



PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Ying Ling

Page 2



COMMUNITY

Local skateboarder goes pro

Page 3



SPORTS

Palmer wins summer title

Page 9

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

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PALMER

Vote taken to pursue Baker Street land grant

By Marcelo Gusmão
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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



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
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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

MONSON

School Committee voice DESE draft framework concerns

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
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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 North-Valley met August 3, to discuss the DESE Framework Draft during a Curriculum Subcommittee meeting.

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 appropriate.”

“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

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
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PALMER – Friends, family, local vendors and agencies gathered

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-

CONSERVATION

Palmer Trail Club hosts first trail work day

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
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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 property 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 maintenance.

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

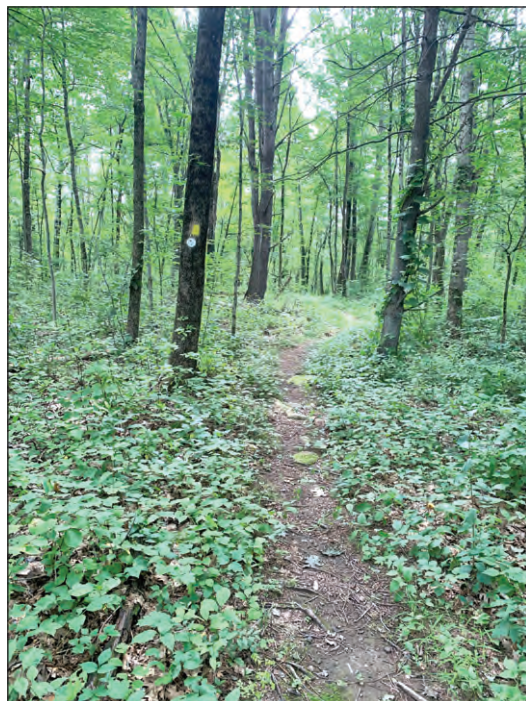
“Part of the big push here is to publicize this location,” said St. George.

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



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

EDUCATION



Old Mill Pond Elementary School Assistant Principal Penny Manteria and Principal Holly-Beth Riopel smile while spending time with students at the park.

OMP principals meet students, families

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
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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

parks. “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.



NNO | page 8



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.

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 items to winners.

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



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 school year.

"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," Webb said.

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
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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.

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

The First Start Program for ages four to kindergarten aged children are in need of a Program Coordinator and three to four group leader volunteers.

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 fundamentals.

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 athletes."

VOLUNTEERS | page 6

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CAMPUS NOTES

University of Rochester graduates local resident

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

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The Journal Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

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 back to Palmer.

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.



Skateboarder and Monson native goes pro

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
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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.

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 home.

When they moved from Monson to Palmer, Barton said



Submitted Photos

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 old.

“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 17.

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 Hilbert.

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

days” after bringing him to the airport, as he was going somewhere he wouldn’t know very many people and would be on his own.

Since then, Hilbert has made many connections.

“Being part of the industry, there have been a lot of pros... I’ve met people over the years and befriended two of my favorite professional skateboarders [Sierra Fellers and Dave Bachinsky],” said Hilbert.

Hilbert has skated Tampa Am, a world renowned amateur skate contest based in Florida, for the past eight years.

Last year, Hilbert skated Tampa Pro, the professional level of Tampa Am, for the first time.

Hilbert said although he participates in skate contests at the request of his sponsors, he prefers to shoot skate videos.

Sometimes, Hilbert will reshoot a trick 5-6 hours before settling on a take he believes hits the right angle.

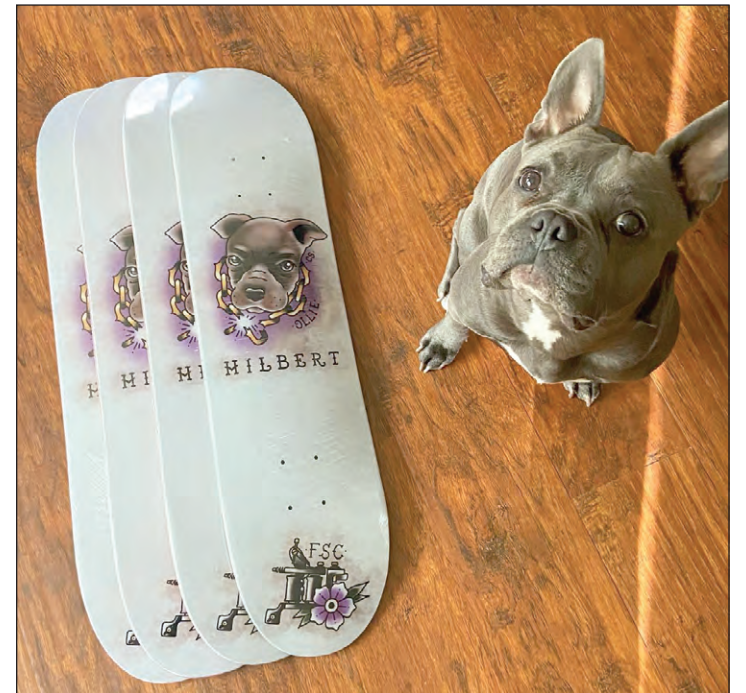
“You go out in the streets anywhere from four months to a year filming,” said Hilbert.

He has skated in various parts of the world including areas of Germany, London and Paris.

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 Televisitar.

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 Hilbert.

“[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 Conservation 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

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

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

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

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

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Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

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 while.

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 FRA.

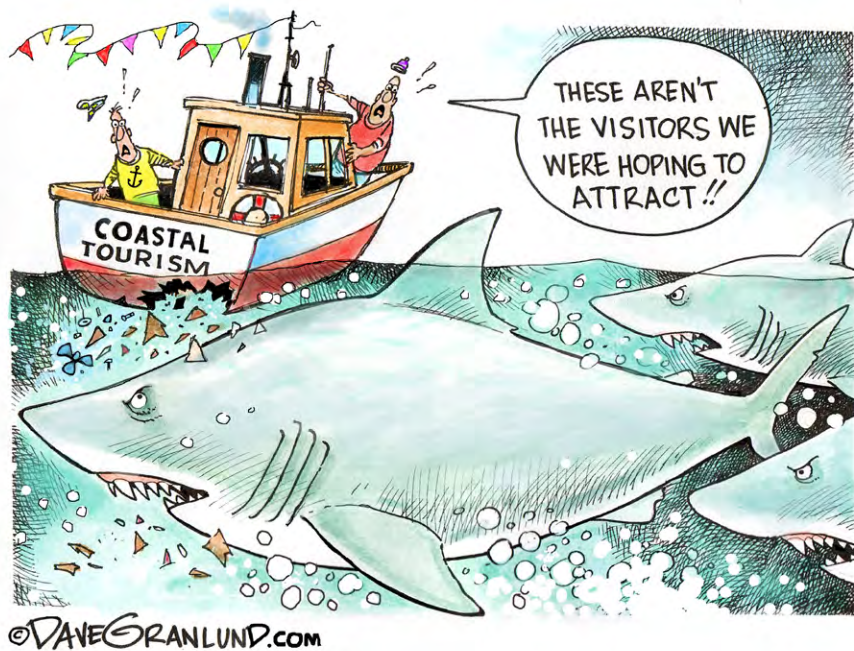
In that way, you may eventually recover some or all of the benefits withheld by receiving a higher monthly amount for the rest of your life, starting at your full retirement age.

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 you 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.org.

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 wee-bit 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 with the same 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 plant growth.

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 learn its pH.

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 not the same!

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

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 structures.

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 for plant uptake.

As organic 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 testing.

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

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 in 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 eye on me."

"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 Rhode 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 & Mary.

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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The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

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

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

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 new coin.

There was just one problem. 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,

"Five cents, please."

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 time.

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

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 be wrong.

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 tent site 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 tent site 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 our tent.

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 apologize, 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 adventures 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 McNeaney.

What started off as mere curiosity, quickly turned into an ongoing hobby, which McNeaney has kept at for six years now.

"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 McNeaney.

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



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 are bracelets McNeaney crafted.



Some of the pens McNeaney crafts have ruler markings along the sides of them.



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



McNeaney has a wide variety of pens for sale at craft shows, including wood or acrylic based pens.



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



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

turn, Bigelow said McNeaney "figured it out on his own."

When McNeaney was 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 doing.

According to Bigelow, one of McNeaney's top selling pens is a 30 caliber gun, pen.

The clip on the side of the pen is in the shape of a shotgun and is popular among military servicemen and women as well as veterans.

McNeaney was just 12

years old when he started selling his products at craft fairs, and made his debut at the East-Field Mall.

Bigelow said one gentleman, a retired U.S Marine, purchased three of the 30 caliber pens for himself and two of his friends who were World War II veterans.

"They seem to go like hot-cakes," said Bigelow.

Another unique pen that attracts attention is a lighthouse pen, fixed with a color changing topper.

At the August 11 Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce Food Trucks, Farmers and Artisans Market, attendees stopped

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 at 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 McNeaney.

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

pens in person, McNeaney will be in attendance at the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce next market in September.

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Your opinion is something we always want to hear. Call or contact us via email mharrison@turley.com.

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We're on Facebook!

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 Panaccone 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 Build-

ing Workshop process to develop an 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 grants."

The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program is supported

by the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and began in 2017.

Panaccone 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 Panaccone.

According to Panaccone,

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 Panaccone.

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

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 note of is the removal of trees by

roads. However, Panaccone 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 FEMA.

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

MONSON | from page 1

things that can impact our community in a positive way," said Graves-Harrison.

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

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 framework.

"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-

pate in this year's annual bus tour.

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 August 23.

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 available.

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.

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!

REGISTER HERE NOW!
https://secure2.convio.net/bayhf/site/TR?fr_id=1260&pg=entry

HOLY COW | from page 4

problem.

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

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 coin artists had spotted the design oversight and were also taking advantage of it.

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 confuse 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 to act.

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 incident.

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.

PALMER | 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 MassHealth 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."

VOLUNTEERS | 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.

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.

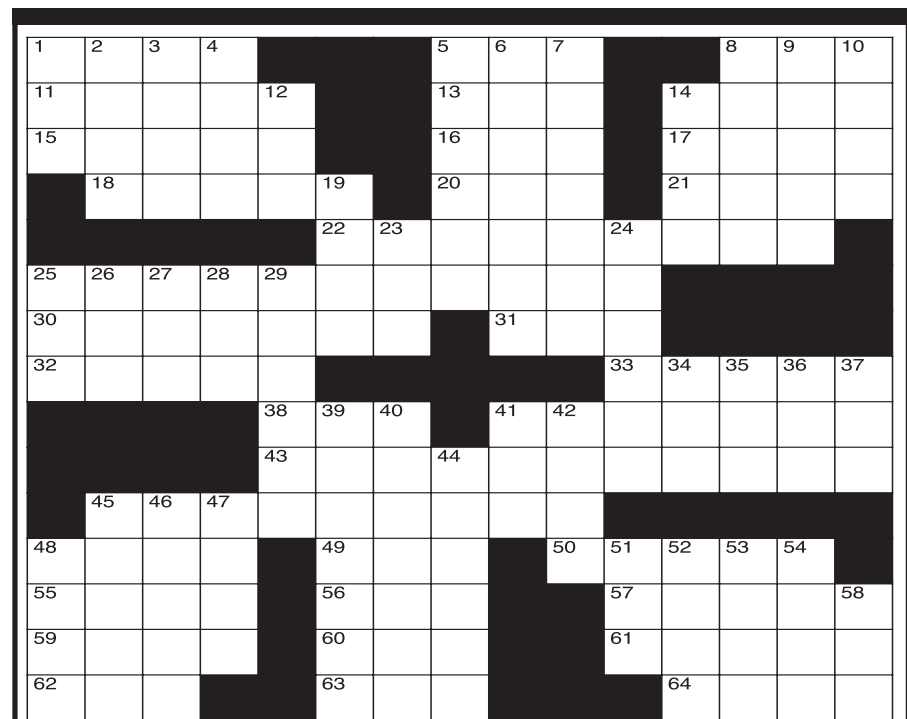
"The track was in disrepair," explained Barry. "The kids at Palmer High School could not use that track, they could not have track meets at it. It had been maintained once, I believe, over all the years. It needed to be fixed, it couldn't have another band-aid put on it, and so we are fixing the drainage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



CLUES ACROSS

1. Civil rights organization
5. Calendar month (abbr.)
8. Monetary unit of Burma
11. Twyla __, US dancer
13. Everything included
14. "Antman" actor Rudd
15. Italian city
16. Nowhere to be found
17. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
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 (abbr.)
41. In a silly way
43. One from the Golden State
45. Photographers
48. Native religion in parts of China
49. Dickens character
50. Broadway actress
55. Ancient Greek sophist
56. Undivided
57. Daniel __, French composer
59. Nocturnal S. American rodent
60. Rusty
61. Jewish spiritual leader
62. Patti Hearst's captors
63. Popular global holiday (abbr.)
64. Tall, slender plant
1. Defunct US energy company
2. Fellow
3. It's issued from
4. Type of acid
5. Winged nut
6. Arouses
7. Things are served on it
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 principle
28. Type of tree
29. Persuade to do
34. A place for travelers to rest
35. National Gallery of Art designer
36. Panamanian 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 gum
53. A French abbot
54. One point east of northeast
58. Get free of

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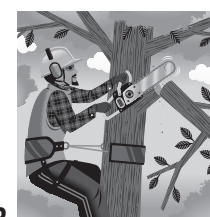
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OMP principals meet students, families at local parks



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



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



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



Kindergarten teacher Karyn Marciniak joined in on the fun.



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



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

OMP | from page 1

ville and Thorndike Park on Church Street.

"Last year we did an activity just OMP and had everybody travel here," said Riopel.

She said she wanted to travel 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

and shrieking with laughter.

Former OMP staff member 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 Kuszewski.

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 summer."

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 the Palmer 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 community."

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.



Mason and Emma take a rest after playing.

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

Presentation will be on Saturday, Sept. 16, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Community Room at the

Hampden Senior Center in Hampden.

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

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Police and community join together at National Night Out



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



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 an 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.



Scarlette and Emmett, of Palmer, enjoy wads of freshly spun cotton candy.



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 Skowrya were present at the event, offering resources and ice cream sandwiches on behalf of the Pathfinder Regional Technical Vocational High School community.



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



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.

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Many children waited patiently to get their faces painted during the event, including Arianna Gilmore.



Old Mill Pond Principal Holly-Beth Riopel and son, Jayden, share a smile.



Avery Sinclair, of Warren, and Gavin Sinclair, of Bondsville's Dunkin' store, stand before the Palmer Police station after handing out donuts.

NNO | from page 1

established in 1984 by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice as a community building campaign to promote police-community partnerships and encourage

neighborhood safety through camaraderie. The Palmer Police Department, Fire Department, Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce, represen-

tatives of Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School and local vendors were in attendance at this year's event.

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BASKETBALL

Palmer defeats Belchertown for summer title



Mason Cowher dribbles near the hoop.



Dominic Yannen looks to pass.



Gunnar Paradiso goes for a ball in the air.



Luke Haley attempts a layup.



Jostel Ortiz squares up and shoots.

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.

Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com

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.

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 won 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 showcase with a 5-2 win over the Metro team.

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.

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 speedplant.

RACING | page 10

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 Westside 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 George 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 lives.

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.

Foursomes needed for charity golf tournament

AGAWAM – Registration 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

Institute. In the first FIVE years we have raised over \$15,000 for cancer research. The four-person scramble event will take place on Monday, Sept. 18 at Wintonbury Hills Golf Course in Bloomfield,

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.

WOMENS

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 awesome coaching them again in this league. It's a lot of fun."

Celtic Grey peaked at the 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.

Then Letendre made a save on the Celtic Grey's first shot.

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 championship title.

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



Nicole Callini makes a throw-in.



Katie Shea makes a quick pass.



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

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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 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,

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 Duquette.

SOCCER from page 9

on the board with a tremendous effort from Oscar Martinez (Boston, East Boston HS) who scored both Metro goals to bring them within two. West

then scored to make it 5-2 to capitalize on a dominant win in their first match.

The West would go a perfect 6-0 in the showcase.

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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 welcome.

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 your neighbors and support Hitchcock and local businesses.

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

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

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

up! Questions? Call 283-2329, or 283-3691, or email palewis19@yahoo.com.

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

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



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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 veterans.



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

HONOR | from page 1

try under John (Velis)'s leadership to 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-

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 Tobiasson, 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 Purple Heart.

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.



Darlene Santucci and Sarah Strout sold jewelry at their booth.



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



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.

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



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

about 200 families," Max said, based on estimates from sign-ups and the amount of food the shelter hands out.

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

with the grill open Wednesday to Sunday from 11-7 p.m. For more information about Here Today, Adopted Tomorrow, visit their website at heretodaysanctuary.org.

ArtWorks Gallery calls for fine art photography

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Submitted Photos

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.

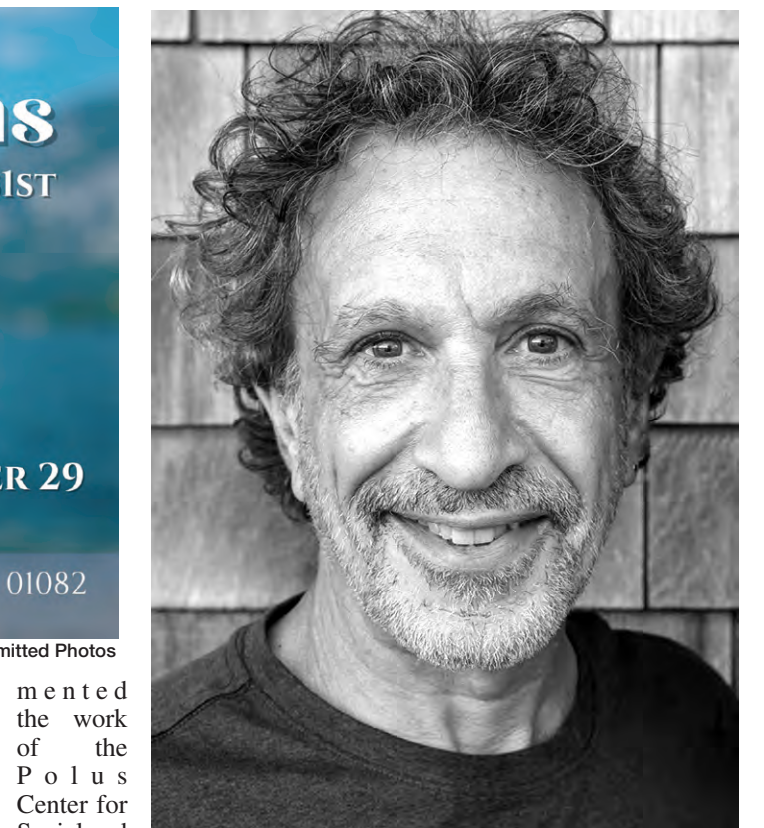
The juror for "Through the Lens" is Stephen Petegorsky,

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-



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.

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

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 it."

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," Cygan said.

"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 time.

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

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 time."

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 experience."

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 289-9295.

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 17 years.

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 models?

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

Q: 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 Rheume, Janasia Roman and Sofia Roman.



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



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 Rheume, Addison Peolquin and Sofia Roman rehearse a scene.



Turie 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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