in regulation, Tennessee Murphy, who attends the Loomis Chaffee School, knocked a shot over the goalie into the back of the net, which sealed Monson's championship victory.

Chelsea Hull was credited with the assist. Provost, who's the Monson goalie, only had to make a couple of saves to post the shutout.

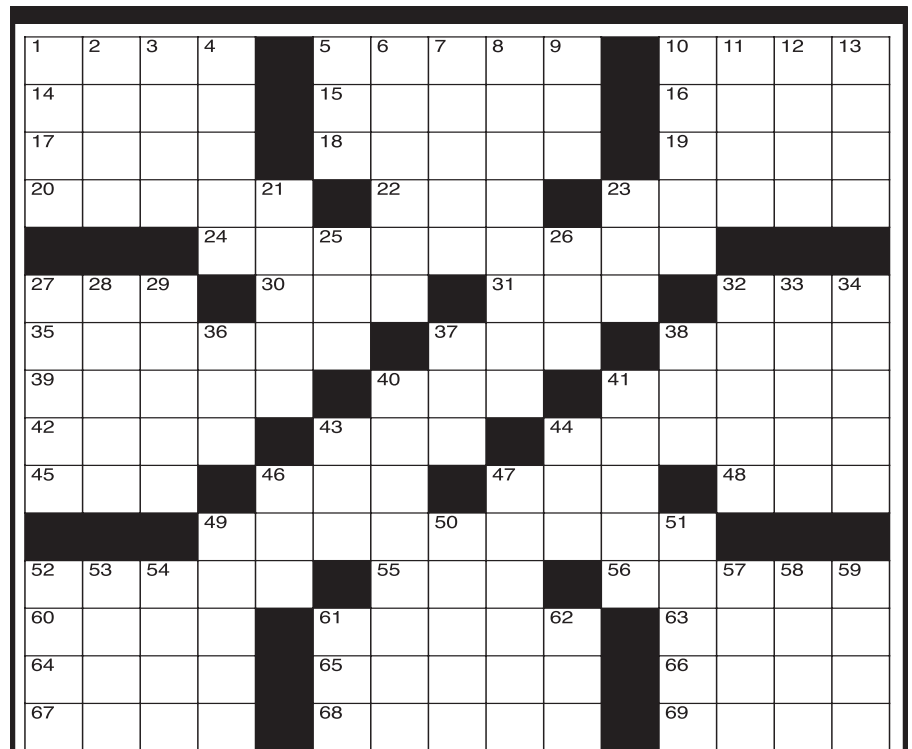
The Lady Mustangs will have a couple of weeks off before beginning the high school soccer season on August 21.

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 1. A way to pick up
 5. Presents
 10. Type of guitar
 14. Actor Idris
 15. A citizen of Iran
 16. Creative
 17. Harness
 18. Weight unit
 19. You better call him
 20. Utterly devoted
 22. Male cat
 23. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
 24. Risk-taker
 27. A team's best pitcher
 30. Cool!
 31. Women's movement
 32. Georgia rockers
 35. Step-shaped recess
 37. The princess could detect its presence
 38. Type of truck
 39. Butterhead lettuces
 40. Angry people see it
 41. Lines where two

CLUES DOWN

 1. German courtesy title
 2. Ancient Greek City
 3. Ancient Hebrew calendar month
 4. Long-legged frog family
 5. Photo
 6. Delivered a speech
 7. Lute in classical Indian music
 8. Decorated
 9. Take a seat
 10. Belonging to a bottom layer
 11. Member of a Semitic people
 12. Part of a ticket
 13. Defunct Guinean money
 21. Challenges
 23. Popular BBQ food
 25. Subway dweller
 26. By way of
 27. Shady garden alcove
 28. Egyptian city
 29. Partner to "flowed"
 32. Widens
 33. Old Eurasian wheat
 34. Act incorrectly
 36. European pipeline
 37. Al Bundy's wife
 38. Ocean
 40. Root eaten as a vegetable
 41. Sound units
 43. Style of music
 44. A way to drench
 46. Hot beverage
 47. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
 49. Rumanian city
 50. Urge to action
 51. Vaccine developer
 52. Canadian law enforcers
 53. Wings
 54. "Perry Mason" actor Raymond
 57. Small fry
 58. Clapton, musician
 59. Take a chance
 61. Bland food
 62. Consumed

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DEATH NOTICES

Phyllis E. (Matchett) Brothers
Died July 29, 2023
Services August 17, 2023

Richard Dupell
Died July 30, 2023
Services August 14, 2023

Alicia A. (Wilber) Richards
Died August 3, 2023
Services August 20, 2023

Josephine (Salmeri) Wytas
Died August 5, 2023
Services August 12, 2023

O B I T U A R I E S

Phyllis E. (Matchett) Brothers

Wales – Phyllis E. (Matchett) Brothers, 96, passed away surrounded by love of family in her home, July 29, 2023. Phyllis was born in Manchester, CT to the late William and Sadie (Lamb) Matchett. She was a graduate of Stafford High School class of 1943. For many years Phyllis and her husband lived in Monson before moving to Wales in 1983. She was a cost accountant at ZERO Manufacturing and retired in 1983. Phyllis was a member of the New England Historical Genealogical Society. She enjoyed fishing and hunting, feeding the birds, had a love of reading and riding in her golf cart during the haying season. Most of all, Phyllis enjoyed surround-

ing herself and being surrounded by family. Phyllis was predeceased by her husband, Theodore W. Brothers. She leaves her children, Ronald Brothers of Wales, John Brothers and his wife Nancy of Warm Springs, GA and Ann Chrabaszcz of Wales; daughter in law, Lynn Brothers; a sister, Patricia Clark and her husband Lewis of Middlebury, CT; eleven grandchildren, sixteen great grandchildren and two great great grandchildren with a third expected in August. She was predeceased by her son David Brothers and her brother William Matchett.



Lombard Funeral Home of Monson has been entrusted with the arrangements. Visiting hours will be held Thursday, August 17, 2023 from 5-7pm. Gathering of family and friends will be Friday, August 18, 2023 from 9:30-10:30am with a funeral procession to Wales # 4 Cemetery on Laurel Hill Road for a graveside service at 11am. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society PO Box 6704 Hagerstown, MD 21741. For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com.

Richard Dupell

Three Rivers – Richard Dupell, 62, passed away July 30, 2023. He was born on April 27, 1961 in Ware to the late William Sr. and Louise (Dahart) Dupell. Richie attended Quabbin Regional High School and was currently employed as a set-up man at Palmer Foundry. Richie had a heart of gold and was a person who was always willing to help anyone who was in need. He was a former volunteer firefighter and Cpt. of the Hardwick Rescue Squad. Richie loved sports and spending time outdoors. He played softball, was an avid golf-

er, and enjoyed fishing. He also found great enjoyment in trying his luck while playing the lottery. Richie will be dearly missed by his wife of 13 years, Terri L. (Fisk) Dupell, and his daughter, Jessica Tabb and her husband, Kevin, of Springfield. He also leaves his grandchildren, Megan, Isabella, and Alexander and Partner, Danielle, and their daughter, Ellie; step children, Courtney Allen and Tanner Brown; step



grandchildren, Ophelia and Lawson; sister, Christine Pfeiffer; brothers, Billy Jr., Michael, and David; as well as many extended family and friends. Visitation will be held on Monday, August 14, from 4-7pm with personal reflections to be shared at 6:30pm at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home. Burial will be held at the convenience of the family. Please visit www.beersandstory.com to extend online condolences.

Alicia A. (Wilber) Richards

MONSON – Alicia A. (Wilber) Richards, 84, passed away in her home Thursday, August 3, 2023. Alicia was born in Palmer October 2, 1938 to the late Peter and Monica A (Corish) Wilber. She was a graduate of Monson High School and Mercy School of Nursing. She was a registered nurse and worked at area hospitals including Mercy Medical Center and Monson Developmental Center. After her retirement she worked at Squier Lumber and Hardware as a bookkeeper for many years. She could also be found helping her daughter, Beth and son in-law Robin, at their restaurant in Monson. Alicia was a communicant of St Patrick's Church and active with the Monson Lioness and Lions Club. She enjoyed reading, tak-

ing family cruises and spending time at the camp. Alicia was predeceased by her husband, Edward V. Richards in 2018. She leaves her daughters, Cheryl M. Larkin and her husband Steven of Texas, Elizabeth M. Brown and her husband, Robin of Monson; a brother, Phillip Wilber and his wife, Deb of Burlington, VT; four grandchildren, Ian Maguire and his wife Jeanie, Wes Maguire and his wife Jessica, Edward Brown and his fiancée Camille Guertin, Steven Larkin and his wife Jordan; three great grandchildren, Mackenzie Maguire, Cameron Maguire, Connor Maguire Lilth Maguire and Blake



Larkin. Alicia was predeceased by her sister Theresa Nothe. Visiting hours will be held Sunday, August 20, 2023 from 5-7 at Lombard Funeral Home 3 Bridge St. in Monson. A funeral service will be held Monday, August 21, 2023 at 10am in the funeral home with burial to follow at Bethany Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to St Jude's Children's Research Hospital, St Jude Tribute Program PO Box 1000 Dept 142, Memphis, TN 38101. For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com

Josephine (Salmeri) Wytas

MONSON – Josephine (Salmeri) Wytas, 95, passed away Saturday August 5, 2023 at Life Care Center of Wilbraham. Josephine was born March 27, 1928 in Brooklyn, NY to the late Alfred Salmeri and Concetta (Cabalano) Salmeri. Josephine has been a resident of Monson for 77 years. She worked at the A&P Supermarket in Palmer for several years and then at Wing Memorial Hospital in Palmer in the billing department from where she retired. Josephine was predeceased by her husband, Edward Wytas and her sister Rosa Cala. She leaves her daughter, Barbara St.

Martin of Monson and her son, David Wytas of Virginia; grandchildren, Lisa Scharrett of Palmer, Jennifer Nogas and her husband, Steve of West Springfield, and Kristen Vazquez and her husband Chris of California; six great grandchildren, Jacob Venne, Sophia and Robert Fijol, Nicolas Boulrice, Zoe and Stella Vazquez and a great great granddaughter Giavanna Venne. The family would like to thank the staff at Life Care Center for the loving care they provided



Josephine for the past three years. Lombard Funeral Home of Monson has been entrusted with Josephine's services. A Funeral Mass will be held Saturday, August 12, 2023 at 10am in St. Patrick's Church on Green St. in Monson. Burial will follow at Bethany Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the St. Patrick's Restoration Fund PO Box 473 Monson, MA 01057. For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com.

CEO | from page 1

connection to a vocational technical school that represents nine of the Chamber's 15 towns. Lavoie serves on the School Committee for Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School, a position he originally filled as a liaison to the Town Council starting five years ago. After longtime School Committee member Michael Cavanaugh's death, Lavoie filled the vacant seat until he was officially elected to the position. He is the second person to fill that seat, which Cavanaugh had held for nearly 50 years since the school was founded in the early 1970s. "Mike and Dr. [Gerald] Paist basically opened Pathfinder Tech... he had that seat from the beginning," Lavoie said. A native of Ludlow, Lavoie moved to Palmer in 2000, having spent most of this career up until now travelling all over New England. Most recently he has been with Genden Auto Parts (Carquest) covering commercial accounts on the road, from South Deerfield up through Vermont and New Hampshire. "I had a parsnip farmer, a potato farmer...I was all over the map," Lavoie said. "With Carquest, I was straight up and down Route 91. Now I'm all over the 15 towns, spanning from east to west." His work experience has given

him the opportunity to see the needs of all types of business, from family farmers to large corporations, firsthand. When Lavoie first started on the Town Council, he reached out to state Rep. Todd Smola for advice on the best way to reach the people he represents. "He said, 'go to everything that's free...whether its Little league, Scouting, just get your face out there and meet people,'" Lavoie said. Lavoie took that advice and is now applying it to his role as Chamber CEO, taking time to meet with community and business members in the towns he now represents, including some towns he's never been to before up until now. "I had never set foot in New Braintree in my entire life," Lavoie said. In addition to handing out ice cream sandwiches, Lavoie has been distributing the Chamber's newest recreation guide and business directory; a free resource that provides a detailed description of the services and products Chamber members offer. Supporting its members is the real purpose of the Chamber, Lavoie said, and something he is dedicated to improving. He intends to do this by promoting members through social media, as well as helping them improve their own digital media skills through training. Lavoie is eager to hear from Chamber members about the type

of support each one needs, knowing that finding employees is a big concern. "I'm trying to make everybody win. Everybody's got to benefit, or it won't work," Lavoie said. "We exist to benefit the members." **About QHCC** The Quabog Hills Chamber of Commerce was established in 1978 to assist businesses in the Quabog Hills Region, serving the towns of Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren, and West Brookfield. Its mission is to advance economic growth and tourism in the region, to be an advocate for policies that achieve the development goals of the communities, and to advance the interests of its members. The Quabog Hills Chamber of Commerce offers more than just networking opportunities. It helps the business community from the smallest entrepreneurs to the largest corporations; through trainings, seminars, and more. Membership fees start at \$245 a year, with the average business paying about \$1 a day for the Chamber's services. Membership fees are only \$100 for nonprofit organizations. The Quabog Hills Chamber of Commerce is located at 4 Springfield St., Suite 525, Three Rivers. For more information, visit qhama.com, call 413-283-2418 or email info@qhama.com.

Field | from page 1

While he said he doesn't "know what to do about the fact that the water table is high," if the town could come up with a contingency utilizing areas above the water table for events - "that would be great." He suggested the possibility of establishing a policy/plan about where organizations can relocate an event in the case of consistent rainfall prior to. Carpenter said a policy of this sort would help event organizers who invest a lot of time and money into making these events possible. Ken Bailey, resident and Monson Food Truck Festival Committee member, said the Committee has had rain before their event twice in the past without the field sustaining any issues. "The only problem with Summerfest this time is we had torrential rain," said Bailey. He said he believes the field should be used for events and not "just for recreation." "What are you going to do? You don't do sports on it anymore, so it's just one big huge field with nothing to do," said Bailey. He added that if the town is "not going to have sports there, it should be events - otherwise it's just a waste of a field." Another resident said the town needs a space where they can host events. They said the people in town "have spoken loud and clear by attending these events." "We need a general field for events, for the townspeople to use... that should be a Veterans' Field," said the resident.

Resident Emily Graves-Harrison agreed that the town "need[s] a place to hold these events," and believes Veterans' Field should be used for both recreational use and events. Another resident said a point they wanted to make "about any of the events held downtown is that they are good for our businesses." They added Summerfest "could go back to Main Street," though one of the reasons it was moved to the field was "because of the craziness of this world and people plowing down through events with vehicles." Another reason Summerfest was moved to Veterans' Field was because the field is cooler than the street. "It's tough to keep an event going when it's hot on the street... People don't show up and spend money. That's why the field makes it so much better for that," said the resident. They suggested modifying Summerfest to be a "hybrid event" with some activities in the field and others on Main Street. Another resident suggested adding a dual purpose track around the field that would provide a safe walking space as well as an area for trucks and vendors to park during events. Resident Peter Matrow asked "can there be some money to put into that place, into that field?" He suggested adding a gravel pathway and filling in some of the field's "soft spots." "We have a soccer field at Flynt Park - two of them...We have a baseball diamond on Cushman Field," said Matrow. He asked "Do we have a general park? Do we have a central

park? No we don't." While he said he believes Veterans' Field should "absolutely," be used for the Food Truck Festival and MyMonson, "it isn't [his] first choice for Summerfest," though he "understand[s] why we are here." Board Clerk John R. Morrell said he is "not in favor of having trucks on that ball field." He added drainage cannot be added to the field as the Chicopee River "is right there," and there is nowhere to drain the water as it would be pumped back into the flooding brook. "The problem we've got to face now is that these 25-year storm events are happening like twice a year now... We've got to be prepared for those kinds of things to happen," said Morrell. He said he is "willing to go along with what is being said, and continue with events... but we've got to start doing some things that make some common sense, like moving things around." Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz said "John is 100% right about the drainage... that's a huge concern for the Conservation Commission." She added the field "as it stands today, is not conducive" of the events the community wants to host. "We're trying to fit a square peg in a round hole and I think what we need to do is determine what we really want to be done there," said Wolowicz. She said the community needs to come together and determine what this field should be in three to five years or seven to 10 years, opposed to seeking a short-term solution.

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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.

Public Notices

Town of Monson Zoning Board of Appeals LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance M.G.L. Chapter 40A § 11 the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing, **Thursday August 24, 2023, at 7:10 P.M.** at the Monson Town Hall 110 Main St. Monson, Ma 01057 on the application of Terrence Boyer for a variance from the requirements of Section 3.2, Table 2, Dimensional & Density Regulations, and a Special Permit as required for § 4.1 and §4.2 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The applicant seeks to install an 11ft. 6 in. x 16 ft carport that will violate the required setback(s) and is located within the Floodplain District and Water Supply Protection District. The property is zoned Rural Village and located at 16 Chestnut Street, Map 112 and Parcel 010D. A copy of the application is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, Zoning Board of Appeals and available for viewing during regular office hours.

David Beaudoin,
Chairman
Case No: ZBA2023-07
08/10, 08/17/2023

LEGAL NOTICE MONSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 131 § 40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, August 23, 2023 at 7:20 PM** in the Large Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main Street. Under consideration is a Notice of Intent for the proposed restoration of the Buffer Zone of a Bordered Vegetated Wetland for the property at 22 Country Club Dr, Monson, MA, identified as Assessors Map 111, Parcel 013, is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. The property owner is Laurie Palatino.

Submitted by:
Monson Conservation Commission
Glenn Colburn, Chairman
08/10/2023

LEGAL NOTICE MONSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 131 § 40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, August 23, 2023 at 7:30 PM** in the Large Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main Street. Under consideration is a

Request for Determination of Applicability to determine if the work associated with minor grading for a driveway of a new single-family home within the Buffer Zone for the property located on Bumstead Rd, identified as Assessors Map 081, Parcel 011, is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. The property owner is Alexander Racicot.

Submitted by:
Monson Conservation Commission
Glenn Colburn, Chairman
08/10/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD23P1609EA Estate of: Estevan J Cardenas Date of Death: 11/26/2022 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Susan Walch of Wales, 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: Susan Walch of Wales, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve without surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/29/2023.

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 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 31, 2023

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
08/10/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD23C0222CA In the matter of: Edward Davis Leneau CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Edward Davis Leneau of Palmer, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Edward David Leneau

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/29/2023.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 31, 2023.

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
08/10/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD23P1563PO McCooe Family Irrevocable Trust 2019 a/k/a McCooe Irrevocable Trust 2019 a/k/a McCooe Family Trust In the matter of: Petition to Terminate Trust TRUST CITATION

To all interested persons: A Petition has been filed by: Christine McCooe of

Holland, MA requesting the termination of the trust. The Petitioner also requests prior to the termination of said trust, this court authorizes and directs the trustee to execute, deliver, and record a deed to the property described in Hampden County Registry of Deeds book 22792 page 544 to Christine McCooe in fee absolute and discharged of all trust; all as more fully set forth in said petition.

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 08/31/2023.

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 date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 27, 2023

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
08/10/2023

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS (SEAL) LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT DOCKET NO. 23 SM 003004 ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: Erin Przybycien, Trustee of The 33-35 Ruggles Street Realty Trust and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. C. 50 §3901 (et seq):

Aura Mortgage Advisors, LLC claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Palmer (Three Rivers), numbered 33-35 Ruggles Street, given by Erin Przybycien, Trustee of The 33-35 Ruggles Street Realty Trust to Aura Mortgage Advisors, LLC, dated July 12, 2013, and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 19918, Page 565, 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 **09/18/2023** 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 8/2/2023.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson,
Recorder
08/10/2023

LEGAL NOTICE MONSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 131 § 40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, August 23, 2023 at 7:10 PM** in the Large Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main Street. Under consideration is a Request for Determination of Applicability to determine if the work associated with the installation of a permanent car port within the Riverfront Area and Bordering Land Subject to Flooding for the property at 16 Chestnut St, Monson, MA, identified as Assessors Map 112, Parcel 010D, is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. The property owner is Terrence Boyer.

Submitted by:
Monson Conservation Commission
Glenn Colburn, Chairman
08/10/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD23P1625EA Estate of: Mary E Silverio Also known as: Mary Ellen Silverio Date of Death: 10/17/2022 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Maryellen Silverio 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: **Maryellen Silverio of Brimfield, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Personal Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/29/2023.

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: August 01, 2023

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
08/10/2023

(SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT DOCKET 23 SM 002972 ORDER OF NOTICE

To: Shelly A. Taft, Individually and as Personal Representative of the Estate of Judith A. Loconto, a/k/a Judith Ann Loconto; Heirs, devisees and Legal Representatives of the Estate of Judith A. Loconto; Stacie L. Taft

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

Santander Bank, N.A., claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Brimfield, numbered 23 Lyman Barnes Road, given by Robert Finne and Judith Ann Loconto to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Santander Bank, N.A., its successors and assigns, dated June 28, 2017, and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 21752, Page 201, as affected by a Loan Assumption Agreement dated November 3, 2020, and recorded in Said Registry of Deeds in Book 23844, Page 327, 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 **September 11, 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 31, 2023.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
08/10/2023
23-005550

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Town of Holland Office of the Collector of Taxes Notice of Tax Taking

To the owners of the hereinafter described land and to all others concerned

You are hereby notified that on Monday the 28th day of August, 2023, at 10:00 A.M. at the Tax Collectors's Office, 27 Sturbridge Road , pursuant to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 60, Section 53, and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Collector of Taxes, it is my intention to take for the Town of Holland the following parcels of land for non-payment of the taxes due thereon, with interest and all incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking, unless the same shall have been paid before that date.

Steven Anderstrom, Collector of Taxes

Assessed To ANTONIO THOMAS R
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 3485 Square Feet located and known as SANDY BEACH RD shown on the Town of Holland Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier R36/J/05 and being part of the premises recorded in book 23567 on page 61 in the Hampden Registry of Deeds. Supposed Present Owner C/O OSOWIECKI ELZBIECKI A & JUNSTIN M
2021 Tax \$13.29

Assessed To GLEASON DINO F
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 43560 Square Feet located and known as 74 VINTON RD shown on the Town of Holland Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 05/B/14 and being part of the premises recorded in book 22732 on page 363 in the Hampden Registry of Deeds.
2021 Tax \$58.36

Assessed To MILLER GARY S
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 12197 Square Feet located and known as 2 DARCY ST shown on the Town of Holland Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier R02/B/24 and being part of the premises recorded in book 20723 on page 0001 in the Hampden Registry of Deeds.
2021 Tax \$1,725.15

Assessed To RUSSO ANTHONY & J GREGORY
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 19166 Square Feet located and known as LYNNE AVE shown on the Town of Holland Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier R32/B/01.01 and being part of the premises recorded in book 11900 on page 0472 in the Hampden Registry of Deeds.
2021 Tax \$157.02
08/10/2023

Send Us Your Community Autumn Events

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** which reaches over **200,000** readers in the Pioneer Valley. **Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public**

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Contact name & phone number for more information _____

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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.

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VETERAN | from page 1

they were, Hamill decided she wanted to document Sozek's story. She started by scanning the over 256 pictures and documents and everything that was in the box, and putting them in the order that made the most sense to her.

"I started just taking notes and putting things in chronological order," Hamill said. "Then I just started typing it, let it flow freely. I'd never written a book before, so I wrote it in order."

To make sure it read more like a memoir than a series of personal notes, Hamill proofread the book several times, and had her dad proofread it as well. Hamill then sought to publish the collection through an online publisher.

Once the book was published, Hamill started looking for Sozek's surviving family. She was able to trace his family to Cumberland, RI.

"I found out through the Internet that he had some living relatives that were still in the Rhode Island area," Hamill said. "So I was able to contact them and tell them that I had this stuff that they should really have it back - obviously, it ended up at a flea market when it shouldn't have."

Hamill compiled all the information she had into a book, titled "Beneath Cross 308: The Story of a 1st Marine". In the box, Hamill found his birth certificate, discharge papers from the Marine Corps, and receipts from a funeral home, from when he was repatriated to the United States.

"I was able to go down there and meet with (the Sozeks) and return everything to them," Hamill said.

Sozek's surviving family, Peter and Merla, never had a chance to meet their uncle, according to Hamill. She said that when she first reached out to Sozek's nephew, Peter, he was worried it was a scam.

"I was listing off the items that I had, and when I got to the receipt (from the funeral home), Peter kind of stopped, and he said he didn't realize that his uncle had been brought back to the United States, he always thought that he was still in Okinawa," she said.

"They just knew of him from stories from their dad, but for my understanding, the stories were about their childhood and about growing up, and really about his brother - not really the involvement in the war, because I think that was probably too painful for them to talk about," Hamill said.

"I think, like a lot of families in that time, they didn't talk about the war and didn't talk about their losses," she said.

Henry Sozek's remains were buried at St. John's Ukrainian Cemetery in Cumberland, R.I., the same place that his parents were buried.

Hamill has chosen not to sell the book, as she felt uncomfortable profiting from the Sozeks' story. "I don't feel that it's right for me to make any money off it," Hamill said.

Copies from her first printing have been distributed for free to the Sozek family, the Cumberland Public Library in Rhode Island and Hamill's own family.

"Another niece of Henry's reached out to me, the daughter of the eldest Sozek daughter," Hamill said. "I'll be meeting with her at the end of August and getting her story. She was actually seven or eight at the time her uncle passed away and has a lot of pictures and things. Once I meet her and have a discussion with her, I'll do a revision, or maybe a second edition."

From her experience flea-marketing, Hamill has seen things for sale that were never intended to leave the family, recalling an experience when she and her father - who she credits as inspiring her love of history and antiques - recognized a photo of her father's Cousin Margaret that was being sold with an antique frame.

Hamill said that the most important thing to her was preserving Sozek's legacy, saying that she felt very lucky to have found him when she did.

"I bought that box almost 78 years to the day from when he died," Hamill said, and mused at the serendipity of her finding and buying it.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Email 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 pressreleases@turley.com.

THIS WEEK

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.

NEXT WEEK

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 cook-out 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.

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.

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

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

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

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

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 signposts). For more information call 413-267-4137, email khm@keephomesteadmuseum.org or visit keephomesteadmuseum.org.

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.

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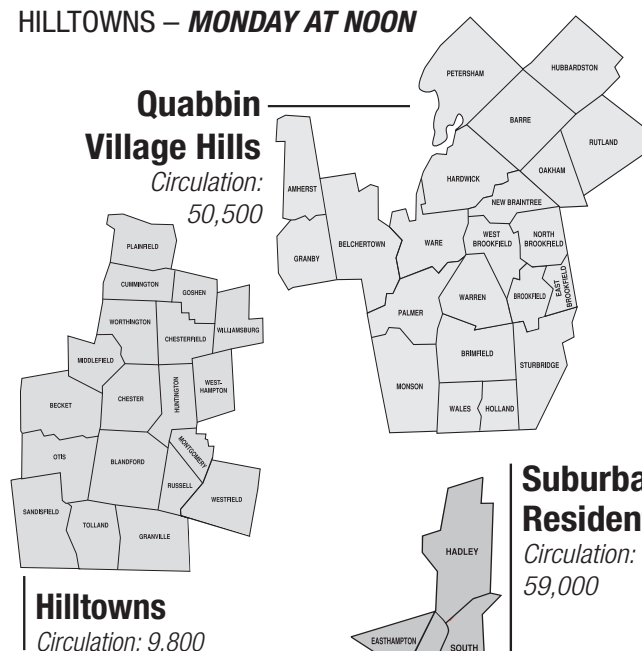
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33	Base Price \$50.50	Base Price \$51.00	Base Price \$51.50
34	Base Price \$52.50	Base Price \$53.00	Base Price \$53.50
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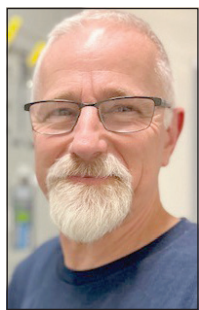
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Business

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PALMER – Working as an electrician in a hospital setting requires a unique set of skills. Phil Christensen has long been recognized as a critical thinker and a quiet leader among the facilities and engineering team at Baystate Wing Hospital.



Phil Christensen

“Phil leads by example, always ensuring that our electrical infrastructure is operating at its peak performance in order to provide quality care for our patients 24/7,” said Nick Connors, manager of Facilities and Engineering at Baystate Wing Hospital. “His commitment to this work is evident, Phil can often be found on campus testing our emergency generators early in the morning hours or adjusting his schedule to accommodate project shutdowns both overnight and weekends.”

“I began my career at Baystate Mary Lane over 30 years ago and the electrical needs of a hospital facility were much different than they are today,” said Christensen, who joined the Baystate Wing Hospital team in 2021. Electrical safety in our hospital is a matter of absolute priority and I take great pride in ensuring that everything in our facility operates at peak performance around the clock. While our electrical infrastructure operates in the background, it impacts every process within our facilities. With the many advancements in medical technologies, hospitals have become more reliant on electrical systems and our engineering teams than ever before. From repairing a hospital television that helps reduce patients’ stress to the management of the entire electrical system in our hospital facility, every aspect of the work we do matters. I’m proud to be a member of a dedicated facilities and engineering team and to support the great work of all our caregivers.”

Hometown girl opens new coffee shop

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
dgagnon@turley.com

MONSON – After owning and operating a café in Plymouth for nearly 10 years, Monson native Amanda Roy has opened a coffee shop right on Main Street; offering guests more than just a cup of coffee.

“It’s a personal touch... we’re in a hometown and it should be a meeting place,” said Roy. The coffee shop experience helps shape the identity of a “really good coffee,” she said, and is something The Better Bean strives to create for guests.

“A lot of it is personality... it’s coffee - it should be fun,” said Roy.

The shop features a variety of caffeinated beverages including coffee, tea and espresso, as well as dairy/dairy substitutes such as oat milk, almond milk, coconut milk, soy milk, whole milk and cream.

According to Roy, some crowd favorites so far have been “butterfly lemonades,” which are two-toned, layered lemonades containing edible glitter, and frozen hot chocolates.

For those who prefer ice teas, guests have the option of trying flavors such as passion fruit papaya, pomegranate, strawberry basil or hibiscus sangria.

Matcha tea is also available.

Roy said she wanted to open a shop in town after seeing a Monson public forum online where residents posted what they believed Monson needs.

“People kept saying ‘a coffee shop,’ and I said ‘I’ll do it!’,” said Roy.

Given her experience operating a full-service café, Roy said she was well prepared to open a shop in town and wanted to offer something convenient for locals.

With benches located outside and a pavilion just across the street, guests can enjoy food and beverages with a view of the town.

For those with food sensitivities, The Better Bean offers a selection of gluten-free pastries as well as pre-made food options catering to a wide range of guests needs.

“We are getting gluten-free bagels and keeping them wrapped sep-



Owner Amanda Roy is shown smiling alongside her boyfriend, Bill Lemon, niece, Adleigh Roy and Liam Lemon.



Blueberry crumb cakes are readily available.

arately... we also have vegan butter and cream cheese,” said Roy.

Flavored and specialty cream cheeses are made on site, with pre-made food options such as chicken salad, fruit parfaits and wraps prepared in-house as well.

Even before launching the business’ “grand opening” on Monday, July 31, Roy said the outpour of community support was “overwhelming.”

On the weekend since their first opening, a line of guests could be seen out the door.

“It’s the familiar part... it is so cool to see so many familiar faces,” said Roy.

She added “The Bean” already has regulars.

Baristas write guest names on coffee cards as a way of providing the best, possible service through learning names and building connections.

“Everybody has been really awesome...it’s a group effort [and] every job is equally important,” said Roy.



Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon
Ava Ronaldson, Emily Mills, Owner Amanda Roy, Donna McKinney, Tracy Murphy, Trish Kustra and Autumn Dupuis smile as they stand behind the coffee bar ready to serve.



Monson Police Chief Steve Kozloski and K-9 handler, Officer Dave Rondeau, smile alongside Amanda Roy after grabbing a fresh cup of iced coffee.

She thanked those who helped transform the space from the “blank slate” it was before being turned into an inviting hometown coffee shop.

“I couldn’t have done this without my mom and dad, my boyfriend (Bill Lemon), and his family, my brother and his wife, the plumber, the electrician and those who helped hang the signs,” said Roy.

She added supporting local businesses “keeps the community going,” as supporting “one local business supports other local businesses around it.”

To enjoy a fresh cup of coffee, cool off with a frozen beverage or grab a quick bite to eat, The Better Bean is open for operation Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Saturday, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Better Bean bracelets are for sale by the register and are handmade by Monson native Kailyn Graves-Harrison and her sister, Maddie.



The Better Bean offers a selection of gluten-free pastries; catering to guests needs.



Fire Department Chief Brian Harris stopped by The Better Bean to grab a refreshing beverage.

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