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The Journal Register

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PALMER

Vote taken to pursue Baker Street land grant

By Marcelo Gusmão Staff Writer mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER - During this week's Town Council meeting, councilors discussed the Land Grant being pursued by the Recreation and Conservation Commissions, approved a Mobile Dental Services program through the Veterans Services Department, and discussed complaints about the bridge closings.

Land grant

Recreation Director Andrew St. George made a presentation about the pursuit of the Land Grant to purchase properties on Barker Streeter, requesting a vote to move forward with the project that is necessary to qualify for the grant.

"We submitted the land grant for the property, we had a site visit from somebody from the state and they were very favorable towards it," St. George said. "These grants have a scoring process, so obviously they couldn't give us any sort of indication about ... where we would fall necessarily in the score, but it looks promising."

"One of the requirements of the land grant was that there is a vote, basically, to say if we get the grant, we will move forward with the project," St. George said. "Essentially, they just don't want to be awarding grants to towns that then back out.

PALMER | page 2

VETERANS



Turley Photos by Marcelo Gusmao

Massachusetts Military Order of the Purple Heart Commander Brian Willette served as Master of Ceremonies, speaking to the crowd gathered in front of the Fire Service Group building on Thorndike Street.

Ceremony unveils "Medal of Honor" Highway

Route 20 now honors veterans

> By Marcelo Gusmão Staff Writer mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER - On Saturday morning, residents gathered on Thorndike St. to commemorate the renaming of Route 20 to the

Medal of Honor Highway.

Massachusetts Military Order of the Purple Heart Commander Brian Willette served as the Master of Ceremonies, announcing state senators Jake Oliveira and John Velis, who filed the legislation to dedicate the highway last year. A similar event was happening in Boston at the same time.

U.S. Sens. Ed Markey, D-Walden, and Elizabeth War-

ren, D-Cambridge, have acted as co-sponsors for the redesignation of the highway, along with U.S. Cong. Richard Neal, D-Springfield, in the House of Representatives. The legislation is supported by many national veterans service organizations.

"Last legislative session, we did more than probably any other legislature in the entire coun-

HONOR | page 2

POLICE



Palmer Police Lt. Erin Sullivan, Sgt. Christopher Melnick, Chief Christopher Burns, Sgt. Jeremy Haley, Officer Michael Ciofalo and Sgt. David Burns were in attendance at the 2023 National Night.



Daisy and James Jianaces, of Palmer, sport their face paintings while posing for a photo in front of the Palmer Police station.

Police and community join together at National Night Out

By Dallas Gagnon Staff Writer dgagnon@turley.com

PALMER - Friends, family, local vendors and agencies gath-



ered outside of the Palmer Police Department to support the 2023 National Night Out, on Aug. 1.

The annual event is sponsored by the Palmer Police Department and serves as an opportunity for community members and local law enforcement to connect.

National Night Out was es-

NNO I page 8

CONSERVATION

Palmer Trail Club hosts first trail work day

By Dallas Gagnon Staff Writer dgagnon@turley.com

PALMER – In a joint effort, the Palmer Recreation and Conservation Commission held the season's first trail work day at the Midura Family Conservation property, Monday,

Aug. 14. A total of six volunteers were in attendance, clearing trails of poison ivy and fallen trees.

"We are doing a trail appreciation [event] to focus on the Midura prop-erty in town," said Recreation Director Andrew St. George.

He added the Midura property is "a good property that is not that far away from being a great property - it can be an awesome destination place."

The trail appreciation event will take place on August 26 at the Midura property. It will offer attendees an opportunity to enjoy the property

following its most recent mainte-

Both the Yellow Trail and the White Trail were cleared of shrubbery, poison ivy and trees that, in some cases, "had been there for

"Part of the big push here is to publicize this location," said St.

He added up until a few years

ago, the property wasn't even on

google maps. "It's a facility with great trails... you could do about four miles worth of hiking, including along Kings Brook," said St.

George. According to St. George, the property is an "undiscovered



Photos by Palmer Conservation Agent Heidi Mannarino Shown is the Yellow Trail at the Midura Family Conservation location before clean up.

resource for a lot of residents," offering "a lot of opportunity for hiking and a lot of different terrain.

While the August 14, work day included members of the Conservation Commission, Recreation and three residents, those interested in helping maintain the trails can sign up as part of the

TRAIL | page 12

MONSON

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School Committee voice DESE draft framework concerns

By Dallas Gagnon Staff Writer dgagnon @turley.com

MONSON - The School Committee discussed several district updates moving into the 2023 school year and voiced concerns regarding the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Curriculum Framework Draft for Health and Physical Education during the August 9, meeting.

School Committee member Alison Morgan said she and fellow Committee member Karen Nothe-Valley met August 3, to discuss the DESE Framework Draft during a Curriculum Subcommittee meet-

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Katherine Watts and Superintendent Dr. Cheryl A. Clarke were also in attendance.

Morgan said the Subcommittee reviewed the framework by age, as that is how DESE divides the curriculum.

"There are many good additions," said Morgan.

The curriculum framework draft addresses social media, its impact on students, bullying, mental health and how the district can support them.

She added while in some age groups, such as preschool, the Subcommittee believed "there wasn't much," concern, for grades third to sixth there were "many topics that [they] felt were not age appropri-

"Many of them geared towards Sex Ed.," said Morgan.

She added the Subcommittee members "were all in agreement [it's] just not appropriate for our community."

For students in sixth to eighth grade, Morgan said the Subcommittee believed Sex Education should be taught to the older students later in eighth grade.

School Committee Chairwoman Emily Graves-Harrison suggested drafting a statement providing feedback for DESE.

"We don't want to disregard

MONSON | page 2

EDUCATION



Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon Old Mill Pond Elementary School Assistant Principal Penny Manteria and Principal Holly-Beth Riopel smile while spending time with students at the

OMP principals meet students, families

By Dallas Gagnon Staff Writer dgagnon@turley.com

PALMER - As summer nears its end, the Old Mill Pond Elementary School community has reconnected and is looking forward to the start of the new school year.

Old Mill Pond Principal Holly-Beth Riopel and Assistant Principal Penny Manteria reunited with students and OMP families during a "Popcorn with the Principals" activity Aug.3, where they handed out popcorn and visited three local

"It's a way to connect with the families and the children... we don't see them for two months, it's a long time," said Riopel.

OMP English Language teacher Karyn Perry said the activity gets students "excited to come back to school," adding the "staff at Old Mill Pond do a great job supporting students.

The principals started the activity with a visit to Hryniewicz Park in Three Rivers, followed by visits to Endelson Playground in Bonds-

OMP | page 2



Cole and Liliana are all smiles while playing at Hryniewicz Park during the Popcorn with the Principals event.



YING LING

This is Ying Ling. Every time suitcase comes out, she's in it. She is about 8 years old and a Siamese mix, adopted when she was a kitten. Ying Ling is a beautiful girl; however, she likes to jump on people and scratch and bite. Everyone loves her - just keep your distance! 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.

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New Birth Christian Church hosts family fun day



Turley photos by Seth Chaffee

By Seth Chaffee Correspondent

PALMER- On Aug. 12, a family fun day took place at New Birth Christian Church.

This event was organized by the church's pastor, Bill Webb along with the other church members. The church has been part of the community since 1976, and events like this were held back before COVID-19 came.

"This a day where we, as a church, a family, agreed on. [It's about] reaching the community, reaching neighborhood kids, families that are hurting." Webb said.

This day offered entertainment from Maggie the Clown, who did magic acts and balloon making. Kids had their faces painted and had fun with bubbles. There was even a broad selection of food such as a cotton candy machine, snow cone machine, hot dogs and popcorn. A raffle was also held at the end that offered donated

Webb believes it was a great way to get families and their children out to socialize and meet one another, which is the goal for doing an event such as this. Although this is a family event, the activities were directed towards kids, since the church wants to assure they



University of Rochester graduates local resident

MONSON— Linnea E. Wegge graduated with Distinction from the University of Rochester in Rochester, N.Y. Wegge recieved her B.S. in Chemical Engineering with a minor in Environmental Engineering on May 12, 2023.





have enough school supplies before the fall.

Because COVID-19 restricted people from going outside, these events raise more awareness about the church and the activities it has to offer. Besides enjoying the nice day, the event also brought a good cause to families who are facing financial struggles before the

"We have drawstring bags that were donated that were filled with school supplies for the neighborhood children to use for school", Webb said.

Although the event didn't start during the pandemic, it did help it grow into what it is today. Prior, the church would do something similar, though not to the large scale it has reached.

"This is probably the biggest that we've had,"

This day wouldn't have been possible without the church members, who contributed to funds. Even the local Big Y helped pay for supplies and food, such as hot dogs and buns.

'The main goal was just so people knew we were here," Webb said. "We love our community, we love our neighbors, and everyone's welcome."



Monson Parks and Rec. seek soccer volunteers

By Dallas Gagnon Staff Writer dgagnon@turley.com

MONSON - The Monson Parks and Recreation Department is seeking several volunteers to assist with the fall recreation soccer program.

"All of our programs depend on volunteers... it's what has made our programs so successful in the past," said Parks and Recreation Director Timothy Pascale.

The First Start Program for ages four to kindergarten aged children are in need of a Program

'It's about giving back to the community."

Coordinator and three to four group leader volun-

The First Start Program consists of 40 or more athletes and meets once a week.

Athletes will be separated into several smaller groups, led by group leaders.

Groups will focus on entry level, sport fun-

Pascale said the First Start Program usually meets on Saturday mornings.

The Program Director will be responsible for scheduling practices, assigning group leaders to their groups and organizing drills.

The Department is also seeking coaches for the first and second grade soccer league.

The first and second grade soccer league consists of two to three teams total, and are in need of at least two volunteer coaches.

According to Pascale, this league meets for one to two practices a week and plays games against other Monson town teams on Saturdays or Sundays.

The fifth and sixth grade girls team are also in need of a volunteer head coach.

The fifth and sixth grade teams play against other recreation teams outside of Monson.

Pascale said volunteering to help coach recreational sports is "rewarding," as volunteers have an opportunity to see the town's youth "outside and grow not only as little people but little ath-

VOLUNTEERS | page 6

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The Journal Register

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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

DEADLINE

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

We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.

Main line rail track reopened Aug. 14

PALMER— The Massachusetts Central Railroad Corporation, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, has undertaken the rehabilitation of its main line rail track starting this past March 2023.

The Massachusetts Central Railroad Corporation is pleased to report that this project is of completed to the point where our train operations will resume a daytime schedule on Monday, Aug. 14, starting at 7 a.m. (up to a possible 12-hour period). This is a Monday through Friday service schedule for our rail customers from Palmer to South Barre to then return

If anyone should have any questions, please contact our business office phone number from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Corrections

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



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MONSON - At just 19 years old with only \$750 and a dream in his pocket, Joey Hilbert quit his job at Apollo Pizzeria, packed his bags and flew to California.

By Dallas Gagnon

Nearly 9 years later his dream would become reality, and Hilbert will celebrate one year as a professional skateboarder this November.

"I just love how it's another form of self expression and creativity," Hilbert said of skateboarding.

He said skateboarding is different from other sports because there are "no specific rules," adding "it's open to anyone and everyone."

Hilbert first took an interest in skateboarding in elementary school when another student brought a skateboard in for show and tell.

"I was pretty much obsessed with it after seeing what a skateboard could do...I bugged my mom [to buy one] for a solid month or two," said Hilbert.

Hilbert's mom Laurie Barton said growing up he was always coordinated, adding that after she bought Hilbert his first board from Walmart he was soon "obsessed."

Hilbert started out by learning to skate on a pavilion/porch at his childhood home in Monson before upgrading to a nicer board and practicing at skateparks.

It wasn't long before Barton found herself spending every weekend taking Hilbert to local parks, including the Northampton Skatepark, Junction in Springfield and Monson Skatepark.

"He would ride that thing 24/7 and he was good at it," said Barton.

When Hilbert was a teen/ preteen, Barton said there were times Hilbert was supposed to be getting ready for bed upstairs when she realized it was "awfully quiet up there."

"He would sneak out of the house to go down to the skatepark constantly," said Barton.

According to Barton, she would drive to the skatepark, sometimes multiple times in one night, to bring Hilbert back

When they moved from Monson to Palmer, Barton said



Submitted Photos

days" after bringing him to the

airport, as he was going some-

where he wouldn't know very

many people and would be on

made many connections.

chinsky," said Hilbert.

for the past eight years.

Since then, Hilbert has

"Being part of the industry,

there have been a lot of pros...

I've met people over the years

and befriended two of my fa-

vorite professional skateboard-

ers [Sierra Fellers and Dave Ba-

Am, a world renowned amateur

skate contest based in Florida,

Tampa Pro, the professional

level of Tampa Am, for the first

participates in skate contests at

the request of his sponsors', he

reshoot a trick 5-6 hours before

settling on a take he believes

prefers to shoot skate videos.

hits the right angle.

Hilbert has skated Tampa

Last year, Hilbert skated

Hibert said although he

Sometimes, Hilbert will

"You go out in the streets

his own.

Skateboarder and Monson native goes pro

Hilbert is suspended in air as he completes a trick.

"he did the same thing."

Hilbert said his dream of becoming a professional skateboarder really took shape when he started watching skate videos around the age of 12-13 years

"Realistically, every skateboarder has that kind of dream... [but] not everyone gets that kind of opportunity... I am thankful," said Hilbert.

Before uprooting himself and heading to California permanently, Hilbert spent about a month in San Diego visiting a high school friend when he was

During that time, Hilbert met "quite a few friends," in the skating scene.

He stayed in touch with his high school friend and finally told him "things weren't working out back home."

"I flew back to Palmer and I was working full time at an Italian restaurant [Apollo's]... I got over things in Massachusetts around the time I was 19," said

Barton said "he just really wanted to skate," but in Massachusetts there was "nowhere to take him [and] he was ready."

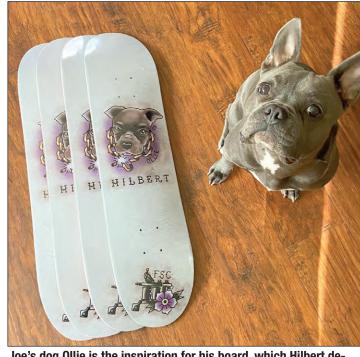
"I knew it was a dead end street here," said Barton. She said she "cried for

anywhere from four months to a year filming," said Hilbert. He has skated in various

> parts of the world including areas of Germany, London and

Hilbert is currently spon-

Monson native, Joey Hilbert is shown alongside his dog Ollie.



Joe's dog Ollie is the inspiration for his board, which Hilbert designed himself.

sored by FSC Skateboarding, Happy Wheels, Cariuma Skateboarding, Venture Trucks and Televisistar.

Hilbert said he has learned a lot through his experiences skateboarding including patience and perseverance.

"It's not like anyone can step on a skateboard and 'boom' - they can do five to six tricks. It's definitely something you have to learn," said Hilbert.

A piece of advice Hilbert gives to aspiring skaters is "have fun and make the most of it, [and] make a lot of memories with your friends."

Hilbert recognized the talent of his cousin, 24 year old local Dylan Boynton who he believes is "killing it."

Hilbert also recognized his sponsors for their support, and his mother for always supporting his dreams.

"She played a big part in where I am today and I could not have done it without her support and positivity," said

"[Skate] for the love of it, have no expectations."

Conservation Commission awaits Barker Street grant announcement

By Marcelo Gusmão Staff Writer

PALMER - At a recent Conservation Commission meeting Conservation Agent Heidi Mannarino announced the Land Grant for the area by the Chicopee River has been submitted, and described the preliminary site visit with a representative from the Division of Conserva-

tion Services.

"The Land Grant is submitted for Lot 43 Barker St., yay," Mannarino said, "(Recreational Director Andrew St. George) and myself went out on a site visit on the property with Vanessa Farney from the DCS yesterday, and it went really great."

Mannarino said, "There were a ton of people using the area, actually at the

The Massachusetts Trial Court hereby gives notice of the availability of one or more Bail Commissioner

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time, there were kids jumping in the water and there was a gentleman with his dog throwing the ball in the water, and she really loved to see that, so it was a very positive site visit."

Conservation Commission Chairman Donald Blais took the opportunity to praise Mannarino and St. George's work on the Land Grant.

"The fact that you and Andrew got that done in a month, that is very well done, I am beyond impressed," Blais said. "I was just outside talking to one of our town councilors - actually, two of them – and they were very impressed."

"(Farney) let us know that usually the Grant award is announced in November," Mannarino said.

CONSERVATION | page 11

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Viewpoints



Why is Social **Security** withholding my monthly payments?

Dear Rusty: I have been working since I started collecting Social Security when I turned 62. Last year I was apparently overpaid because of my job. I made \$37,000 and now the Social Security Administration says I owe them \$8,800 dollars because I made too much and they have withheld my \$2000 monthly SS payment.

I am close to the maximum allowable again already this year. So, I am looking at quitting my job so I don't go over, but they are holding my payments so then I would have no money. Any help would be appreciated.

Signed: Frustrated by Social Security

Dear Frustrated: You are being affected by Social Security's "earnings test," which applies to everyone who collects early Social Security and also works before reaching their Full Retirement Age. If your earned income exceeds the annual limit, which was \$19,560 for 2022, Social Security will withhold \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit.

If you earned \$37,000 in 2022 you were more than \$17,000 over the limit and owe half of that back to Social Security. They usually recover what you owe by withholding your future benefit payments, so they won't pay you benefits until they have recovered that \$8,800, after which your benefits will resume, but only for a

If you are working full time and also collecting early Social Security benefits, the earnings test lasts until you reach your full retirement age, which for you is 66 years and 8 months. The earnings limit goes up a bit each year for 2023 it is \$21,240, but if you continue to work full time, you'll receive another overpayment notice and have more benefits withheld.

A better approach might be to contact Social Security in advance and tell them what your 2023 earnings are expected to be, thus permitting them to suspend your benefits in advance and avoid overpaying you. I'm afraid there is no way around this – collecting early benefits while working full time means the "earnings test" will affect your benefit payments.

The "good news" in all of this is that when you reach your Full Retirement Age, you will get time-credit for all months your benefits were withheld. By that I mean they will, at your FRA, recalculate your benefit entitlement as though you had claimed later (later by the number of months you had benefits withheld), which will result in a higher monthly payment after your

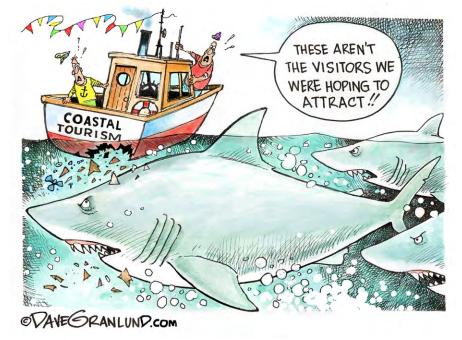
In that way, you may eventually recover some or all of the benefits withheld by receiving a higher monthly amount for the rest of your life, starting at your full retirement age.

I suggest you contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 or at your local office and tell them you want to provide them with an estimate of your 2023 earnings because you are working and collecting early Social Security benefits.

They will work with you to suspend your benefits for an appropriate number of (additional) months to avoid another overpayment situation. Note, you'll likely need to do this each year vou continue to work full time, until the year you reach your full retirement age when the earnings limit more than doubles. The earnings limit goes away when you reach your full retirement age.

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

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Soil test this fall and beat the rush

A dear friend of mine sent me a picture of her pepper; her one pepper.

Granted, the fruit was picked a weebit prematurely by her 3-year-old granddaughter Genevieve, but still, one single fruit measuring 2 inches by 2 inches for all of her many pepper plants is nothing to brag about.

If I'm not mistaken, she used the word "pathetic" to describe said plants. Along with "stunted" and "pale."

Alas, what is a friend to do, but recommend a soil test?

I finally got the soil in two of my gardens tested last fall and I am so very happy that I did. With the necessary amendments added to bring up sub-par soil, I am enjoying bush beans and happy flowers in those areas.

Many of us garden for years before we have our soil tested. It is likely that we get fixed on our own routine of liming and fertilizing. Perhaps

too, we live

insect and disease problems each season and think that little can be done to remedy our situation. Maybe with a better understanding of our soil through testing, we will be able to create and maintain a fertile soil that supports healthy, optimal

Rather than waiting until spring, beat the rush and send your sample off this fall. Here is a refresher on the nuts and bolts of soil testing.

We test the soil for many reasons. Perhaps the most important reason is to

Here in New England soil tends to be on the acidic side. Vital soil nutrients are unavailable to plants in an overly acid soil, even if they are in great supply.

Optimum pH for most plants is close to neutral, in the range of 6.2-6.8. Before you head for the garage to dust off the spreader, be forewarned that all limes are

Test results will indicate whether calcitic lime, hi mag lime, or dolomitic lime is best for your soil, and at what

The test will also give you recommendations for boosting necessary soil nutrients, the most common of which are phosphorous, and potassium, magnesium, calcium and more. Let the soil testing laboratory know what crops you grow and what kind of gardener you are, that way their advice can be specific to your needs.

Organic gardeners will want to use natural fertilizer sources such as blood meal, bone meal, bone char, wood ash, rock phosphate and greensand among others to feed the soil.

The standard soil test will also give you the levels of lead in your soil. As we all know, lead poisoning is a particular concern to children under the age of 6.

Produce grown in soils high in lead can accumulate enough lead in their tissue to be hazardous when eaten. The most likely cause of soil contamination is from particles of lead based paint that have been removed from nearby struc-

To reduce the risk of contamination, locate gardens away from old painted structures and keep pH and organic matter contents at optimal ranges.

For just a few dollars more, the percentage of organic matter in the soil can be determined. Organic matter is very important because it encourages a

> healthy population of soil microbes that solubilize stored nutrients, making them more available plant uptake.

As ganic material decomposes, humus results. Humus binds sandy soils and

improves their water holding capacity; alternately, it aerates heavy clay soils and promotes better drainage.

If the percentage of organic matter in your garden comes in low, add compost, aged animal manure, or cover crops to bring levels up. Established shrub or perennial borders benefit from an application of bark mulch for the same reason.

It is very easy to gather soil for test-

First, remove a 6-8-inch core of soil from your garden with a stainless steel trowel. Remove surface debris and air

If your garden is large, mix about a dozen cores together to end up with about a cup of soil for testing. The different microclimates of your landscape should be tested separately.

Official directions and an order form are available at http://soiltest.umass.edu. The standard soil test is \$20, add an additional \$6 for the standard test including organic matter.

Test results could initiate some revisions to our fertilization and liming routine this fall, preparing the way for a healthier, more productive garden next spring and summer, and maybe even a few more peppers for Genevieve to enjoy!

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.

Letters to the Editor

Praise for Better Bean and the Peddle and Wren

To the Editor

My past submissions dating back to the 90s were always about the exodus of major employers. Empty storefronts abound and the need to spend our dollars locally is paramount to the success of our small business economy, I once wrote.

Well at last we have a success story, The Better Bean Coffee Shop newly opened next to the Peddle & Wren flower shop in the restored 188 Main Street block.

Proprietor Amanda Roy, her family and new staff should all take a bow. She has a line out the door, standing room only since the moment she opened. Who has ever seen this type of success anywhere? I haven't!

Coupled with all that's wrong with our economy, our society, political unrest and the collapse of our dollar what I call hyperinflation I can't explain how they did it but again my hat is off to them all

As the guy who empties the trash barrels on Main St and maintains Dave Grieve Park across the street I can say first hand ... the tables, chairs and benches have never seen such use. The trash barrels nearly overflowing for the first time... and they smell like flavored coffee not dog waste. Thank you The Better Bean and the Peddle & Wren for doing the impossible... opening anything in Monson in this day and age.

> **Robert Ainsworth** Monson, MA

GUEST COLUMN

A Summer Tour of **Community Colleges**

By Eric Goodhart

There are many questions that need to be answered by a teenager, who has college aspirations.

But for now, here is just one. Whenever I asked a teenager why they want to go to college I often get one of two answers. "To get a good job" or "It is the expected thing to do."

I have yet to hear a student reply like this. "The career I am interested is something in the medical profession. Not sure if I want to pursue a Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine or a Doctor of Medicine degree. Both cost a ton. My kid sister wants to be lawyer specializing in Health Care Law. She says she is going to keep an

"I started in the summer between sophomore and junior year, taking college level classes at our local community college. I continued dual enrollment through junior year. The Salutatorian at my high school did that. He was accepted to Rhodes College as a sophomore plus a \$12,000/year scholarship. He saved his parents over \$102,000. In fact, each of the three years he will be there will cost about \$10,000 less than UMass, Amherst"

Such an outcome is possible. But it takes research coupled with practical planning including factoring in financial considerations.

For the students who are ready for a challenge, dual enrollment is a very good option. Mount Wachusett, Greenfield, Holyoke Berkshire Community Colleges and Springfield Tech all are focused on expanding their Dual Enrollment programs. Right now, summer is when many are offering on campus Dual Enrollment introductory talks or on Zoom. Greenfield, MWCC, Springfield and Berkshire CC have very easy to navigate websites with that information. Here is the website to visit for all the CCs in the state https://masscc.org/ colleges/

In addition, each one, including Holyoke CC, has a Phi Theta Kappa honor society chapter. It is not easy to become a member, nor should it be. PTK, founded in 1918, is an international honor society for community college students mirroring the principles of the much older Phi Beta Kappa honor society at four-year colleges. founded in 1776 at the College of William &

Membership in PTK comes with many perks. More about that next week. Be sure to ask admissions on your tour as to how many students received the honor in the last five years and where are they are now?

Whatever the reason for going to college may be, the first and most important first step of a teenager is to do some self-reflection and selected self-assessments. They are not tests.

Every community college has an academic and career advising department. Part of that advising includes some form of assessment and/or interest survey.

MWCC has a free 60 question interest questionnaire anyone can take resembling the John Holland SDS survey. That is a good start.

The college's overall explanation of its Academic and Career Advising process is very good. However, positive individual results ultimately depend on the student's initiative in taking advantage of that guidance.

Greenfield CC has several self-assessments anyone can take on its website. For a modest cost of \$39 a student even just thinking about attending Greenfield CC can take advantage of that. It illustrates the value and importance the college has in its advising philosophy.

The college recently completed a true Nation-wide search for a new President. Michelle Schutt, Ph.D. has a BS, two MS degrees along with her Doctorate in Education and Human Studies. A Midwesterner at heart she has brought that to Greenfield and adjusted seamlessly into her new role in Franklin County.

The college is fortunate to have her as the 11th President. Because of her past many leadership accomplishments in both the classroom and as a keynote speaker on leadership in many different stages it is no surprise that she is now in Greenfield. She has the academic and charismatic personality that, by all reports, foretells good things for the college's future and the wider community at the beginning of the Mohawk Trail.



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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 on the ballot or discussing campaigr issues should be sent to The Journa 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 numbe for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that ters will be printed. No letters writter 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 at torney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election as well as a question-and-answe 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

GUEST COLUMN

HOLY COW! HISTORY: Josh's golden scam

The nickel that caused a dollar's worth of scandal

> By J. Mark Powell jmarkpowell.com

Like so many things in life, it seemed like a good idea at the time, and it would have been, too, if one man's swindle hadn't ruined everything.

When all was said and done, a conman got off scot-free, Washington had egg on its face, and a new phrase entered the American vocabulary that's still used today.

This is the story of Josh's golden scam.

Back in 1866, the govern-

ment began minting the first five-cent piece. It had the United States shield – our country's coat of arms if you will – on the front and "5 Cents" surrounded by 13 stars on the back.

The public liked the new coin and immediately began referring to it by the metal used to produce it: the nickel. (Its predecessor had been silver and called the "half dime.")

But it proved difficult to strike, causing countless headaches for the United States Mint. So a new design was produced.

Released on February 1, 1883, it featured Lady Liberty on the front with a giant V (the Roman numeral for five) in the center of the reverse. Americans enthusiastically embraced the

There was just one problem. "Five cents, please." It was a big one, too...and a man in Boston named Josh Tatum quickly spotted it.

No denomination appeared on the coin. There was just that great big V. It could mean 5 cents or 5

dollars. Which caused a light-

bulb to switch on in Josh's head. The new nickel was about the same size as a \$5 gold piece. Both bore the likeness of Liberty on the front and, while not identical, to the untrained eye they looked similar to one another.

So, Josh took several of the new nickels to a jeweler and had them electroplated with gold. Then he went to a store.

Walking up the counter, he pretended to be deaf mute and pointed to a cigar. The clerk said,

Josh handed over his phony gold-plated coin and was promptly given \$4.95 in real money in change. When he pulled the scam at different stores, it worked perfectly every

Apparently, Josh liked to think big. He had 1,000 nickels covered with a thin layer of cheap gold and worked his way to New York City.

Never speaking, only pointing, and always walking away the richer for the exchange. He supposedly made \$15,000 (about \$375,000 today) by the time he was arrested.

Josh was eventually hauled into court and tried for his hoax. But prosecutors had a serious

HOLY COW **I** page 6

Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon

A series of misfortunate events

By Julie Midura

When Tom and I began planning a five-day backpacking trip in the Sandwich Wilderness of New Hampshire, we envisioned lovely days of easy hiking followed by peaceful evenings sitting beside a campfire before crawling into our tent for a restful night's sleep.

But this time, things didn't turn out quite as we planned.

Misfortunate event #1:

The three and a half hour drive to New Hampshire became a five and a half hour drive due to an accident, which forced us to start our five and a half mile hike at 4:30 p.m. Now if you think that we'd be well rested after sitting in a car for over five hours while battling heavy traffic, you'd

We were thoroughly exhausted; and we hadn't even started hiking yet.

Misfortunate event #2:

When we reached the swollen Whiteface River, it was too high to cross over on rocks, so we changed into our Crocs and forded instead. With two more crossings ahead of us in the next 1.3 miles, we decided that instead of taking the time to dry our feet and pull on our socks and shoes after each crossing, we'd just hike in our Crocs until the final crossing.

Which lead to...

Misfortunate event #3:

In spite of the fact that we were wearing Crocs, we raced along the trail in a vain attempt to arrive at the tentsite ahead of the darkness. Which caused Tom's Croc-wearing feet to sink into calf deep mud, whereby he crashed to the ground like the proverbial tree falling in the forest. (And yes, there was indeed a sound when he fell!)

Misfortunate event #4:

We slowed our pace after misfortunate event #3, arriving at Flat Mountain Pond tentsite at dusk- which is the time we'd normally already have the tent set up, camp clothes on and dinner eaten. With no time to waste before darkness set in, we located a level patch of dirt to set up

I dropped my backpack, unclipped the straps, flipped the top open...and didn't see the single most important item that is usually right on top.

Panic set in while I yanked one item after another out of my pack and tossed it in a heap on the ground in a desperate attempt to find the missing item. When my hand finally reached the bottom of my now empty pack, I knew that we were about to endure the greatest misfortunate event in the life of a backpacker.

"Tom? Did you by any chance pack the tent?"

I already knew the answer before I even asked. After all, Tom always packs the fly and ground cloth while I always pack the tent body itself.

Well...almost always. But the process of asking allowed me to hold on to a split second of hope before hearing Tom's response, "No. Didn't you?"

Tom and I looked at each other, both of us realizing that there would be no tent to protect us from the hoards of mosquitoes that had plagued us for the past 5+ miles in spite of the gallons of bug spray we had liberally applied back at the car. With a pond nearby, we knew that this could be an incredibly rough night.

Since hiking five miles back to our car in the dark in our exhausted state wasn't an option, we had no choice but to make the best of this latest misfortunate event.

I apologized to Tom as we went about staking out just the fly. He was gracious in his response, "No need to apol-

ogize, kiddo. We all forget stuff sometimes." In spite of his understanding, I felt terrible.

When we finished blowing up our air mattresses, zipping our double-wide sleeping bag together and laying out all of our gear, everything looked like it usually does - with the exception of the eight inch gap between the bottom of the fly and the ground. In an effort to find something to be grateful for in the midst of what had been a very trying day, I said brightly, "Well at least there isn't any rain in the forecast tonight."

Ten minutes later, the skies opened up.

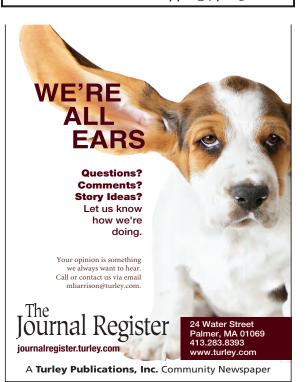
Yes folks, God does indeed have a sense of humor. All was not bad, however. With the exception of slightly wet sleeping bags and over a dozen spider bites,

we made it through the night unscathed...and so the ad-

ventures continue! See you in the wild places, my friends!

To read more about our hiking adventures (and misadventures) follow us on Instagram @morethanthemountain.





Palmer teen gets crafty

By Dallas Gagnon Staff Writer dgagnon@turley.com

PALMER - While walking around his grandfather's shop, a lathe caught the eye of a then, 10 year old Sean Mc-Neaney.

What started off as mere curiosity, quickly turned into an ongoing hobby, which Mc-Neaney has kept at for six years

"I've been turning [pens] for six years and selling them for four," said McNeaney.

McNeaney said after he asked his grandfather about the lathe, he showed him how to operate it and hasn't stopped since.

McNeaney, owner of "Sean Woodpecker Crafts," turns all of his own pens, crafts wooden pendants for bracelets, handles for measuring cups/ spoons, bottle openers, money clips and bottle stoppers.

He travels to different markets and craft fairs selling the woodwork he creates.

While McNeaney creates various crafts, he said he enjoys making pens because "it opens up a certain part of [his] brain."

"It's fun because I taper [the handle of] each pen to different people... some are thick for bigger hands, some are thin for smaller hands," said Mc-Neaney.

His products are crafted using a variety of different materials, including acrylic or wood - which are also available in a wide variety.

Some wood McNeaney uses for his pens include purple heart, cocobolo, cherry, pine, walnut, oak, mahogany, birch and blood wood.

McNeaney said he usually makes a pen anytime he goes to his grandfather's house.

"Sometimes it takes a whole day, though other times it can take just one to two hours," said McNeaney.

When they are finished, McNeaney polishes them using either a high friction polish technique or using a shellac.

While McNeaney credits his grandfather Howard Bigelow for teaching him how to

turn, Bigelow said McNeaney

younger, Bigelow said he used

to peek around at him while

he was operating the machine,

until he came to the conclusion

McNeaney knew what he was

of McNeaney's top selling pens

pen is in the shape of a shotgun

and is popular among military

servicemen and women as well

is a 30 caliber gun, pen.

According to Bigelow, one

The clip on the side of the

McNeaney was just 12

doing.

as veterans.

When McNeaney was

"figured it out on his own."

The 30 caliber pen is one of McNeaney's most popular items.



Sean McNeaney smiles while hosting his craft tent at the August 11, Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce Farmers, Food Trucks and Artisans Market event.



Shown is a purple heart pen; named after its purple heart wood.





years old when he started sell-

ing his products at craft fairs,

and made his debut at the East-

man, a retired U.S Marine, pur-

chased three of the 30 caliber

pens for himself and two of his

friends who were World War II

attracts attention is a lighthouse

pen, fixed with a color chang-

Rivers Chamber of Commerce

Food Trucks, Farmers and Arti-

sans Market, attendees stopped

cakes," said Bigelow.

Bigelow said one gentle-

"They seem to go like hot-

Another unique pen that

At the August 11 Three

Field Mall.

veterans.

to admire the handcrafted pens.

While some favored the wood worked ones, others preferred the acrylic - which are available in a variety of different colors and designs.

There are two different styles of pen refills available as well, including a cross style pen and a standard parker style or "roller pen."

Refills can be purchased

staples and other office supply stores.

"You can always buy a plastic pen that will last a little while - but this glides and fits in your hand," said Mc-

Neaney. He added he has "yet to find a pen," as comfortable to use as the ones he custom makes.

To check out some of McNeaney's



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WOODPECKER CRAFTS

Shown are bracelets McNeaney crafted.

While the medal fixtures are part of a kit, McNeaney turns the wooden handles shown on the measuring spoons.

be in attendance at the Three next market in September.

pens in person, McNeaney will Rivers Chamber of Commerce

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PVPC discuss Brimfield hazard mitigation plan

By Dallas Gagnon Staff Writer dgagnon@turley.com

BRIMFIELD – Representatives from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission shared a Brimfield Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness and Hazard Mitigation Plan presentation with the public at a recent Selectboard meeting.

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Senior Planners Mimi Kaplan and Brimfield Conservation Agent Angela Panaccione informed residents of the status of the town's planning process, including what data has been collected and how the Commission will move forward.

"The town received a grant from the state Executive Office of Environmental Affairs to utilize the Community Resilience Building Workshop process to develop by the Executive Office of Environan MVP [municipal vulnerability plan]," said Kaplan.

The grant also allowed for the town to update Brimfield's Hazard Mitigation Plan as it stands.

While the previous Hazard Mitigation Plan has not been updated since 2011, it is encouraged to update an HMP every five years to comply with Federal Emergency Management Association and Massachusetts Emergency Management Association guidelines.

Kaplan said the planning process "helps the town improve preparedness for and resilience to natural hazard events, and make the town eligible for climate change resilience and hazard mitigation

The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program is supported mental Affairs and began in 2017.

Panaccione said MVP was established under Gov. Charlie Baker's executive order 569 with the intent to "basically come up with a comprehensive approach to combat climate change and the impacts from climate change."

She added that the state "in 2018 they allocated over \$2.4 billion for planning."

Many towns in the commonwealth have begun planning or have finished planning and started applying for action grants.

"That's [action grants] where the real money comes in... funding can be used for planning, assessments, design, permitting, construction, and on the ground implementation," said Panaccoine.

Panaccoine, According to

through the planning process Brimfield will get a better understanding of the town's hazards, strengths and weaknesses.

It will also make the town eligible to apply for action grants through FEMA and hazardous mitigation grants.

"A cool thing about that is that if you have a very large expenditure project, FEMA is a federal grant so you could couple the MVP state action grant... do your design and permitting, and then apply for a FEMA Hazardous Mitigation grant to cover the construction cost," said Panac-

She added the town's core team is currently working with Chester, Blandford and Middlefield to evaluate and plan for resilient dirt roads in town.

Examples of how funding from note of is the removal of trees by

Hazard Vulnerability Preparedness action plan grants have been used locally include Belchertown's stream crossing and beaver impact assessment and adaptation plan, Palmer's Route 181 culvert infrastructure replacement/ assessment and the addition of a public safety

complex in Williamsburg. The core team compiled several natural disasters that could potentially affect Brimfield and ranked them from one, being the most likely to happen hazard, to five, as the least likely to happen.

A hazard's index ranking was determined by the ground area coverage that would be affected by its history of occurrence, the likelihood of it occurring again and the impact of the hazard.

One action item the team made

However, Panaccoine said the MVP won't allow the community to take down trees unless there is a plan to replant or replace those trees.

Replacing culverts and installing drainage systems with green infrastructures was also a high priority action item.

Another action item included working with residents who own private property to educate and plan around beaver damage.

Following the July 31 meeting, Kaplan said PVPC will finish the mitigation plan and present the draft to residents during another town meeting before presenting it to

Once the MVP is adopted, the Selectboard would then become eligible to apply for action grant fund-

MONSON I from page 1

things that can impact our community in pate in this year's annual bus tour. a positive way," said Graves-Harrison.

She added one topic the new framework draft addresses is sex-trafficking which she believes is a productive addi-

Nothe-Valley suggested that if the Committee sends a letter to the commonwealth, it should address questions such as whether or not the commonwealth is going to provide resources for unfunded mandates if the curriculum is enforcing mandates.

"If we have concerns about how much local control we truly have, those are the types of things I would think would be appropriate to come [forward with] as a Board," said Nothe-Valley.

Nothe-Valley said the "hot-button pieces," or concerns about age appropriateness and Sex Education make up for only a small percentage of the frame-

"As a Board, we should be focused," said Nothe-Valley.

The Committee motioned in favor of writing a letter of feedback for DESE regarding the proposed Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Curriculum Framework Draft for Health and Physical Education.

The Committee agreed to address topics such as financial implications of the new guidelines regarding potentially unfunded mandates, ask that the commonwealth refrain from mandating the framework and leave room for the District to implement guidelines voluntarily, ask that the Committee have autonomy to determine "what we use at what ages," and clarification on "the opt out rule for Sex Education.'

A draft of the letter will be sent to the Committee by August 17, to allow the Committee one week to review it before the August 23 meeting.

Chairwoman Graves-Harrison suggested parents and district members complete a feedback survey regarding the DESE framework on the school district website.

District Updates About 40 staff members will partici-

The tour will take place on August 22, with the tour first stopping at Adam's Market followed by stops at River Hollow and Westview Creamery.

"Virtually, all of the teachers at the ECC and Granite Valley are going to board the bus as well as some support staff... it's a really great opportunity for our students to meet their upcoming teachers and support staff," said Superintendent Dr. Cheryl A. Clarke.

She added administration will also be in attendance, handing out a couple hundred bags of school supplies "to help fray the cost of school supplies."

Quarry Hill will host a transportation night for Kindergarten students on

Clarke said it is "another great opportunity to meet your bus driver for next year, go for a little bit of a bus ride [and] learn a little bit about the rules of bus transportation."

Granite Valley will hold building tours on August 17, 22 and 23 with mornings, afternoon and evening times

The new student barbecue for Monson High School Students will be held on August 28, with the first day of school for students grades 1-12 on August 30, and preschool-kindergarten starting September 5.

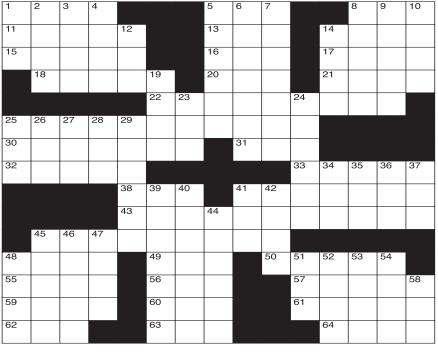
Going into the 2023 school year, Clarke said a safety protocol she implemented over the summer was the addition of a window film for Granite Valley.

It is a one way film that will prevent anyone who is trying to look into the school from having the ability to.

Additional building updates include a floor replacement in Quarry Hill, new copy and printer contracts and some painting projects.

Another safety implementation Clarke shared with the Committee was the decision to begin ALICE training August 28, before school starts.

"I am so excited for our students. I think everyone is going to be pleased," said Clarke.



CLUES ACROSS 1. Civil rights

organization 5. Calendar month (abbr.) 48. Native religionn in 8. Monetary unit of

Burma 11. Twyla ___, US dancer 13. Everything included

14. "Antman" actor Rudd 55. Ancient Greek sophist 15. Italian city

16. Nowhere to be found 17. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls 59. Nocturnal S. 18. Turkish officer

20. Perform on stage 21. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid 22. Canadian coastal

provinces 25. Furnishes anew 30. Edible mollusk

31. No seats available

32. Garden figurine 33. Two-legged support 38. Rest here please

CLUES DOWN 1. Defunct US energy company 2. Fellow (abbr.) 41. In a silly way 3. It's issued from

43. One from the Golden 45. Photographers parts of China

49. Dickens character

50. Brodway actress

57. Daniel , French

American rodent

62. Patti Hearst's captors

holiday (abbr.)

64. Tall, slender plant

composer

61. Jewish spiritual

63. Popular global

leader

Daisv

56. Undivided

60. Rusty

4. Type of acid Winged nut Arouses 7. Things are served

volcanoes

8. San Diego ballplayer 9. Currency and a Chinese dynasty 10. __ mater, one's school

12. Exclamation that denotes disgust 14. Hairstyle 19. Supreme ancient

Egyptian god 23. They 24. Connecting line on a map

25. Mock 26. One point north of due east 27. Chinese philosophical

29. Persuade to do

principle 28. Type of tree

something 34. A place for travelers to rest 35. National Gallery of

Art designer 36. Panamaniaan province 37. Field force unit (abbr.) 39. Whalers' tool

40. Simply 41. Nigerian City 42. Not one 44. Obstruct 45. Political plot 46. Manila hemp plant 47. Dough made from

corn flour 48. Fishes by letting the bob fly 51. Swiss river 52. Plant that makes

53. A French abbot 54. One point east of northeast 58. Get free of

First ever Color Run to support local families affected by Childhood Cancer

AGAWAM -- Griffin's Friends Children's Cancer Fund at Baystate Children's Hospital has been supporting local families receiving cancer care at Baystate Children's Hospital for over 25 years! Come be a part of Griffin's Friends first ever Color Run and help bring moments of joy to courageous kids! Join us on Sept. 16, 2023, at Agawam High School, the Color blast take off will begin at 11 a.m., please arrive at 10 a.m.

for registration check in. This event will cost \$25 for students and \$35 for adults which will include a T-shirt and protective sunglasses. The two-mile color filled course is great for a fun run or walk!

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VOLUNTEERS I from page 2

He added it is important for children to have the opportunity to play sports because they learn valuable life lessons such as working together, learning to succeed and how to deal with loss.

"The earlier we teach those values of life the better, because we are all really part of a bigger team," said Pascale.

The season will begin in late August and end in early November.

To volunteer, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 413-267-4105.

HOLY COW I from page 4

At no time did Josh ever claim the coin was a \$5 gold piece. In fact, he never said anything

He simply handed it over and trusting clerks accepted it was as genuine. Because he never claimed it was actually gold, the jury found Josh had committed no crime. He was acquitted.

While all this was happening, Washington was dealing with similar headaches caused by the new nickel. Other con artists had spotted the design oversight and were also taking advantage of The head of the Secret Service had noted the

potential for criminal mischief at the outset and warned the government. Then as now, bureaucrats are loath to admit a mistake. The Philadelphia Mint's director loudly defended the new nickel. He pointed out a three-cent

coin had been minted for 22 years with just the

Roman numeral III on the back and no denomination, and there hadn't been any problems. Although he didn't mention that coin was smaller than a dime and the \$3 gold piece was larger than a quarter, making it impossible to con-

fuse the two. By now the scam was being reported as far away as St. Louis, Morgan City, Louisiana, and San Francisco. The government had no choice but

On March 11 new nickels began coming out of the Mint with the word "cents" added directly below the V. It remained there until the Buffalo

Nickel replacement debuted in 1913. Today, the gold-plated frauds are called Racketeering Nickels and are cherished by collectors. Two lessons from this story. First, the phrase

"I'm joshing you" was popularized by the inci-

Though it appears to have shown up in print as early as 1845, its usage exploded after 1883.

And, the Mint learned its lesson. That was the last time it ever produced a coin that didn't bear the denomination.

I'm not joshing you.

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

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PALMER I from page 1

They want to make sure that the people who are getting the money are going to actually utilize it."

The asking price for the property was \$100,000 along with additional fees such as closing costs and paying for surveys, which would be reimbursed by the grant at 70%. St. George added that these estimations are only from one professional, and that they may be more favorable when they receive multiple quotes from the survey process.

"The fact that we're at the 70% (reimbursement) is because we score very high on all the things they care about for awarding these grants," St. George said.

The Council voted unanimously to agree to move forward with the project, contingent on receiving the grant.

Dental services

Tina Brohman, the town's veteran services officer introduced the Council to Amanda Day, a dental hygiene professional to offer her service of Mobile Dental Services for Veterans and their

families. "I have portable equipment, I can do on-site dental cleanings," Day said. "I do have a dentist that I am signed with – or, he's signed with me - for any emergencies or any unforeseen 'mishaps,' shall we say – not that I'm expecting any; I've been a dental hygienist for over 30 years,

so I know my job.' According to Brohman and Day, the fees for services would be covered by MassHealth and Chapter 115 subsidy funds.

"It's giving (people) an avenue if they don't have a regular dentist," Brohman said. "There are a lot of people that can't afford a regular dentist just to do these things.

Brohman said that, in order to make sure her patients have the time they needed for the work, Day will only accept six patients at a time, and it will be on a "first come, first serve" basis.

"We might, depending on how it goes and how the community receives it, maybe do once a month, or once every other month, depending on the need," Brohman said.

The Council clarified that Mass-Health will cover the patients' fees, and that there will be a "private pay" option for patients who have neither Chapter 115 or MassHealth coverage.

"I'm assuming you're going to invoice the town for Veteran A, Veteran B, Veteran C, that are under Chapter 115 benefits," Town Council President Barbara Barry said, "We're going to pay out of the Veterans Benefits account, and then you're going to submit monthly for those, and then we would get 75% back."

Bridge closings

A resident approached the Council with complaints about the bridges that were closed over the last weekend. He wanted to know why a temporary truss bridge is being placed on Church Street, believing that replacing the deck would be more efficient.

"Full replacement of the bridge, the town could not afford," said Barry. "It's called a temporary bridge (...) but it is not temporary in that it's only going to last for a couple of years. It can last over 10 years, is what we've been told, and it's much more affordable for the town."

"It's still expensive," Barry said. "We're trying to do what we can do, what we can afford, to get that bridge opened. It was already closed too long

while we attempted to get state funding. Following the resident's continued complaints, Barry said, "If we were still waiting to find \$10-12 million, everyone would be complaining because the bridge was still closed, so this is what

we're doing." Town Manager Ryan McNutt confirmed that there was a meeting with the Department of Transportation on

Wednesday to discuss the bridge. "I would say, at the end of this year, the truss bridge will be installed," McNutt said. "Now, whether or not the deck to the truss bridge can be paved is still a moving target. If we can beat the asphalt plant closures in November, then it will get paved. If we can't, then it will

get paved in the spring." High school track

The resident went on to ask about funds allocated to repair the track at

Palmer High School. 'The track was in disrepair," explained Barry. "The kids at Palmer High School could not use that track, they could not have track meets at it. It had been maintained once, I believe, over all the years. It needed to be fixed, it couldn't have another band-aid put on it, and so we are fixing the drainage up there, something that should've been done years ago.

Barry explained where the funds are coming from, including federal money from the American Rescue Plan Act, as well as money raised by the Demarski family, which was donated to the town. In addition to these monies, between \$130,000 to 135,000 will be set aside for maintenance, she said.

'One of the issues in this town, forever, is that we do not maintain things,' Barry said. "We had estimates from, again, the engineer, that told us what the estimated cost to make repairs to that track would be in 10 years, and that's what we're putting aside, and so every year, as part of the budget going forward, we will be putting aside \$135,000 so

when we get to year 10, we can fix the track, and then it will continue for another

10 years." Other business

The Council also unanimously voted to accept a Community Assessment and Action Plan presented by Becky Basch from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, and to sign a Dementia Friendly Pledge.

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OMP principals meet students, families at local parks



Nora is shown climbing on the new playground features at the Hryniewicz Park.



Kindergarten teacher Karyn Marciniec joined in on the



Nina is one of many students who spent their time on the swings.



Children alternated between playing on the playscape and the splash pad at Endelson Playground.



Dimitri, Oliver, Nina and Jarrett stop for a photo on the Hryniewicz Park train feature.



Dominic and his sister, Kayla, climb on the Endelson Park apparatus in Bondsville.

OMP I from page 1

ville and Thorndike Park on and shrieking with laughter.

"Last year we did an activi- ber ty just OMP and had everybody travel here," said Riopel.

She said she wanted to to the different parks this year to help alleviate transportation issues and provide "an opportunity

to celebrate those new parks." Riopel said she bagged the popcorn herself after purchasing large sleeves at Big Y. Riopel and Manteria carried a large sack of popcorn to all three parks for children to snack on in between

activities. While many children enjoyed climbing on the newly-reconstructed playscape at Hryniewicz Park, those who joined the principals in Bondsville could be seen running through the splash pad

Former OMP staff mem-Sue Kuszewski attended the event with her grandchildren and said she found out about the event through the OMP facebook page.

"They've done things like this in the past... they do a lot of different things with the community, it's wonderful," said Kusze-

OMP parent and Parent Teacher Organization member Kristine Camacho said the event was "great," as it granted students an opportunity to "see the principals and their friends over the

For some children, the event served as an opportunity to become introduced to the OMP students, like Kuszewski's granddaughter, Emma, who will start

preschool in September.

OMP parents Steve and Aimee Henn said they have students in multiple school districts, including Palmer.

Steve Henn said district "exceeds expectations, by far, with community events. They are the only school district that does stuff like this throughout the school year."

Kuszewski said Riopel has "been with the school district," for a long time and they are "very lucky to have her. She has been in the school [and] she is the com-

As the school year approaches, Old Mill Pond has a few upcoming events already planned.

Kindergarten orientation for OMP will be held at the school on Tuesday, Sept. 5, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Orientation will offer students and parents an opportunity to find out who their teachers are and ride across campus in a school bus to experience what riding a bus is like.

On Friday, Sept. 8, the third grade will participate in a grandparents/special guest breakfast from 9 to 10 a.m.

"That's brand new this year," said Riopel.

She said the purpose of the breakfast is "to get more people in the building," as she believes the school is "beautiful."

It will also allow students to celebrate their grandparents and for grandparents to celebrate their grandchildren.



Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon

Presentation: Taking 'professional' photos with your phone

HAMPDEN — Learn how to use your smartphone to take photographs of your artwork and sculptural work for your website or to add to your portfolio. Artist Nan Hurlburt will demonstrate how to take photos and show your art to its best advantage.

Each participant is allowed two

pieces to photograph.

Criteria: Paintings, ings (hanging work must NOT be framed), and sculptural work. The finished files will be emailed to each participant.

Presentation will be on Saturday, Set. 16, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Community Room at the Hampden Senior Center in Hamp-

Contact Sue Superson: sjsrighter@aol.com to sign up and to answer any questions. Space is limited. There will be a \$10 charge.

Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?

Mason and Emma take a rest after playing.

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This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.



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SUPPORTING LOCAL IS WHAT THIS EVENT IS ALL ABOUT

from 12 to 4

Jayden Roblinski, Steven Kingston and Jacob Mark supported the National Night Out while hosting a Scouting tent.



Scarlette and Emmett, of Palmer, enjoy wads of freshly



Josh and son, Ryan Benoit, of Hardwick, came out to support the event and enjoy the evening's festivities.

Children under 13: Free

Police and community join together at National Night Out



Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce member Carol **Seaver and President Matthew Lemieux smile while** hosting the Chamber tent.



Layla Figueroa, of Palmer, was one of many attendees who participated in a archery exercise sponsored by the Scouts of three units chartered by the Second Congregational Church; Cub Scout Pack 164 and Boy Scout of America Troop 64 and Troop 5164.



Adults and children alike could be seen enjoying the archery activity.



Alex Jaworski, John Dee, Kathleen Day, Sarah Dee and Thomas Roblinski smile as they host the Venture Crew tent.



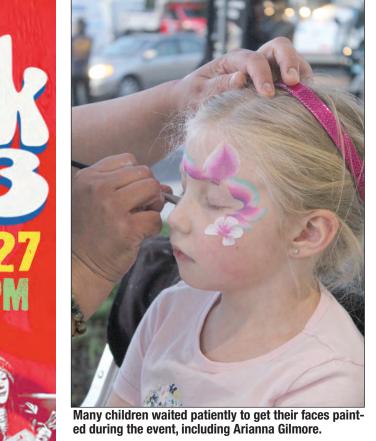
Pathfinder alumni Harrison Lavoie, Olivia Falcome, Cordelia Hageman, Kyle Lussier and Hunter Skowyra were present at the event, offering resources and ice cream sandwiches on behalf of the Pathfinder Regional Technical Vocational High School community.



Erin Chevalier, Monique Shipman, Beverly Cutty, Cole Chevalier, Christian Arventos, Carl Wright and Peter Izyk are shown hosting a Scouting booth at the event.



Theodore Gilmore, of Brimfield, sits still while getting his face painted.



Old Mill Pond Principal Holly-Beth Riopel and son,

Jayden, share a smile.

Avery Sinclair, of Warren, and Gavin Sinclair, of Bonds-

ville's Dunkin' store, stand before the Palmer Police station after handing out donuts.

NNO I from page 1

tablished in 1984 by the Bureau of neighborhood safety through cama-Justice Assistance, U.S Department of Justice as a community building

raderie.

The Palmer Police Department,

tatives of Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School and local vendors were in attendance at



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BASKETBALL

Palmer defeats Belchertown for summer title



Mason Cowher dribbles near the hoop.

WILBRAHAM – In last week's semifinal matchup, Palmer defeated Belchertown 21-15 in the 5-6 boys championship in the Spec Pond Summer

Basketball League. Palmer went 4-6 in the regular season. They defeated Hampshire in semifinals.



Dominic Yannen looks to pass.



Gunnar Paradiso goes for a ball in the air.





Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

SOCCER

West showcased in boys soccer

BOSTON – In last month's Bay State Games, the Western part of the state featured a boys soccer team showcased. Here is a look at how they fared in some of their matchups held July 6-9: The West would win the gold medal in the showcase. In the gold medal match, the

West won 3-2.

The Gold medal match saw powerhouse West face off against Central in what would be an exhilarating and heated match. West opened the scoring within the first minute of the match with a blast from Cole Bamford (Ludlow, Ludlow HS). West then went up 2-0 with help from a penalty kick, expertly taken by Mateo Balbino (Ludlow, Ludlow HS). Swiftly followed by another goal to give them a commanding 3-0 lead. Central was able to crawl back within one with a strike from Jovuan Mensah (Worcester, Burncoat HS) and Kingston Mcgee (Sutton, Sutton HS). West ended the showcase with a dominant 5-0 record. Central ended with a 3-1-1 record.

The West started out the show-case with a 5-2 win over the Metro

West got on board first with a sensational strike from forward Brayden Marta (Ludlow, Suffield Academy). Followed by a hat trick of goals from Balbino. Down 4-0, Metro was able to get

SOCCER | page 10

AUTO RACING

Chapin picks up Modified win at Monadnock Speedway

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Brian Chapin guided his fabled "Studebaker" Modified to victory Saturday night at Monadnock Speedway and, on the same card, Milton Duran topped the points-rich Late Model 50-lap main event

Model 50-lap main event.

Bob Williams made it two in a row on the high banks in Mini Stock action, while Chelsea, VT's Andrea St. Amour scored her first career Monadnock victory in the Pure Stocks. Young Gun Owen Zilinski made it a hat trick season with his third youth division feature win of the summer.

In support card action, Doug Meservey held off a storming Rob Richardi in the Pro 4 Modified feature, and Jason Pomfry romped to victory in a North East Mini Cup Series 15-lapper.

Chapin and last week's winner Tyler Leary led the NHSTRA Modifieds to the green to get their 40-lap main underway, with Chapin jumping all over the lead. And while the popular Palmer, Mass. pilot would lead all the way; he'd never in all 40 laps had an inch of breathing room.

Both Nate Wenzel and JT Cloutier had All Star runs at Chapin's back bumper but he ran a perfect line the entire distance to earn the win. Wenzel, a two-time 2023 winner and the current points leader finished second, with Cloutier impressive in his second straight podium finish.

With a boatload of points and cash on the line, Saturday's Late Model 50-lapper drew an All Star cast. Teddy Bear Pools 2023 Triple Crown, NHSTRA Battle for The Belt, and Monadnock Speedway

seasonal champ points were all up for grabs, with leaders Geoff Rollins, Milton Duran, and Tim Wenzel, respectively, all in the house.

Wenzel set fast time atop the 23-car field, but Duran drew the pole. Rollins started sixth. Duran led the first 15 laps, then giving way to Chris Buffone on the third of what would become eight total restarts. Duran would then drift back to seventh.

Rollins, aboard probably the fastest car in the field, took charge on lap 33. Wenzel was whacked out of the top three on the 41st go-round, with Rollins then railed from the lead just moments later, the second time he'd been taken out. And who was patiently waiting in the wings? Duran.

He took charge again on lap 41, bringing potent Matt Sonnhalter with him, and held strong to score his third consecutive Battle for The Belt series victory .Sonnhalter finished at his bumper in second, with strong and steady Billy Clement Jr. third on the night.

Andrew Brousseau came home fourth, with Rollins' second charge through the field netting him fifth, while Wenzel stormed back for sixth.

Kevin Clayton, from row two, led the first 15 laps of the Mini Stock main, but rocket man Bob Williams then sailed past him in turn two and sped off to his second Monadnock victory in as many weeks. Clayton held strong in second, with top points man Louie Maher coming home third on the night, just ahead of the Sontag siblings, Cameron and Chris.

Hot shoe Jimmy Zellman took

the lead from Dominick Stafford on lap two of the Pure Stock 25, holding the point until Andrea St. Amour took over on a lap 18 restart. A lap later, Zach Zilinski moved up to second but came up one spot shy of duplicating his younger brother Owen's earlier Young Gun win.

Zellman, strong all night, joined St. Amour and Zilinski on the podium, with Chris Davis and Colton Martin rounding out the top five. Davis' one position advantage left he and Martin deadlocked atop the points parade at the end of the night.

Owen Zilinski led all the way in the Young Guns 15-lapper, earning his third victory lap of the summer. Markus O'Neil was solid in second, and Kailyn Hubbard earned the third-place trophy just ahead of her sister Cambri.

Pro 4 super star Rob Richardi was bounced off the frontchute wall at the drop of the green and then made a rock star effort to charge back to the winner's circle, coming up just short of winner Doug Meservey, who'd taken the lead from Jack Dumas on lap five.

With Meservey victorious, Richardi, Dumas, Justin Faford and Kurt Lester made up the top five in the fast-paced event.

Monadnock Speedway returns to action next Saturday, August 19, when a large field of NHSTRA Modifieds will square off in twin feature events atop a full card of racing on the high-banked speed-

RACING | page 10

SOCCER



Jennifer Galindo sends a free kick away for Celtic Gray.



Emily Howard, of Wilbraham, takes a shot on goal.



Olivia Crespo, of Ludlow, corrals the ball.

Westside Sports Shop takes women's summer soccer title

By Tim Peterson Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—While the Monson girls and the Ludlow boys soccer teams captured the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League A-Division titles for the third consecutive year, Westside Sports Shop also took home the women's championship trophy for the third year in a row.

The second-seeded West-side Sports Shop outshot the sixth-seeded Celtic Grey for almost the entire match, but goalie Brianna Kubik, who's from Agawam, managed to keep the contest scoreless until the penalty shootout.

Westside goalie Emily Letendre made a couple of outstanding saves during the shootout and her team celebrated a 0-0 (3-1 PK's) win at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow on Aug. 5.

"I never expected this game to be so close," said Westside Sports Shop coach Chris Andre. "Their goalie was outstanding. She kept her team in the game during regulation and in overtime. Emily made a couple of saves in PK's. We were finally able to score a couple of goals during the penalty shootout."

Westside Sports Shop (9-2), which is also known as Andres, joined the prestigious summer league in 2021, They posted a 4-0 shutout victory over fifth-seeded

Here for Beer in last year's championship match. They defeated the Lusitano Women, 2-1, in the 2021 finals

For her outstanding performance during the shootout, Letendre received the MVP Award following this year's championship match.

"It just feels amazing to win our third championship title in this summer league," said Letendre, who's from West Springfield. "We did beat Celtic during the regular season, but they wanted it as much as we did in tonight's match."

Six of the Westside Sports Shop players played high school soccer for longtime head coach Nundi Goncalves at Minnechaug Regional. They are Emily Howard, Chapin Jeannotte, Rhianna Ryan, Madison Sanborn, Katie Shea, and Gabby Williams.

Several of the other players are from Ludlow, South Hadley, and Chicopee.

"Most of the players on this team played on the same youth soccer teams," Andre said. "Then they went their separate ways in high school and it's very nice having them back together again. It has been a lot of fun coaching them and I'm already looking forward to next season."

It was a history making day for Celtic Grey (4-6-1). They have been a member of the summer

WOMENS | page 10

Coaches honored during Hall of Fame weekend

SPRINGFIELD - The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced four benches that will be installed in the Naismith Coaches Circle. Sylvia Hatchell, Rollie Massimino, Tom Young, and Kay Yow, will be honored with a bench dedication ceremony on Saturday, August 12 at 2:00 PM EST in the MassMutual Gallery at the Hall of Fame.

The Naismith Coaches Circle program was first launched in 2015 and is the brainchild of Hall of Famers John Calipari, Jerry Colangelo, and Geroge Raveling. The intent of the program is to pay tribute to basketball's first coach, Dr. James Naismith, and the core values Dr. Naismith instilled in his players - teamwork, determination, self-respect, leadership, initiative, and perseverance. He believed these principles to be the foundation by which young men and women should play the game and conduct their

The Coaches Circle features a sculpture created by Master Sculptor Brian Hanlon, dedicated to celebrating Dr. Naismith. Additionally, it showcases granite benches on a recognition platform, paying tribute to coaches who share the same core values of teaching, nurturing, and mentoring their players on the court, while offering perspective off the court.

An interactive Coaches Circle video is exhibited on the second floor of the museum, which allows coaches to share their personal stories and honor those in their lives who inspired them.

Through the Coaches Circle Program Legacy Initiative, coaches are honored posthumously by either one individual or a group of individuals. Honorees include Denny Crum, Bill Fitch, Cotton Fitzsimmons, Dave Gavitt, John MacLeod, Dean Smith, Jim Valvano, and John Wooden, among others.

T-Birds name new operations manager

SPRINGFIELD - Springfield Thunderbirds general manager Kevin Maxwell announced today that Jeff Jordan has been promoted to Manager of Hockey Operations.

Previously the Thunderbirds' Video Coach and Team Services Coordinator, Jordan will continue his work with the coaching staff in the video department during the 2023-24 season.

"Jeff has deservedly earned this promotion through hard work, loyalty, and his dedication to the Thunderbirds on both the hockey and business side," said Maxwell. "He is a tireless worker with a wonderful personality, making him a terrific conduit between players, management, and the front office. We look forward to seeing him continue to excel in the future."

Jordan joined the St. Louis Blues' AHL affiliate in 2019 when he was hired by the San Antonio Rampage as the team's video coach. Before starting his professional career, Jordan served as an assistant coach with the OHL's Ottawa 67's in 2014-15 and 2015-16.

Turleysports Athlete of the Week **Jostel Ortiz**

Palmer

Ortiz was a member of the Palmer 5-6 Summer Basketball team in the Spec Pond Summer Basketball League, which just won a championship last Thursday.

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



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RACING I from page 9

Monadnock Speedway August 12 Unofficial Top Tens

NHSTRA MODIFIED: Brian Chapin, Nate Wenzel, JT Cloutier, Scott Zilinski, Tyler Leary, Joel Belanger, Andy Major, Kimmy Rivet, Kyle Boniface, Adam Lapoint.

NHSTRA LATE MODEL, 50-LAP: Milton Duran, Matt Sonnhalter, Billy Clement Jr., Andrew Brousseau, Geoff Rollins, Tim Wenzel, JD Stockwell, Robert Hagar, Chris Buffone, Hillary Renaud.

MINI STOCK: Bob Williams, Duquette.

Kevin Clayton, Louie Maher, Cameron Sontag, Chris Sontag, Erin Aiken, Nolan McClay, Jake Puchalski, David Pratt, Skyler Shippee, Pat Houle.

PURE STOCK: Andrea St. Amour, Zach Zilinski, Jimmy Zellman, Chris Davis, Colton Martin, Chris Chambers, Teagan Edson, Dominick Stafford, Tim Taft, Aaliyah Tacy.

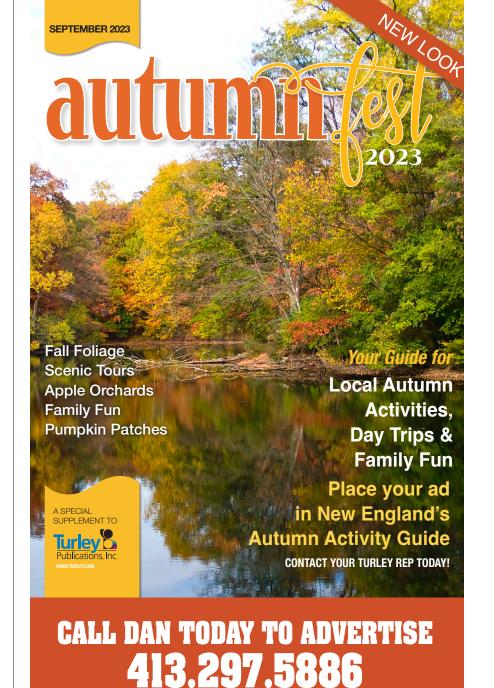
YOUNG GUN: Owen Zilinski, Markus O'Neil, Kailyn Hubbard, Cambri Hubbard, Sofia Rego, Addison Brooks, Madison Cousino, Hunter

SOCCER I from page 9

Boston HS) who scored both Metro goals to bring them within two. West

on the board with a tremendous effort then scored to make it 5-2 to capitalize The West would go a perfect 6-0 in

journalregister.turley.com



AD DEADLINE IS AUG. 23

Foursomes needed for charity golf tournament

we have raised over \$15,000 for cancer research. The four-person scramble event will take place on Monday, Sept. 18 at Wintonbury

AGAWAM - Registration Institute. In the first FIVE years CT. The event will be an 11 a.m. shotgun start. There will be prizes up for grabs (Closest to Pin/ Long Drive) along with a putting contest. Entry fee covers golf, lunch and dinner. Please contact

ShootFOREtheStarstoCureCancer@gmail.com more information. We hope you can join us.

and signups are currently open and underway for the Sixth Annual "Shoot Fore The Stars To Cure Cancer" Golf Tournament to benefit the Dana Farber Cancer Hills Golf Course in Bloomfield,

WOMENS

I from page 9

league for the past twenty years, but it was their first appearance in the women's finals.

"We just wanted to keep this game close as long as we could," said Celtic Grey coach Rob Galazka. "We played very well defensively in tonight's game. We're hoping to make it back here again next year."

One of the key defenders for Celtic Grey is Jennifer Galindo, who's from Chicopee.

Galazka has also been the women's soccer coach at Holyoke Community College for the past 19 years.

"I coached most of these players at HCC," Galazka said. "It's awein this league. It's a lot of

Celtic Grey peaked at the on the Celtic Grey's first shot. right time of the season.

"We ended the regular season with a shutout," Galazka said. "Then we played the top three seeds in the playoffs, and they were all shutouts. The players just stepped up."

Celtic Grey posted a 1-0 shutout versus the third-seeded Heat in the quarterfinals. They also posted a 1-0 win against the top-seeded W. Mass Extremes.

The first shot of the shootout was taken by Westside's Jocelyn Trajkovski, who's from Ludlow. She fired a low shot into the right corner to give her team a 1-0 lead.



some coaching them again Nicole Callini makes a throw-in.

Then Letendre made a save

After both teams hit the post in the second round, Jeannotte stepped up to the line and fired a shot into the left corner giving her

team a 2-1 lead. Galindo managed to put her team on the scoreboard, which sliced the deficit in half. It wound up being the only shot made by the Celtic Grey.

Following a goal by Olivia Crespo (Ludlow), Letendre made a diving save giving the Westside Sports Shop another champion-

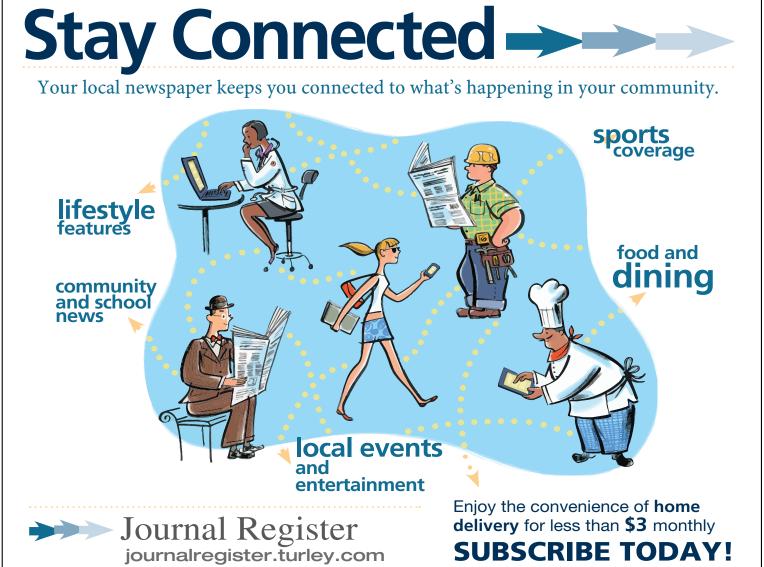
The Westside players will be looking to four-peat next summer.



Katie Shea makes a quick pass.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com Madison Sanborn chases down a loose ball.



DEATH NOTICES

Harrington III, **Thomas Stephen** Died August 3, 2023 Services Sept 2, 2023

The Journal Register

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

Thomas Stephen "Tommy" Harrington III

Thomas Stephen "Tommy" Harrington III, age 40, of Belchertown, passed away at Baystate Medical Center, on Thursday, August 3rd, surrounded by his loving family, after a long illness.

Born December 8, 1982, he grew up in Monson, MA, and attended Monson schools. He graduated from Pathfinder Regional in Palmer, in 2001, where he played soccer as a co-captain and goalie, and focused on the automotive trade. He took courses at STCC, and most recently was a Culinary Arts student at Holyoke Community College. He was very proud of achieving high honors, and acing psychology. He attended school all while fighting his illness. He was the chef/owner of Swift River Cultures, an entrepreneurial venture bringing local food from farm to table. His ultimate goal was to eventually get a food truck to feed the homeless. He worked in multiple trades including au-

tomotive, alworking, and carpentry that he learned from his late uncle, John Robert. Growing up, Tommy loved riding his bicycle and spending several summers at Camp Woodward.

His love for two wheels evolved into riding dirt bikes. He was an avid sports fan, especially of the Patriots and Bruins. Tommy loved the ocean, especially Seabrook, NH. Tommy also had a love for music. He played guitar, drums, and was most recently a performer and DJ with the group Digital Storm. He loved animals, especially wolves, and he's now reunited with his best buddy, his Springer Spaniel, Todd. His grandmother, "Yia-Yia", the late Bess Harrington, of Palmer, was a huge part of his

He leaves behind his moth-



er, Nancy Plant, stepfather, and Ken Hamel, of Belchertown; his father, Thomas Harrington, and stepmother, Car-Harrington, of Palmer; his brother, Alex Harrington, and sister

in law, Jenn Lavin of Leicester; his step sister, Holly Eckert, and his brother in law, Richard Eckert, of Brimfield; his step sister, TinaMarie DuPuis, and his brother in law, Dac Cannon of Savannah, GA; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Calling hours will be held on Saturday, September 2, 2023, at Beers and Story Palmer Funeral Home from 10 am to 12 noon. Followed by a Memorial service at noon. Burial will not be immediate. Donations may be made in Tommy's name to the MSPCA.

Police/Fire

Police Logs

Monson

For the week of Aug. 6 to Aug. 12 the Monson Police department responded to 292 incidents, including the following:

August 8

Brandon Armani Lucas,24, of 104 Evergreen Ave. in Hartford Ct., received a summons for exceeding the posted speed limit and operating a motor vehicle without a license at 12:28 a.m.

Reinaldo Neives Burgoss, 47, of 44 Dunlay St. in New Britian Ct. received a summons for uninsured motor vehicle, number plate violation, and operating a motor vehicle without a license at 6:55 p.m.

Yaruba Moussay Ortiz, 32, of 99 Huntington St. Hartford Ct. received a summons for unregistered motor vehicle, red/blue light violation, and operation of a motor vehicle without a license 8:54 p.m.

August 9

At 5:19 James P Mansfield, 59, of 10 Town Farm Road in Monson was involved in a traffic accident and was arrested on charges of unregistered motor vehicle, OUI liquor, OUI drugs, and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

August 12

Elizabeth Rose Craig, 28, of 154 Breckenridge St. in Palmer was arrested on charges of exceeding posted speed limit, negligent operation of a motor vehicle and OUI liquor at 11:18 p.m.

Fire Logs

Palmer

The Palmer Police Department reported 475 incidents on its logs *for Aug. 1 – Aug. 8 including:*

August 1

At 1:25 p.m. Sarah Ann Baj, 37, of 1 Maple Ter. In Three Rivers was given a summons for operating a vehicle without a license, unregistered motor vehicle, and uninsured motor vehicle on Wilbraham Street. At 3:12 p.m. at the same location was given summons again for operating a vehicle without a license, unregistered motor vehicle, and uninsured motor vehicle.

August 4

At 6:57 p.m. Paul David Martin,34, of 25 Cheney St. in Three Rivers was pulled over on Springfield St. and received a summons for no inspection sticker, operating a motor vehicle without a license and operating a motor vehicle without registration in possession.

August 5

At 12:08 a.m. Cynthia Ann Hunter, 52, of 1680 Center St. in Ludlow was arrested on charges of OUI liquor on main street. No other details were provided.

At 4:27 p.m. Richard James Mundel, 18, of 4199 High St. in Thorndike was involved in a motor vehicle accident with property damage on Robinson St. Mundel was given a summons for negligent operation of a motor vehicle. No other details were provided.

At 6:44 p.m. Miguel Williams, 24, was pulled over on Monat Street and arrested on charges of drug possession with intent to distribute, possession of an open alcohol container, uninsured motor vehicle, OUI liquor and failure to stop for police.

August 6

At 8:22 a.m. Elvis Mbeng-Mbi,45, of 4002 Church St. in Thorndike was arrested on Springfield Street on a charge of OUI li-

At 7:26 p.m. Alicia L. Stepno, 46, of 21 Butler Ave. in Chicopee was pulled over on Park Street and Breckenridge Street. Stepno was arrested on charges of negligent operation of a motor vehicle, OUI drugs, operating a motor vehicle with revoked license, unregistered motor vehicle, no inspection sticker, and possession of class B substance.

August 7

At 10:37 p.m. Rickard J. Smith Jr., 58, of 175 State St. in Bondsville was pulled over on Stimson Street. Smith was arrested on charges of OUI liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, operating a motor vehicle without a license and speed-

At 10:44 p.m. Bridget Belisle, 35, of 1042 Thorndike St. in Palmer was arrested for disturbing the peace. No other details were provided.

CONSERVATION I from page 3

Bridge

Mannarino also announced updates to construction on the Church Street bridge.

"It is commencing," she said. "I conducted the pre-activity site inspection and everything looked great, so they've been down there starting work.'

Mannarino also warned that "the Ware River gas main project will be commencing in late September, early October, so it'll start getting even busier down there at some point.

Mannarino announced that the Commission has organized with the Trail Club for a clean-up day for the Midura Conservation Area on Old Warren Road on

"We're going to have a workday on Aug. 14 at 10 a.m.," Mannarino said. "And we're just going to take a look at the trails, clean up what we can before our Midura event at the end of Au-

gust." Through conversation with Commission Member David Cotter, Mannarino recommended that people who sign up for the clean-up bring rakes and loppers.

Violations The Commission met with James Wawrzyk, having received complaints about someone on Wawrzyk's property blowing leaves or lawn clippings into Forest Lake. Mannarino also said that Wawrzyk had failed to respond to attempts by the Commission to contact him, which Wawrzyk said was because of the postal delivery, as a signature was required to receive the notice.

"By the time they made the attempt, it was a week before that first meeting," Wawrzyk apologized. "By the time I got down to Springfield to sign for it, it was past the date."

Wawrzyk said that he had been advised not to let anything get in the lake, and was careful not to push any debris in.

When we cut the grass, we remove the clippings," Wawrzyk said. "We blow the leaves, we remove the leaves. Some leaves may have gotten into the water, I won't deny that. But (...) we did not dump anything into the lake."

"Please try not to blow things into the lake," Mannarino advised. "It can cause eutrophication of the lake: excess nutrients which can't be good for the wildlife within it."

'That section of Forest Lake is full of weeds now," said Commission Member Peter Izyk, "so any extra vegetation and stuff being thrown in is not helpful at

"We want to encourage good stewardship there," said Commission Member Nicholas Zeo.

The Commission elected to waive the fee for Wawrzyk's ticket, due to the mix-up with the postal system.

Other business

A resident asked the Commission about an area where the curb has been eroded, allowing stormwater to discharge into the lake. Mannarino assured her that she was in contact with the Department of Public Works about

"(Matt from the DPW) said that he would take a look, but he's still a little bit unsure about where his jurisdiction and budget from the DPW starts and when the state's ends," Mannarino said, "the responsibility, whether it's on the town or the state to care for those areas.'

The Conservation Commission will hold their next meeting on August 15.

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Bondsville

For the period Aug. 1 to Aug. 7, Bondsville fire responded to 1 call.

On Thursday, Aug. 3 at 4 p.m., the department responded mutual aid to Wilbraham St in Palmer for a structure fire. The department returned to service at 7:30 p.m.

Three Rivers

For the Week of Aug. 3 the Three Rivers Fire responded to 5 incidents.

Aug. 3 at 3:59 p.m. for mutual aid to Palmer FD for a building fire on Wilbraham St. In service at 7:43

Aug. 4 at 10:47 a.m. for an

alarm activation on Maple Lane. In service at 10:59 a.m.

Aug. 5 at 10:03 a.m. for a smoke detector activation on Terry St. In service at 10:20 a.m.

Aug. 5 at 10:18 a.m. for an animal problem on Off Lariviere St. In service at 10:24 a.m.

August 7 at 8:49 p.m. for a tree on a power line on Main St. In service at 11:00 p.m.

Selfless commitment to public service

State Police Academy's 88th Recruit Training Troop graduates

> By Paula Ouimette pouimette@turley.com

SPRINGFIELD – Earlier this month, the State Police Academy graduated its 88th Recruit Training Troop, which featured 165 men and women from cities and towns across the commonwealth.

The State Police Pipes & Drums Band ushered dignitaries into the Mass Mutual Center on Aug. 3, where Sgt. Mike Goonan, Director of Training at the State Police Academy acted as master of ceremonies.

The 88th RTT began training at the State Police Academy in New Braintree earlier this year, passing through an intensive 16-hour day program, five days a week.

Following a moment of silence for police and military personnel who have given their lives defending the nation and a prayer by State Police Chaplain Rev. Dr. Johnny Wilson, the 88th RTT demonstrated Troop drill under the command of Senior Drill Instructor Trooper Alicia Amaral.

"Since 1921, your uniformed State Troopers have been subject to demands of strict discipline that only paramilitary training can provide," Goonan said. "Troop drill helps develop the core qualities of pride, professionalism, respect, attention to detail and esprit de corps. Troop drill inspires the common spirit necessary to become a Massachusetts State Trooper."

Captain Jon Provost, Commandant of the State Police Academy, thanked all for attending the ceremony in Springfield, which he described as a "resilient city of firsts."

"Today, they add another first to that list, as they for the first time, host the Massachusetts State Police in our graduation ceremony," Provost said. "Our friends in Springfield selflessly rolled out the red carpet in support of our 88th Recruit Training Troop and your Massachusetts State Police."

Provost said the 88th RTT is full of strong men and women who, "selflessly and humbly persevered to reach this proud moment."

He addressed the family and

friends of the Recruits in the audience, thanking them for their sacri- important function of government,"

"At orientation, a true lifetime wealth." ago, we promised you we'd eventually give them back," he said. "Today, we make good on that prom-

Provost spoke about the training the Recruits received since they started at the State Police Academy on Feb. 27 in a class that started with 249 eager members. The only "easy day" at the State Police Academy, he said, was a day that had already gone by.

He addressed the Recruits, "88th RTT, together we embarked on an incredibly challenging and humbling journey. Together, we have persevered. It has been one of the great honors of my career to share in this accomplishment with all of you. We are the 88th RTT."

Provost welcomed the new Troopers to the State Police family, saying it opened up a "world of opportunity" to do justice, to show kindness, to walk humbly, to selflessly serve their communities and to persevere.

"Persevere 88th...be safe, and congratulations," Provost said.

The newly graduated Troopers received a shield-shaped badge, which was pinned on their uniforms.

"It represents allegiance to justice, service, sacrifice, and an honor to all those who wear it," Goonan said. The badge is considered the most recognizable symbol of policing around the world, he said. "The badge is not a gift; it's

not awarded lightly...it must be earned," he said, which the 88th RTT has done.

Following the pinning, the 88th RTT received its final inspection by Gov. Maura Healey before being officially sworn in. Healey administrated the oath of office to the 88th RTT, having them swear allegiance to the commonwealth and its constitution.

"It is an honor and a privilege to be with you here today, for what is a most joyful and meaningful occasion," she said. This was Healey's first graduation ceremony in her role as governor.

Public safety takes investment and collaboration, she said, as well as community engagement, focus, commitment and dedication at "ev-

"Ultimately, it rests on the ability, the character, the courage and the professionalism of our law enforcement officers...the men and women on the front lines. In other words, it depends on all of you," Healey said. 'Your training...has prepared you so well."

State Rep. Carlos Gonzalez (D-Springfield), chair of the Committee of Public Safety and Homeland Security, addressed the new Troopers.

You have chosen a noble path, to serve the residents of Massachusetts," he said. "Policing is a profession that demands courage, compassion, and unwavering dedication."

Gonzalez urged Troopers to remember the importance of commu-

"Policing is not merely a job; it is a calling to serve and protect the people who rely on you for safety and security," he said.

State Police Superintendent Col. John E. Mawn Jr. said this was an important day for the department.

"We welcome to our ranks, and to our mission, a large group of highly skilled, deeply motivated and expertly trained new members. I stand here today...and look out over the future of the Massachusetts State Police," Mawn said.

Mawn said it took many to

"Public safety remains the most make this day possible, including State Police Academy staff, drill fices as their loved ones dedicated she said. "We can't do anything staff, civilian work force, legislators themselves to the training program. without a safe and secure common- and many more. He also thanked former Governor Charlie Baker. who attended the graduation cere-

mony.

"You are among the best trained recruit classes in the nation," Mawn said. "Congratulations 88th Recruit Training Troop; you earned it." "Earned" Mawn said, is an

important distinction the Troopers should remember. "Your achievement was not giv-

en to you; you had to earn it...you'll have to continue to earn your way forward," he said.

Several members of the 88th RTT, hail from communities covered by Turley Publications' newspapers, including Charles P. Oberg, of Barre, Jonah C. Vaclavicek, of Granby, Stephen M. Houle, of Ware, Matthew R. Pingitore, of Rutland, John M. Sarnacki, of Chicopee, Jacob F. Crevier, of Ware, Nicholas R. Brooks, of Oakham, Brandon M. Aviles, of Rutland, Ryan E. Monteiro, of Wilbraham, Matthew S. Pepin, of Sturbridge, David Soto, of Holyoke and Zuzu Y. Demetrius, of Warren.

Representing the 88th RTT was Trooper Ryan L. Ruef, of Lee, who said it was "truly an honor" to stand before everyone at the graduation ceremony.

"Our once dream has now become a reality," Ruef said. "On behalf of the 88th to all friends and family who helped us get to this point in our journeys, a thank you is simply not enough.



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The Gun Owners' Action League joined members of Nenameseck Sportsmen's Club to share information about their concerns with proposed bill HD.4420, "An Act Modernizing Firearms Laws." Shown seated from left are Calvin Cieslak, Holly Wallace and Jim Wallace; and standing from left are Kevin Lizotte and Bob Lamb.

GOAL joins sportsmen at gun law petition event

By Paula Ouimette Editor pouimette@turley.com

The Gun Owners' Action League visited Nenameseck Sportsmen's Club this past Saturday, to meet with people concerned about how their rights will be affected by proposed bill HD.4420.

Jim Wallace, executive director of GOAL was joined by his wife Holly and members of the Club, to discuss the new mandates and restrictions outlined in the 140-page proposal entitled "An Act Modernizing Firearms Laws.'

Wallace and others at GOAL said the bill should be called the "Lawful Citizens Imprisonment Act," as the changes proposed to existing gun laws do more to place limitations on lawful gun owners than address gun violence, he said.

He said if the bill is passed into law, violent crimes could increase, and citizens would be limited in how they can protect themselves.

Wallace said GOAL is made up of five members, and they rely on volunteers such as the members of the Club, to help them share information about the possible impacts the changes in HD.4420 could have.

"Thanks to people like Calvin [Club President Calvin Cieslak], I just attend," Wallace said of the information session.

In addition to distributing information about HD.4420, GOAL also offered lawn signs and stickers to those opposed to the bill to make their voices heard. The Club provided three different copies of petitions that people could sign, if they agreed with the statements contained therein.

These petitions will be sent to the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities and the Joint Committee on the Judicia-

Wallace said the entire bill is problematic, and it's hard to focus on just one or two of its proposed

He compiled a list of concerns regarding new training requirements including a written exam of unknown content; injury prevention and harm reduction education; active shooter and emergency response training when lawful gun owners are not allowed to carry in most places under this bill; applicable laws relating to the use of force; de-escalation and disengagement tactics; and live firearms training to be determined by the State Po-

Other concerns involves new mandates and restrictions, such as mandatory registration of all individual firearms, receivers, frames, barrels and feeding devices; bans the passion of a gun on any property without permission; drastically changes the assault weapon laws to include things like a semi-automatic hunting shotgun with a pistol grip; mandates the registration and serialization of all feeding devices of any kind; bans anyone under age 15 from handling any type of semi-automatic rifle or shotgun; bans anyone under age 15 from training or shooting sports; a frame, receiver and barrel would separately be considered to be a firearm and each piece has to be registered and serialized; essentially bans hunting on private property; any changes, such as a sight, or repairs to a gun must be approved by the state prior to any modifications; and a new definition of "secured locked container" that must be able to deter all but the most persistent from gaining

Cieslak said one of his big concerns focuses on prohibiting youth under age 15 from attending firearms training or sanctioned sports, as the Club has a highly competitive and skilled junior rifle league, coached by Bob Lamb.

One of the league members, Zuzu Demetrius, went on to compete in the Olympics, and has recently graduated from the State Police Academy.

Lamb said she is the second junior rifle league member to become a State Trooper.

If HD.4420 were to pass, Cieslak said, it would limit hunting and the resulting money raised through licensing to benefit state conservation efforts.

According to mass.gov, Mass-Wildlife [Division of Fisheries and Wildlife] "is primarily funded through the sale of hunting, freshwater fishing, and trapping licenses, permits, and stamps, in addition to dedicated federal funds from the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program...All funds from freshwater fishing, hunting, and trapping licenses and dedicated federal funds go directly into the Inland Fish and Game Fund, which can only be used for administering programs by MassWildlife.'

"This bill is so overwhelming," Cieslak said. "This is a civil rights violation, it's not a gun bill. That's our fight...it turns law-abiding citizens into criminals."

HD.4420 is currently on hold

Wallace encouraged citizens to continue voicing opposition of this bill, as the hold is only a delay.

Members of Nenameseck Sportsmen's Club will be at The Still Bar and Grill, 63 Springfield St., in Agawam with mayoral candidate Cecilia Calabrese on Thursday, Aug. 18 at 6 p.m. to continue sharing information about HD.4420, lawn signs and copies of petitions.

Signs opposing HD.4420 are available locally at the following locations: Nenameseck Sportsmen's Club, 75 West Ware Road, Palmer; Nick's Sport Shop, 1029 Park St., Palmer; Bearded Arms, 1880 Memorial Drive, Chicopee; Down Range Sports, 590 Summer St., Barre; MB Sporting Goods, 51A Glenn St., Three Rivers; and Fairview Sportsmens Club, 280 Carver St., Granby.

For more information about GOAL, visit goal.org.

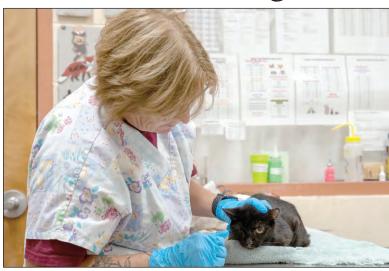
Dakin Humaine Society rescues 40 cats and kittens from hoarding cases

SPRINGFIELD- Dakin Humane Society has participated in rescue efforts involving two separate hoarding cases in the past week and has taken over 40 cats and kittens into its care. The felines are being medically and, in some cases, behaviorally evaluated, with several newborn kittens and mothers being placed in foster homes. Many are available for adoption, with more becoming available in the days and weeks ahead.

On Tuesday, Aug. 1, the organization traveled to a one-bedroom apartment in Berkshire County that contained more than 80 cats and brought several felines back to provide care and place for adop-

The following Saturday, Aug. 5, Dakin assisted a Hampden County animal control team with the intake of over 30 cats and kittens, several of them Siamese and Ragdoll breeds, and returned with 21 cats to treat and make available for adoption at Dakin.

According to Dakin's Executive Director Meg Talbert, "It's very unusual that Dakin responded to two hoarding cases just days apart, but it's a vital part of our mission to answer the needs of our community. Cats that come from these circumstances tend to be very shy and are typically not confident or social around people for what may be just an initial period, or for their entire lives. They're perfectly happy to have a home with a cat companion or two. They're very special animals, and we're hoping



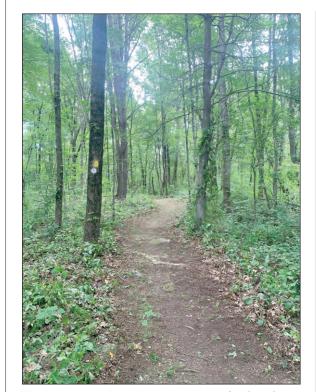
Submitted Photo Dakin staff member evaluates one of the cats rescued from Berkshire **County. Photo courtesy Dakin Humane Society**

that people will open their hearts and homes to them."

Talbert noted that cats and kittens will be spayed or neutered prior to being made available for

Due to the large number of cats taken in between the two rescues, Dakin has created an online form to collect contact information and other data from prospective adopters of these felines. All Dakin pets available for adoption, including the cats and kittens recently rescued and ready to be rehomed, can be seen here. Several of the recently rescued cats have reduced adoption fees.

Dakin Humane Society, located in Springfield, delivers effective, innovative services that improve the lives of animals in need and the people who care about them. In a typical year, the organization shelters, treats and fosters more than 20,000 animals and has performed over 100,000 spay/neuter surgeries since 2009, making it New England's largest spay/neuter provider. Dakin's Pet Health Center, a non-emergency veterinary resource for pet dogs and cats, opened in 2022 and has treated more than 2,500 pets. Dakin is a local non-profit organization that relies solely on contributions from individuals and businesses that care about animals to bring its services to the community. For more information, visit www.dakinhumane.org.



The volunteers cleared large patches of poison ivy from the Yellow Trail.



Submitted Photos by Palmer Conservation Agent Heidi Mannaring A before photo of the White Trail.

TRAIL I from page 1

Palmer Trail Club to receive email updates about work days.

To join, please visit the town website or contact Andrew St. George at astgeorge@Townof-Palmer.com.

Recreation will share updates relating to trail work days in addition to upcoming events.

The August 26th event will take place between 10 a.m-1 p.m,

featuring a guided trail walk and trail education. Recreation is also seeking a

food vendor. The vendor must have a permit to operate in Palmer, and can

obtain a permit through the Board of Health.

While a donation would be appreciated, St. George said they "would be willing to discuss logistics on discounted rates as a dona-

If the food truck prepares food on site, an additional permit must be sought through the Palmer Fire Department for operation.

Two meadows have been prepared to host up to 30 vehicles for the event.

The benefits of local newspapers

ocal newspapers play vital roles in communities across the globe. The Information Age has changed the way many people get their news, but local newspapers continue to serve as valuable resources for readers interested in learning more about and becoming more involved in their communities.

While local publishers continue to adapt to the changes brought about by technology, the following are a handful of benefits unique to local newspapers.

· Local newspapers keep readers upto-date on their own communities. Globalization may be here to stay, but that does not mean local communities are no longer home to newsworthy events. National and international newspapers and 24-hour cable news channels can keep men and women up-to-date on national and world news, but in many instances, local newspapers are the only means people have to learn about what's going on in their own communities. Local politics impact residents' lives every day, and

local newspapers cover local politics extensively.

• Local newspapers benefit nearby businesses. Small business owners often connect with community members via local newspapers. A strong, locally based small business community can improve economies in myriad ways, creating jobs in the community and contributing tax dollars that can be used to strengthen local schools and infrastructure. And local newspapers do their part by providing affordable and effective advertising space to local business owners looking to connect with their communities.

• Local newspapers can strengthen **communities.** Local newspapers are great resources for residents who want to become more active in their communities and learn more about community events. Local newspapers often showcase community events like carnivals, local theater productions and projects like park cleanups. These are great ways for readers to become

more active in their communities and build stronger communities as a result.

• Local newspapers can benefit children. National newspapers may have little age-ap propriate

content to offer young children, but local newspapers tend to include more soft news items than national periodicals, and such stories typically are appropriate for young readers. According to Newspapers in Education, students who participated in an NIE group in Florida performed significantly better in spelling and vocabulary than nonreaders.



Additional studies have indicated that students who use newspapers in the classroom perform better on standardized reading tests than those who do not use newspapers in class.

Many local newspapers have played vital roles in their communities for decades, providing a go-to resource for local readers and business owners.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

COMING SOON

PATIO PARTY: Join the Monson Free Library's fifth annual Party on the Patio, at 2 High St., in Monson, from 4:30 to 9 p.m., on Friday, Aug. 25. It is a family-friendly event with The Willies, who will be rocking the patio with hits from the 50s to the 70s, and North Elm Butcher Block will be barbecuing everyone's favorite. The Beer Guy will also be back with his 14 taps. There will also be raffles to benefit the library. All are your neighbors and support Hitchcock and local busiwelcome.

Monson-Glendale United Methodist Church (corner of Main St & Cushman St in Monson) is having a Manicotti Dinner on Saturday, Sept. 9, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Dinner includes manicotti and sauce, salad, green beans, rolls, hot fudge brownie sundae, and beverages. Cost is Adults \$15 and children \$7.00. Please call 267-5207 to make reservations.

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

INTERESTS

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

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

HCC culinary arts professor named Educator of the Year

HOLYOKE - Holyoke Community College culinary arts professor Warren Leigh has been named "Educator of the Year" by the Center for the Advancement of Food Service Education, a national industry group.

Leigh, a professional chef and restaurateur who has been teaching at HCC for 15 years, received his award June 21 at the 2023 CAFÉ Leadership Conference in Charleston, South Carolina.

"It's pretty cool," said Leigh, who lives in Springfield. "It's nice to be recognized. It's humbling."

Leigh also received honorable mention for CAFE's annual "Community Outreach" award. He was nominated for both by Chef Paul Sorgule, a retired culinary educator and president of Harvest America Ventures, a restaurant consulting and training company.

"Even at a young age, he had a strong inclination towards serving others, and the kitchen drew him in," said Sorgule. "His professional work and personal life experiences became the stories that brought his classrooms to life, but it is also his unwavering commitment to professional standards, his passion for the craft, and his unique empathy for students trying to figure out where they fit that makes him very special as an educator."

In receiving the Educator of the Year award, Leigh, co-chair of HCC's Culinary Arts program, was recognized for his part in designing the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, the college's state-of-the-art teaching facility on Race Street that opened in 2018; re-imagining the culinary arts curriculum; creating a line cook training program in collaboration with HCC's non-credit business and workforce division; and pushing forward on his concept for a mobile kitchen where students could learn food truck operations while also teaching the community about nutrition and healthy eating.

Leigh holds a bachelor of science in food service administration from the Rochester Institute of Technology and a master's degree in management from the University of Phoenix. He trained extensively as a chef in Germany and Switzerland.

He is the owner, operator and executive chef for Hydrangea Catering & Consulting, and has worked over the years in many capacities at restaurants in Connecticut and Western Massachusetts, including The Standish House in Wethersfield, Madeleines in Windsor, and The

Eatery in East Windsor, among others. "As a product of his work myself, I can attest to his superb teaching and knowledge," said HCC alum Matthew Enos '19, now an executive sous chef at Johnny's Bar and Grille in South Hadley. "Chef Leigh has given me a great steppingstone to launch a career in culinary."

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

ONGOING

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

is a fun place to find cool, unique products, plants and seasonal produce every Saturday while you meet

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

LINE DANCING CLASS: 3-5 p.m. and/or 6:30-8:30 p.m., every Thursday at the Monson Polish Club, 7 Bliss St, Monson. Rose's line 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 WIN-TER 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



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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

> Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court

Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD22P0515EA Estate of: Albina M. Duda

Date of Death: 07/12/2012 **CITATION ON PETITION FOR** ORDER OF COMPLETE

SETTLEMENT

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Dede Beach of Belchertown, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, a determination of heirs at law and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/14/2023.

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

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court. Date: August 11, 2023

Rosemary A. Saccomani Register of Probate 08/17/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court **Hampden Probate and Family Court** 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD22P2027EA Estate of: Victor Alex Berezkin

Date of Death: 07/09/2022 CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Olga Berezkin of Palmer, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, a determination of heirs at law and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/14/2023.

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

WITNESS. Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court. Date: August 11, 2023

Rosemary A. Saccomani Register of Probate 08/17/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and **Family Court 50 State Street** Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD23P0075EA

Estate of: Joseph S. Duda Date of Death: 07/07/2020 **CITATION ON**

PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE **SETTLEMENT**

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Dede Beach of Belchertown, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, a determination of heirs at law and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition. IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/08/2023.

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

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court. Date: August 07, 2023

Register of Probate 08/17/2023

NOTICE OF **MORTGAGEE'S** SALE OF REAL ESTATE Premises: 1089 Pleasant Street, Palmer, MA 01069

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Angela L. Racicot to CCO Mortgage Corp., and now held by Citizens Bank, N.A. f/k/a RBS Citizens, N.A. s/b/m CCO Mortgage Corp., said mortgage dated January 20, 2006 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 15654, Page 381, as affected by a Loan Modification dated July 10, 2015 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 20955, Page 583; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on September 28, 2023 at 02:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain tract of land with the buildings thereon, situate on the southwesterly side of Pleasant Street in the Depot Village of Rosemary A. Saccomani Palmer, Hampden County,

Massachusetts, containing thirty-eight (38) square rods, more or less, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin in the ground on the southwesterly side of said street at the northeast corner of land formerly of one Dawson, now of Raymond J. and Lois B. Herbet; thence S. 61 1/2 W. along last named land one hundred sixty-six and 32/100 (166.32) feet to land of the Boston & Albany Railroad Company; thence S. 52° E. along last named land, seventy-seven and 22/100 (77.22) feet to land formerly of James H. Tuthill, now of Magdalene Sarna; thence N. 64° E. along last named land, one hundred thirty-seven and 28/100 (137.28) feet to the southwesterly side of said Pleasant Street; thence Northerly along the southwesterly side of said

BEING the same premises as conveyed by William F. Barry, Jr. To Angela L. Racicot dated November 5. 2003, recorded at Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 13814, Page 75.

Pleasant Street, fifty-eight

and 75/100 (58.75) feet to

the place of beginning.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication. For Mortgagor's Title

see deed dated November 5, 2003 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 13814, Page

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said

mortgage above described. FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC 1080 Main Street, Suite 200 Pawtucket, RI 02860 Attorney for Citizens Bank, N.A. f/k/a RBS Citizens, N.A. s/b/m CCO Mortgage Corp. Present Holder of the

Mortgage (401) 217-8701 08/17, 08/24, 08/31/2023

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To apply please go to https://www. communityaction.us/iob-openings for full job description and infortion regarding benefits

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Hope Dudek, Steve and Dolly Sawyer, Barbara and Mark Hebert attended Saturday's commemoration ceremony of renaming Route 20 the Medal of Honor Highway in Palmer. A similar ceremony was held in Boston at the same time.



Veterans, residents and local officials gathered Saturday to celebrate the renaming of Route 20 to the Medal of Honor Highway.



State Sen. Jake Oliveira, D-Ludlow, made a speech about how proud he is of how well Massachusetts takes care of its vet-



State Sen. John Velis, D-Westfield, spoke during the ceremony to rename Route 20 as the Medal of Honor Highway.

HONOR I from page 1

support our veterans and to support our

troops," Oliveira said during his remarks. "Absent today, and I did promise him that I would mention him, is State Rep. Todd Smola, son of Palmer, wishes he could be here today," Oliveira said. "His dad, some of you may know, is a veteran of the U.S. Navy during Vietnam, and he and Todd's mom are celebrating 50 years of being married, so they are away right now, but Todd wishes the best as we celebrate the better celebration here in Western Massachusetts on this Medal of Honor highway right along Route 20."

Oliveira chronicled the establishment of the award in the various different branches of the military, and spoke of the sacrifices made by soldiers who earned the Medal of Honor.

"Many of those awardees of that award were awarded it posthumously," Oliveira said. "Meaning they unselfishly gave their lives to save their fellow troops and servicemen on the fields of battle in our country. Many of them never got to see their country and their hometowns that they came from. Many of them, unselfishly, if you read the stories about them, either threw themselves on grenades, or threw themselves in the way of harm's fire in order to support their troops and to preserve the quality of life that we all enjoy.'

"As we take a moment to recognize and dedicate Route 20, please understand that behind each one of those medals is a person, a person who, consciously, in many cases, gave their life for their nation and sacrificed to enjoy the freedoms that we all enjoy," he said.

After Oliveira's speech, Willette announced Velis, who has served as the chairperson of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs in the state, and shared a story of being offered a position elsewhere and turning it down.

"Anything in Massachusetts that involves veterans comes across my desk,' Velis said. "I have to tell you, that is an honor and a privilege. Massachusetts does a very good job in terms of veteran advocacy. Make no mistake about it, on any given day, we could be surpassed by another state. There are many states that rival us, so it's absolutely critical that we not waste a single session not mak-

try under John (Velis)'s leadership to ing sure that our men and women who so selflessly served this nation are recognized."

> Velis thanked the veterans groups that attended the ceremony, and expressed concern about low recruitment rates among young people, comparing it to the mandatory conscription in Israel.

> "Service is not mandatory here (in America)," Velis said. "I want to bring to people's attention that right now, as we speak, right now less than one half of 1% of this country is serving. That is a lot of men and women doing a whole lot for the rest."

> The event was hosted by the Massachusetts Military Order of the Purple Heart and Palmer American Legion Post 130. It included tributes for Medal of Honor recipients, wreath laying, and a rifle salute.

> The highway formerly known as Route 20 is 3,365 miles long, from Newport Oregon to Kenmore Square in Boston. Its dedication as the Medal of Honor Highway honors the sacrifice made by the over 3,500 veterans who have been awarded the medal.

> Chairman of the nonprofit Bend Heroes Foundation in Bend, Oregon, Dick Tobiason, began this project to create a national tribute to recipients of the Medal of Honor. States had been dedicating their own portions of the highway as the Medal of Honor Highway, until legislation was introduced to unify the Route 20 as the National Medal of Honor Highway on the federal level.

> "I wish we had more publicity about it," said Sandie Miller (?), a resident who stumbled on the ceremony by chance when it was already underway.

> "I was coming home from the grocery store," Miller said, "My dad was in the Korean War, and my brother was in the Navy, so it's interesting to see. I didn't know we were getting a highway, but now here we are. It's great!"

> There will be an official dedication of signs for the Massachusetts Medal of Honor Highway to be presented by the Order of the Purple Heart to local veterans' organizations, as well as lawmakers who will see to the placement of the signs in their communities. All these signs were donated by the Order of the

Westview Farms hosts craft night to benefit animals



Gabby Longe brought seven-month-old Khai to man their craft table with Katie Gurney, and Meghan Martin.

Patty Davison, pictured with her husband just slightly off-camera, at the Purple Rose Handmade booth.

By Marcelo Gusmão Staff Writer

MONSON - This past weekend, the Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Animal Sanctuary hosted a craft fair where residents were able to enjoy music, food, and crafts sold by local vendors.

The "Feline Family Fun Day" was announced via Facebook last month, and took place on the hill behind Westview Farms Creamery on East Hill Road from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The event featured live music, ice cream, raffles, and live goats from the farm.

The craft fair was made up of booths run by more than 50 local businesses, where residents from all over the area sold things like jewelry, mugs, keychains, knitted hats, stickers, scrunchies, pillowcases, and bookmarks.

From the stage at the

Creamery, next to the Beer and Wine Tent, the Monson-based rock band Above the Treeline played covers of classic rock songs from 4 to 7 p.m.

Westview Farms is a regular host of events such as these, with hayrides and corn mazes in the fall. Here Today, Adopted Tomorrow has been in town since it was founded by Rachel Max in 2012. The cage-free, no-kill shelter has been servicing animals across nine towns, including Brimfield, Holland, Monson, Palmer, Southbridge, Sturbridge, Wales, Ware, and Warren.

"Proceeds go to support people and pets in our community," read the advertisement for the event, which is in line with the Animal Sanctuary's overall mission statement. Here Today, Adopted Tomorrow regularly helps out hundreds of families

by distributing pet food. "By best count we help out



Darlene Santucci and Sarah Strout sold jewelry at their



Left is the owner of Aunty's Cabin, Christine Croke, and Ron Gagnon as they pack up their booth at the end of the day.



Above the Treeline performed a cover of a Rolling Stones song by the **Beer and Wine Tent.**

about 200 families," Max said, with the grill open Wednesday based on estimates from signups and the amount of food the shelter hands out.

Westview Farms The Creamery is open seven days a week, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.,

to Sunday from 11-7 p.m. For more information about Here Today, Adopted Tomorrow, visit their website at heretodaysanc-

ArtWorks Gallery calls for fine art photography



WARE – ArtWorks Gallery, 69 Main St., invites photographers from throughout the northeastern U.S. to submit their fine art photography to "Through the Lens".

A diverse range of subject matter is welcome, from landscapes to portraits to abstract photography and beyond. Digital photography is welcome, but AI-generated images are not.

The deadline for entry is Aug. 31 by midnight. The entry form and full details can be found on workshop13.org.

"Through the Lens" will be on display from Sept. 23 to Oct. 29, opening with a reception on Saturday, Sept. 23, from 3-5 p.m. Gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays from 1-5 p.m.

The juror for "Through the Lens" is Stephen Petegorsky,

an artist and freelance photographer based in Florence. Born in New York City, he graduated from Amherst College and later received his master's degree in photography from Rhode Island School of Design.

He has taught at Amherst College, Smith College, Hampshire College, and the University of Connecticut.

His work has been exhibited internationally and is in collections throughout this country as well as in Europe. Most known for his black and white landscapes, he has for many years also made images based on photographs of cleared and stained animal specimens typically found in natural history museums and university biology departments.

Since 1998 he has docu-

mented the work the Polus Center for Social and Economic

> Development, a human services agency that works internationally to improve the lives of victims of conflict and people with dis-

> **About ArtWorks Gallery** and Workshop13: ArtWorks Gallery is Workshop13's gallery on Main Street. This space features numerous art exhibitions each year and is also available to rent for individual or group shows. Workshop13 Cultural Arts and Learning Center is a rural non-profit arts innovator located in Ware, Massachusetts

The juror for "Through the Lens" is Stephen Petegorsky, an artist and freelance photographer based in Florence. "Through the Lens" will be on display Sept. 23 through Oct. 29. An opening reception will be held Sept. 23 from 3-5 p.m. at ArtWorks Gallery, 69 Main St., Ware.

and devoted to increasing the appreciation and accessibility of the arts, strengthening the creative life of our community through instruction, collaborations, and arts-based initiatives.

Area kids to showcase summer dance and drama program

By Michael Harrison Correspondent

PALMER — Talk about teen drama. In this case, longtime besties Harley and Ally are in a drama class with the rest of their friends. Harley is used to commanding the spotlight, but the script is flipped with Ally winning the lead role while Harley has to swallow her pride as her friend's understudy.

Watch it all play out at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 26, on the Harmony Hall stage at the Palmer Historical and Cultural Center in downtown Three Rivers. "Left in the Dust" is an original play by Ware resident Torie Jock, who directs the show and has been leading her cast of kids – mostly tweens and teens – through rehearsals during her summer drama and dance camps at PHCC.

"Even though Harley and Ally are best friends, Harley is very competitive," Jock explained.

"She always gets the lead in every show she auditions for, but not this time. Instead, she is cast as the understudy for her best friend Ally, who landed the lead role. What will Harley do to reclaim her role as the number one lead?"

Jock, a singer, songwriter, actor and dancer who is a Hip Hop dance instructor at Stepping Up Dance Center in Easthampton, initially planned to present "Left in the Dust" with a prior group of students.

"I wrote this show last year, and started it with another group of kids, some of them being the same kids as this group," she said.

"It was never performed, so when I started it with this group, I added some more characters into the show and recast

Though not a musical, the show opens with a dance performance developed the past few months.

"I had a very drastic mix of ages for dance sign ups for this summer," Jock said.

"The routine that is being performed is a military-themed routine, starting with my older girls, and ending with my younger girls coming onstage to join the older ones."

During a recent rehearsal, Jock offered critiques and tips, often showing an intuitive knack for driving home an important lesson.

You guys are just swapping lines right now!" she said at one point from the back of the room, coaxing the actors to play off one another in character.

During another scene she got on stage to demonstrate how a pivotal prop should be used to make it believable for the audience.

"It won't work if it's not rehearsed right," Jock reminded an actor.

Most of the young actors in "Left in the Dust" have worked together and with Jock – before and some were familiar with the first interaction of the play. The more experienced actors also coached those new to drama.

"It's fun helping them out and it's really nice seeing them learn how to play a part," Callie Cygan said.

The young actors and dancers also talked about the disruption of the COVID pandemic that began in early 2020 and led to a prolonged quarantine.

"It was a little scary because it's been like two years and you don't know how someone is going to react to you and you don't know how much their acting has progressed compared to yours," Sofia Roman said.

"It was nice getting to see people again and get along with people again,"

"It was definitely very fun to get back into the program and to get back with the same group of people and it gives everyone a chance to do more stuff," Addison Peolquin said.

They all seemed to be having a fun

"My part is a very loud, obnoxious girl and I can relate to it because when I

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was younger I used to be really dramatic," Peolquin said.

"It's a really fun part to play."

Those asked said they enjoyed learning from and being directed by Jock, who was voted onto the PHCC Board of Directors this past year.

"Amazing," Cygan said.

"Torie knows how to get business done, helps us a lot and reminds us of things we might not remember at the

According to Roman, "She gives us motivation. She doesn't say the same thing over and over again and puts things in perspective and gives us examples. If we're not talking loud enough she'll say 'imagine someone in the back of the room. You have to be loud enough so they can hear it, too.' We like working with her and she's giving us a good ex-

PHCC President Bob Haveles said he hopes Jock's classes remain a fixture at the center.

"It's another great way to connect with youth for a venue that often offers programming for adults," he said.

'Torie has competed in our talent shows and we've gotten to know her well

over the years," Haveles said. 'She has a great passion for dance and drama and we just thought with her leading the charge, it's a great opportunity for youth in the area. The response was what we needed and hopefully a lot

more people will become interested." Tickets for "Left in the Dust" are \$10 for adults and \$8 for children 12 and under. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the curtain goes up at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 26.

Want to sign up?

Registration is underway for Jock's fall and 2024 spring classes. She is offering drama, dance and adult cardio/dance. Email her trulytorie2000@gmail.com for more information and to register.

To learn more, follow Torie Jock on

Facebook and Instagram (@torie_jock), visit the Palmer Historical and Cultural Center website at palmerhcc.org, email palmerhcc@gmail.com or call 289-

Torie Jock at a glance

Age: 22 **Hometown: Ware**

Q: What are some of the highlights on your performing arts resume?

Jock: I have acted in multiple movies and shows

professionally and have recorded multiple albums. I am currently signed to a record label, Dark Star Records. I have been sent to national dance competitions multiple times and danced regularly for

Q: How did you get your start as an actor/dancer?

Jock: I started dancing when I was 1-year-old and started acting when I was 9. The first role I played was Wilbur in "Charlotte's Web!" I always loved being onstage. It feels like home to me more than anything else.

Q: Who are your professional role

Jock: Too many to choose from! If I had to pick, I would say Meryl Streep, Sandra Bullock, Cher, and Joan Jett.

O: Please share one thing most people don't know about you.

Jock: Some people know this, but not everyone. I was a 'Mini Cher' impersonator when I was 11 for a traveling Cher Tribute show.



Maddison Harrington, Hadleigh Auffrey and Jamie Zolendziewski (top) rehearse the dance routine that opens "Left in the Dust." On the bottom are (from left) Jolani Hilyard, Sophia Rheaume, Janasia Roman and Sofia Ro-





Drama students Callie Cygan, Sofia Roman, Jolani Hilyard and Janasia Roman rehearse a scene from "Left in the Dust," which will be performed next week at the PHCC.



Young PHCC campers Jamie Zolendziewski (left) and Josephine Warchelak



Sophia Rheaume, Addison Peloguin and Sofia Roman rehearse a scene.

Rehearsing the opening dance routine are (from left) Jamie Zolendziewski, Hadleigh Auffrey, Maddison Harrington, Janasia Roman and Sofia Roman.



Turley Photos by Michael Harrison With opening night around the corner, actors (from left) Jolani Hilyard, Josephine Warchelak (sitting), Janasia Roman and Jacob Leckie (sitting) work on a scene from "Left in the Dust," an original play by Torie Jock.

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