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SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

# The Journal Register

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**SPORTS**

## Fire Dept. considers addition of ambulance

By Marcelo Gusmão  
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PALMER – An ambulance based out of the Fire Department could mean higher taxes and copays for residents in need of ambulance services.

Presently, all ambulance calls go through Palmer Ambulance Services, a locally-based, non-profit organization that aids departments in the area. A proposal has been considered for the Fire Department to purchase its own ambulance.

“From my understanding, they’re looking at a non-transporting unit, similar to what they do right now,” said Dave Clark, the Director of Operations for Palmer Ambulance Services. “I’m not sure if they’re looking for a transport unit right now.”

Clark has been working for Palmer Ambulance for more than 30 years and said that the company has been keeping an eye on this development, though they’re not worried about immediate changes.

“If it’s a non-transporting unit, it wouldn’t affect us more than what’s going on today,” Clark said. “They respond, they provide the aid until we get there with a transport unit.”

In order to qualify for a transport unit, the Fire Department would need to go through several steps of certification, which Clark said Palmer Ambulance will be happy to assist the department with, despite the fact that they would be competing for the same calls.

“If it’s a transporting unit, they will take some of the call volume

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## Old Mill Pond



Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon

Hunter and mom, Emily Staples, were some of the many Old Mill Pond Elementary School families in attendance at the Sept. 21 open house.

## hosts annual open house

By Dallas Gagnon  
 Staff Writer  
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PALMER – Old Mill Pond Elementary School students were joined by supporting family, staff and faculty for this year’s annual open house.

OMP families participated in the annual event by making their rounds exploring the halls, classrooms, gym and library.

While some teachers and principals smiled as they greeted families entering the building, others greeted students in the classrooms.

OMP | pages 6 & 7



Leandro Nascimento gives a thumbs up to the open house after visiting a few displays.

**MONSON**

## Select Board stands by Town Hall Annex vote

By Dallas Gagnon  
 Staff Writer  
 dgagnon@turley.com

MONSON — The Arts Council asked the Select Board on Sept. 26 to rescind its Sept. 12 vote to demolish the Town Hall Annex once the fire station renovation project is completed.

with a new fire station and that was followed by approval by voters at the last town election,” said Select Board Chair Patricia Oney.

She said the votes at the town meeting and election included the demolition of the Town Hall Annex building.

**Arts Council concerns**

Arts Council Vice President Reed Coles said the council has occupied the property for 30 years and doesn’t believe “there is a comparable place to provide exhibition and storage for our valuable collection of original art.”

He said “the value of Monson’s reputation as a town who supports the arts and culture has helped make Monson a unique and special place, which is priceless. With the demolition of the House of Art, this reputation is at risk.”

Oney said the motion at question was “merely to direct the Arts Council to leave the building as of Jan. 1, 2024, and to accommodate living quarters for the fire fighters during construction and confirm demolition of the building could begin when the housing was completed.”

Several residents came before the board stating they misunderstood that their vote of support for the new fire station included the demolition of the Town Hall Annex building.

One resident said it wasn’t clear from the explanation at town meeting that the building would be demolished. “The Fire Department came and did a presentation and it was not clear to any of us this building was going to be demolished,”

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Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon

Monson Arts Council Vice President Reed Coles stands before the Board to request a rescinded vote for the Sept. 12, motion to demolish the Town Hall Annex building.

After much discussion, the Select Board said it would uphold its motion to demolish the 202 Main St. property.

“Just so that there is an understanding about the process (and) what has happened so far, town meeting voted to move forward

**PALMER**

## Council discusses Converse School housing proposal



Turley Photo by Marcelo Gusmão

The Converse Middle School building, which has sat empty since the school closed, is being eyed by Town Council for a potential housing development project.

By Marcelo Gusmão  
 Staff Writer  
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said no such stipulations existed in the policy. The fields behind the school are not included in the bid.

The biggest concern ended up being whether or not the proposal would be limited to housing for residents aged 55 and over.

“There’s such a housing shortage right now, why limit to 55 and over?” asked Councilor Matthew Lemieux. “Why not just create housing, period?”

Councilor Phillip Hebert agreed with Lemieux.

“If we’re not going to limit the sale because of the basketball [court], why limit it because you just want 55 and over? It should be whoever wants to spend the money, come build it for whatever age group, so be it, as long as it gets done, and built, and gets utilized.”

McNutt turned the Council’s attention to the section of the proposal that discussed potential prices.

“There’s a specific section that’s just about how they’re going to put in their proposed price for the property,” McNutt said. “I’ve been

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**COMMUNITY**



Submitted Photos by Pamela West

Every year West provides a banner for attendees to sign and show support for those battling or have battled drug addiction and mental illness.

## Monson honors National Recovery Month

By Dallas Gagnon  
 Staff Writer  
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MONSON – In light of National Recovery Month, Monson residents gathered at Veteran’s Field in mid-September to show compassion and support for those who are struggling now or in the past with mental health, addiction and suicidal thoughts, or who have had family or friends with those issues.

The annual Lights of Hope event offered a space for community members to network with other residents, and connect through similar or shared experiences with drug addiction.

“This year was more support based than resources,” said event organizer Pamela West.

She was first introduced Monson to Lights of Hope nearly six years ago, after she joined an on-line forum called “The Addict’s Mom,” she said.

The page focuses on raising drug addiction awareness and has several different chapters.

“I had a family member who was incarcerated at the time, so I joined the incarcerated chapter,” said West.

After following “The Addict’s Mom,” West said she saw the Lights of Hope event and be-

RECOVERY | page 3

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

## DPH deem local communities high EEE risk

Brimfield, Sturbridge,  
 Holland risk levels higher

By Dallas Gagnon  
 Staff Writer  
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BRIMFIELD – The Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced Eastern equine encephalitis was detected in mosquito samples collected in Brimfield on Sept. 13.

According to a press release pub-

lished by the DPH, the finding raised the EEE risk level to high in Brimfield, Sturbridge and Holland as well as raising the risk to moderate in Wales.

This is in addition to the six communities already at high risk for EEE: Douglas, Dudley, Oxford, Southbridge, Sutton, and Webster. Auburn, Charlton, Grafton, Millbury, Northbridge and Uxbridge are at moderate risk, it said.

On Sept. 15, Brimfield posted the announcement on the town’s official website and sent an emergency communication text via CodeRED to all residents registered to the system.

There were no human cases of EEE



EEE | page 5



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**JUICEBOX**

This is Juicebox. He is an avid moth hunter. He loves to sunbathe, hunt moths, attack his friend Theodore, and play in the toilet. He's about a year and a half old and probably should have been named Garfield due to his appetite - maybe it's an orange cat thing!

We feature your pets here. Is your fur friend a dog, cat, chicken, lizard, horse, bird, mouse...you get the point. Is there a pet you're fostering and trying to re-home? All pets are welcome! Email a high-resolution jpg of your pet with a little information to mharrison@turley.com.

## Palmer First Responders hold Blood drive

Palmer Ambulance vs. Palmer Police Dept. vs. Palmer Fire Dept. are holding a blood drive on Oct. 4, from 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Baystate Wing Hospital. The Snow Conference Room C will be the location within the hospital. Receive a \$10 gift card redeemable at either Dunkin' Donuts, Starbucks Coffee, Big Y, Amazon, Panera or Chipotle. Please call 413-794-4600 to schedule your appointment today.

## Craft Fair to be held Nov. 11

THREE RIVERS — Annual Holiday Craft Fair sponsored by S.S. Peter & Paul Rosary Sodality of Divine Mercy Parish will be held on Nov. 11 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the Parish Center on Main St., Three Rivers. Free parking and admission. Beautiful craft items by talented local artists. Holiday Lottery tickets available as well. Refreshments available for purchase.

## Rep. Ashe announces office hours

MONSON— A staff member from State Rep. Brian Ashe's office will be available to meet with residents at the Monson Library and Monson Senior Center on the following days:

Monson Senior Center on Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 3, from 10 - 11 a.m.

Monson Library on Nov. 15 and Dec. 12, from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

If you are not able to attend and have an issue or concern, please contact Chief of Staff, Robin Fretchette, at 413-272-3922 for assistance.

# Stop Abuse Today to host walk on Oct. 14

Fighting domestic abuse, bullying, elder abuse

By Dallas Gagnon  
Staff Writer  
dgagnon@turley.com

HOLLAND — In honor of national Domestic Violence Awareness and Bullying Prevention Month, the Holland Police Department and local, non-profit organization Stop Abuse Today Inc. will host a 5k walk/run on Oct. 14.

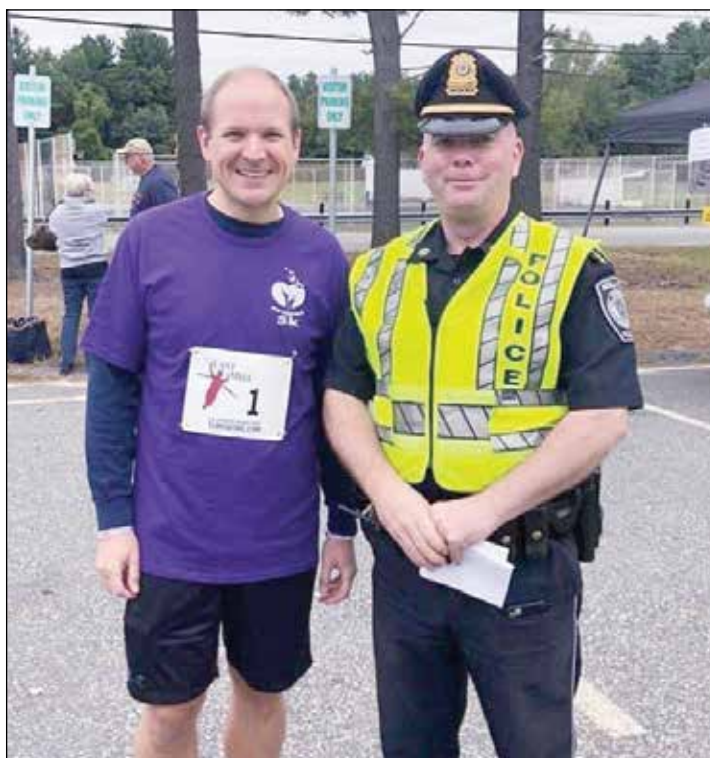
The race will begin and end at the Holland Elementary School, starting at 9 a.m. For those who prefer to walk a shorter distance, a one mile route is also an option. There is no time restriction on the walk/run and while it is a free event, participants must register and sign a liability waiver in advance.

"We hope this run will be a community event to support victims of past abuse and bullying, along with much needed information to the community that has an interest in helping current victims," said Holland Police Lt. Patrick Swain.

Stop Abuse Today Inc. is a Holland based organization dedicated to raising awareness and education regarding domestic violence, bullying and elder abuse.

The organization formed in 2017 following a meeting of members from the Tri-Town-Domestic Violence Task Force, which became the designated charter members of Stop Abuse Today Inc.

The Tri-Town Domestic Violence Task Force was established in 2001 following the murder of the late Wales



State Rep. Todd Smola, R-Warren, is joined by Holland Police Chief Bryan Haughey to support the 5k domestic violence and bullying walk/run.

resident, Sheryl Crane Loder, whose life was taken by her estranged husband.

According to the Stop Abuse Today Inc. official website, the task force was composed of a group of Loder's friends "as a way to honor her memory and make sure this never happens again."

Holland Police Chief and Stop Abuse Today Inc. Chair Bryan Haughey said "from a police standpoint, one of the things that is important in working with organizations like Stop Abuse Inc. is that it gives the police an additional resource to use to help victims. An important part of preventing domestic violence and bullying is making people aware of it."

Stop Abuse Today Inc. is

composed of all volunteers and allies.

Community liaison and Stop Abuse Inc. volunteer Kathy Boyer said the organization hopes "all different kinds of people show up," to the event.

"We have domestic violence advocates and brochures with resources," said Boyer.

She added the organization also has Cumberland Farms and Walmart gift cards accessible to victims who may just need enough gas to make it to a friend or family member's house.

"We don't meet with (victims) when we give them the cards," said Boyer. "We pass them on to advocates who are professionally trained and we have lawyers that can counsel them."



The late Dick Hoyt is shown ready to run the 5k while pausing for a photo with Holland Police Chief Bryan Haughey.

Haughey said Stop Abuse Today Inc. offers the police "another outlet to provide another resource in addition to the resources we (law enforcement) already offer. Sometimes when a domestic violence case is brought to the court system the victim gets lost in the shuffle because there is so much attention paid to the suspect."

According to Haughey, having an organization working alongside the police raising awareness and education regarding domestic violence, bullying and elder abuse helps prevent "victims from getting lost."

The event will feature a Stop Abuse Today Inc. booth with brochures, resources and T-Shirts.

Participants will have an

opportunity to come together as a community to show support of victims of domestic violence, bullying and elder abuse.

For those interested in donating to the cause, please make checks payable to Stop Abuse Today. It can be mailed to the organization at 27 Sturbridge Road, Holland, MA, 01521.

To contact a committee member or learn more about the cause and organization, email StopAbuseTodaytdvtf@gmail.com or visit StopAbuseToday.org.

This event is sponsored by Gracie Riel, Realtor with RE/MAX Professional Associates, and part of the Justice for Janet Fund.

## Baystate Health launches \$70 million campaign

By Dallas Gagnon  
Staff writer

REGIONAL — Last week, Baystate Health announced a \$70 million campaign to generate revenue to serve three target areas at its facilities including capital needs, program support and endowment development.

Baystate Health administrators went public with the "Healthier Tomorrows" campaign during a press conference Monday, Sept. 18, revealing the campaign as the largest fundraising goal ever set in the organization's history.

"Our vision is to improve the health of everyone in our community by recruiting top-tier medical providers, building cutting-edge spaces for them to practice in, enhancing our services to meet the changing needs of the people we serve, and ensuring Baystate Health is here to stay for the long haul," Baystate Health and CEO Dr. Mark Keroack shared in a press release on Sept. 18.

During the Monday evening press conference, Baystate Health staff and

administration revealed some initiatives the campaign will fund such as the expansion of a state-of-the-art surgical facility at Baystate Medical in Springfield, a renovated Family Medicine practice and teaching space at Baystate Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield, a Center for Inclusive Excellence at Baystate Medical, also in Springfield, and support for the endowment fund.

Baystate Health Chief Physician Executive Andrew Arstenstein said endowments are crucial to moving forward with the campaign, and supporting local health care facilities "is good fortune and a luxury for the community."

He added Baystate Health is "really a gem for Western Mass.," and funds will help "recruit young physicians," who may stay local and continue training future generations within the area.

Baystate Health Chief Nurse Executive Joanne Miller said investing in the development of a Center for Inclusive Excellence on campus at Baystate Medical is a priority because the health facility has more than 1,000 nursing students



Turley Photo by Dallas Gagnon  
Baystate Health Chief Operating Officer Sheldrick Streete, Chief Physician Executive Andrew Arstenstein, Chief Nurse Executive Joanne Miller, Baystate Health President and CEO Mark Keroack, Baystate Medical Center President Sam Skura and Vice President of Philanthropy Scott Berg share a photo after the "Healthier Tomorrows," campaign.

learning and working there.

"A novice nurse needs a lot of support... they need a dedicated space for that. This could be their first experience," said Miller.

She added Baystate Health is seeking to create a "more live or synchronic cohort support for the region."

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### DEADLINE

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

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

We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.

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

Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.



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**ROSES FOR RESCUE**

# Conservation Commission praises apt responses to violations

By Marcelo Gasmão  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – The Conservation Commission had a short but productive meeting last week, during which they discussed improvements to some of the violations they’ve been monitoring.

First was an update to the property on Fuller Road, owned by Hampden Homebuyers, which was flagged for violations to their erosion controls. Conservation Agent Heidi Mannarino said that improvements have been made to the site.

“I’ve been working with the management, with Hampden Homebuyers, and they’ve seeded the slope and are trying to stabilize that area,” Mannarino said.

Mannarino described the owners of the property adding walls around earth stockpiles and fixing the erosion controls.

“I do want to go back again, because we’ve had quite a bit of rain recently, to see how they’re holding up after some of the corrections,” Mannarino added.

Mannarino invited the other members of the Commission to join her on her next visit to the property.

“We can all do a site visit and just see how it looks now, make sure it’s stable before we decide to lift the enforcement order on that site.”

Mannarino said that the site looks better, and that she stopped by other sites owned by the real estate company to make sure that the supervisors were aware of the order conditions and what the Commission will be monitoring them for.

The next violation discussed was a leaking dumpster at Iberia Foods, which has been addressed.

“Myself and Nicole [Gauthier] from the Board of Health were made aware that Iberia Foods, which was once Cedar Food Farms, had a dumpster that was leaking black liquid,” Mannarino said. “It was determined that it’s probably some sort of oil substance. It was leaking out of the dumpster and covering the parking lot, and began to flow out over the sidewalk and down the sidewalk.”

Commission Member David Cotter clarified with Mannarino that this liquid was reaching the catch basin.

“It was like some sort of sludge,” Mannarino said.

“Myself and [Gauthier] performed a site visit, and we spoke to the regional manager who was there at the time,” Mannarino said.

According to Mannarino, the regional manager sent his landscaper to the office to speak with her the same day, and that a plan is already in place to correct the issue.

“They’re purchasing a whole new dumpster that’s completely contained so that things can’t come out,” Mannarino said, adding that the infected soil will be removed.

“All the vegetation had died,” Mannarino said. “They’re going to remove all that soil, replace it, and then re-seed. He’s going to put some waddles in for now to prevent any other liquids from coming out of that area.”

Mannarino said that the company had been “[throwing] everything that is trash into this dumpster, and then it compacts and all the oils and all that good stuff was just leaking out of it, so they’re reassessing that whole situation.”

Mannarino praised the folks at Iberia Foods for being very familiar with the regulations, and “super compliant.”

“They’re planning on putting some sort of dry well in that parking lot as well to catch any sort of substance in the future,” Mannarino said. “It’s just not great there. The pavement is very squishy, it’s covered in this really thick layer of oil. They’re planning on power-washing the sidewalk as well.”

Mannarino said that she will have further updates on the site for the Commission’s next meeting.

After these updates, Commission Chair Don Blais announced that members of the Commission will be attending the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions’ Fall Conference in Devens, which will be held on Saturday, Oct. 28.

# Palmer residents to participate in Jimmy Fund Walk

By Dallas Gagnon  
Staff Writer  
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PALMER – Six Palmer residents will join thousands of walkers to participate in the Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai in support of cancer research and treatment, Sunday, Oct. 1.

Residents Karyn Marciniac, Sheila Browne, Kristen Contois, Amy Herring, Sandra Noonan and Karen Olivera will participate in the annual event with the shared goal of honoring those who have battled or are battling cancer. The money raised also supports the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Jimmy Fund Walk Director Zack Blackburn said in a press release that the 2023 Walk will be held during the Jimmy Fund’s 75th anniversary, and the Fund seeks to raise \$9 million “in an effort to prevent, treat and defy cancer.”

Resident and Palmer School Committee Vice-Chairperson Sandra Noonan will embark on her 14th Jimmy Fund Walk this year. After a colleague lost her husband to cancer, Noonan said

a group of the family’s friends and relatives banded together to walk in his honor.

Just a few years later, Noonan’s colleague lost her life to cancer as well.

“The team was formed after Linda Perry and her husband died of cancer,” she said. “It was really, really tough.”

The group of friends and family named themselves “Team Perry,” in memory of the couple.

According to Noonan, while some team walkers have remained the same, others have come and gone. Over the 14-year span, Noonan said 59 walkers have supported the team effort.

Walkers have the option of walking the Boston Marathon route or walking on a path of their own.

Walkers who opt not to travel to Boston are considered “virtual” walkers.

Noonan said she and Team Perry used to walk the Boston Marathon route every year until the COVID-19 pandemic struck, prompting people to walk local routes instead.

“I miss Boston. They had posters of all the kids who had



Scan to sponsor Team Perry

cancer, and it was sad to see but it reminded us of why we do the walk,” said Noonan.

This year, Noonan said she and other Team Perry members will complete their walks virtually on local routes.

While walkers have the option of registering for a 5k, 10K, half marathon or complete the full marathon, Old Mill Pond Kindergarten teacher Karyn Marciniac plans to complete the entire Boston Marathon route.

This year Marciniac will embark on her fifth Jimmy Fund Walk.

“I walked the first two and ran the last one,” said Marciniac. “I just tell myself I’m going to run it and if I have to walk it, I walk it because it’s not a race, it’s (about) raising money for



Scan to sponsor Karyn Marciniac

Dana-Farber which I’m very passionate about.”

She said she has had several people close to her diagnosed with cancer, including a brother-in-law, a former student and her mother.

“You lose your mom to cancer, (see) kids battling cancer,” she said. “It’s just never ending; every year my list just gets longer and longer.

“I have students whose parents are battling it. Hopefully these funds will help,” Marciniac said.

She added the posters of cancer patients are posted every mile and a half throughout the entire Boston Marathon route, and one year her former student was posted.

Noonan said since she started, her sister-in-law has successfully battled cancer and her brother-in-law battled and was lost to cancer.

“It’s both in memory of but also in honor of people who have survived and those who have not,” said Noonan. “I think all of us have been affected by it; you just never know who it’s going to hit and you hear about it all the time.”

According to Noonan, Team Perry has raised over \$190,000 over the past 14 years through sponsorships and donations.

Before completing the walk, participants enter a fundraising commitment. Walkers completing the walk on the Boston Marathon course agree to a \$330 commitment and rely on sponsorships and donations to help support the fundraising costs.

Virtual walkers agree to a \$100 commitment.

To sponsor a walker, visit [JimmyFundWalk.org](http://JimmyFundWalk.org).

“It’s an amazing organization and I’m glad to be a part of it,” said Noonan. “I’ll keep doing it for as long as I can.”

## Cruise for critters postponed to Sept. 30

MONSON— Fall fundraiser featuring a car show, Halloween Barktacular to benefit animals in need at Second Chance Animal Services has been postponed until Saturday, Sept. 30. The event will still take place at Westview Farms Creamery, 109 East Hill Road, where there will be fall festivities include corn maze and pumpkin picking. Food and beverages including handmade ice cream are available at the creamery’s restaurant. Admission is free for spectators; dogs are welcome on leash - please no retractable leads. \$20 show car entry fee. Annual fundraiser is presented by Al Widlan’s Service Connection of Monson.

## Baystate to hold free lecture series Oct. 10

SPRINGFIELD— Baystate Health will hold a free breast health virtual lecture series during Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October beginning with “The Mammogram Callback” on Tuesday, Oct. 10, at 6 p.m.

The series continues Monday, Oct. 16, at 6 p.m. with “Lumpectomy vs Mastectomy.”

The series will end on Monday, Oct. 30, at 6 p.m., with “Precision Medicine in Breast Cancer.”

All lectures will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

Registration is required for each session by visiting: [www.baystate-health.org/breastcancerevents](http://www.baystate-health.org/breastcancerevents).

## Veteran honored by National Headquarters



Courtesy Photo  
Presenting the certificate, (from left) 1st Vice Commander Carlos Huertas, Lyle Monette, Post 130 Adjunct Theresa Hayden and Sergeant of Arms Sally Nay.

PALMER -- On Monday, Sept. 18, American Legion members from Palmer Post 130 presented Lyle Monette, an Army Korean Veteran, with a certificate

from National Headquarters representing his 50 continuous years as an American Legion member.

## RECOVERY | from page 1

lieved Monson could benefit from the program.



Submitted Photos by Pamela West  
People had an opportunity to sign a banner for the Lights of Hope event.

“I started from scratch; it started as a resource fair,” said West.

Some resource agencies often present information at the event and they include Learn to Cope, a parent support group based in Taunton, representatives of Baystate Health Network, social workers, and inmates from the Hampden County Sheriff’s Department as well as other guest speakers.

Lights of Hope is designed as a free, family-friendly event offering activities such as bounce houses, free burgers, hot dogs and a civic candlelight vigil.

West recognized the Monson Civic Association for awarding the cause a \$1,000 grant to support the program as well as local businesses for donating raffle prizes.

“About 20 to 25 people came this year, it was just support, which was nice because that’s why I started it,” said West.

There was a time a relative of hers who was battling drug addiction “needed respite from the town,” and believed this was a way to further shine a light on community members affected by drug addiction.

West said people have come from out of town to support the cause, including a high school friend of hers whose child committed suicide 10 years ago.

She said her friend and a resident whose child also committed suicide connected at a previous Lights of Hope event and have since developed a supportive friendship.

“It’s all about support,” said West. “A father of an addict came out and lis-

tened to the speakers. We’ve had other moms who come out; it’s created to offer resources and support because it’s needed.”

The cause was awarded a five-year \$125,000 Drug Free Community grant, which West said was applied for in conjunction with the Monson School Committee.

According to West, the school will use funds to educate Monson’s youth about addiction.

“We’re all addicted to something, whether it’s our phones [or] TV,” said West. “Everybody needs support.”

## AMBULANCE | from page 1

away,” Clark said. “It’s like any business, there’s only so much call volume to go around.”

Clark said that he does not believe there’s enough emergency call volume to support the Fire Department and Palmer Ambulance Services, and if that were the case, it would likely impact Palmer Ambulance, and possibly put them out of business.

“Right now, Palmer Ambulance is a nonprofit corporation,” Clark said. “Our only source of revenue is by billing patients; it doesn’t cost the taxpayers anything at all, other than if they use service.”

In order to provide services for people who had lost their source of income due to the pandemic, Palmer Ambulance has been offering a subscription program where they can bill insurance companies directly and not go after patients for the copay. Clark said he was speaking to the Board of Directors about extending that service for another year.

Clark expressed concern that the Fire Department might go back to billing patients directly, as some of the local departments do.

“Now, people are getting hit for co-

pays that could be anywhere from \$75 to \$800,” Clark said. “If we had done that call, we would not be going after that copay.”

As a non-profit, Palmer Ambulance does not make money off these charges, which instead go toward keeping the business running. This is a problem that the Fire Department, which is funded by taxes, would not have.

“I’m always concerned when somebody’s interfering with any business, whether it’s selling hamburgers or ambulance calls,” Clark said. “Everybody’s hurting; private [companies], non-profits, fire departments. Our only revenue right now is our billables, whereas a local fire department is a tax-paid service, so they’re not held hostage, I guess, to insurance companies and reimbursement rates. Their services are going to continue, because they’re using taxpayer funds.”

“We’re more than willing to work with any department and help them get their license, to see as a group and as an agency what we can do together,” Clark said. “We could even take our staff and incorporate it into Palmer Fire to make one larger, better service—but we’ve got to get on the same page.”

## Correction

Do to an editorial error the name of Richard Ladew from the Monson Memorial Classic was incorrectly spelled in the Journal Register the week of July 14. We apologize to Mr. Ladew and are sorry for any confusion.

## Corrections

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

### CASUAL WATERFRONT DINING ON LAKE LASHAWAY

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CONVERSE | from page 1

trying to keep this language very general. The only thing in here where I really even qualified the price whatsoever is when I made it its own category, and I said that price is important, but it is not the sole qualifying criteria for the project."

"I feel like what's been discussed publicly, and the route we're potentially going, are two very different things that have different outcomes, potentially, for an existing neighborhood," Councilor Barbara Barry said.

Barry described an email the Council had received about this RFP, where a resident requested discussion about the town retaining the historical building.

The Council remained divided on whether to stipulate an age limit for the housing development, but McNutt was adamant that a consensus be reached before the proposal is put out to bid.

"When proposals start to come in, whether we have a committee or not, I don't want to see the goalposts moved. I don't want to see the standards change. I just want it to be as clear as day," McNutt said. "I feel like that's what happened in 2018, I don't think there was a clear plan, and people kept changing the dynamics."

McNutt also recommended that a committee be formed to work with him to evaluate the proposals, although he said that it would be a small committee. Overall, McNutt expressed that a priority would be to make the proposal as clear as possible, in order to make the goals clear and consistent for potential developers.

Town Council Vice President Jessica Sizer praised the proposal for incorporating information about the area and the community.

"I was thinking maybe if we incorporated the goals from our Master Plan and the Housing Production Plan into the RFP to really set a scene for the bidders, they could have a little bit more background information on the community," Sizer said.

Hebert asked what the benefit was to include information about the community in the Request for Proposal, and Barry said that it would help to make bidders interested in investing in the community.

"Considering Converse could probably house 50-60+ units...if I were a bidder with tens of millions of dollars that wanted to invest in a property, I think I would want to know a little bit more about the community and the type of population that would be living in these properties," Sizer said.

"Converse is very central to the downtown area and would be good for people who might need a bus stop or something like that, so I think incorporating that information would be really helpful," Sizer added.

Hebert expressed that this sounded like doing the developer's homework for them, but Councilor Robert Lavoie said that this will serve to entice developers.

"The next step is at the Oct. 16 meeting, the Council needs to figure out what they want the RFP to say in terms of whether we're doing solely for 55 and up housing and we're not going to entertain any other proposals," McNutt said.

The public meeting ended with the Council entering Executive Session.

ALLIANCE | from page 4

QHSUA supporting mental health

To learn more about the Prevention Needs Assessment Survey, see the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance website, www.QHSUA.org. The 2021 report is linked to the home page, and the 2023 report will be ready soon.

The Alliance and Healthy Quaboag are hosting a free Youth Mental Health First Aid Training at the Palmer Public Library on Oct. 19 from 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Contact Emily to register by emailing ecoderre@townofware.com.

Mental Health First Aid is a skills-based training course for persons who interact a lot with youth that teaches participants about mental health and substance-use issues.

For youth looking for a way to connect with our communities, the Alliance is forming a regional youth advisory council. Contact Brandon Milton by emailing bmilton@townofware.com.

Healthy Quaboag is also organizing a Community Health Improvement Plan that is addressing mental health along with transportation, housing, and access to healthcare providers. If you are interested in participating, please contact Arianna Palano by emailing apalano@townofware.com.

About QHSUA

The Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance https://qhsua.org/ (QHSUA); a regional coalition serving local communities located in Hampshire, Hampden, and Worcester Counties - the towns of Barre, Belcher-town, Brimfield, Brookfield, Hardwick, Hubbardston, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren and West Brookfield.

Join them by going to their Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/QHSUA/ or website, www.qhsua.org.

If you or a loved one needs help for substance abuse, call the statewide helpline at 1-800-327-5050 (TTY: 1-800-439-2370); the phoneline is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week; you can also go to the website at: https://hub.helpline.org/findhelp. The 988 Lifeline (call or text) provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals in the United States.

MONSON | from page 1

she said, and that she "clearly voted without knowing this building was coming down."

Another resident said when she reviewed the fire station renovation project plan, she had "no idea when (she) voted to support the new fire station (she) was voting to tear down the House of Art."

Saving money

Oney said the board believes their motion "was justified and reasonable given that the town would save about \$200,000 in rental costs for trailers for temporary housing, and the estimated costs to bring the Town Hall Annex building up to code would cost over \$250,000."

Arts Council members and residents questioned the expenses and needs associated with bringing the building up to code. Building Commissioner Justin Larivee said when the building's use transitioned from municipal to assembly use, "there was never an architectural plan for the building to turn (to) assembly (use)."

He said the town would have to "go through a whole architectural review of the building," and bring the entire building up to ADA compliance, including providing access to use of the second floor.

"As of right now the second floor is closed because of the (unrepaired) fire escape. That alone is going to cost you in the range of \$50,000 to \$60,000 to restructure it," said Larivee.

Other necessary repairs include an updated smoke detection system and an access route to and from the second floor in

compliance with ADA.

Coles questioned if there was a monetary threshold that would allow the building to continue operating without meeting ADA compliance.

Larivee said the threshold is 30% of the building's value, which is assessed at \$186,000.

Administrative Assistant Gaylin Bingle said she confirmed with assessors that the value of the building is \$186,000, and the cost to replace the building is over \$350,000 according to the property card.

Arts Council needs space

Arts Council President Peter Barnett said "if the House of Art is to be vacated and we are to continue our mission for the town, we need a place."

Oney said the board has "about six to seven different spaces," it believes could house the Arts Council moving forward.

"The people who own the different places are willing to offer different spaces, are willing to make modifications; are willing to, basically to some extent, tailor to what you need."

Monson Arts Show Committee Chairman David Dupuis said the current location has "a hanging system throughout the whole house," and "wired lighting in the ceiling specifically to highlight the art." He said it took the council "years to get money to do all those things."

Oney suggested pursuing grant money to help redevelop those resources at a future location.

Dupuis asked about the residents' opinion regarding the look of Main Street after the building would be removed, and



Several MAC members came before the Board in support of rescinding the motion to demolish the Town Hall Annex.

an entrance would be expanded for the fire station renovation.

Oney said she likes the Town Annex Building and "really (doesn't) want to see a lot of additional changes on Main Street."

However, she said "there are so many conflicting considerations that we have here, including the safety of our fire personnel and the residents in town, and other travelers on Main Street."

Fire Chief Brian Harris said housing the Fire Department in the Town Hall Annex building until the fire station renovation project is complete would save the town \$205,000 as it would eliminate temporary housing unit costs, and offer easy transportation of apparatus from the current location.

Wider access road needed

Bingle said the \$205,000 savings will go toward debt exclusion, as voted upon at town meeting.



Select Board member Peter Warren, Vice Chair John Morrell and Chair Patricia Oney listen to residents and Monson Art Council members as they ask the Board to rescind the Sept. 12 motion.



Fire Chief Brian Harris is shown sharing the perspective of the Fire Department and personnel at the Sept. 26 meeting.

Additionally, the demolition of the building will allow for a wider access road to the new station.

"The current road is 25 feet at its narrowest point, our fire trucks are eight and a half feet wide. An ambulance is eight feet 10 inches (and) an average car or truck is six feet, eight inches wide, to eight feet wide," said Harris. "Given that, when vehicles continue to park in the restricted access lanes on both sides (of the driveway), at times, if their tires are touching the curb, that only leaves six to 18 inches on either side for our

trucks to clear at most. There have been many near misses over the years."

While the demolition of the building will increase parking from seven spaces to approximately 35, Oney said "nobody would ever talk about knocking that building down just for parking."

Oney said the board is willing to reconsider the original Jan. 1, 2024 vacancy time frame for the Monson Arts Council, and work collaboratively with the Council to help them find a permanent location.

EEE | from page 1

in Massachusetts in 2021 or 2022, according to the DPH, and no human or animal case of EEE has been detected in Massachusetts so far this year.

"A lot of communities throughout the Pioneer Valley Region experienced intolerable levels of mosquitoes as a result of the record-breaking rainfall we had in July," said Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District Director John Briggs.

He added precipitation, including snow, has a positive correlation with mosquito abundance.

"The rain increases resources for mosquito larvae, resulting in a higher amount of adult mosquitoes," said Briggs.

According to the Sept. 15 DPH press release, State Epidemiologist Dr. Catherine M. Brown said "the forecast is for cooler temperatures which will start to reduce mosquito activity. However, the risk for spread

of (the) EEE virus from mosquitoes to people is still present. Everyone in these moderate and high risk areas should take the recommended steps to prevent mosquito bites."

While cooler temperatures may result in the decrease of the overall mosquito population, Briggs said, some mosquitoes species are capable of surviving winter while in the early stages of development, or larval stage.

These species rely on a permanent source of water to survive. "A winter with a lot of snow will likely result in more mosquitoes during the

warmer months due to the amount of snowmelt," said Briggs.

He said two species that rely on a permanent water habitat include Culiseta Melanura and Coquillettidia Perturbans, "both of which are vectors for Eastern Equine Encephalitis."

Some recommended steps to prevent mosquito bites include avoiding outdoor activities between dusk and dawn, applying mosquito repellent, wearing clothing that covers the skin and draining standing water around the home.

Advertisement for NESCO SALES INC. COMPLETE AUTOBODY CENTER. Features include: Your Safety is Our Top Priority, All vehicles are sanitized before and after repairs, Pick-Up & Delivery Services Available, Collision Specialists. Contact: 91 State St., Bondsville, MA 283-6403 www.nescoautobody.com

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A crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting positions for clues.

CLUES ACROSS: 1. Outsourcing (abbr.), 4. Post, 8. German city on edge of Black Forest, 10. "... but goodie", 11. Spiced stew, 12. Passionately, 13. Monetary units, 15. Group of living organisms, 16. Organic compound derived from ammonia, 17. High honors, 18. 5-year-olds' classes, 21. Swiss river, 22. Old woman, 23. Cash machine, 24. A way to soak, 25. Hair product, 26. Deride, 27. "The Blonde Bombshell", 34. Cause to become insane, 35. Bluish greens, 36. Supported with money, 37. Type of equation, 38. Court officials, 39. Indian god, 40. Rids, 41. Leak slowly through, 42. Units of ionizing radiation, 43. Midway between south and southeast. CLUES DOWN: 1. Native of Slovakia, 2. Deli meat, 3. Fibrous substance in fungi, 4. Cutting, 5. Vedder and Van Halen, 6. Horror comic novelist, 7. Rulers of Tunis, 9. Shaped like a circle, 10. Make a pig of oneself, 12. Aphorism, 14. Witness, 15. Single Lens Reflex, 17. Freshwater fish, 19. Nautical ropes, 20. Leg (slang), 23. Pokes holes in, 24. Moved quickly on foot, 25. Fix-it shops, 26. Type of bread, 27. Repaired, 28. Synthetic diamond (abbr.), 29. Type of drug (abbr.), 30. German city along the Rhine, 31. Animal disease, 32. Martini necessities, 33. Get away from, 34. Village in Mali, 36. Djibouti franc

Advertisement for Glenda's. Text: Saturday, Sept. 30th ~ 8pm-12am A.S.B. Classic Rock. Wednesday Nights ~ 7pm-10pm Mix Tape Music Bingo/Prizes! Friday Nights ~ 8pm-11pm Karaoke. 948 Main Street, Warren, MA • 413-436-8491

# Old Mill Pond hosts annual open house



Antonina, Lev and Angelika Chemeris stopped by the Scouting booth to check out some displays during the open house.



Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon  
Danielle Bousquet, Michael Boundreau and Braden Bruno share a family photo after checking out Braden's classroom.



Special Education teacher Cassandra Guild and first-grade teacher Lynn Logsdon greet OMP families with smiles.



First-grade teacher Catherine Dineen and teacher's assistant, Kaylei Nareau, were ready to meet OMP families during the event.



OMP parent Kayla Bluteau and daughter, Scarlett, are all smiles as they host the Palmer Soccer booth.



OMP Assistant Principal Kerry Lynch and teacher, Ashley Konrad, are ready to greet OMP families as they explore the school.



Danielle, Wayne, Amelia, Aubrie and Autumn Gibbs stopped by the library to check out some of what the school has to offer.



Sebastian Lamoureux and Colton, Audrey and Rogan Eames smile for a family photo before exploring the preschool wing.



## VETERANS DAY SALUTE *The Journal Register ~ November 2, 2023*

The Journal Register will be saluting our local veterans (from all wars and branches, including honoring deceased veterans), reservists, active duty U.S. Military members.

Please submit a photo of your veteran with his or her name, rank, branch of military and hometown by email to [dflynn@turley.com](mailto:dflynn@turley.com) or drop off a photo to  
**The Journal Register,**  
**24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069**  
All photos will be returned.

Please submit your photo no later than  
Monday, October 16, 2023.

*There is no cost to submit a photo. No photos will be accepted after deadline. If you would like to use a prior submitted photo, please contact before to October 10th.*

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Iceland: Land of Fire & Ice - July 21-30, 2024  
Montana: Exploring Big Sky Country - July 23-August 2, 2024  
Shades of Ireland - September 18-27, 2024  
Treasures of Turkey - November 2-17, 2024

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Aubree Harrington is joined by her mom, Melinda Savicki, before making their rounds through the school.



Izabella Shelby is joined by her mom, Katelyn Tyndall, and sister, Frankie Letner, for the open house.



Lukka and Amber Hastings are shown standing in front of some of Lukka's and his classmates' school work.



Chris and Charlotte Wystepok are all smiles as they visit some of Charlotte's teachers.



Stephanie, Maci and Andrew Golas smile as they tour Old Mill Pond.



Students Landan Chevalier, Tristan Riel and Jaden Oliveras share a photo with art teacher Alissa Breyare. Several student creations are shown on display behind the group.



Assistant Principal Penny Ann Manteria, Principal Holly-Beth Riopel and Assistant Principal Kerry Lynch stand by the entrance of OMP to wish families well after the school's open house event.



Several teachers organized scavenger hunts and interactive activities for students to engage in during the event.



ESL teachers Karyn Perry and Lisa Newton, smile alongside student Juleirys Felciano.

**OMP**

from page 1

Attendees as young as infancy were in attendance, introducing OMP to the entire family.

Parents had an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the building that their students walk almost daily.

In some areas of the building, local organizations such as Palmer Soccer and local Scouting troops showed off displays and offered trinkets for students. Other tables featured drawing activities and scavenger hunts.

Families also had an opportunity to see the student art throughout the building.



**FALL FESTIVITIES at the FARM**

Farmer Matt is preparing the farm for your favorite fall festivities. From viewing breathtaking fall foliage to live music and local craft beer, there's something to do at the farm all fall. So mark your calendar. We'll see you at the farm.

**Pop-up Beer Garden** featuring local brews made with local ingredients is every Sat/Sun through October. 9/30, 10/1, 10/7, 10/8, 10/14, 10/15, 10/21, 10/22, 10/28, 10/29.

**Halloween Spooktacular** featuring live music, great food, and local craft beer as part of the New Braintree Halloween festivities on 10/28.

Check [FarmerMatt.com](http://FarmerMatt.com) for details & more events.



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# Class of 1961

## held its 80th Birthday Party



Phyllis & Matt Valley, Judy Murdock and Bev Soltys pose together for a photo.



Bill Griswold gets a hug from classmate Mary Beynor.



Darlene Tallman watches as Bev Soltys cuts the cake.



Class of 1961 classmates stand together for a class photo.



Leslie Bonneville looks over the class scrapbook.



John Wegiel and Darlene Tallman enjoy a game of cornhole.



Leslie Bonneville, John Wegiel and Bill Griswold chat during the celebration.



Darlene Tallman, Bob Peritz and Phyllis Valley sit together during the reunion party.

**Submitted Article**

PALMER — The Palmer High School Class of 1961 held its 80th Birthday Party on Saturday, Sept. 16.

The Class of '61 has held regular reunions every 5 years since graduation. At their 50th reunion the class decided to add milestone birthdays to their list and the "Birthdays Reunion" was born.

Not only will they continue meeting every five years, but also unite for milestone birthdays.

The birthday reunion tradition started with a 70th birthday celebration which was held at the Swift River Sportsman's Club; followed by the 75th birthday celebration held at the 308 Lakeside Restaurant in East Brookfield.

This year the 80th birthday celebration was held at the home

of Bill & Charlann Griswold in Palmer. Classmates were treated to a lovely lawn party complete with yard games and seating areas perfect for visiting with friends.

A fall theme was in full swing with corn stalks, hay bales and lots of seasonal flowers.

The celebration featured fifties music which brought back memories. Ladies and gentlemen of the Class of '61 Committee provided a wonderful array of food and good old fashioned soda pop in glass bottles.

Classmates and spouses in attendance included Pete & Mary (McLaughlin) Beynor, Carol (Nowakowski) Marek, John Wegiel, Judy (Burns) Murdock, Bernie & Mary Dupuis, Loretta (LaBonte) Madden, Connie (Dernoga) Pisarski, Matt & Phyllis Valley, Pat (Lisowski) Libucha (not included in group picture), Tom & Donna Gilman, Leslie Bonneville, Betty Ann (Sowa) Halgas, John Toton, Ralph Robak (not included in group picture), Marilynn (Hebert) Cole & Terry Korzek, Bob Peritz, Darlene (Naglack) Tallman, Fran (Sabourin) Ogren, Bill & Charlann Griswold, Stanley & Beverly (Bradlenski) Soltys, Tony & Pat Koziol, Richard & Carol (Rondeau) Smith.

This type of gathering takes a village, so a great big shout out to the following Class of '61 Committee members for all their time and help: Beverly Soltys, Diane Baldina, Pat Libucha, Marilynn Cole, Charlann Griswold, Darlene Tallman, Fran Ogren, & Tony & Pat Koziol.



The Journal Register

## Halloween CONTEST

Send us your Halloween House Decoration photos from this year! We are looking for decor in 4 categories:

- Scariest**  
People run screaming!
- Most Creative**  
Best use of recycled materials!
- Kid Friendly**  
Kids just want to hang out with you!
- Flashy**  
Lights, lights and more lights!

We will choose a winner in each category who will receive a gift card from one of our sponsors.



All photos will run in our paper with the winners being announced.

Please send all entries to [journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@turley.com) labeled halloween contest. All entries must be submitted by October 20th. Include Name, Address & Phone



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*Serving the community by promoting the well being of the citizens and businesses*

## Holiday Harvest Festival

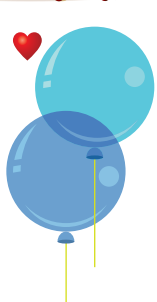
September 30, 2023  
10 am - 4 pm



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**SOCCER**



Monson's Hannah Murphy gets plenty of air as she knees the ball over Palmer's goalie into the net for a goal.

## Mustangs stay undefeated

MONSON – Last Friday afternoon, neighboring rivals Monson and Palmer met on the girls soccer pitch, with Monson scoring early and often en route to a 7-1 win at home. Hannah Murphy had a pair of goals and Monson also grabbed a goal on a penalty kick on a rare play where a Palmer defender attempted to defend the goal and committed a hand ball of a shot. According to the rules, in the occasion that happens, if the referee determines the player blocking a shot with a hand ball would have been a goal, that player receives a yellow card. Monson would lead 5-1 at halftime thanks to the penalty kick. Monson is a perfect 7-1 while Palmer is 3-2-1 this season.



Kendall Bodak makes a quick move to avoid a defender as she heads up the field.



Chelsea Hull focuses on her dribble.



Claire Wahlund makes a no-look pass.



Ava Przybycien tries to advance up the field for Palmer



Palmer's Maddy Rathbone tries to stop Hannah Murphy's progress.

**SOCCER**

## Monson battles to draw with Turners



Shane Szado is pressured.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

MONSON – Last Wednesday afternoon, Monson boys soccer tied visiting Turners Falls 1-1. The Mustangs followed that with a tough showing at Central, losing 7-1. Monson fell to 1-4-1 for the season. Monson next faces Northampton on Sept. 28 at 7 p.m.



Jake Beaupre chases down the ball.



Anthony Tulloch tries to overcome an opposing player's slide block.



Austin Meacham leaps to save a goal.



Kyle Beaudry makes his way toward the goal.



Ellie Gelinas backhands the ball as she takes over possession.



Camden Kimball sizes up her shot.



Greenly Lagimoniere gets ready for a long hit.

## Panthers struggling early

PALMER – The Palmer field hockey team has yet to notch a goal this season, but have only played three times due to excessive rainouts as well as some games postponed due to heat earlier this month. Last Thursday afternoon, the Panthers were on the wrong end of a 9-0 decision against Belchertown. The Panthers were playing for the third day in a row as they attempt to catch up on their schedule. Palmer looks for its first win on Oct. 2 at home against Belchertown at 4 p.m.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Hannah Roy corrals the ball.



Brooke Swistak holds the ball before passing.

**SOCCER**

## Pioneers shut out Dragons

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

PALMER— Pathfinder Tech junior forward Evan Costa entered last Wednesday's Tri-County League match against the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School Dragons with a team-high five goals.

Led by Costa, who recorded his second hat-trick of the regular season, and senior goalie Richie Gula, who posted the first shutout of his varsity soccer career, the Pioneers posted a 5-0 victory on a perfect late summer afternoon.

A year ago, Pathfinder Tech swept the season series against P.V.C.I.C.S., who are a co-ed team this season. Only nine players signed up for the Dragons girls' soccer team and those players had the opportunity to join the boy's squad.

Last Wednesday's victory pushed the Pioneers overall and league record to 2-1.

After losing to Athol, 6-3, at home in the season opener, the Pioneers, who had a couple of matches postponed due to the weather, got into the win column for the first time with a 5-1 win



Cayden Bousquet charges down the field.

over Franklin Tech in another home match. Costa recorded his first hat-trick of the regular season in that contest.

Costa is also one of the Pioneers tri-captains, along with senior Kenny Brouillette, and junior Seth Mitchell.

The Dragons made the bus trip to Palmer from Hadley with a 3-1 overall and league record.

## Pioneers edged by Franklin Tech

PALMER – Last Friday night, Pathfinder football was defeated by Franklin Tech 14-7. Pathfinder would drop to 1-2 on the season as it gets ready to start its Tri-County Conference schedule.

Pathfinder opened the season against Palmer with a 33-6 win, but then lost consecutive games against Athol and Franklin Tech.

Coming up this weekend, the Pioneers will meet Springfield International Charter School for the first time. The game will take place at American International College in Springfield at 6:30 p.m.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Brody Wetnicka fights for possession of the ball.



Justin Davis looks to clear the ball.



Talon Clark chases down the loose ball.

### PATHFINDER | from page 9

They had outscored their first four opponents, 14-4.

In the middle of the opening half, Costa, who's a forward, split a pair of defenders before firing a low shot into the left corner past junior keeper Damian Loinaz, who made five saves during the first 40 minutes of the match. Freshman Owen Pear was credited with the assist. Pear, along with sophomore Jaiel

Nevue-Roman, sophomore Adonis Dupre, and junior Eliah Jez, attend Palmer High School. They're able to play soccer for the Pathfinder Tech boys' varsity team as part of a co-op.

A couple of minutes later, Costa fired a shot from the top of the box into the back of the net giving his team a 2-0 advantage. The Pioneers' second goal was assisted by Nevue-Roman.

The best goal of the entire match was scored by junior midfielder Justin Davis in the 34<sup>th</sup> minute. He lofted a shot from about 25 yards along the right sideline. The ball deflected off both the crossbar and the left post before landing into the left corner for an unassisted goal.

Three minutes later, a shot attempt by Pear rolled towards the goal before it was tapped over the line by junior forward Talon Clark, who netted his first goal of the season. Clark scored five goals as a freshman.

Holding a commanding 4-0 halftime lead, Costa achieved his second straight hat-trick with an unassisted goal past five minutes into the second half.

At that point, the only remaining question was if Gula would be able to celebrate his first career shut-out in a varsity match. He only had to make one save in accomplishing that feat.

Gula took over the starting duties from Colin Holt, who transferred to Hampshire Regional.

Gula received plenty of support from his defense led by junior Ethan DeBettencourt, junior Zander Auffrey, Mitchell, and Brouillette.

Two days later, Gula recorded another shut-out in a 6-0 road victory against St. Mary's of Westfield.

Five different Pathfinder players scored in that contest led by senior Riley Sanderson with two goals.

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# Turleysports

## Athlete of the Week

### Evan Costa

Pathfinder

Costa would notch a hat trick during Pathfinder boys soccer's win over PVCIC last week.

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

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## Mustangs stay undefeated



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
Addyson Petraszewicz makes quick pass.



Goalie Aubrey Boucher punts the ball away.



Avery Beaudoin fights through the middle.

# Wilbraham & Monson Academy

## OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, October 1, 10 a.m.

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Tour the campus and learn more about our programs and community. Meet faculty, coaches, parents and students.



RSVP: [www.wma.us/openhouse](http://www.wma.us/openhouse)

## Monadnock season concludes with championship races

WINCHESTER, N.H. — Five track champions were crowned last Saturday — Nate Wenzel and Michael Yeaton both first timers — as Monadnock Speedway closed out its 2023 racing season on Championship Day at the high-banked quarter-mile.

Late Model ace Tim Wenzel won his crown for the second season in row. Louie Maher is now a two-time king of the Mini Stocks, and then there's Chris Davis. Davis ran a conservative race Saturday to wrap up his fourth Pure Stock title, those along with a Mini Stock championship to boot.

Cole Littlewood and Geoff Rollins led the swarming 19-car NHSTRA Modified field to the green Saturday, with the 100-lapper not only deciding the 2023 track championship, but also contested as the third of four NHSTRA Quest For The Cup races.

Defending track champ Tyler Leary entered Saturday two points ahead of Nate Wenzel, while Wenzel sat atop the Quest leaderboard. Others, including Rollins, were in the Quest hunt too, a battle that will be decided at Lee.

Leary took the lead from Rollins on lap three but, seven circuits later, it was open-wheel rookie Scott Zilinski at the point, his mirror soon filled by Trevor Bleau's ride and, just behind that, JT Cloutier's.

Bleau took charge on lap 19 but his stay up front was brief, as Cloutier had the lead three laps later. In front, he'd open a huge lead until a lap 43 caution — one of a dozen on the afternoon — brought the pack back to his bumper, and Zilinski to his side.

Getting the jump, Zilinski began his second run at the head of the class on lap 44, again with some major thunder at his back bumper. Wenzel, his nostrils filled with the warm aroma of a pending championship, took over on lap 74, and he never looked back.

When Leary and Zilinski made contact in turn three five laps later, the title chase was over. Cloutier, who'd survived an unnecessary bouncing off the frontchute wall back on lap 59, got back up for second on the 80th go-round, then following Wenzel under the checkers to conclude his own successful season.

With Wenzel earning his first NHSTRA track Modified crown, and solidifying his point lead in the Quest chase, he joined his younger brother, Tim, in celebrating their 2023 sibling Monadnock championships. With Cloutier strong in second, Kimmy Rivet, who earlier this summer survived a horrific crash, ended her summer on the podium with a third-place finish.

Rollins, who struggled through

a largely forgettable Saturday afternoon, made masterful use of ne fewer than four trips to the pits to stay on the lead lap and finish fourth, keeping his Quest hopes alive for the series' finale next month.

Tim Wenzel, as his brother Modified hot shoe Nate would do later in Saturday's event, closed out his championship summer with an exclamation point, romping to his track-high sixth victory of the summer in the Late Model main.

Taking the lead from Andrew Brousseau on lap 19, Wenzel never looked back. Brousseau, though, didn't fare as well. Picked off by a lapper with three to go, he finished fifth on the day. Hillary Renaud concluded her successful summer in second, and Claremont's Dylan Zullo used a last-lap pass to earn the third-place hardware.

Cameron Sontag rocketed to his third win in a row in the Mini Stock feature, taking the lead from Louie Maher with two laps to go. Maher, though, offered little resistance, riding his runner-up finish to the 2023 championship. Pat Houle, in his strongest run of the summer, came home third.

Colton Martin, trading rides for the day with Andrea St. Amour, blew the field away to win Saturday's Pure Stock feature. Chris Chambers, in St. Amour's team car, was second, and Zach Zilinski earned the first of his two Championship Day trophies in third.

Chris Davis, who'd seen a title slip away from him in last year's season finale, stayed clear of trouble Saturday, cruising home in fifth to add another championship trophy to his large collection.

Zach Zilinski wired the Six Shooter feature to win his second in a row. Steve Miller Jr. stayed glued to the 16-year-old pilot's bumper to finish second, while Michael Yeaton's third-place run netted him the 2023 championship.

Markus O'Neil led all the way to score his second Young Gun victory of the year Saturday. He had four-time winner Owen Zilinski draped all over him for most of the way but never faltered en route to victory. Addison Brooks came home third.

Oval-tracker Cole Littlewood, aboard the family Honda, won Saturday's Spectator Race finale, stealing the win out of the last turn from Xander Stillwell.

Last Saturday's 2023 Championship Day event concluded Monadnock Speedway's 2023 racing season. The high-banked speedplant will take on a new and improved look in the coming weeks, as it receives an entirely new racing surface, its first since the initial paving was completed a half-century ago.

## Framingham edges Westfield State Univ. football

WESTFIELD — Framingham State's Jared Martino blocked a game-winning field goal attempt in the closing seconds as the Rams held on for a 9-8 win over Westfield State in a Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference football game at Bowditch Field in Framingham on Saturday afternoon.

Both teams had to grind it out in rainy and windy conditions all day long, with the Rams taking a 3-0 lead late into the third quarter before Westfield seized the lead on a 22-yard Gabriel Fernandez touchdown pass to Michael Foley. On the ensuing point after try, the Owls came up with a two-point conversion when the kick attempt resulted in a broken play, and holder Owen Thompson was able to pitch the ball ahead to Blake Simpson in the endzone for the two point conversion. Thompson released the ball just as he was being brought down by the rush to give Westfield an 8-3 lead with less than a minute left in the third quarter.

Westfield had a chance to extend the lead in the fourth quarter, but a fumble gave Framingham possession at their own 5-yard line midway through the fourth quarter. The Rams mounted a seven-play, 95-yard scoring drive that was fueled by a bold 54-yard halfback option pass to Manny Lara out of the Framingham endzone, and capped by a 3-yard TD run from Devaun Ford to bring the score to give Framingham a 9-8 lead. The two-point conversion failed

when Westfield State's Cam Danahy dropped Kevin Leal in the backfield on the try.

The Owls got the ball back for a final scoring try with 3:57 left to play after a short punt gave Westfield 1st and 10 at their own 42. Westfield worked the ball into scoring possession with a methodical drive, getting a key fourth down conversion on a pass to Will Brewster and a pair of third down conversions to keep the drive alive.

Westfield set up for a 32-yard field goal try with seven seconds left, that could have won the game, but Martino flew in from the right side of the formation to block the attempt.

On a day where offense was hard to come by, Fernandez finished 12-29 passing for 162 yards, a touchdown and an interception. Brewster caught three balls for 62 yards, and Foley added five catches for 54 yards.

Ford led Framingham with 158 rushing yards on 27 carries, and the 54-yard pass that keyed the winning drive.

Tyler Cooley led Westfield with six tackles and a fumble recovery. Danahy picked off a pass for the Owls.

Westfield is now 0-4 overall and 0-2 in the MASCAC. Framingham is 1-2 overall and 1-1 in the conference.

The Owls will be home next Saturday, Sept. 30 to host Mass Maritime as part of Family and Champions weekend, with a noon kickoff at Alumni Field.

## MassDOT Amtrak to Develop East-West Passenger Train Service

BOSTON — Sen. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) and Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and Rep. Jim McGovern (MA-02) and Rep. Richard Neal (MA-01) today joined the Healey administration in celebrating \$108 million from the Department of Transportation, under its Fiscal Year 2022 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements grant program, for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to build capacity for eventual East-West passenger train service running through Boston, Worcester, and Western Massachusetts.

Specifically, the project will improve railway infrastructure, including tracks, signals, grade crossings, and bridges along the Inland Route Corridor. In addition, the project will increase Amtrak Lake Shore Limited's capacity to make daily round trips at higher speeds to enhance not only

travel times but also connections between Eastern Massachusetts and Upstate New York.

"From Boston to Springfield to Pittsfield, railways serve as an essential and green mode of transportation-connecting our commonwealth and our communities," said Markey. "I applaud the Department of Transportation for heeding our calls to provide \$108 million in federal funding so that communities in central and western Massachusetts can have efficient, safe, and reliable rail service. As a member of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, I will continue to advocate for safer, more expansive railway infrastructure to make sure our Commonwealth's trains stay on track." "I am thrilled we were able to secure this critical funding for central and western Massachusetts, which will lay the foundation for

West-East Rail. From day one, we said our administration was going to compete for an unprecedented level of federal funding opportunities, and I'm proud to say we are delivering on that promise. We thank the Biden-Harris Administration for their continued historic investments in infrastructure and are grateful for the strong partnership of our federal delegation in promoting public transit and advancing priorities for economic competitiveness," said Healey.

"We are grateful to our congressional delegation for helping us secure this CRISI funding. Working with our elected leaders, municipal officials, Amtrak, CSX, and other partners we will be launching capital projects on this corridor which will have long-term positive economic impacts on the region, which will allow for additional corridor capacity, and which will decrease travel times

between station destinations," said Acting Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbitts-Nutt.

Markey is a long-time advocate for comprehensive funding for the construction of the East-West passenger train service. In February, the Massachusetts congressional delegation celebrated more than \$550 million in federal funding through the Federal Transit Administration programs in the 2023 fiscal year to strengthen public transit across the commonwealth. In April 2022, Markey and Warren celebrated a \$537 million investment, through then Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, to provide Massachusetts with critical resources to upgrade the MBTA and regional transit systems, modernize fleets, cars and buses, and improve the resiliency of existing transit infrastructure.

### NAMI Western MA looking for new board members

HOLYOKE— There is a growing need to help those who live with mental health conditions and their loved ones. NAMI Western Massachusetts is seeking individuals interested in joining our Board of Directors. NAMI Western Mass is an affiliate of NAMI Mass. NAMI-WM and its dedicated volunteers, members, and leaders work tirelessly to raise awareness and provide essential education, advocacy, and support programs for people in our community living with mental health conditions and their loved ones. For more information please email information@namiwam.org or call the NAMI office at 413-786-9139.

### Everglades Ecology, Wildlife, and Birds

SPRINGFIELD -- On Monday, Oct. 2 at 7 p.m. the Allen Bird Club of Springfield, MA will host the presentation, "The Everglades: Before and After" in the Tolman Auditorium of the Springfield Science Museum, 21 Edwards St., Springfield.

In this program, presenter Tom Tynning will describe the Everglades' remarkable mix of physical and biological aspects as well efforts to restore the natural flow and quality of water to Everglades National Park, where a remarkable mix of subtropical organisms exists. Tynning, who is an environmental scientist, teacher, birder, and herpetologist, will describe the history and ecological importance of this enormous "river of grass" and the area's other amazing natural wonders.

The Allen Bird Club is a nonprofit organization that has been bringing Greater Springfield area birders together since 1912. This presentation is open to the public free of charge.

### Westfield State Univ. to host job fair

WESTFIELD — Westfield State University will be hosting its annual Government, Criminal Justice and Non-Profit Career Fair on Thursday, Oct. 12, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. in the Woodward Center, 395 Western Ave.

The fair offers a convenient opportunity for Westfield students and residents to network with employers and learn what it would be like to work for area non-profits and government agencies.

Representatives from police departments throughout Massachusetts and Connecticut and New Hampshire will be available to answer questions and showcase their agencies to prospective employees. Some of the registered city and town agencies include Amherst, En-

field, CT., Holyoke, Northampton, and Westfield. Registered state police agencies include Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York.

Registered non-profits and government agencies include, May Institute, Center for Human Development, Gandara Center, Match Education, Peace Corps, SeviceNet, Wellpath and Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security.

The job fair is free and open to the public. Parking is available in the South Lot off Western Avenue. Shuttle service will run continually throughout the event.

For more information, contact the Career Center at Westfield State University, 413-572-5206.

### Golf tournament to hosted on Oct. 16

LUDLOW—The Michael J Dias Foundation gears up for its 10th annual golf tournament fundraiser, at the Ludlow Country Club on Monday, Oct. 16. The tournament is sponsored by Luso Federal Credit Union

The Michael J. Dias Foundation, renowned for its steadfast commitment to providing sober housing to individuals in recovery, has organized this event as a cornerstone fundraising effort to advance its mission further. The tournament will begin with registration starting at 9:30 a.m., followed by an exhilarating shotgun start at 11 a.m.

Golf enthusiasts, community members, and foundation supporters are invited to participate in this day of friendly competition. The cost per golfer is \$150, covering greens fees, a golf cart, a delectable mid-game lunch, and a celebratory buffet dinner.

Sponsorship opportunities are open to businesses and individuals who want to make a difference. Sponsors will play an integral role in supporting the Foundation's crucial work, contributing to the well-being and recovery of the individuals the Foundation serves.

For inquiries and additional information, please don't hesitate to contact Isabel Martins, reachable via email at imartins@mdiasfoundation.org or by phone at 617-429-0541.

The 10th annual MJD Golf Tournament stands as a celebration of community and a testament to the potent force of collective goodwill.

Registering for the 10th annual golf Tournament and becoming a valued sponsor is just a click away through the official registration portal: <https://bit.ly/MJD-GOLF23>. We'd like to have all sponsors confirmed by Sept. 27 and golfers registered by Oct. 2, in order to plan the best day for everyone. For more details about the event, please visit the Foundation's official website at [www.mdiasfoundation.org](http://www.mdiasfoundation.org).

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

E-mail items to [journalregister@turley.com](mailto: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 please – to [journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@turley.com)).

## COMING SOON

**POLISH SUPPER** on Saturday, Oct. 14, at Monson-Glendale United Methodist Church, 162 Main St., Time 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Dining on the premises is back. Take-out orders are available. Limited quantities, so reservations are recommended, the deadline for ordering is Oct. 12. Call 413-267-5207 to place your order. Meal includes Golombki (stuffed cabbage), Pierogi, Kielbasa, Sauerkraut, Pickled Beets, Rye Bread, and Apple Crisp. Price is \$20 for adults and \$9 for children.

**OPEN HOUSE** Come visit the Keep Homestead Museum on 35 Ely Road in Monson, on Sunday, Oct. 1, 1-3:30 p.m. There will be a short program "Buttons in the Barn" at 1:30 p.m. for visitors of all ages

to learn about the wide variety of materials, including shell, metal and glass, used in the manufacture of buttons. After the program, visitors are invited to explore a large assortment of buttons to create their own unique button display. All materials will be provided for free. Admission to the program and museum is free, however donations will be accepted. For more information about the museum visit [www.keephomesteadmuseum.org](http://www.keephomesteadmuseum.org).

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

## INTERESTS

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

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

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

Merry Mombourquette at 283-7577. Follow them on Facebook for more.

## ONGOING

**BINGO IS BACK** at Amvets Post 74, 2150 Main St., Three Rivers, on Mondays. The kitchen opens at 4:30 p.m. Early Bird starts at 6:25 p.m. Call the Post at 413-283-4518 for further information.

**FARMER'S MARKETS:** The Brimfield Farmers Market at Hitchcock Academy is a fun place to find cool, unique products, plants and seasonal produce every Saturday while you meet your neighbors and support Hitchcock and local businesses.

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

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

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

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

## Mobile blood donation team is coming to Palmer

**PALMER**—The Baystate Health Blood Donation team will host a blood drive at Baystate Wing Hospital on Wednesday, Oct. 4, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Additionally, Blood Drives are held every other month, the next blood drive at Baystate Wing Hospital will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 6.

Blood donations take approximately one hour to complete, including the interview, donation, and refreshments. To donate blood, donors must be at least 17 years old; weigh at least 110 pounds have a photo ID; be in good health (no colds, or sore throat); and have not donated blood within the past eight weeks.

In appreciation, all eligible donors will receive a \$10.00 gift card or a Big

E ticket while supplies last.

For more information or to book an appointment to donate blood please call the Blood Donor Center at 413-794-4600. Please be sure to note Baystate Wing Hospital as the location where you would like to make your donation when you make your appointment.

Why is there a constant need for blood donations and why are they so important? Blood donations can be lifesaving for many people facing health conditions or problems that might require a transfusion, some of these reasons may include cancer, trauma or injuries, operations, blood disorders, pregnancy, and birth.

## JHPL celebrates banned books

**STURBRIDGE**—Join the Joshua Hyde Public Library on Thursday, Oct. 4 at 6:30 p.m. at Avellino/The Duck, 502 Main St. Read any banned book and come to discuss it in a laid-back and relaxing atmosphere. Food and drink will be available for purchase. Registration is recommended. Books are available on display at the library.

From the American Library Association, Banned Books Week celebrates the freedom to read and spotlights current and historical attempts to censor books in libraries and schools. The theme for Banned Books Week 2023 is "Let Freedom Read." When we ban books, we're closing off readers to people, places, and perspectives. But when we stand up for stories, we

unleash the power that lies inside every book. We liberate the array of voices that need to be heard and the scenes that need to be seen.

ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom documented 1,269 demands to censor library books and resources in 2022, the highest number of attempted book bans since ALA began compiling data about censorship in libraries more than 20 years ago. The unparalleled number of reported book challenges in 2022 nearly doubles the 729 book challenges reported in 2021. Of the record 2,571 unique titles targeted for censorship, most were by or about LGBTQIA+ persons and Black, Indigenous, and people of color.

## Local businesses add flavor to the Big E

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
[rdrago@turley.com](mailto:rdrago@turley.com)

**WEST SPRINGFIELD** – When the Big E comes to town, it highlights the opportunity of getting to know the businesses in your communities.

Food and beverages are by far the most consumed products at the Eastern States Exposition (known as the Big E) as many local restaurants, breweries, farms and culinary artists offered up their work to thousands of people.

Inside the Massachusetts State Building on the Big E grounds was Common Ground Ciderworks of North Brookfield. The brewery set the stage providing delicious refreshments including cider and wine along with branded apparel showcasing the uniqueness of their brand.

Not only does Common Ground brew multiple flavors of cider, but it also brews seltzer, wine and beer. In addition, the Common Ground Brewery located at 31 East Brookfield Road also offers coffee.

Throughout their time at the Big E, Common Ground has gotten a lot of positive reception as Cindy Larson, owner of both Common Ground and Hitchcock Tavern in West Brookfield expressed the uniqueness of their local flair.

"It's a neighborhood thing," said Larson referring to the community based brewery that appreciates and supports everything local.

Having a popular selection of handcrafted hard cider, the one that stands out the most to the customers is the Apple Danish Hard Cider.

Enjoying their second year at the Big E, Common Ground Ciderworks has a lot lined up in the fall. On Saturday, Sept. 30, Common Ground will be hosting the Friends of the



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

**Common Ground Ciderworks of North Brookfield is featured in the Massachusetts State Building at the Big E, offering craft cider and more.**

North Brookfield Town House's Octoberfest fundraiser.

For Halloween themed fun, the brewery will be having a Spook Walk at the end of October.

Common Ground Ciderworks also supports local organizations including the Michael Pecha Cancer Fund.

Common Ground Ciderworks can be followed on Facebook and on Instagram or by calling 508-637-1059. A new website is in the making for the local brewery.

For a good meal while wandering the grounds of the Big E, a family-owned food truck, Macken's Specialty Sliders was the place to go. Based in Southwick, Macken's Sliders offer specialty sliders from beef, pork, chicken and vegetarian options.

Their food truck travels to various locations, including cities such as Springfield, Hartford, Connecticut and other locations in western Massachusetts. James Macken was running the food truck as they appeared at the Big E for their third year.

Macken and his family established the food truck business in 2016 and was motivated by a family celebration. The view of everyone's enjoyment while cooking on the grill sparked an idea in Macken's mind.

"I thought, how amazing would it be if I could make this into my career," said Macken.

Keeping it local, Macken's Sliders work with local suppliers to get their delicious burgers and their meats are 100% natural. The most common sites to spot Macken's Sliders are local breweries, festivals, parties, and corporate and private catering events.

The headliner of their menu was the legendary Bacon Waffle Cheeseburger. Ingredients include 100% all beef, applewood smoked bacon, topped with cheddar cheese between two Belgian waffles with sugar baked into the waffles. The burger was so popular it received an award for the number one new food to try at the Big E in 2021.

A portion of the proceeds from sales of Macken's Sliders merchandise is donated to Cystinosis Research. Macken's Sliders also offer discounts to active members of the military, police and fire departments.

To learn more about Macken's Sliders, visit them at [www.mackenssliders.com](http://www.mackenssliders.com) or call 413-273-7271.

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# Viewpoints

### MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Nickolas J. DiGregorio, Sr. aka Nicholas J. DiGregorio Sr. to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for EquiFirst Corporation, its successors and assigns, dated August 21, 2006, and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 16144, Page 324, subsequently assigned to U.S. Bank National Association as Trustee RAMP 2006EFC2 by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for EquiFirst Corporation, its successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 18764, Page 555 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at **1:00 PM on October 5, 2023**, at 1477 Dunhamtown-Brimfield Road a/k/a 1477 Dunhamtown Road, Brimfield, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit: The land on the easterly side of Dunhamtown-Brimfield Road in Brimfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts, known and designated as Lot 3A as shown on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Brimfield, Mass surveyed for Nickolas J. DiGregorio, Jr. and Owned by Nickolas J. DiGregorio, Sr." dated November 30, 2004, said plan being recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 335, Page 69, which plan is incorporated by reference herein and to which plan reference may be had for further description. The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.

**TERMS OF SALE:** A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's

check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. T

**TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.** Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, for Residential Asset Mortgage Products, Inc., Mortgage Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-EFC2 Present Holder of said Mortgage,  
By Its Attorneys,  
ORLANS PC  
PO Box 540540  
Waltham, MA 02454  
Phone: (781) 790-7800  
21-003151  
09/14, 09/21, 09/28/2023

**National Association**, said mortgage dated September 12, 2014 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 20424, Page 171, as affected by a Loan Modification dated June 7, 2016 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 21287, Page 50; as affected by an Affidavit dated March 2, 2023 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 24927, Page 586; said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Nominee for First Federal Savings Bank of Boston to U.S. Bank National Association by assignment dated September 18, 2015 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 20876, Page 399; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction on November 7, 2023 at 01:00 PM** Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:  
*The following real property situate on the southerly side of proposed street, known as "Christine Street" Town of Palmer, Hampden County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:*  
*Beginning at an iron pipe which is located S. 78 degrees 06 minutes E. a distance of four hundred thirty-six (436) feet from an iron pin in the Easterly line of Flynt Road and at the Northwesterly corner of land formerly of Albert L'Heureux, now believed to be of Stephen Stoneberger, all as shown on "Plan of Land in Palmer, Mass. owned by Charles T. Carter, dated August, 1957, Theodore P. Drazek, R.L.S." recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds, Book of Plans 70, Page 28; thence running S. 78 degrees 06 minutes E. a distance of one hundred fifty (150) feet to an iron pin; thence turning and running N. 18 degrees 54 minutes E one hundred fifty and no/100 (150) feet to an iron pin in the Southerly terminus of a proposed street known as "Christine Street" thence turning and running N. 78 degrees 06 minutes W along the line*

*of said proposed street one hundred fifty and no/100 (150.00) feet to an iron pin; thence turning and running S. 18 degrees 54 minutes W along land of Charles Carter et al one hundred fifty and no/100 (150) feet, more or less to the place of beginning.*  
*Together with the right in common with the Grantors and other, to use the proposed street, as shown on said plan for all purposes of travel.*  
*Bing the same premises conveyed to Randall E. Paxton from Nathan J. Smith, Jr. by deed dated 9/12/2014 and recorded on 9/12/2014 in the Register of Deed for Hampden County, Massachusetts in Deed Instrument 42258 Deed Book: 20424, Page: 168*  
*Also known as: 11 Christine St., Palmer, Massachusetts 01069*  
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 September 12, 2014 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 20424, Page 168.  
**TERMS OF SALE:** Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.  
**FIVE THOUSAND** (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.  
**Other terms to be announced at the sale.**  
Brock & Scott, PLLC  
1080 Main Street, Suite 200  
Pawtucket, RI 02860  
Attorney for U.S. Bank National Association  
Present Holder of the Mortgage  
(401) 217-8701  
09/21, 09/28, 10/05/2023

filed by **Nancy J Robinson of Monson, 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: **Nancy J Robinson of Monson, 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 10/18/2023.**  
**This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**  
**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
**A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an 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, H o n e.  
**Barbara M Hyland, First** Justice of this Court.  
Date: September 20, 2023  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
09/28/2023

breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at **2:00 PM on October 5, 2023** at 92 Wales Road, Brimfield, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:  
The land with buildings thereon in BRIMFIELD, Hampden County, Massachusetts, being further bounded and described as follows:  
The land being shown as Lot 4 on the westerly side of Wales Road, Brimfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts, on sheet 1 of 2 on a plan entitled "PLAN OF LAND, BRIMFIELD, MA, PREPARED FOR: JEFFREY L. PAULIN", dated March 26, 2004, drawn by Fancy Land Surveying, 3 Hastings Road, Spencer, MA and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book of Plans 333, Page 53 and Book of Plans 333, Page 54. Said Lot 4 containing 1.532 acres (66,750 +/- square feet) according to said plan. For title reference see Deed Book 22449, Page 128.  
The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.  
**TERMS OF SALE:** A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.  
**Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.**  
U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
Present Holder of said Mortgage,  
By Its Attorneys,

ORLANS PC  
PO Box 540540  
Waltham, MA 02454  
Phone: (781) 790-7800  
22-003513  
09/14, 09/21, 09/28/2023

**LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE**  
By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Dennis E. Wentworth, Jr. to Bank of America, N.A., dated February 26, 2010 and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 18203, Page 169 (the "Mortgage") of which mortgage U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust is the present holder by Assignment from Bank of America, N.A. to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its Individual Capacity but Solely as Owner Trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust dated December 23, 2022 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 24876, Page 264, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 37 Wales Road, Holland, MA 01521 will be sold at Public Auction at **12:00 PM on October 26, 2023**, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:  
The land in Holland, Hampden County, Massachusetts, with the buildings thereon, situated on the southerly side of Wales Road, more particularly bounded and described as follows:  
**BEGINNING** at the northwesterly corner thereof at an iron pin on the southerly line of Wales Road distant 138 feet easterly of a stake and stones marking the northwesterly corner of land now or formerly of Elmer R. Daigle et ux, at the intersection of Wales Road and Bennett Lane;  
**THENCE** easterly along the southerly line of Wales Road, 110 feet to an iron pin at said Daigle land;  
**THENCE** by said Daigle

land: southerly at right angles to the southerly line of Wales Road 200 feet to an iron pin; westerly on a line parallel to the southerly line of Wales Road 110 feet to an iron pin; and northerly 200 feet to the point of beginning.  
Being the same premises conveyed to the Mortgagor by Deed of Michael R. Ray and recorded immediately prior hereto.  
For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 18203, Page 167.  
The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.  
**Terms of the Sale:** Cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.  
**Other terms to be announced at the sale.**  
U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust  
Korde & Associates, P.C.  
900 Chelmsford Street  
Suite 3102  
Lowell, MA 01851  
(978) 256-1500  
Wentworth Jr, Dennis E.  
23-042935  
09/28, 10/05, 10/12/2023

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For a full job description please visit <http://quabbinhealthdistrict.com> for more information, or to apply for the position please send request or resume with cover letter to Administrative Assistant, Betty Barlow.

Email to [bbarlow@townofware.com](mailto:bbarlow@townofware.com) or mail to  
Quabbin Health District ATTN: Betty Barlow; 126 Main Street, Ware MA, 01082.

### Job Opening

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The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD23P1959EA  
Estate of:  
**Jeffrey Allan Robinson**  
Also Known As:  
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Date of Death: 01/27/2023  
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Contact name & phone number for more information \_\_\_\_\_

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# Palmer Public Library hosts presentation about eclipses

By Scott Senecal  
Correspondent

PALMER — The Palmer Public Library hosted a special presentation last Tuesday night about eclipses, explaining their causes and how to view them safely.

The presentation was given by Richard Sanderson, the adjunct curator of physical sciences with the Springfield Science Museum and president of the Springfield STARS Club. Each attendee was given a pair of glasses which have special lenses to block harmful light to make it possible to look at a solar eclipse.

Sanderson started the presentation by explaining the difference between a solar eclipse and a lunar eclipse.

"The whole earth can see a lunar eclipse when they occur because the Earth is what is block-

ing the light from getting to the Moon, causing a red glow," Sanderson said. "But a solar eclipse happens when the Moon blocks the light from hitting the Earth, and that shadow is a lot smaller, so only a small section sees the eclipse in its totality."

Sanderson went on to talk about his father's encounter with a solar eclipse right here in western Massachusetts back in 1925, and how his father instilled in him a desire to see an eclipse for himself.

After graduating high school, Sanderson traveled to Africa to see his first total eclipse in 1973. He shared pictures of his travels along with photos he had taken of the eclipse itself, explaining, "normally you have to travel to see an eclipse, it's rare for an eclipse to come to you. The last total eclipse in Massachusetts was in 1925 and the next total one

won't be until the 2070s."

Sanderson then shared photos of his trip to Tennessee to view the total solar eclipse in 2017. He said that this was his kids' first solar eclipse and that he was overjoyed at their enthusiasm.

Sanderson also shared a note his daughter had written saying how much she enjoyed seeing the eclipse, and that she would never forget the experience. He also shared his feelings of viewing eclipses, saying, "seeing the stars during the day is like being able to see into a forbidden world. It's a transformative experience that I'm glad I got to share with my children".

He then went on to explain how the path of totality works, saying that the majority of the United States saw a partial eclipse because the path of totality is only about 100 miles wide,

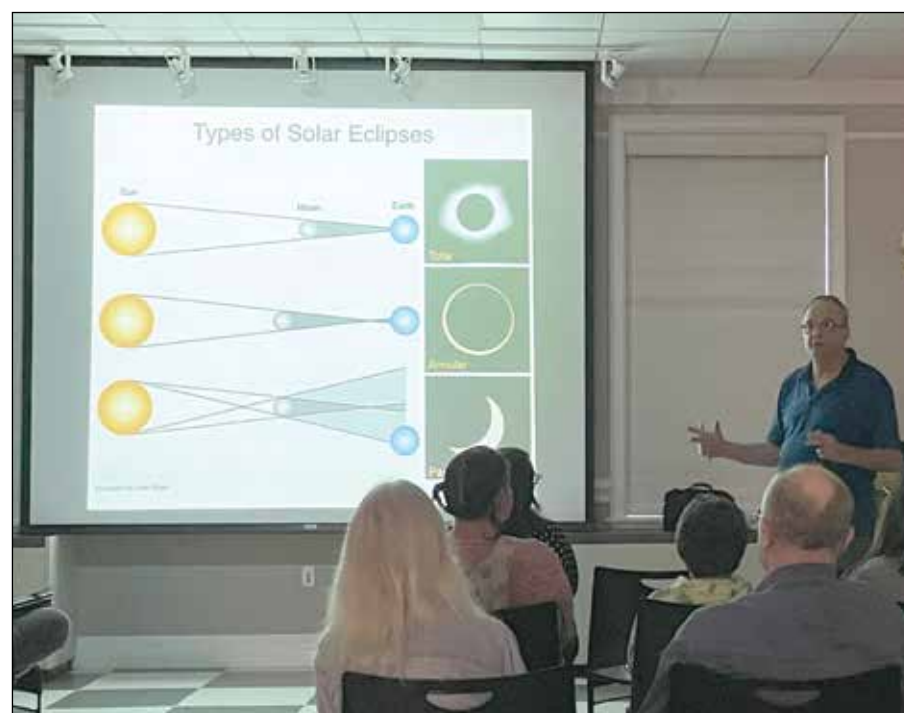
which is why he had to travel to see the total eclipse.

The next eclipse in the United States will be next month on Oct. 14. It will be what is known as an annular eclipse, meaning the Moon is further away and will not cause a total eclipse.

This one will only cover a small portion of the sun over Massachusetts. The next total eclipse will be on April 8, 2024, and the path of totality will be just north of Massachusetts.

The Springfield Science Museum will be having a viewing party for the annular eclipse next month.

For more information about this event visit [springfieldmuseums.org](https://springfieldmuseums.org). For more information about safe eclipse viewing visit <https://eclipse.aas.org/resources/solar-filters>.



Turley Photo by Scott Senecal  
Richard Sanderson explains the difference between total, annular and partial eclipses.



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## Country Bank recognized for charitable giving

WARE—The Boston Business Journal has named Country Bank an honoree in its annual 2023 Corporate Citizenship Awards, recognizing the region's top corporate charitable contributors.

The Business Journal annually publishes this list to highlight companies that promote and prioritize giving back to their communities.

"It is with honor that we present our list of the Top Charitable Contributors in Massachusetts, companies who gave \$100,000 or more to Mass. based charities in 2022. Collectively, they gave \$423 million in cash contributions, a true example of the business community coming together to help those in need. We are proud to celebrate these organizations who give both money and time to make our communities a stronger and better place for all," said Boston Business Journal Market President and Publisher Carolyn Jones.

During this year's celebration on Sept. 7, 100 companies qualified for the distinction by reporting at least \$100,000 in cash contributions to Massachusetts-based charities last year, as noted above. This year's honorees include companies from such industry sectors as financial and professional services, health care, technology, retail, and professional sports.

Country Bank, ranked 44th, employs 220 staff members within Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester counties. The Bank's team of Difference Makers actively promote the Bank's mission of making a difference in their communities by volunteering for various non-profits throughout the year.

"We are honored to be recognized by the Boston Business Journal for Country Bank's philanthropic efforts. As a community bank, it is our mission to help make a difference in the lives of others," stated Paul Scully, president and CEO at Country Bank.

## CB welcomes Demiri to the team

WARE—Country Bank is pleased to announce that Brunilda Demiri of Natick has joined its Auditing Division. Before joining Country Bank, Demiri worked as a Lead Auditor for the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. Demiri has over 14 years of experience in the industry and is currently a member of the Institute of Internal Auditors and the Certified Fraud Examiners Community.

"We are thrilled to welcome Brunilda to the Audit team; it was not only her background and experience with the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, but her specific interest in community banking and her personal commitment to community service make her a perfect fit for Country Bank. Her approach towards her role and building relationships internally has proven to be a winning strategy and aligns with our iSTEP Corporate Values of Integrity, Service, Teamwork, Excellence, and Prosperity. We are excited she's on our team, and we're pleased that she has chosen Country Bank as her Employer of Choice," stated Miriam Siegel, first senior vice president and chief Culture & Development officer, Human Resources.

"At the Federal Reserve Bank, I managed multiple audit teams responsible for some of the Fed's most complex and high-risk audit engagements," said Demiri. "Throughout my career, I have learned how impactful audit can be and look forward to providing valuable audit services and helping Country Bank stay ahead of risks that could impact the success of objectives and strategic initiatives. I have enjoyed getting to know the people here and look forward to continued partnerships and working together."

Demiri holds a Bachelor's in Accounting from Bentley University and is currently enrolled in Babson's MBA program. Brunilda is also a certified fraud examiner.

