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The Journal Register

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HOLLAND

Guests enjoy community health fair

By Kevin Flanders
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HOLLAND – Area residents took advantage of several resources and services offered during the seventh annual Health Fair and Vaccine Clinic.

Held on Sept. 15 at Holland Community Center, this year’s event featured more than 30 local vendors. Offerings included blood pressure tests, outreach and awareness materials, and appearances from local officials and organizations.

“We’ve gotten a wonder-

ful turnout today. Everything is right here for people to get the answers they need,” said Sanna Hart, the event coordinator at Holland Community Center.

Sponsored by the Holland Council on Aging (COA) and Holland Outreach, the event also featured a vaccine clinic. Guests had the opportunity to receive several vaccinations, including the flu shot, flu 65+, shingles, hepatitis B, Covid-19, and pneumonia vaccines.

Attendees were also able to meet District Director

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Turley photo by Kevin Flanders
Anna Randal and Emily Loscialpo provide information on Greater Springfield Senior Services, Inc.

SCHOOL



Submitted photos
Above, the display is almost complete. Right, students wave to the drone flying above the field.

Granite Valley makes its mark

By Kevin Flanders
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MONSON – The Granite Valley School community came together last week for a colorful display of teamwork – made possible by each and every unique individual within the group.

On its own, a single dot

might seem insubstantial, even insignificant. But during a school-wide program held on Sept. 15, GVS students discovered that every community is strengthened by the personalities, skills, and backgrounds of its individual members.

Beneath cloudless skies at GVS, the lesson gradually took shape in the form of a slowly widening series of

concentric rings on the soccer field, each one representing a different grade level.

From above, drones operated by Monson High School video production students captured the demonstration of unity achieved through a celebration of individuality.

The project also included educators and staff members who complete the daily GVS

learning community.

“I felt this was an opportunity for us at Granite Valley to come together as a community,” said GVS Principal Serenity Greenwood. “It was important to me that all staff be included – custodians, cafeteria staff, counselors, instructional aides, office staff,

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MONSON

A mother’s unbreakable hope

Memoir spotlights mental healthcare crisis

By Kevin Flanders
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MONSON – With the publication of her memoir, “Saving Lawrence: A Mother’s Journey of Love and Survival,” Brenda Gagne is calling attention to the struggles of everyday families amid the national mental health crisis.

Gagne’s memoir was published in May after she worked on it intermittently for a decade. Having lived in Monson for 62 years before moving to Florida last year, Gagne was a foster parent for

20 years and adopted seven children with special needs. “My husband and I also cared for aging relatives when they became sick, so I was always pushing my book to the back burner,” Gagne said.

But despite the long road to publication, Gagne remained determined to share a

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Brenda Gagne



MONSON

Cruise for Critters raises funds for animal shelter

By Marcelo Gusmão
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MONSON – Car lovers and dog lovers alike gathered for a car show fundraiser to benefit a local animal shelter.

On Sept. 19, Westview Farms Creamery hosted the 14th annual Cruise for Critters, a cruise night to benefit Second Chance Animal Services. The event was offered free for spectators, and encouraged residents to bring their dogs on leashes to enjoy the event.

“Today, we got 154 cars,” said Al Widlan. “We have 58 vendors, which is, I think, our record in vendors.”

This year’s event also included the addition of food trucks.

Widlan organized the cruise night in loving memory of Zane, his rescue pup of 12 years. The event featured many attractions, including homemade ice cream, a vendor fair, food trucks, pumpkin picking, live raffles, a hayride and an adoption event.

Visitors were also treated to a demonstration by local

CRITTERS | page 11

SCHOOL

Pathfinder celebrates expansion with ribbon cutting

By Kevin Flanders
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BELCHERTOWN – The Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School District celebrated a major milestone last week, with a ribbon cutting ceremony at the district’s new extension campus.

On Sept. 18, local officials joined school leaders at the ribbon cutting for Pathfinder Tech at Cold Spring, the district’s new extension campus located at 57 South Main Street in Belchertown.

Massachusetts Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education Pedro Martinez joined Pathfinder Tech Superintendent Eric

Duda and local legislators at the ceremony. Additional guests included State Senator Jake Oliveira and State Representatives Aaron Saunders and Todd Smola.

“Pathfinder Tech is turning opportunity into action,” Smola told The Journal Register. “This expansion means more students can get the practical education they need

to build careers, meet critical workforce needs, and give back to their communities.”

Commissioner Martinez praised the collaboration among school leaders necessary to convert the former elementary school into a vocational technical campus in only two months.

The result is an expansion of Career Technical Ed-

ucation (CTE) opportunities for students throughout the region.

“This is a tremendous day for Pathfinder Tech, for our nine member communities, and, most importantly, for the students who want access to high-quality Career Technical Education,” Superintendent Duda said. “What was accomplished here demonstrates what is possible when people come together around a common goal. We took an elementary school that was still serving students in June and, in just eight weeks, transformed it into a fully operational vocational technical campus that welcomed Pathfinder Tech students on September 1.”

The former Cold Spring School remained an active Belchertown elementary school through June 2026. The building was turned over



Pathfinder Tech leaders celebrate a major accomplishment with local officials.

Submitted photo

RIBBON | page 13



Monson Conservation Commission holds first televised meeting

By Marcelo Gusmão
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MONSON – The town’s Conservation Commission televised one of its meetings for the first time.

On Aug. 26, the Conservation Commission went on air for the first time, with Chair Glenn Colburn announcing that the commission’s meetings will now be recorded and televised.

“This is a big change for us,” Colburn said. “It’s an effort to make government more open and transparent.”

As this was the commission’s first televised meeting, Colburn took the opportunity to explain how the Conservation Commission works, dating back to the Wetlands Protection Act passed by the commonwealth in the 1970s, and directed residents on how to access the regulation booklet.

“It breaks the wetlands

down into different categories, such as rivers and streams, bordering vegetated wetlands, lands subject to flooding,” Colburn said. “They all have certain performance standards and functions that they serve.”

By the commonwealth’s requirements, each town appoints a Conservation Commission, with seven members appointed by the town to administer wetlands regulations and make sure incoming projects meet those requirements.

“In most instances, things are fairly straightforward. We’re looking to protect the functions of the different types of wetlands,” Colburn said. “We will work with the applicants, when we can, to ensure that the streams stay clean, there’s no erosion, and wildlife, especially endangered species, are protected in their natural habitats.”

Coburn then turned the meeting over to Conservation Agent Toni Uliana to open a public hearing with Opacum

Land Trust, which was then continued until the Sept. 16 meeting, due to a scheduling conflict with the property owner.

Uliana then provided the commission with the orders of condition from the public hearing closed last week regarding a property on Silver Street, and addressed a request for a certificate of compliance for a property on Old Stage Coach Drive, where she conducted a site visit earlier that afternoon.

“This was the property that had the stairs going down from the back of the house towards Old Stage Coach Lake,” Uliana said. “It was a beautiful set of stairs.”

Uliana noted no erosion, saying that the only disturbance to the natural environment was “literally where they put the steps down to the water.” Uliana requested an administrative fix from the property owner’s consultants to specify that not all of

the 245 linear feet of shore is open.

“A 245-foot bank along the pond, the regulations state that they may have 50 feet or 10%, whichever is less, that they are allowed to disturb that for use,” Colburn said. “The rest remains in an undisturbed condition.”

The owner of the property, Jeffrey Johnston, asked for clarification regarding what he should do if disturbance to the shoreline exceeds the allotted 10% of the overall 245 feet.

“The maximum amount that you could disturb would be 24-and-a-half feet,” Colburn said. “If you have less than that, that is not a problem with the Conservation Commission.”

The commission voted unanimously to issue a complete certification with the request that the consultants fix the as-built plan, and the commission moved on to further public hearings.

Community suppers return to St. Paul’s

PALMER – Bread and Belonging at St. Paul’s of Palmer will return on Saturday, Sept. 26, with a free community supper.

The meal will be served continuously from 4:30-6 p.m. in the parish hall at St. Paul’s Church. Guests are welcome to arrive at any point during those hours.

Bread and Belonging is designed around a simple idea: a good meal, a welcoming table, and a place for people to be together.

There is no cost for the meal. A donation jar is available for anyone who wishes to help support the ministry, but there is no expectation of contribution.

The September menu

will feature an Italian pasta and meatball dinner, accompanied by salad, bread, a dessert buffet, and hot and cold non-alcoholic beverages.

There is no need to register, and there is no charge for children or adults. The cost of the community suppers is sponsored by Gem Exhibits Co. of Palmer and its owner, Scott Wharton, whose support has helped make it possible for St. Paul’s to offer the meals without charge.

For additional information about Bread and Belonging, St. Paul’s Church, or other programs and activities, visit www.StPaulsPalmer.org. You may also call the church at 413-283-8185.



Bingo night returns for new season

PALMER – Area residents arrived in big numbers for the season’s opening night of Bingo at American Veterans Post 74 (Amvets).

The longtime program always brings together old friends and new participants alike. On Sept. 14, guests were thrilled to start up again after a summer break.

The program runs on Monday nights between Labor Day and Memorial Day. Doors open at 4:30 p.m., and the first games get started around 6:25 p.m.

Proceeds benefit an array of community programs and projects supported by Amvets, including scholarships for local students.

“A lot of people enjoy coming out and supporting the community,” said Amvets Post 74 Commander Mark Caci, who thanks guests for their strong support each year.

Amvets Post 74 is located at 2150 Main Street in Three Rivers.



Turley photos by Kevin Flanders
Teresa Swist and Ava Swist get ready for a night of Bingo.



Jordan Bryant and Kaylee Ferris enjoy a meal before gaming.



Karen Santos and Denise Berkebile provide guests with refreshments.

Celebrate America’s 250th with music

MONSON – On Sunday, Sept. 27, First Church of Monson (5 High Street) will hold a special concert – “Celebrate America’s 250th with Music.”

The concert will begin at 4 p.m.

Music Director Kiel Krommer and the Music Committee invite community members to enjoy the program.

Each 50-year segment of time will include music from that period. Guests can expect to hear pieces from the American Revolution era, the Civil War period, the rousing 1920s, and modern tunes, both religious and secular.

The program will include pieces such as “Ches-

ter” by William Billings, a song popular during the 1770s; two French compositions chosen to honor the French military who fought side by side with Americans; a spiritual medley recalling the 1880s; a special arrangement of ragtime for organ; and the congregational singing of patriotic favorites.

Karen LaFayette (trumpeter), Joseph Farr-Wholley (flutist), an ecumenical choir, and Krommer on piano and organ will entertain with style.

An additional attraction will feature speakers from each of the four cornerstone Monson churches – First Church of Monson; the United Methodist Church; St. Patrick; and the Unitari-

an Universalist Parish. Each speaker will share a bit of history over the 250 years, including the founding as well as significant events.

The concert is dedicated to Mary Newland, a longtime member of First Church and the Music Committee. A reception in the newly renovated fellowship hall will follow the performance.

Donations of \$10 for adults are requested at the event; \$5 for seniors and students.

The concert is free for children under 12.

The concert is underwritten by the Monson Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Monson Cultural Council seeking grant proposals

MONSON – The Monson Cultural Council is seeking grant proposals from organizations, schools, and individuals for community-oriented projects in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences.

These grants can support a variety of projects, including lectures, workshops, performances in schools, exhibits, and

festivals.

All events and projects covered by the grants must take place between Jan. 1, 2027, and Dec. 31, 2027.

Monson priorities can be found online at: www.MassCulturalCouncil.org, along with the link to the online application.

The deadline for submission is Oct. 15, 2026.

Bargain clothing sale on Oct. 3

MONSON – A bargain clothing sale will take place on Saturday, Oct. 3, at Monson-Glendale United Methodist Church (162 Main Street).

The sale will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Clothing is \$1 per bag. “Time to find some clothing for the entire family. Bring your friends, too,” read a statement released by organizers. “We never know what we’ll have, so it’s worth a look. Everyone is welcome.”

DEADLINE

The Journal Register deadline for public submissions to Mondays. To get your submission in for that week's edition space permitting, email Editor at journalregister@turley.com or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.

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 an email to: journalregister@turley.com, or call (413) 283-8393. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069

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School Committee accepts \$75,000 grant for Career Pathways

By Marcelo Gusmão
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MONSON – The school district is receiving a new grant to help support the implementation of its Career Pathways program.

During the Sept. 9 School Committee meeting, Financial Director Leah Zippin announced that the district’s spending has been “right on target,” with an excess estimate of \$11,000.

“We have had a couple of unbudgeted expenses,” Zippin said, mentioning a new hire at Granite Valley Middle School and repairs to the gym divider, which cost the district \$6,500.

“We still have some capacity,” Zippin concluded. “We’re looking good right now, and I

hope to report the same thing next month.”

This led into the acceptance of \$75,000 from the Innovation Career Pathways Implementation Grant for fiscal year 2027.

“This is one that I mentioned in recognitions last month, but it came in right before the meeting, so we didn’t vote on it,” said Superintendent Paul Foster. “Shout out to Principal [Christopher] Fontaine and the team at the high school for all of their work securing these grants.”

According to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s website, the purpose of the ICPI grant is to provide designated Innovation Career Pathways with resources to support and implement career pathway programs. The grant priorities are to support designated schools and institutions as they execute their approved designation plan, in order to ensure the school’s program meets all criteria requirements.

Foster said the grant will support the district’s Medical Assisting and Engineering career pathway programs.

“It is also supporting our work-based learning by helping cover the salary of one of our staff who’s really coordinating the work of our Pathways and coordinating the work of our work-based learning,” Foster said. “It will also be part of the package of things we’re doing that are going to support the creation of the business pathway and, ultimately, the creation of the computer science pathway as well.”

School Committee Chair Alison Morgan asked about the funding of the aforementioned work-based learning.

“Obviously we have the grant to pay for that this year,” Morgan said. “Is it something that we need to figure out how we’re paying for it next year?”

Foster said that the district will not have to come up with the funding for that yet, due to “an entitlement element” of the grant.

“In the spring, we celebrated the fact that our Medical Assisting and Engineering pathways were officially designated by the state as Innovation Career Pathways,” Foster said. “Once you get that designation, you become eligible for \$75,000 a year – if you have two pathways, it’s

\$75,000 a year – and that’s an eligibility that lasts for five years.”

Foster said that, because the district will phase in new pathways, with plans to certify one new pathway program this year and another one next year, the district will actually have access to this funding for the next seven years.

“We have time to figure out how to build sustainability,” Foster said.

Committee Member Peter Wiggins asked how much the district applied for from the Capital Skills Grant, which Fontaine said was “in the vicinity of \$37-38,000” per program, as that grant provides funding primarily for materials and equipment.

“The other grant that we just talked about doesn’t cov-

er equipment at all,” Fontaine said.

Fontaine added, as reiterated by Morgan, that the grant offsets fees that students in the past have had to cover for AP testing, as well as fees for receiving college credits as part of the pathway program.

“Thank you, Principal Fontaine, for making that happen,” Morgan said.

The committee unanimously voted to accept the \$75,000 Innovation Career Pathways Implementation Grant by roll-call vote.

“This makes, at this point, about \$140,000 in grants so far this year for our pathways,” Foster said. “The Capital Skills Grant that Member [Karen] Nothe-Valley mentioned, which we’re hopeful about, would add to that total.”

‘Burial Grounds of Palmer’ presentation

PALMER – Take part in Palmer’s MA 250th anniversary celebration by joining local historian Robert Comeau in this presentation about the “Burial Grounds of Palmer” on Tuesday, Oct. 6 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the Palmer Public Library, 1455 North Main St.

To register for this program, please visit: <https://palmerlibrary.com>

In addition to this presentation, Comeau will host

a tour at the Four Corners Cemetery on Saturday, Oct. 10 from 11 a.m.-noon, 4287 Main St.

These events are brought to you by the Palmer Historical Commission and the Palmer Public Library.

This program is funded in part by a grant from the Palmer Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

This program is free, but registration is requested.

Classes of 1976 plan 50th reunion

PALMER – The Palmer High School Reunion Committee invites the 1976 graduates of Palmer High School and Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School to a 50th Anniversary Reunion Party on Saturday, Oct. 17 from 5-10 p.m.

Faculty is also welcome to attend the reunion party.

Graduates and guests are invited to eat, drink and be reunited in the outdoor

venue at Vanished Valley Brewing Co., 782 Center St., Ludlow. The cost is \$35 per person, includes entertainment by Kingdom of Jones Band and a BBQ style buffet with cornbread, salad, BBQ ribs, BBQ chicken, pulled pork, mac n’ cheese, rice and beans and coleslaw.

Please RSVP by contacting Sue Warner Proserpi at suewpro@gmail.com. Registration and payment are due no later than Sept. 30.

Annual water quality report available

MONSON – The 2025 annual water quality consumer confidence report for Monson is available at <https://www.monson-ma.gov/622/Water-Quality-Report-CCR-Index>.

This report contains important information about the source and quality of your

drinking water.

Hard copies are available at Monson Town Hall located at 110 Main St., the Monson Free Library located at 2 High St. and the Monson Senior Center located at 106 Main St.

Please call 413-267-4130 if you would like a paper report delivered to your home.



Fatal plane crash under investigation

By Kevin Flanders
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LUDLOW – The Hampden District Attorney’s Office continues to investigate the plane crash that resulted in two fatalities earlier this month.

On Sept. 5 at approximately 9 p.m., local and state agencies responded to reports of a missing aircraft in the area of northern Ludlow and Belchertown. Additional reports from callers described a low-flying aircraft that appeared to be in distress, as well as a loud noise.

The location of the crash remained unclear until a Civil Air Patrol pilot used a portable beacon receiver while riding with Ludlow Police. The beacon directed first responders to a remote wooded area off Center Street.

With the assistance of drones flown by police from neighboring cities and towns, responders were able to locate the exact position of the crashed Piper PA-28 Cherokee.

Two occupants of the aircraft were pronounced dead at the scene. The victims were later identified as Kenneth Moore, 66, of Pembroke, and Marcy Asbury, 62, of East Falmouth.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and

the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) were immediately notified by local authorities following the crash.

Ludlow Fire Chief Ryan Pease and Ludlow Police Chief Michael Brennan said emergency crews remained on scene overnight, until the aircraft could be safely removed.

Officials thank all responders for their assistance in a multifaceted operation. Because the crash site was a swampy environment with roughly four feet of water, responders laid down planking to access the site and extricate the victims for transport by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

The Western Mass Technical Rescue Team also greatly assisted responders with gaining access to the wreckage.

“This has been a major, multi-agency response, and I want to extend our sincere thanks to the police and firefighters from Belchertown, Chicopee, Pelham, and Wilbraham who were side-by-side with our personnel,” said Chief Brennan. “State Police, the Hampden Sheriff’s Search and Rescue Team, Western Mass Tech Rescue Team, Department of Fire Services, and MEMA also provided invaluable support.”

Local responders worked

with members of the FAA, NTSB, MassDOT Aeronautics Division, and a contracted vendor to remove the plane from the site.

“Our thoughts are with the families of those lost in last night’s crash,” said Chief Pease. “I also want to recognize the first responders who have been working tirelessly during this recovery mission.”

The crash remains under investigation by the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit assigned to the Hampden District Attorney’s Office, in coordination with the Ludlow Police Department, FAA, and NTSB.

“Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni extends his condolences to the victims’ families,” read a statement released by the DA’s Office.

The plane was owned by Alpha One Flight Services, a Plymouth-based flight school and rental company. The aircraft departed from Northampton Airport en route to Plymouth.

“We are working alongside federal, state, and local authorities, and will assist in the investigation in any way possible,” read a statement issued by Alpha One Flight Services. “Our thoughts are with everyone affected by this tragic loss, and with the families and loved ones during this incredibly difficult time.”

Sound therapy sessions available

BRIMFIELD – Hitchcock Academy will host a series of sound therapy sessions on Saturday evenings.

The sessions will take place from 6-7:30 p.m. on select evenings. Each session is offered at a cost of \$20 per person.

Dates for the sessions include Oct. 17 (immune defense); and Nov. 14 (dealing with life challenges, loss and grief).

Sound therapy aims to utilize aspects of music,

tones and notes to improve physical, emotional and mental Sound therapy sessions available health.

Pat and Ken Wheelock are bodywork practitioners based in Three Rivers. Their practice spans acupressure, Reiki, herbal studies, sound therapy, color therapy, and aromatherapy.

Certified practitioners since 2008, the Wheelocks have spent over 15 years studying, practicing, and teaching the healing arts.

Alora Heffernan is a certified Reiki master and certified meditation teacher. Her work focuses on such non-invasive modalities as guided meditation, Reiki, and sound therapy.

Event participants are encouraged to bring a yoga mat or folding camp chair.

To learn more about the sessions, visit www.hitchcockacademy.org.

Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Road.

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Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters By Russell Gloor

I'm eevaluating my retirement plan; what are my options?

Dear Rusty:

I am 69 1/2 years old now and applied for Social Security at the end of June.

I am still working and was planning to begin my retirement in September. A couple of factors arose for me to question if I made a hasty decision by applying for SS.

The employer I have been working for the last 29 years has asked if I would stay on a little longer, which would be good because we have some debt I want to lose before I retire.

I was reading about suspending Social Security and continuing to work. If I understand it right, if I suspend my SS, no payback will be required, and I can continue to work until I'm ready to retire. No spousal benefits taken yet.

Signed: Reevaluating my Retirement

Dear Reevaluating Retirement:

I'm assuming you asked for your Social Security benefits to start in September (when you originally planned to retire), but that you won't be 70 years old until March 2027.

If that is correct, be aware that you will not immediately get all of your earned Delayed Retirement Credits when your benefits start in September – you will only initially get the DRCs you have earned through the end of 2025.

That's because Social Security usually applies DRCs in January of each year. So, what will happen is that your September benefit amount will lack the 5.3% DRCs you earned in 2026, until January 2027 when they will apply the DRCs earned in 2026 to your monthly payment amount.

Said simply, your initial September benefit will not include your full age 69.5 entitlement because it won't include the 5.3% extra you earned in 2026. That extra monthly amount will be awarded in January 2027.

FYI, if you were to, instead, claim for your SS benefits to start in the month you turn 70 (March 2027), you would get your full age 70 amount immediately (SS awards all earned DRCs if benefits are claimed to start in the month you turn 70).

Now, on to your question: Yes, if you take your benefits effective with September 2026 you can suspend your benefits, but you can only suspend them until the month you turn 70. And if you are suspending your benefits, you will not need to repay Social Security for any benefits you happen to receive before you suspend.

As is obvious, you will not receive any SS payments while your benefits are suspended, and you will earn DRCs for the months your benefits are suspended, resulting in a higher monthly amount at age 70. Also, since you have already passed your SS Full Retirement Age, you can work and earn as much as you like, without your Social Security benefits being negatively affected.

Regarding your comment "No Spousal benefits taken yet." FYI, you cannot get spousal benefits while your benefits are suspended, nor can your wife get spousal benefits from you while you SS retirement benefits

are suspended.

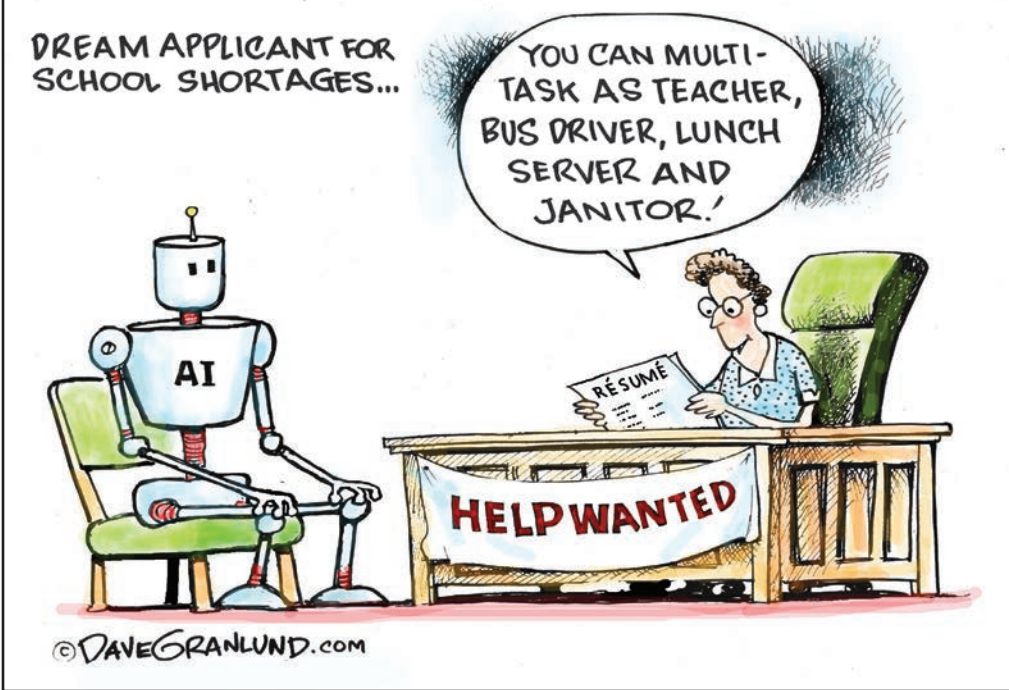
To be clear, spouse benefits are only paid when one spouse's benefit at their FRA is less than 50% of the other spouse's FRA benefit. Spouse benefits are always based upon FRA entitlements, not on the larger amounts which will result from waiting longer to claim.

In other words, your wife would only be eligible for a spousal benefit from you if her FRA entitlement was less than 50% of your FRA entitlement (not your age 70 SS entitlement). And she cannot get a spousal benefit while your benefits are suspended.

To recap: Yes, you can suspend receipt of your SS retirement benefits until the month you turn 70 and get credit for that delay (resulting in a higher benefit). And, yes, you can continue working as long as you wish and your benefits will not be negatively affected.

And just for added information, you can also ask Social Security to withdraw your current application for SS benefits and then reapply in January 2027 for your benefits to start in March 2027, the month you turn 70. You have both options.

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.



Raised beds? Why not!

I have to say that today I am having a hard time thinking of something to write about.

As I scan my mind of all the seasonal gardening topics, I come up blank. Winter squash? Done it. Mums? Ditto. Seed saving. Yup.

So, on this rainy Sunday, I give you all the luck of the draw. I will

grab a gardening book off of my shelf, twirl the pages, and where my finger lands, I will expound on the subject. It may not be autumnal, but it will be interesting, I guarantee that.

Here we go...

The book I grabbed from the shelf was "The Dirt Cheap Green Thumb," by Rhonda Massingham Hart. My finger landed on page 189, with the heading "Raise Your Beds, Not Your Expenses."

I have some experience with raised beds.

In my home garden I have four rock-edged beds.

Prior to that I had beds edged in pine slabs.

My friend uses hemlock edged beds and is happy with them.

I envy how neat and orderly they are. Another friend is using galvanized metal beds this year. They seem to be all the rage.

Her tomatoes and peppers continue to produce like gangbusters even late in the season. She has just gotten back into gardening after a two year hiatus and I am proud of her and happy she has been so successful.

Let's begin our chat with some of the advantages of raised bed gardening.

The first one that comes to mind is that you can be selective about the soil you fill it with. I've enjoyed using the Coast of Maine Raised Bed Mix.

Blending loam and aged manure or compost at a 2 to 1 ratio is another option. Additionally, raised beds make it easy to concentrate fertilizers where they are needed.

In the Garden by Roberta McQuaid



Submitted Photo by Dawn Rudnansky

GARDEN | page 5

in my BACKYARD By Ellenor Downer

Someone reported hearing as sandhill crane calling in New Braintree, but did not see it. Recently, someone saw a pair of sandhill cranes in a field on Pleasant Street in Barre. The cranes stayed about a week and then left.

Sandhill Cranes are large birds that live in open habitats, so they're fairly easy to spot. They are gray overall, have red foreheads, white cheeks, a long dark bill and dark legs.

Immature birds have reddish-brown upper parts and gray underparts and lack the red foreheads. This makes it easy to pick out the parents from the youngsters even when they are the same height.

Sandhill cranes make a loud trumpeting call that can be heard for long distances. They are mainly herbivores, but feed on other foods depending on availability. They will feed on berries, small mammals, insects, snails, reptiles and amphibians.

These cranes raise one brood per year. The female lays one to three brownish eggs. Both sexes build the nest using plant material and both incubate and feed the young.

In summer cranes are often seen in small bogs, marshes and prairies across northern North America and the southeastern United States. In winter they form immense flocks in places like Bosque del Apache, New Mexico and Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, Texas.

Sandhill crane's call is a loud, rolling, trumpeting sound whose unique tone is a product of anatomy. They have long tracheas that coil into the sternum and help the sound develop a lower pitch and harmonics that add richness.

Sandhill cranes are also known for their dancing skills. Courting cranes stretch their wings, pump their heads, bow, and leap into the air in a graceful and energetic dance.



Sandhill crane

Many years ago, a Barre resident saw a pair dancing in a field. He said it was a "sight to behold."

Although some start breeding at two years of age, Sandhill cranes may reach the age of seven before breeding. They mate for life, which can mean two decades or more and stay with their mates year-round. Juveniles stick close by their parents for nine or ten months after hatching.

Sandhill crane chicks can leave the nest within 8 hours of hatching and are even capable of swimming.

The oldest sandhill

crane on record was at least 37 years, 3 months old. Originally banded in Florida in 1982, it was found in Wisconsin in 2019.

Scarcity of birds

I received an email from a woman who lives on Lake Lashaway.

She said, "Since Sunday, Aug. 30, they had most days without birds... any type, large or small at our feeders or just in the shrubs or anywhere. All my neighbors have noticed their feeders are full too." One neighbor said he has seen a

BIRDS | page 5

The Journal Register

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

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Letter to the Editor

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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 journalregister@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 the editor 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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

E-mail items to journalregister@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 journalregister@turley.com.

UPCOMING

SATURDAY, OCT. 3

ALL MAKES & MODELS CAR SHOW will be presented by the Corvette Club of Western MA on Saturday, Oct. 3 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Chicopee Moose Club, 244 Fuller Road, Chicopee. There will be food, beverages, raffles, trophies and live music provided by The Blue Groove Band. There is a \$20 car entry fee and spectators are free.

VENDORS FOR THE BAYSTATE WING HOSPITAL GIFT SHOPPE

October Vendors

Oct. 5 - In The AM Floral
Oct. 8 - Hobbit Hollow Herbs
Oct. 13 - Heart Arts Crafts
Oct. 14 - How Charming
Oct. 20 - Wicked Good Treats
Oct. 22 - Jewelry For Diane
Oct. 27 - Geriations & Sew On

ONGOING

WALES CHURCH FARMER'S MARKET: Located in the church pavilion across from the post office on the corner of Route 19 and Monson Road. The farmers market is open every Saturday morning from 9 a.m.-noon beginning on Memorial Day weekend and running until Labor Day weekend. Offerings include homemade baked goods, local honey, crafts, flea market items, antiques and fruits and vegetables when in season. Vendors are welcome and there is no charge to set up a table.

THURSDAYS - WESTERN LINE DANCE CLASSES 6:30-7:30 p.m. and 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$10 for one lesson or both. Brimfield Winery at 35 Main St., in Brimfield. Check brimfieldwinery.com for any variations.

CRAFTERNOONS: Drop in 2-4 p.m. daily at the Holland Public Library, 23 Sturbridge Road, Holland, 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 Road, Monson, nature trails are open daily until dusk for hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Trail maps can be found in the parking lot. For more information call 413-267-4137, email khn@keephomesteadmuseum.org or visit keephomesteadmuseum.org.

QUABOAG VALLEY QUILTERS GUILD: Members meet at 1 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month in the AMETS 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. Follow them on Facebook for more information.

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 at 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. For more information call 413-283-3691, or email palewis19@yahoo.com.

QI GONG: Qi Gong at Monson Free Library with Randy Emerson is held every Tuesday from 5:45-6:45 p.m.

BIRDS | from page 4

falcon. She wonders if the falcon has anything to do with the lack of birds.

Several people at the Oakham Senior Center reported, they see only a few birds and the feeders remain full of seeds.

Massachusetts Audubon sighting

This report to the Massachusetts Audubon Society supports the lack of birds. Someone stated, "On Sept. 11 we birded around Hardwick and on Sept. 12 we birded around Warren. Both days were very poor for passerine migration." They also stated, "On both days we only saw 1 species of warbler: common yellowthroat. In general, song birds were in very low numbers and poor variety. And we went to spots that had proven

good for migrants in years past. We really worked hard to turn up migrant warblers, and it just was not happening, at least where we were."

Migrating hawks

The Massachusetts Audubon Society listed migrating hawks spotted on Friday, Sept. 11 at Mt. Watatic in Ashburnham. They included 3 osprey, seven bald eagles, ten sharp-shinned hawks, 131 broad-winged hawks and one merlin.

Canada geese

On Friday, Sept. 4, I saw a large flock of over fifty Canada geese in a field in Spencer. On the same day, I also saw a small flock of wild turkeys and about six Canada geese in field in Barre.

People may report a bird sighting by emailing edowner@turley.com or calling or texting 774-262-5882.

GARDEN | from page 4

In large garden plots we often broadcast fertilizers and other amendments throughout the bed. Some inevitably gets wasted in walkways or around hills of plants.

Raised beds can be constructed to suit your needs. I wanted to be able to reach into the middle of my beds from either side, so they are about four feet wide.

Some gardeners construct them 36 inches wide so there is less of a stretch.

In my four beds, I have a pretty good crop rotation system going. Each crop does a slide to the next bed each year. That way it is four years before onions are grown in the same space.

Another interesting thing I have set up is that

onions, for example, follow melons in my rotation. I grow the melons on black plastic. All season long the black plastic is limiting weeds from germinating, so that hopefully next year, the onions, who hate weeds, will see less weed pressure.

Raised beds warm up quicker in the spring, and stay warmer later into the fall. Sometimes the edging material helps with that.

My rock beds, for example, hold heat. So does the metal to some degree.

In mid spring, prior to the frost-free date, raised beds can be easily fitted with hoops on which plastic or polyester row covers can be draped to offer even more frost protection. They can also be covered with the black plastic I mentioned to grow crops like melons or

peppers, who appreciate the heat.

With raised beds you will likely never need your rototiller. Beds can effortlessly be turned over by hand from either side. Typically, unless you walk all over them, the soil in the raised beds stays nice and friable, as well.

If I need to get into my beds, say to separate crops, sometimes I will position a plank across the width of the bed, and step on that to disperse my weight, therefore avoiding compaction. Plants always grow better in loose soil.

I almost forgot the obvious! Raised beds are easier to work with. Beds are typically a foot or so tall, sometimes a bit taller.

Bring out a short stool to the garden and you can com-

fortably sit and work in the beds. No more long periods of stooping or crouching.

Well, I hope you enjoyed reading this luck of the draw column as much as I did writing it! And if you haven't gardened in a couple of years, give raised beds a try and maybe you will be as fortunate as my friend, with six foot tomato plants still going strong at the end of September!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 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.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Community thanked for strong support

PALMER – The American Legion, Palmer Post 130 thanks everyone who participated in and attended the Community 9/11 Remembrance Event held on Sept. 11.

"We could not do this without all of you. Never forget and always honor those police, firefighters, EMTs, veterans, and everyday people that lost their lives that fateful day – and those that continue to struggle with the aftermath," read a statement released by the organization.

The event featured several local officials, organizations, first responders, veterans, and Scouting members.

POETRY CORNER

Once Upon A Time Princess Di

*It was you know an old fashioned story -
Come-to-life the ardent long to sing:
To have a high-born country girl,
Care for a man who would be king.*

*One day brought her over palace walls -
Into the world - to share the thing.
Mischievous and shy, and humanly hurt:
The need for love in her, acheing.*

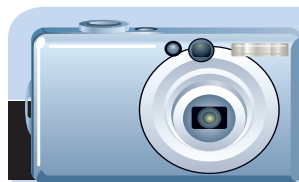
*Stood transforned as by a magic wand -
For the idyllic times acoming;
Shedding golden light that overshadowed a throne,
She herself dazzled by what she would bring.
And to all who are common, she made feel
Belonging to Windsor's royalty.*

*Maybe it was too much for any marriage bed -
But who is left? groomed, for harmony;
Perhaps the Successor, turned to ice, or fumbled;
And hurt or sickness led the way to tragedy.*

*But there was the glad clatter of horse-drawn carriage,
Awaken the dull earth at dawn -
Make its music to the royal couple,
And into our hearts as it passed over cobblestone:
Having its part at the wedding march,
With its background, rumbling on -
And then - solemn cadences thru London streets
Wet with tears, 'til you were gently gone.*

*And however much we loved a princess,
Or looked for wisdom in the king, -
There are no fairy tales left on earth
And all its kingdoms breaking.*

– Charles Barnes



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FAIR | from page 1

Amanda Hellyar, of Senator Ryan Fattman's office. She discussed a range of services offered to residents by the Senator's office, including updates on legislation; assistance with connecting to state and federal agencies; and education about employment opportunities and Medicare.

Meanwhile, members of the Healthy Quaboag community health initiative were thrilled to meet guests at the fair. The group focuses on several programs and services aimed at improving health across the region.

"It's important for us to make community connections and hear about their experiences," said Arianna Palano, of Healthy Quaboag.

Additionally, guests received information from vendors on such topics as senior services; programs and supports for people with disabilities; meal delivery services; food pantry information; services for new parents; regional programs and agencies; end-of-life planning options; and affordable prescription drug programs.

"It's great to be able to meet community members and spread the word about our free program and how it can help them," said Colleen Massey, who discussed the Pharmacy Outreach Program offered by the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

Organizers thank all vendors, guests, and supporters who attended this year's event and helped make it a big success.

To learn more about upcoming events taking place at Holland Community Center (40 Brimfield Road), call 413-245-3163.

For further information about programs and services, please send an email to: communitycenter@hollandma.org.



Turley photos by Kevin Flanders
Arianna Palano and Sawyer Blake represent Healthy Quaboag.



Kat Connolly introduces guests to a range of offerings.



Angela Tupper, left, and Martha Acevedo greet guests.



Eileen Rice shares information on resources with attendees.



Sandy Ward and Joan Pillsbury represent Funeral Consumers Alliance of Western Mass.



Volunteer nurse Robin Cournoyer offers services to guests.



Kelly Hutton greets guests at the Center of Hope Foundation booth.



Colleen Massey represents Mass. College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.



District Director Amanda Hellyar, of Senator Ryan Fattman's office, welcomes guests.



Mayra Kearns traveled from the Boston area to greet guests.

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Dr. Ana Serrenho is the owner of POP Orthodontics, located in Post Office Park in Wilbraham. Dr. Ana is a Wilbraham resident and grew up in Ludlow. She completed her dental training and orthodontic residency at Boston University. In addition to her private practice, she is a faculty member at NYU Langone, where she teaches pediatric dental residents. She has been recognized by the Massachusetts Dental Society and the Massachusetts Association of Orthodontists.

POP Orthodontics recently celebrated its first anniversary, and our team looks forward to continuing our mission of providing convenient, comfortable and conservative treatment. We offer both traditional braces and Invisalign, as well as interceptive treatments such as expanders. We use the latest in dental technology and offer daytime and evening appointments. We are excited to be able to provide a locally-owned option for orthodontic care to the community!



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Federated Church Pumpkin Patch returns Sept. 26

STURBRIDGE – The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale, 8 Maple St., will host its 9th annual Pumpkin Patch starting on Saturday, Sept. 26, and continuing through Saturday, Oct. 31, with pumpkins, seasonal displays and a growing schedule of activities for the community.

The Pumpkin Patch will be open Monday through Friday, 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., weather permitting. Payment may be made by cash, credit card or Venmo.

Visitors will find more than pumpkins during the five-week run. Plans include pumpkin carving, face painting, music and Storytime with Judy, along with a performance by Rock Voices Auburn, with the date to be announced.

The Central Mass Plain Air Painters will also return on Saturday, Oct. 10, setting up their easels around the church grounds to paint the Patch and surrounding autumn landscape.

Proceeds help the Federated Church support a variety of local missions and ministries, including Sturbridge Girl Scout and Scouting America troops, both of which meet at the church, the local Veterans Association and the church's ecumenical work with other area congregations.

A portion of the proceeds supports the Navajo Nation in Farmington, New Mexico, where Pumpkins USA grows the pumpkins and provides seasonal and year-round employment.

October will be a particularly active month at the Federated Church. In addition to the Pumpkin Patch, the church will host its monthly movie night and ice cream social on Thursday, Oct. 1; a Roots and Relics concert on Friday, Oct. 9, from 7-8:30 p.m.; and the Koinonia women's group Rummage Sale on Oct. 23 and 24.

For additional information about the Pumpkin Patch, October activities or volunteering to help with unloading and setup, visit sturfed.org, call the church office at 774-304-1021 or email churchoffice@sturfed.org.

Grange hosts garlic planting workshop

WARE – Ware Grange's last gardening workshop for this season, "Garlic Culture and Tasting," will be held on Monday, Oct. 5 at 7 p.m. at the Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road.

The presenter will be Roberta McQuaid, author of the weekly "In the Garden" column for Turley Publications.

Now is the best time to plant garlic cloves. Learn about how to prepare your soil, plant the cloves, mulch and overwinter, then what to do in the spring to ensure a robust harvest. Attendees will get to sample different garlic varieties to experience the variation in taste.

Visit Ware Grange on Facebook or at waregrange.org for more information.

GRANITE from page 1

and teachers – because every person in this building has an impact on our students. They have a way of making a mark on our community, and that needed to be recognized.”

The program was inspired by National Dot Day, an initiative promoting creativity and individuality that stemmed from the popular children’s picture book “The Dot,” written by Peter H. Reynolds.

The book tells the story of Vashti, a student who believes she cannot draw until her teacher encourages her to simply make a mark and see where it takes her. This small act begins a journey of big discoveries into the power of courage and creativity.

Prior to the National Dot Day program at GVS, students throughout the school read the book for added inspiration. And when Sept. 15 came around, students wore brightly colored shirts, polka dots, and other salient designs to represent the unique attributes they bring to school each day.

Additionally, students participated in daylong classroom activities inspired by the story and its important message. Exercises incorporated math, art, and other subjects into the program.

“Feedback from staff and students has been very positive,” Greenwood added. “Students enjoyed the book and the activities, but many stated that being outside together with the drones taking their pictures was the best part.”

The program also provided valuable experience for the high school video production students, who took drone footage of the widening “Granite Valley Dot.”

As each grade level formed a circle around students from the preceding grade, the display of school spirit and unity became even more pronounced. By the end of the program, seen from high above, hundreds of individual dots came together to complete one Granite Valley community.

“This is a great opportunity to give the [MHS] students real-world experience in video production,” said Monson High School teacher Corey Pitcher.

Looking ahead, GVS educators are eager to continue building on the lessons of the project.

“We are looking forward to capitalizing on acknowledging how we all have our own way of making our mark on the world – and building on this concept for next year as well,” Greenwood said.



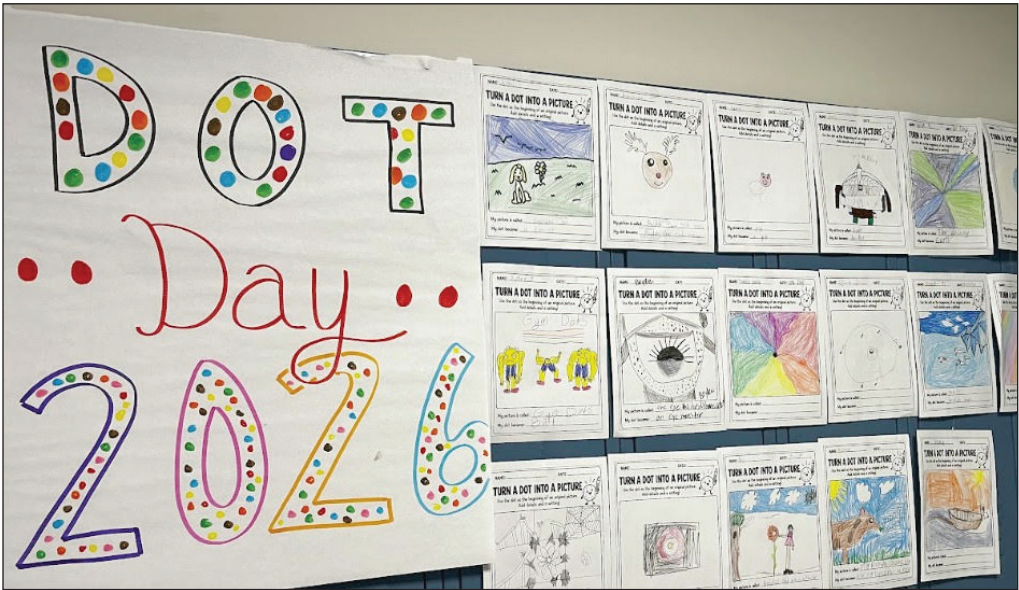
Monson High School students operate the drones.



A view of the drone control operations.

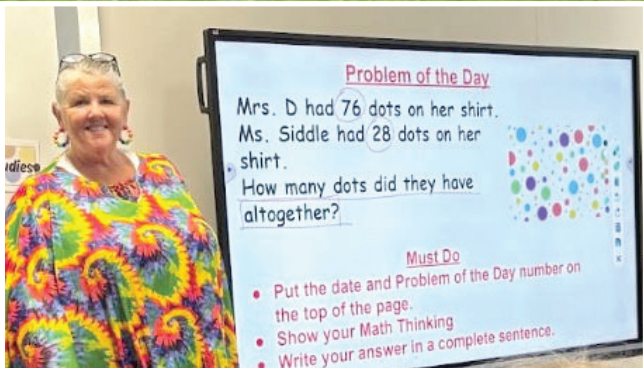


The display is complete at Granite Valley School.



Students took part in several activities related to the program.

Submitted photos



The program connected with classwork exercises.



A drone approaches for a closer shot.



Students and staff form a giant dot as the drone moves in.



A view from high above.

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Recovery Without Permission

Annual resource fair held at Recovery Center of HOPE

WARE – The Recovery Center of HOPE held its third annual Recovery Resource Fair, “Recovery Without Per-

mission: A Punk Recovery Fair” last Thursday. The Sept. 17 event featured area organizations and resources agencies, and offered attendees a chance to create arts and crafts and enjoy music and homemade food – all while connecting with support services and community members.



Kris Hoag and Alene Motta provided information and resources at the Belchertown Overcoming Adversity Together table.



Hampshire HOPE provided resources to fair attendees.



Alyssa Sorgion and Kalani Dupras offered participants opportunities to make buttons, tattoos and tote bags.



Turley Staff Photos
John Sullivan joined Julie Lutz, Recovery Center of HOPE Director, in welcoming guests to the third annual Recovery Resource Fair.



Maggie Milekic of The Literacy Project provided information to attendees.



Enjoying the event were Eja, Debbie Flynn-Gonzalez, Susan Daley and Ashley M.



Kobe and James enjoyed the rock painting activity.



Fall Fundraiser Benefit Dinner

Please join us for an evening of great food and fun. Learn about our rescue and the horses and donkeys in our care. CNEER is a grassroots rescue located in West Brookfield, MA. Our mission is to rescue, heal and restore the spirit of the horse when it has : been damaged through abuse, neglect and abandonment. We are committed to making a difference - one horse at a time.



October 24, 2026

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SOCCER

Lady Panthers reach draw with Chicopee

PALMER – In a back-and-forth affair, Palmer High School girls soccer ended in a 4-4 draw with Chicopee High last Monday afternoon. The Panthers would then have a 2-0 loss against Easthampton and are now 2-1-1 on the season. Palmer looks to get back on the winning track on Friday, Sept. 25 at Holyoke High School at 4 p.m.



Harper Brouillette tries to keep the ball away from an oncoming defender.



Addy Petraszewicz sends a pass away.



Aria Nompleggi goes after the 50/50 ball.



Jillian Holbrook turns to shoot.



Clara Smola chases down the ball.

SOCCER

Busy start to season for Pathfinder

HOLYOKE – It has been a busy first two weeks of the regular season for Pathfinder boys soccer. The Pioneers have already played five games, winning three of them. Last Tuesday, the Pioneers visited Holyoke High School and battled to a 1-1 tie. Following that, Pathfinder defeated PVCIC and Commerce both by 4-0 scores. Coming up, the Pioneers will host Southwick on Monday, Sept. 28 at 7 p.m. at Legion Field.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Ian Sauri-Neves tries to get by a Holyoke defender.



Ian LaPete tries to stop an attacker.



Weston Letendre and Abees Castillo-Clotter go after the ball.



Mason Ostrout lifts a long kick to the end of the field.



Christian Ribeiro looks to get around an opponent.

SOCCER

Mustangs offense scores big in win over Ware

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARE – The Monson boys' varsity soccer team's first night match of the 2026 campaign ended in a scoreless draw at Mahar Regional on Sept. 15. When they played another night game four days later at Veterans Field in Ware, there wasn't very much drama.

The Mustangs, who scored four goals in each half, got into the win column for the first time this season following an 8-0 shutout victory over the Ware Indians in a non-league match played last Saturday night.

"We've been competitive in almost all of our games this season," said Monson head coach Jared Pignone. "We were able to put it all together in tonight's game, which is a very good feeling. I'm hoping this game is the turning point of our season."

The Mustangs (1-3-1) also celebrated a 7-0 shutout

SOCCER

Pioneers get split of first two games

SPRINGFIELD – After a postponement delayed the start of the season for Pathfinder Tech girls soccer, the Pioneers got things going with two games last week. To open the regular season, Pathfinder defeated Commerce on the road in Springfield 4-2.

The next day, the Pioneers made a long trip north and suffered a 6-1 loss at Athol and are 1-1 to start the year. Coming up on Tuesday, Sept. 29, the Pioneers will host Duggan Academy at 4 p.m.



Callie Hawk overcomes an opponent and steals the ball.



Evelyn Wood makes her way up the field.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Amber Roman clashes with an opponent.



Abigail Carmody brings in a pass.



Josephine Boyko heads off the ball on defense.



Makaela Tourville starts to dribble after taking possession.

CRITTERS | from page 1

K-9 units, who showed how their dogs sniff out contraband in bags, and bite and tackle targets on command. Live music was provided by Eric Gardell and His Band.

“Eric Gardell, he’s done such an amazing job here,” Widlan said. “He’s been with me almost from the beginning, it’s crazy.”

Widlan said that 100% of the \$20 entry fee for show cars goes directly to Second Chance to use for their regular cost of operations, ranging from medical care for sheltered animals to food and supplies for the shelter.

“Wherever that money can go to make their service a better service, I do whatever it takes, just to make the money for them,” Widlan said. “We made \$14,000 last year. In six hours, that’s not horrible.”

Local sponsors had posters around the creamery to show their support for the event. Widlan was happy to report that every year, the earnings from the event bump up, and that he’s happy even to provide the shelter with \$500 more.

“We find out how much we made literally at the end of the day, and then we post it on the Cruise for Critters page,” Widlan said. “We take a picture of the big check and post it and thank everybody.”

If you’d like to learn more about Second Chance Animal Services, you can visit their website at Second-ChanceAnimals.org.



The annual car show and cruise night fundraiser was held at Westview Farms on East Hill Road.

Turley Photos by Marcelo Gusmão



Eric Garnell’s unnamed classic rock cover band has expanded to six musicians.



Dan and Scarlett Pikul brought Bridgette, Tommy (not pictured), and their dog Zoey.



Displaying a picture of AL Widlan’s dog Zane, (from left) Pauline Pytko, Gergina Polverari, and Georgia London.



Chris and Melissa Dupuis and Sue Soloperto introduced their dogs, Monty and Goose.



Gary and Casey Suter and William, age 3, sat in front of posters of some of Cruise for Critters’s sponsors.



Brody, age 6 (left), and Weakly, age 5, attended the cruise night with Ben.



Lori, DJ, and a friend had the Westview Creamery’s goats eating out of their hands.



Eric and Grace Doyle, brought Rupert and a Terracotta Red International Scout to the event.



Doreen Fortune and Rosi Woods enjoyed the music and sunshine from the hills.



Roger Fortune and Dale Johnson like to make it to the annual cruise night when they can.



A police dog alerts the officer as to which bag set off their Smell-o-Meter.



A K-9 dog latches onto the police officer’s protective suit, demonstrating their jaw strength.

Public safety

Palmer Police Logs

During the week of Sept. 6-12, the Palmer Police Department responded to 75 building checks, 70 motor vehicle stops,, 14 motor vehicle violations, 64 informational calls, 26 medical emergencies, seven animal complaints, 28 calls for officers wanted, 18 alarms, 15 silent, accidental, abandoned or hung up 911 calls, four fire calls, six theft or fraud calls, four investigations, eight motor vehicle accidents, three motor vehicle releases, nine general services, 11 out of jurisdiction reports, 16 assists to other agencies, three transports, 23 traffic posts and eight school resource officer calls and 13 assists to citizens

Sunday, Sept. 6
1:19 a.m. Open Door/Window, Main Street
1:38 a.m. Medical Alarm, Pine Street
4:20 a.m. Medical Emergency, Meadowbrook Lane
4:58 a.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Main Street
5:03 a.m. Abandoned Motor Vehicle, Main Street
5:21 a.m. Medical Emergency, Stimson Street
10:03 a.m. Well Being Check, Quaboag Valley Co-Op
11:07 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Thorndike Street
1:52 p.m. Medical Emergency, PalmeShearer Street
2:58 p.m. Medical Emergency, North Street
3:32 p.m. Well Being Check, Palmer Road
3:46 p.m. Alarm Smoke/Fire/CO, Summer Street
7:17 p.m. Brush Fire, Wilbraham Street
7:23 p.m. Suspicious (Other), Cabot Street
7:39 p.m. Animal Complaint, Pleasant Street
8:31 p.m. Firework Complaint, Pine Street
10:02 p.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Old Warren Road

Monday, Sept. 7
1:50 a.m. Vandalism, Thorndike Street and Park Street
6:09 a.m. Noise Complaint, Palmer Road

8:49 a.m. Abandoned Motor Vehicle, Shearer Street
9:30 a.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, Thorndike Street
9:59 a.m. Investigation, Pleasant Street
11:11 a.m. Hazard (Other), Thorndike Street
11:25 a.m. Noise Complaint, West Ware Street
12:12 p.m. Noise Complaint, West Ware Street
12:52 p.m. Unwanted Person, North Main Street
12:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Park Violation, Fletcher Street
1:54 p.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, Converse Street
2:13 p.m. Abandoned Motor Vehicle, North Main Street
3:01 p.m. Medical Lift Assist, Meadowlane Street
4:04 p.m. Hazard-Road Condition, Lawrence Street
6:09 p.m. Medical Mutual Aid, Palmer Road
6:12 p.m. Hazard Wire/Pole/Tree, Center Street
10:29 p.m. Medical Emergency, Allen Street

Tuesday, Sept. 8
1:00 a.m. Suspicious Vehicle, North Main Street
2:11 a.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Emery Street
9:03 a.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Springfield Street
10:08 a.m. Disturbance, High Street
10:14 a.m. Medical Emergency, South Main Street
10:40 a.m. Disturbance, Pine Street
10:47 a.m. Medical Alarm, Gates Street
10:53 a.m. Fraud, Fletcher Street
11:01 a.m. Motor Vehicle Park Violation, Pleasant Street
12:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, High Street and Commercial Street
12:32 p.m. Medical Mutual Aid, Lodge Lane
1:02 p.m. Theft, Main Street
2:40 p.m. Breaking and Entering Residence, Park Street
Arrest: David A. Skowrya, 70, Palmer
Breaking and Enteirng, Building Daytime for Felony; Larceny Under \$1,200; Drug, Possess Class B; Trespass; Larceny from Building
5:06 p.m. Medical Emergency, Shaw Street
6:07 p.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, Park Street
6:36 p.m. Fire-Smoke, Main Street
7:04 p.m. Medical Emergency, Beacon Drive
7:13 p.m. Medical Alarm, Gates Street
7:27 p.m. Firework Complaint, Pine Street
7:57 p.m. Hazard (Other), Palmer Road and Quaboag Street
8:42 p.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Old Farm Road
8:44 p.m. Water Leak/Hazard, Springfield Street

Wednesday, Sept. 9
4:50 a.m. Medical Alarm, Squier Street
5:28 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Church Street
9:26 a.m. Medical Emergency, Beacon Drive
9:35 a.m. Animal Complaint, Wade Road
10:25 a.m. Medical Emergency, Main Street
11:26 a.m. Disturbance, Main Street
12:40 p.m. Breaking and Entering Residence, Pleasant Street
2:16 p.m. Well Being Check, Flynt Street
3:16 p.m. Vandalism, Thorndike Street
5:10 p.m. Hazard Wire/Pole/Tree, Calkins Road
8:35 p.m. Hazard (Other), Sykes Street and Palmer Road

Thursday, Sept. 10
12:44 a.m. Medical Emergency, Beacon Drive
12:56 a.m. Animal Complaint, Springfield Street
1:10 a.m. Investigation, Wright Street
7:46 a.m. Medical Emergency, Edgewood Street
10:54 a.m. Medical Emergency, Sykes Street
11:15 a.m. Disabled Motor Vehicle, Old Warren Road
11:41 a.m. Lost Property, Old Warren Road
1:23 p.m. Medical Emergency, North Main Street
2:02 p.m. Well Being Check, School Street
2:31 p.m. Medical Emergency, Allen Street
2:41 p.m. Animal Complaint, Breckenridge Street
4:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Thorndike Street
4:23 p.m. Investigation, State Street
5:28 p.m. Hazard-Road Condition, Springfield Street
5:50 p.m. Investigation, Main Street
5:51 p.m. Medical Emergency, Country Lane
7:04 p.m. Animal Complaint, North Main Street
7:36 p.m. Fire-Burn Complaint, South Main Street and Fenton Street
7:56 p.m. Medical Emergency, Main Street
8:01 p.m. Well Being Check, Pleasant Street
8:10 p.m. Medical Emergency, Sylvia Street

Friday, Sept. 11
3:15 a.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Thorndike Street
4:14 a.m. Medical Alarm, Hillside Drive
4:57 a.m. Medical Emergency, Colonial Street
5:56 a.m. Medical Emergency, North Main Street
8:31 a.m. Medical Lift Assist, Main Street
8:49 a.m. Found Property, Overlook Drive
8:58 a.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, Thorndike Street
10:23 a.m. Well Being Check, Wilbraham Street
10:28 a.m. Medical Emergency, Water Street
12:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Repossession, High Street

12:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, School Street and Pleasant Street
12:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Park Violation, Breckenridge Street and Park Street
1:38 p.m. Medical Emergency, Third Street
2:06 p.m. Hazard-Road Condition, High Street and School Street
2:26 p.m. Disabled Motor Vehicle, Park Street and Mason Street
3:42 p.m. Theft, Michael Drive
3:53 p.m. Medical Mutual Aid, Glenn Drive
5:06 p.m. Medical Mutual Aid, Monson Police Department
6:57 p.m. Suspicious Vehicle, New Hampshire Avenue
7:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Sykes Street
7:26 p.m. Animal Complaint, West Ware Street and Bacon Road
7:33 p.m. Hazard (Other), Main Street
7:45 p.m. Theft, Subway, Thorndike Street
7:51 p.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, Wilbraham Street
9:02 p.m. Noise Complaint, Palmer Road
10:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Thorndike Street

Saturday, Sept. 12
12:11 a.m. Medical Emergency, Glenn Street
1:29 a.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Chudy Street and Glenn Street
1:38 a.m. Well Being Check, Sasur Street
8:57 a.m. Theft, Park Street
9:40 a.m. Medical Lift Assist, Beacon Drive
10:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Shearer Street and Lawrence Street
10:44 a.m. Medical Emergency, High Street
11:36 p.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, Diane Street
12:08 p.m. Medical Emergency, Calkins Road
12:36 p.m. Fraud, Ware Street
1:38 p.m. Noise Complaint, Flynt Street
3:03 p.m. Disturbance, Norma Street
3:34 p.m. Animal Complaint, Breckenridge Street
4:02 p.m. Noise Complaint, River Street
4:13 p.m. Disturbance, Church Street
4:52 p.m. Medical Alarm, Kirkwood Place, Main Street
6:31 p.m. Abandoned Motor Vehicle, Stewart Street
6:47 p.m. Medical Mutual Aid, Cottage Street
6:58 p.m. Medical Mutual Aid, Chapel Street
7:19 p.m. Medical Emergency, Park Street
9:01 p.m. Medical Mutual Aid, Old Warren Road
10:08 p.m. Suspicious Vehicle, First Street
10:55 p.m. Well Being Check, Belchertown Street

Monson Police Logs

During the weeks of Sept.7-20, the Monson Police Department responded to 11 miscellaneous calls, 52 administrative calls, 21 property checks, 41 traffic assignments, 13 traffic violations, three safety hazards, 13 investigations, four assists to other agencies, 74 police vehicle checks, 43 motor vehicle stops, 17 directed patrols, 26 details/overtimes and 20 phone calls.

Monday, Sept. 7
2:25 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call
5:56 p.m. Drugs
7:45 p.m. Weapons/Firearms

Tuesday, Sept. 8
9:21 a.m. Animal Complaint
2:24 p.m. Fraud/Deception
5:03 p.m. Well Being Check Nonurgent
6:34 p.m. Traffic Violation

Wednesday, Sept. 9
12:49 a.m. Investigation/Follow Up
1:51 a.m. Well Being Check Nonurgent
6:27 a.m. Disturbance/Nuisance
9:10 a.m. Transport Service
11:39 a.m. Investigation/Follow Up
11:43 a.m. Theft/Larceny-Past
12:13 p.m. Investigation/Follow Up
1:02 p.m. Traffic Violation
3:38 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance
4:49 p.m. Investigation/Follow Up

Thursday, Sept. 10
12:14 a.m. Traffic Violation
6:57 a.m. Safety Hazard
7:21 a.m. Traffic Violation
9:58 a.m. Investigation/Follow Up
10:28 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call
10:35 a.m. EMS Mutual Aid
12:30 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted-Aid
12:32 p.m. EMS Mutual Aid
12:55 p.m. Animal Complaint
1:39 p.m. Keep The Peace
2:01 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call
3:55 p.m. Alarm
5:42 p.m. Investigation/Follow Up

Friday, Sept. 11
8:06 a.m. Alarm
9:40 a.m. Animal Complaint
4:13 p.m. Traffic Violation
7:25 p.m. Traffic Violation
7:45 p.m. Traffic Violation
10:02 p.m. Medical Emergency
11:26 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call

Saturday, Sept. 12
8:09 a.m. Disturbance/Nuisance
2:00 p.m. Community Policing

3:04 p.m. Keep The Peace
4:45 p.m. Transport Service
6:06 p.m. Well Being Check Nonurgent
8:10 p.m. Traffic Violation
10:35 p.m. Traffic Violation

Sunday, Sept. 13
12:57 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted
1:01 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call
9:03 a.m. Investigation/Follow Up
10:11 a.m. Traffic Violation
11:38 a.m. Safety Hazard
7:12 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted
7:26 p.m. Fire Alarm
10:11 p.m. Investigation/Follow Up

Monday, Sept.14
9:05 a.m. Fire Alarm Test
10:28 a.m. Traffic Violation
11:18 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call
1:19 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call
3:54 p.m. Safety Hazard
4:30 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance
5:16 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance
5:21 p.m. Assault

Tuesday, Sept. 15
5:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash-No Injuries
6:13 p.m. Investigation/Follow Up
7:41 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted

Wednesday, Sept. 16
9:33 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call
9:53 a.m. Investigation/Follow Up
1:25 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted
2:17 p.m. Fire Alarm
3:42 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted
5:18 p.m. Investigation/Follow Up
8:29 p.m. Investigation/Follow Up

Thursday, Sept. 17
8:03 a.m. Animal Complaint
3:21 p.m. Soliciting
4:03 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance
4:56 p.m. Traffic Violation
4:58 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted
8:54 p.m. Animal/Injured/Hunted
10:04 p.m. Animal/Injured/Hunted

Friday, Sept.18
7:33 a.m. Disturbance/Nuisance
8:37 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat

Saturday, Sept. 19
10:44 a.m. Well Being Check Urgent
12:23 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat
11:04 p.m. Alarm

Sunday, Sept. 20
8:34 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call
5:11 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call
7:19 p.m. Traffic Violation



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RIBBON | from page 1

to Pathfinder Tech on July 1, leaving district officials with a short window to repurpose the facility.

The project included extensive renovations and modernization upgrades throughout the building. Pathfinder Tech instructors, staff members, and students joined forces with contractors and community partners to renovate classrooms, establish technical learning spaces, move equipment and materials, and prepare the facility for its September opening.

Despite the scope and accelerated timeline of the project, the transformation was completed on time and significantly under budget.

“This extension campus is an investment in students – and in the future workforce of our region,” Duda said. “For years, demand for Career Technical Education has exceeded the number of seats we have available. This project is about creating opportunities.”

Pathfinder Tech at Cold Spring currently serves approximately 100 students and offers five CTE programs: Health Assisting, Medical Assisting, CAD/Pre-Engineering, Electronics Technology, and Hospitality Management.

The Cold Spring extension will ultimately increase Pathfinder Tech’s district-wide capacity by 150 student seats, representing the largest expansion in the district’s history.

“When we invest in career and technical education, we are building a stronger workforce, creating new pathways for students, and strengthening Massachusetts for the future,” Smola added. “Pathfinder Tech is giving students the tools to succeed and Massachusetts a workforce ready to lead.”

The project was made possible by a \$3.5 million CTE Capacity Expansion Grant awarded through the Healey-Driscoll Administration. The funding supported modernization of the Cold Spring facility, equipment and furnishings, the launch of the Medical Assisting program, and additional improvements across the district.

Officials commended school leaders for accomplishing the expansion without seeking a debt exclusion or capital infrastructure requests from member towns.

“We did not go back to our nine communities and ask them to take on debt to make this happen,” Duda said. “This is an example of responsible planning, collaboration, and taking advantage of opportunities when they become available. We found a way to substantially expand opportunities for students while protecting our member communities from a major capital expense.”

The repurposing of the Cold Spring facility also cre-

ated employment opportunities across the region.

New and expanded positions associated with the campus include a building administrator, school nurse, school resource officer through the Town of Belchertown, cafeteria employees, additional teaching and support staff, and other positions necessary to operate the campus and support students.

Duda also recognized Belchertown Public Schools Superintendent Brian Cameron for his partnership throughout the transition. Cameron was an early supporter of exploring the reuse of the Cold Spring building and worked collaboratively with Pathfinder Tech officials throughout the process.

“This could not have happened without the Town of Belchertown and the Belchertown Public Schools,” Duda said. “Superintendent Cameron, Town Manager Steve Williams, and the Belchertown Select Board understood very early what this building could become and what it could mean for students throughout the region.”

Additionally, Duda thanked the Pathfinder Tech School Committee for its support throughout the project.

“I am incredibly fortunate to have a forward-thinking and supportive School Committee,” Duda said. “They understood the vision, they understood the need, and they were steadfast in their support as we worked through an ambitious timeline.”

The ceremony concluded with the cutting of the ribbon in front of Pathfinder Tech at Cold Spring. Officials were surrounded by current Pathfinder Tech students who will benefit from the repurposed facility.

The entire building acquisition process, grant program, and renovation project took less than a year to complete. Pathfinder Tech officials first announced plans for the expansion in Oct. 2025, then finalized an agreement with the Town of Belchertown in Jan. 2026.

The state grant was awarded in April, just before Pathfinder officials took possession of the building on July 1.

“This building represents much more than renovated classrooms and technical labs,” Duda said. “It represents opportunity. It represents partnership. Most importantly, it represents what can happen when state government, local communities, educators, elected officials, students, and staff work together with a shared purpose.”

The Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School District serves students from Belchertown, Granby, Hardwick, Monson, New Braintree, Oakham, Palmer, Ware, and Warren.

The district provides academic and CTE opportunities to students in grades 9-12.

Obituary

Helen M (Lis) “Tootsie” Swiatlowski, 98

Helen M (Lis) “Tootsie” Swiatlowski, 98, passed away peacefully on September 17 at East Longmeadow Skilled Nursing Center.

Helen was born on January 23, 1928 to Jan and Mary (Kozlik) Lis in Three Rivers, MA, where she spent most of her life. In 1954 she married the love of her life, Walter Swiatlowski, and had 2 daughters.

Helen attended S.S. Peter and Paul School and Palmer High School. In 1945 she received her Cosmetology diploma from Doerr Academy of Hair and Beauty Culture. She went on to work at the Springfield News Company and then as a Hairdresser which she worked as for over 50 years.

Helen was a Communicant of Divine Mercy Parish in Three Rivers and was a member of the Rosary Sodality there. She was also a member of the S.S. Peter and Paul Mothers Club and the Women’s Guild.

Helen’s passions were sewing, knitting, crocheting, cooking and gardening. Helen would knit socks and send them to her brothers during WWII. She was also the “go to” person for her sisters for sewing needs as well a pair of curtains or 2.



Helen took pride in her gardening skills, planting 1,000 gladiolus for years for the church altar.

Helen is survived by her daughters Linda McKee and Kathy Karcz and her husband Peter. She is also survived by her beloved grandchildren Eric and Kelly McKee and Jason Karcz and his wife Brynley.

She was also predeceased by her husband Walter “Wadz” Swiatlowski and son in law Dean McKee, as well as 9 siblings Stanley, Hedwig, Celia, Ann, Henry, John, Frederick,

Alphonse and Natalie.

The family would like to thank the staff at East Longmeadow Skilled Nursing Center for the wonderful care and compassion while she lived there.

Visitation will be Friday, Sept. 25, from 8:30-9:30 a.m. at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home with a funeral Mass at 10 a.m. at Divine Mercy Parish. Burial will follow in Sts Peter & Paul Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Divine Mercy Parish, 2267 Main St., Three Rivers, MA 01080 or East Longmeadow Skilled Nursing Center Activities Dept, 305 Maple St., East Longmeadow, MA 01028.

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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 \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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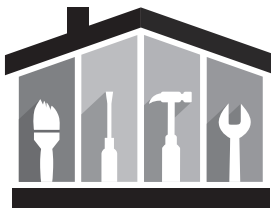
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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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5	6	7	8
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13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
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25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

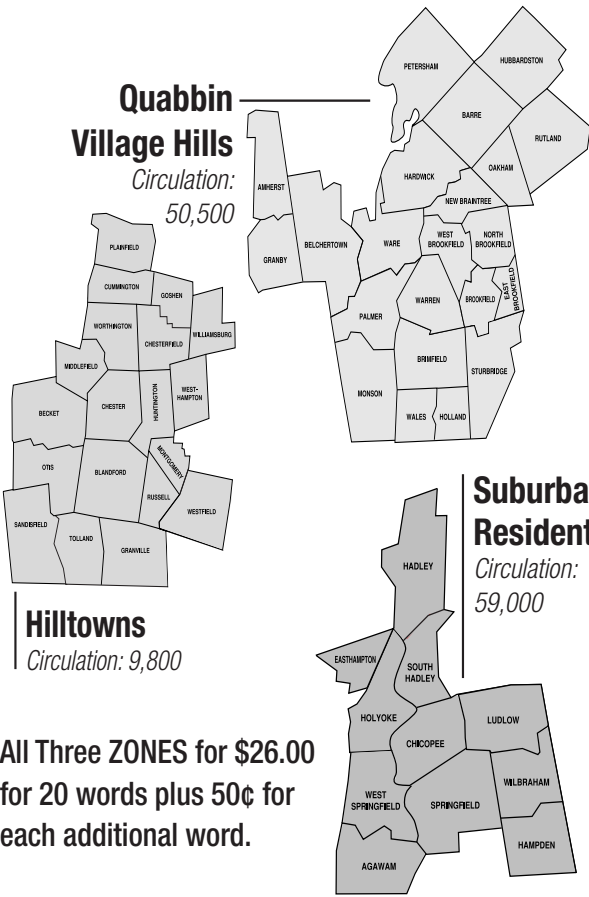
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Public notices

**Town of Brimfield
Zoning Board of Appeals**
The Brimfield Zoning Board of Appeal will hold a public hearing on behalf of David and Karen Warfield of 41 Cubles Dr. The applicants wish to construct a 20'x21' addition on the first floor of the existing home. Addition will function as a primary bedroom with a full bath. Remove existing stairs and construct a ramp from existing deck. The applicants were denied due to pre-existing non-conforming lot. The hearing will take place at the Town Annex, Clerk's Office, 23 Main St on **Thursday, October 08, 2026, at 5:00 pm.** Abutters and members of the public are welcome to attend and share feedback.
09/24, 10/01/2026

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD26P1946EA
Estate of:
Julia F Adams
Date of Death: 12/12/2018
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Scott Adams of Malta, NY requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that Scott Adams of Malta, NY be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/08/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION UNDER
THE MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE CODE
(MUPC)**
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 10, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
09/24/2026

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD26P1951EA
Estate of:
Joanne F Greany
Date of Death: 07/18/2026
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Laurie A. Fernandes of Palmer, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that Laurie A. Fernandes of Palmer, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/16/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION UNDER
THE MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE CODE
(MUPC)**
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 11, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
09/24/2026

LEGAL NOTICE
Pursuant to the provisions of MA Gen. Laws, Chap. 255, Sec. 39A, the following vehicles will be sold at public auction for towing and storage charges due: AUDI VIN:WAUDF78EX6A237703 Randy Sheldon 87 Beacon DR Palmer, MA; GMC VIN:1GTEC14K-5PE534882 Dylan Carr 1001 Maple ST Palmer, MA; HONDA VIN:1HGFA16556L059862 Mary Kennedy 47 Greenfield DR S.Windsor, CT; HYUNDAI VIN:KMHLPA4AG0NU266903 Timothy Kokoski 1432 Park ST F12 Palmer, MA; TOYOTA VN:5TFUU42N66Z206714 Aaron Davenport 111 Timber RD Southington, CT; DODGE VIN:1C6RR7GT5DS715198 Tri Stone Masonary & ReCorp 335 George ST Ste 4 New Brunswick, NJ; HONDA VIN:2H-KYF18583H534216 Racheal Delgado 33 Narragansett ST Springfield, MA. This auction is to take place on October 2, 2026, 10:00 A.M. at LaBontes & Son LLC, 241 Wilbraham St., Palmer, MA 01069.
09/17, 09/24, 10/01/2026

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD26P1919EA
Estate of:
John E Machnik
Date of Death: 01/21/2026
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Karl W Topor, Esq. of Springfield, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that Karl W Topor, Esq. of Springfield, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection

at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/06/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION UNDER
THE MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE CODE
(MUPC)**
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 08, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
09/24/2026

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD26P2004EA
Estate of:
Albert J Matuszczak
Date of Death: 10/07/2025
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Public Administration has been filed by John J Ferriter, Esq. of Holyoke, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that John J Ferriter, Esq. of Holyoke, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve With Corporate Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/16/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION UNDER
THE MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE CODE
(MUPC)**
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 18, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
09/24/2026

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

**HD25P2297EA
Estate of:
Richard G McAvoy
Date of Death: 09/01/2025
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
ORDER OF COMPLETE
SETTLEMENT**
A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Dianne J McAvoy of Palmer, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including a determination of testacy and heirs at law and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/23/2026.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 17, 2026
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
09/24/2026

**NOTICE OF
MORTGAGEE'S
SALE OF REAL ESTATE**
Premises: 64 Washington Road, Brimfield, MA 01010
By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Joseph E McLellan III and Renee A Vail-lancourt to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC dba Veterans United Home Loans, and now held by CitiMortgage, Inc., said mortgage dated July 18, 2014 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 20355, Page 136, as affected by a Loan Modification dated January 22, 2018 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 22157, Page 559; said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC dba Veterans United Home Loans to CitiMortgage, Inc. by assignment dated September 21, 2015 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 20887, Page 213; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on **October 16, 2026 at 12:00 PM Local Time** upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:
A certain parcel of land with buildings thereon, being shown as Lot 2 on a "Plan of Land owned by Andrew E. Shackett, 64 Washington Road, Brimfield MA", Jalbert Engineering Inc., recorded with the Hampden District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 359, Plan 77.
Containing 5 acres of land more or less according to said plan.
Subject to rights and easements as described in Book

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD26P1589EA
Estate of:
Marion Elizabeth O'Brien
Date of Death: 04/24/2026
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Nickolas Joseph DiGregorio, Jr. of Brimfield, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that Nickolas Joseph DiGregorio, Jr. of Brimfield, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/23/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION UNDER
THE MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE CODE
(MUPC)**
A Personal Representative

17699 Page 367 if same affect locus and are in force and effect.
The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.
For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated June 19, 2014 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 20355, Page 134.
TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.
FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.
Other terms to be announced at the sale.
Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for CitiMortgage, Inc.
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(401) 217-8701
09/17, 09/24, 10/01/2026

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD26P1589EA
Estate of:
Marion Elizabeth O'Brien
Date of Death: 04/24/2026
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Nickolas Joseph DiGregorio, Jr. of Brimfield, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that Nickolas Joseph DiGregorio, Jr. of Brimfield, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/23/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION UNDER
THE MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE CODE
(MUPC)**
A Personal Representative

appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 18, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
09/24/2026

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD26P1976EA
Estate of:
Carol A Porra
Date of Death: 03/06/2026
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Paul P Porra of Brimfield, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that Paul P Porra of Brimfield, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/13/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

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Massachusetts
The Trial Court
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50 State Street
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Docket No.
HD26P1976EA
Estate of:
Carol A Porra
Date of Death: 03/06/2026
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Paul P Porra of Brimfield, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that Paul P Porra of Brimfield, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/13/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION UNDER
THE MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE CODE
(MUPC)**
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 15, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
09/24/2026

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HOPE | from page 1

story that brings to light the struggles of countless other families nationwide.

“Lawrence came to us at four months old. He was a sweet baby – a special new addition to our home,” Gagne said. “We started seeking help for Lawrence when he was two because his behaviors became extreme. We tried to explain what we were experiencing at home, but we were brushed off – it was terrible twos.”

Added Gagne, “Everything changed when Lawrence had a complete meltdown in the pediatrician’s office. After that visit, we were referred to psychiatry to see if they could help. That

turned into a vicious cycle of medications, many different psychiatrists, crisis calls, and hospitalizations.”

Lawrence’s story serves as another sobering reflection of what many describe as a broken system. Across the country, families continue to struggle for answers and guidance – often without reliable clinical supports.

“When we were seeing results, the treating psychiatrist would leave the practice and we would have to start over with a new doctor,” Gagne recalled. “When things went wrong and we were in crisis, we could sit in the emergency room for days waiting for a psychiatric bed to open up. Many times, we would be sent home because no beds were available.”

Even after struggling for 16 years to find a successful combination of treatments and supports for Lawrence, Gagne never gave up hope.

“People that experienced his explosive behaviors were concerned for our safety. They would tell us we needed to put Lawrence somewhere so he couldn’t hurt us,” Gagne said. “People need to know that it’s very difficult getting children the right help. States have closed psychiatric placements, and there are not enough psychiatric beds in hospitals to treat kids.”

Lawrence was a teenager when his psychiatric nurse practitioner gave him a test that showed exactly how his body metabolized medications. Some meds would

burn off immediately in his system, while others would cause harmful side effects.

“Insurance companies and hospitals didn’t like using that test, which made no sense at all to me. We shouldn’t be just giving strong psychiatric meds to children, hoping they work, when there is a test to show how they are working in a child’s body. We made behaviors worse for years before we knew,” Gagne said.

With the publication of her memoir, Gagne hopes other families encountering similar challenges will resonate and take strength in knowing they aren’t alone.

“People don’t understand the struggles if they haven’t gone through it,” Gagne said. “Parents are always the first to be blamed: ‘they need

to discipline better, they need to stop doctor-hopping, they need to put them away, something must be going on at home.’ Parents can be using every available tool and still be getting no results.”

Added Gagne, “We really need to look into our services and see where they are failing.”

Currently, Gagne works part-time in companion care services for the elderly. Her husband is a machinist. Three of their adult children live in Florida with them, and Lawrence resides in a Massachusetts DDS shared living program.

Having recently celebrated his 27th birthday, Lawrence enjoys working in landscaping and taking part in Special Olympics sporting

events.

Looking ahead, Gagne hopes her family’s story will not only assist readers feeling isolated with a mental health challenge, but also start a broader conversation about ways to improve the care system.

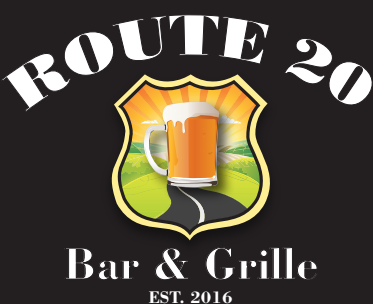
“I am focusing on spreading the word on the challenges parents face today – and trying to create change so we don’t have to see horrific headlines when the system fails,” Gagne said. “I wrote ‘Saving Lawrence’ because I want families who are quietly fighting these battles to know that their stories matter, too.”

The memoir is available on Amazon and other book-selling locations.



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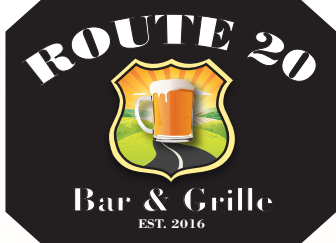
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