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SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

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PALMER

School Committee reviews entry plan

By Dallas Gagnon
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PALMER – School Superintendent Matthew Francis revealed several short and long-term goals he has for the district during a comprehensive entry plan presentation shared with the School Committee.

The entry plan includes four primary goals, including gaining a better understanding of the Palmer Public Schools and community.

“We recognize that we have day-to-day crises that pop up, and my goal is to understand (the community), outside of those crises”, not just in the aspect of those crises,” said Francis.

Another goal Francis shared with the committee is to examine key issues that have affected the district in the past, make sense of how they were handled, and how they may continue to affect the district.

He added another goal is to identify tasks that should be achieved within the district and how to prioritize and accomplish them.

While he said these goals should be achievable within the next couple of months, the purpose of the entry plan is to really set “the stage for (fiscal year) 24-25.”

He said having “all of this work completed within the early spring, late winter,” as well as a plan to reference moving forward will allow the district to “enact the plan in 24-25.”

Some objectives Francis discussed in the entry plan include developing a set of norms with the School Committee, identifying procedures that will govern how the district operates in the future and determine issues the School Committee believes the district should focus on.

“After all this information is gathered from the School Committee over a three-four-five-year plan, we can begin to identify any potential initiatives we might have,” said Francis.

He said the entry plan process started in April shortly after he was named the incoming superintendent. This was when he started gathering information about the district.

“We’ve already sent out a caregiver survey, which roughly 500 caregivers already responded to,” said Francis. “We’ve already sent out a student survey as well. We have another student survey that will be coming out and another caregiver survey in regards to preschool.”

He said he tries to go through both schools, Old Mill Pond and Palmer High School, twice, every day.

“I use those interactions to gather information and have informal conversations with students, faculty and administration,” said Francis.

Action plans listed in the entry plan include documenting and reviewing all collected data, referencing policy manuals and former school improvement plans, handbooks and other records from previous years.

Student body

“In every formal presentation that I do, and even the formal presentations that I ask other directors or principals to do as well, we always start by going over who our students are,” said Francis.

He said it is important as “everything we do, every decision that we make” relates to what is in “the best interest of the students.”

Data shared during the Sept. 27, entry plan presentation is based on Sept. 1 samples. According to Fran-

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Chamber hosts final market of the season



Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon
Grace Ward and Bryson Busiere smile while selling maple syrup-based products during the event.

By Dallas Gagnon
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PALMER – Residents and neighboring community members gathered at Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School to participate in fall festivities and support local artisans, food trucks and businesses.

The Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce held their annual Holiday Harvest Festival, which is the organization’s last market of the season, on Saturday, Sept. 30.

While over 90 vendors signed up to attend the event, 66 were in attendance.

“On Friday people were helping set up in the pouring rain. It was ankle deep and sloshing,” said Chamber member Carol Seaver.

She said the team that helped organize the event was made up of all volunteers, who had begun marking spots for vendors to park in advance.

Although the field in front of the school was “a swamp,” Seaver said she and the volunteers reunited Saturday morning at 4 a.m. to reorganize the entire layout; moving the spaces from the field to the parking lot.

“(The volunteers) are so will-

CHAMBER | page 8

COMMUNITY

Bondsville discusses merging Water Districts

By Marcelo Gusmão
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BONDSDVILLE – As Palmer continues to manage its water system, the Bondsville Water District recently discussed how combining water districts will not be so easy.

David LaVallie has been working for the Bondsville Water District since 2010, where he serves as Chairman. He described himself as very proud to work with the Fire Department and alongside Bob Young and Richard Dranka.

“They’re both knowledgeable long-time residents, and they’ve got a lot of expertise,” LaVallie said. “We all bring something different to the table, and that’s what you want. You want a lot of expertise, as much as you can get.”

LaVallie explained how the Water Districts collaborate with each other, and how Bondsville works with its Fire Department.

“Our water distribution is based on fire protection, and on getting water to our residents. We have about 820 users right now; that’s including South Belcher-town.”

The town’s Water Districts were established around 1970 by the mills, which needed access to water and fire services in order to run. This improved living conditions for the residents and the mills’ employees, but when the mills left, the town chose not to take over the water and fire services.

“So, it was left to the people of the districts to decide what they were going to do,” LaVallie said. “And they decided to form Fire and Water Districts.”

According to LaVallie, the Fire and Water Departments are not paid a salary, but are instead made up of volunteers who receive a small stipend for helping the town run its essential services. LaVallie was adamant that the District does everything in its power to provide the best quality of water to its residents at the lowest possible cost.

“People don’t have a lot of money here,” LaVallie said. “Our Clerk, Steve Naga, got us into a program that will help people pay their water bill in this district.”

“The district is composed of the Fire Department and the Water Department,” LaVallie said.

WATER | page 15

MONSON

Jail Bail event to fund wreath-laying ceremony

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
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MONSON – In an effort to raise funds for Monson’s first Wreaths Across America wreath-laying ceremony, the Friends of Monson launched their first initiative in hopes of raising \$5,000 to support their cause.

The wreath-laying ceremony, which will take place in December, allows volunteers to place wreaths on the graves of veterans throughout town.

The Friends of Monson have selected the three largest cemeteries to have wreaths placed for veterans, with over 700 graves among Bethany, Hillcrest and Hillside cemeteries.

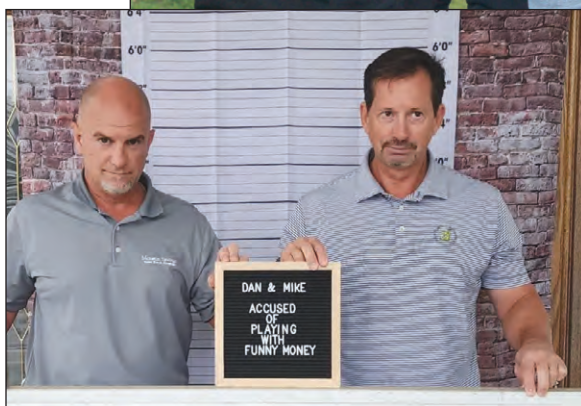
According to FOM Co-founder, Karen Davis, each wreath costs \$17, and the organization has signed up to receive \$5 back from every wreath purchased.

Davis and Co-founder Kristine Duval said, “We always feel that remembering our veterans and what they have done for us should be high on everyone’s list. We truly believe Monson also feels this way (and) WAA is



Turley Photo by Dallas Gagnon

Friends of Monson members Karen Davis and Kristine Duval are joined by Mat Wawrzyk, Peter Warren and Karen Davis for the 2023 “Jail Bail” fundraiser.



Submitted Photos

Monson Savings Bank Vice President Michael Rouette Sr. and CEO Dan Moriarty take a mug shot after being charged with “playing with funny money.”

a beautiful way for us all to come together to remember those we have lost.”

The fundraising kickoff began on Thursday, Sept. 28, at the gazebo on Dave Grieve Park.

Several residents and

business owners were “arrested” and charged with various “crimes.” Resident Mary Watson, acted as judge.

Among those “arrested,” was Watson’s dog, Stephen, who was

JAIL BAIL | page 16

RECREATION

ConCom discusses Quaboag River access points

By Dallas Gagnon
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PALMER – At a recent meeting, the Conservation Commission discussed a series of site visits conducted by commission members and Conservation Agent Heidi Mannarino, including potential kayak paddling access points along the Quaboag River.

“Myself and Andrew (St. George, Recreation Director), paddled from Water Street, to the field by Lavolette,” said Mannarino.

She said the purpose of this site visit was “essentially to identify areas for potential access,” adding that there may be grants available to help increase access to these parts of the river.

“We came to the conclusion both areas (Water Street and Lavolette Field) would be great,” said Mannarino.

CONCOM | page 3

MIGRANTS

State’s ‘right to shelter’ law causes strain for town

By James Russell
Correspondent

STURBRIDGE – Town officials say they are struggling to serve a mix of about 140 migrants and existing homeless people, who are being housed in local motels and hotels, and are part of about 20,000 homeless in Massachusetts. Gov. Maura Healey cited rising homelessness, including “rapid and unabating increases” in the number of migrants entering the state this summer, which caused her to declare a state of emergency on Aug. 8.



Ed Augustus



Gov. Maura Healey

The count for homeless school-age children is about 5,000, according to state officials, and about 40 school-aged children so far have been placed in Sturbridge, according to town officials. State education officials say their efforts now include “a focused look at what more can be done for

English learners.” On Aug. 31, the governor deployed Massachusetts National Guard soldiers to help the migrants.

Sturbridge officials allege the governor’s administration has not adequately communicated with them about the new arrivals, nor done so in a timely manner.

Local officials further claim the governor’s scramble to house families caught the school district by surprise. The municipal government lacks the resources to deal with the additional students, and has not been getting meaningful state guidance, which has left officials frustrated.

Healey administration officials say they are doing the best they can and appreciate Sturbridge’s efforts.

A spokesperson at the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities said in an email that the state is prioritizing finding fam-

ilies “a safe place to sleep at night as quickly as possible.”

The EOHLC is the lead agency coordinating the state’s response, with assistance from Massachusetts National Guard. The EOHLC Secretary is former Worcester City Manager and former state Senator, Ed Augustus.

“We work to provide local officials with notification, but due to the emergency nature that sometimes occurs just before or after families have been placed,” the

MIGRANTS | page 11

Pet of the Week



CLEO

This is Cleo! She comes from Morgantown, West Virginia! She currently lives at the Norcross Wildlife Foundation on Peck Rd. She is a grey tabby and loves to eat all kinds of plants. She loves to bathe in the sun and watch the birds from the window. 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.

Gardening workshop to be held on Oct. 13

WARE— Ware Grange's next gardening workshop, "Fall Tasks for Your Garden," will be held on Friday, Oct. 13, at 7 p.m. at the Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road. The presenter will be Roberta McQuaid, author of the weekly "In the Garden" column for Turley Publications. McQuaid will share many pointers for gardening tasks that should be accomplished each fall, including how to best overwinter our tender plants and bulbs inside, how and when to plant garlic and spring flowering bulbs outside, the best storage methods for winter squash, onions, and apples, and more. A door prize drawing will be held. Visit on Facebook or at waregrange.org for more information.

Corrections

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

Noonan Energy Corp. celebrates 50 years

By Dallas Gagnon
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PALMER — As a 21-year-old college student, Edward Noonan set his sights on continuing a family business and purchased his very own oil company.

Fifty years later, Noonan is celebrating a long and successful journey serving locals and supplying oil to the Palmer area.

"Over the years, the root of our success, without a doubt, is our loyal customers. We wouldn't be here without them," said Noonan.

While Noonan purchased his first company under the name "Palmer Coal & Oil," Oct. 1, 1973, he has acquired approximately 30 smaller companies over the years and changed the company name to Noonan Energy Corp. in the '80s.

The company has grown from just two delivery trucks and two employees servicing the Palmer area, to a total of 24 trucks and 80 employees; with branches in Springfield, Amherst, Palmer and Chatham.

"It's been an incremental growth," said Noonan.

According to Noonan, the original Palmer branch was located at 5 Central St., and allowed him to distribute about half a million gallons of oil a year.

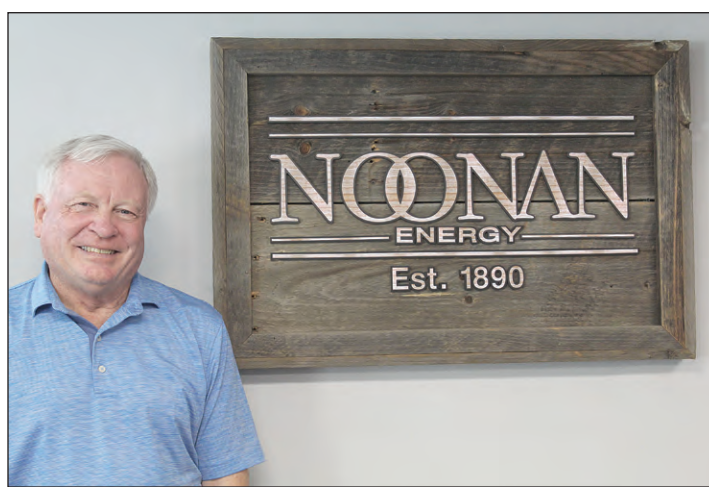
After purchasing his second oil company in 1978 in Monson, followed by two Palmer locations in the early '80s, the company's overall distribution increased to 2 million gallons a year.

However, Noonan said he first recognized how fast the company was growing after purchasing City Oil in Springfield in the mid '80s; which increased distribution from 2 million gallons a year to 7 million gallons.

Noonan said he believes the "local ownership helps employees and the growth of the business," as it allows businesses to "have a better grasp of what's going on in the community."

Being a Springfield native, a long-term Palmer resident and current Wilbraham resident, Noonan is engrained in the communities the company serves.

He credited a great deal of the company's success to long-term employees, some of which have been with the company



Turley Photo by Dallas Gagnon

Edward Noonan, founder of Noonan Energy Corp., is proud of his 50 years in business.

since the '70s.

"We come to work to do a good job for customers and employees," said Noonan. "It's been a good business to bring up family and for our employees."

Noonan said he decided to pursue the oil business at 21, as he was a young husband and father already familiar with the business.

"My dad had an oil company in Springfield when I was in college. As a kid, I would ride

with my dad and work part-time for him in high school," said Noonan.

He said this experience led him to gravitate toward following in his father's footsteps.

In 1984, things came full circle for Noonan when he purchased his father's company, allowing him to retire.

Noonan is a fifth generation oil businessman.

His great-great grandfather pioneered the family business with oil production over half

a century ago, followed by his great-grandfather who introduced an oil and ice operation.

He said the ice operation helped steady business in the summer months when oil purchases declined.

However, the ice production would later fizzle out with future generations, and oil would become the primary focus once again.

Today, Noonan's own children have joined the business, marking the sixth generation, with son Ted hailing the title of company president.

Noonan recognized the support of former "Palmer Coal & Oil" owner, Ralph Odneal, the mentorship by his father, loyal customers and dedicated employees for their contribution to the company's success.

"Mr. Odneal's confidence in me helped get me started, and my dad's mentorship was a big part of that (success)," said Noonan. "The large growth of the company and having family continue the business are some of my proudest moments."

To inquire about Noonan's Energy Corp. Services call 413-289-1777 or stop by 1488 N. Main St.



Presenting the town's oldest citizen with the Golden Cane, (from left) Todd Smola, Phil Christensen, Ryan McNutt, and Jake Oliveira.



Courtesy photos

Seniors over 90 had a birthday party with (from left) Jake Oliveira, Alice Smith, Todd Smola, and Ryan McNutt

Seniors over 90 honored by Senior Center

By Marcelo Gusmão
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Center invited residents over 90 years old to attend a joint birthday party.

For their 90th birthday, local seniors receive a certificate, and are invited to attend the annual 90+ birthday party,

which is regularly held at the end of September. Phil Christensen, who turned 104 on May 6 of this year, was presented with the Golden Cane, which is given to the town's oldest resident.

"We throw this party every year for them to come and celebrate their 90th and above birthdays," Lisa Jacques, the activities and volunteer coordinator for the Senior Center. "Phil

happened to be our oldest living resident who received the Golden Cane."

"He set himself a new record," said Shirley, Christensen's wife of 63 years. "He's going to be 117 now, because that's the oldest person in the world."

To honor his life, Christensen was awarded citations from the town, from the U.S. Senate, and from the House of Representatives, as well as a plaque with his name engraved on it that was presented to him by State Representative Todd Smola.

Christensen is a veteran from World War II and the Korean War. Christensen has used a hearing aid since, due to lack of protection while firing guns during the war, he lost total hearing in one ear, and half in the other.

In spite of this, his wife said "he's still healthy," and that there is "nothing critical wrong with him."

"I feel fine, what else could I feel?" Christensen

said.

Alice Smith also celebrated her 90th birthday this year, and was also given a certificate, while there were still more residents who received their citations from the town, but did not attend the party.

"The rest of them would've been turning 91 this year, because they would've gotten citations previously," Jacques said.

"We put this on to honor them," Jacques said. "It's not like a ten-year-old's birthday party where people come and run around and do all these activities. They come to eat, have their lunch, and...they get to socialize with people they probably haven't seen in a while."

Lunch for the event was salad, garlic bread, and spaghetti and meatballs, provided by Greater Springfield Senior Services. The party-goers were treated to marble birthday cake, and took pictures with town and state officials.

"We can't wait to see them back next year," Jacques said.

According to Christensen, the Golden Cane remains in Town Hall with the name of the town's oldest resident.

As advice to people who want to live to be 104, Christensen said, "the way to live this long is, don't die."

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The Journal Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.
One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.
The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

Silver Street Chapel and Community Center celebrates 125 years

Staff Report

MONSON – Silver Street Chapel and Community Center, located at 224 Silver St., will host a 125th year historical celebration program this Sunday, Oct. 8, at 1 p.m.
The educational, fun-filled program will offer a presentation of the area's historic homes, schools and mills.
The event will also feature choral music, sing-alongs and

period costumes as well as children's 1800s games.
According to a release shared by church members, the historic Silver Street Chapel, financed by local donors, opened in 1898 to accommodate the worshiping needs of the surrounding mill community "located too far from downtown Monson for easy access."
The community utilized the waterpower of the 12-mile brook for a variety of produc-

tion, including mills.
For those interested in learning more about the area's history and mills, Sunday's celebratory program will afford the community a chance to explore those topics further.
While the historic chapel is still used for occasional church services, over time it has become a community center for meeting, holiday pageants, weddings and yoga classes.
The program will include

a performance of America (My Country 'Tis of Thee, 1831), led by the First Church of Monson Choir, followed by the history of the Silver Street District; "a thriving 19th century mill community," and interesting 1800s song facts.
Attendees have the option of participating in a sing-along activity led by the First Church of Monson Choir, followed by the history of Silver Street Chapel and a plaque presenta-

tion for Richard Guertin, Silver Street Chapel Board president for over 25 years.
To learn more about the history of Monson and the Silver Street Chapel, visit 224 Silver St. this Sunday.
This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided at the end.
Please call Laura at 413-530-0964 for additional information about the program.

SCHOOL | from page 1

cis, October data will reflect fluctuation.
Current enrollment by gender indicates a total 523 female students, 582 male students and 0 non-binary students, with an overall total of 1,105 students within the district.
"That is slightly down from where we were last year as of October 1. We were at 1,130 (students) last year, so we're down, roughly, 30 students," said Francis.

Enrollment based on ethnicity revealed the district has a student body of 2% African American students, 2% Asian students, 18% Hispanic students, less than 1% Native American students, 72% White students, and 5% multi-race, non-Hispanic students.
"The one thing that we have noticed since 2018, (is) our Hispanic population has almost doubled," said Francis. "In 2018 we were roughly at 9%. We are currently at 18%, and that may be subject to change based off of our October statistics."

Additional groups include 6.4% of students whose first language is not English, 4.2% English language learners, 59.7% low-income families and 20.2% students with disabilities.
"I'm going to begin by introducing ML, which is multilingual. (According to) the federal government, we have to list them as English language learners," said Francis.

"The state last year started to shift by using a multilingual (ML) instead of ELL."
He added an "interesting" statistic is the 59.7% low-income result, "because if we hit that 60th percentile, we will be in decile number 10 which has a financial impact for the district."

A decile is one of 10 equal groups into which a population can be divided based on a particular characteristic.

Student report

Palmer High School student representative Madison Rathbone came before the committee sharing positive updates about the PHS student body.
"We started the new school year with everything going good," said Rathbone. "Our sports teams have been doing well."
The cross country team hosted their first home meet Sept. 26, which "went off without a hitch," as both PHS cross country teams achieved success, said Rathbone.
As of the Sept. 27 School Committee meeting, the PHS golf team's season record was 3-1, and the girls soccer record at 4-2 and 1.
Unified basketball kicked off their season in late September with games beginning the first week of October.

"A reminder for everyone moving forward, night games at Legion, as well as all basketball games will be online ticketing through Gofans.com; search Palmer High School on Gofans," said Rathbone.
She added the Student Council will "kick off the new year, having the Ware versus Palmer football game with the following of homecoming on Oct. 28, later that evening."

Leading up to homecoming, the school will host a "Proud of PHS Spirit Week," including a pep rally for all sports that Friday, Oct. 27.

On Dec. 2, PHS will also host its annual craft fair from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a Santa's breakfast from 8 to 10 a.m.
"As of this point, we already have 40 vendors," said Rathbone.

"Student Council will also be attending the fall conference in East Longmeadow this November," she said. "This will be a great event to work together with other Student Councils in the surrounding areas."

Monson Free Library temporarily closed for window replacement

Staff Report

MONSON – The Monson Free Library will be closed from Monday, Oct. 9, until Wednesday, Nov. 1 to replace 33 year old windows within the building.

The library will offer limited hours of operation for pick-up only, based out of the DeSantis Community Room, located in the older library space.

All October events, with the exception of SpookyTrivia, are canceled at this time.

Temporary operating hours are Tuesday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Wednesday, 4 p.m. - 7 p.m., Thursday, 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

These hours are strictly limited for picking up books, as the library is closed for public browsing.

According to a newsletter published by the MFL, the windows and the wood within the wing are over three decades old and rotting out.

The newsletter also stated the current windows leak on rainy days, "and well... it's been raining a lot!"

The cost of the project is said to be \$200,000 and will require a capital campaign to help raise the funds. While the costs of the project will not increase taxes, the MFL is a nonprofit organization that relies on community support.

The Library Association owns and is responsible for maintaining

the building, not the town.

According to the release, the town only covers the library's operating expenses which allows the organization to function as a public library and bring the community resources they "love and expect."

However, the town funding only accounts for approximately 75% of the MFL budget.

Since 2014, the MFL has purchased new boilers, carpeting, additional parking, a patio space and new front doors.

"You, the residents and businesses built this wing by donating over a million dollars for its construction during the last capital planning campaign in 1985."

Button Show being held on Oct. 21

THREE RIVERS—The Massachusetts Button Societies annual meeting and show will be hosted by the Crescent Button Club on Saturday, Oct. 21, at the Amvets Post 74 on Main St., from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The public is invited to attend the day's activities and to purchase buttons and button related items from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1:30 to 3

p.m. There will be no button sales during the break from noon to 1:30 p.m., as lunch, a business meeting, and program on Crown Buttons will take place.
Morning visitors will be treated to coffee and refreshments provided by the hosting clubs; bring a brown bag lunch, and desserts will be provided. There is no admission fee, and all are welcome.

Laughter Yoga at First Church

MONSON -- On Wednesday, Oct. 25, at 7 p.m., the Hearts Willing Club of First Church in Monson will present "Laughter Yoga" with Robert Rivest.

Laughter Yoga combines laughter exercises with yoga breathing moves. This combination of techniques reduces stress and improves mood.

Please join us at First Church in Monson for a repeat of this popular program. There is no cost to attend, it is open to all.

Town meetings schedule

PALMER

Town Council
Monday, Oct. 9; 6:30 p.m.
Town Hall

Palmer School Committee
Wednesday, Oct. 18; 6 p.m.

PRTVHS School Committee
Wednesday, Oct. 11; 6:30 p.m.

Conservation Commission
Tuesday, Oct. 17; 6:30 p.m.
Town Hall

Monson

Select Board
Tuesday, Oct. 10; 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 24; 7 p.m.
Town Office Building

Conservation Commission
Wednesday, Oct. 25; 7 p.m.
Town Office Building

Planning Board
Tuesday, Oct. 17; 7 p.m.
Town Office Building

School Committee
Thursday, Oct. 19; 7 p.m.
Quarry Hill Elementary School

Zoning Board of Appeals
Every fourth Thursday as posted.

CONCOM | from page 1

One concern about adding an access point at Lavolette Field was the challenge of walking up to a parking area.

"It might be a point that would discourage (people) from going there," said Mannarino. "Other than that, the river seemed very safe for paddling."

She said Water Street may be the better option as "it was very flat (and) very easy to pull your kayak over," adding that at Lavolette "you still have to climb the slope which is steep."

She said an access point at Lavolette has the potential to be more costly due to the slope and "some riff raff" at that location.

Another commission member asked Mannarino about

her experience launching the kayaks on the river, specifically at the Lavolette location.

"It was very easy," said Mannarino. "It was very overgrown at that time but because it's right next to the field it should be pretty easily mowed out by DPW."

She added that beaching at Lavolette was also simple because "it's very sandy."

She said "it takes you out before it gets a lot more intense on the river by the confluence so that's probably the ideal area."

She and St. George also checked out an area by a nearby bridge as there is public parking nearby.

However, Mannarino said that location was a "little concern(ing)" as there are some rapids in that area "when the water is high enough."

She said she and St. George are considering another paddle on the Quaboag River come spring to cover more ground.

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Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

How do disability programs affect Social Security's budget?

Dear Rusty

I read with interest an analysis of the history, reasons, and financial costs of the Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance programs. My question is, specifically, what portion of the Social Security budget goes toward SSI and SSDI vs. for regular SS retirement income for those who paid into the fund during their working lives? How are the costs of SSI and SSDI covered by the federal government? When did these two sections of the budget enter the law and what was the impetus behind them?

Signed: An Inquiring Mind

Dear Inquiring Mind

No part of Social Security's "budget" is used to pay Supplemental Security Income. SSI is a means-tested general assistance program for disadvantaged children and needy disabled adults and aged seniors who have very little income and very few assets. Federal SSI benefits are paid from the government's General Treasury, not from Social Security Trust Funds.

SSI is jointly administered by the person's state of residence and the Social Security Administration, and the state usually provides additional benefits to supplement the financial assistance provided by the federal government under the SSI program. The Social Security Administration only administers the SSI program, it does not fund it.

By contrast, Social Security Disability Insurance benefits are for employed Americans, who become disabled and unable to work full time. SSDI benefits are meant to provide limited income replacement for the disabled worker and those benefits are paid from a separate Social Security Disability Insurance Trust Fund.

The DI fund receives a portion (0.9%) of the FICA SS payroll taxes every American worker pays on their earnings and is used to pay disability benefits to eligible American workers, who are unable to perform "substantial gainful activity" for a year or more. The eligibility criteria to collect SSDI are very strict, but those approved receive their benefits from this separate DI trust fund, not from Social Security's Old Age and Survivors Trust Fund.

Payroll taxes collected for disability purposes are deposited in the DI Trust Fund as interest-bearing government bonds, and those DI assets are redeemed as needed to pay SSDI benefits. FYI, SSDI (disability) benefits stop when the person reaches full retirement age, at which point the beneficiary is automatically switched to regular SS retirement and after which their benefits are paid from the regular Old Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund.

"Regular" Social Security retirement benefits, spousal benefits, dependent benefits and survivor benefits are paid from Social Security's OASI Trust Fund, which receives most 5.3% of the 6.2% FICA Social Security tax withheld from the paychecks of American workers. As of the end of 2022, the OASI Trust Fund held about \$2.7 trillion in interest bearing government bonds.

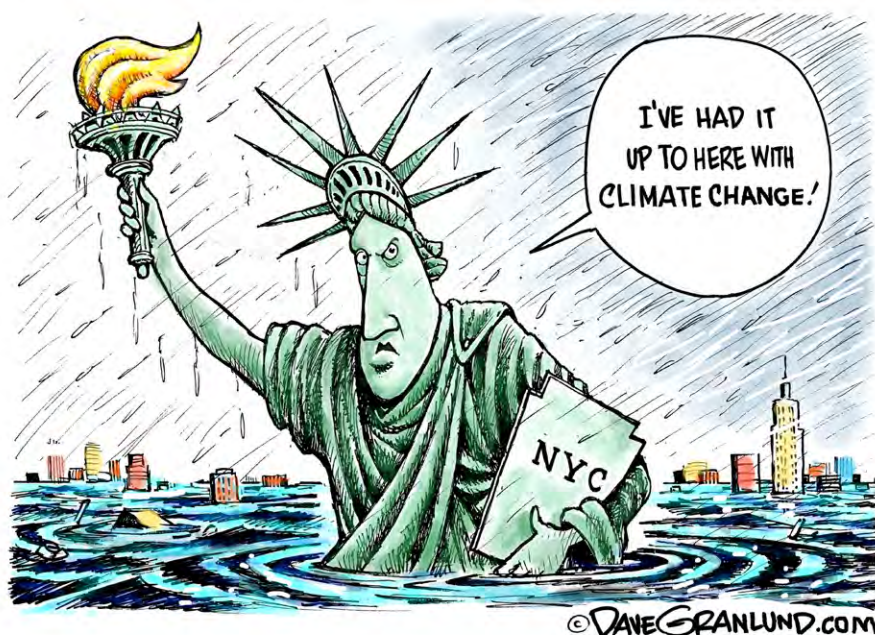
Neither SSI or SSDI affect this "regular" OASI Trust Fund - only true SS retirement benefits and benefits for dependents of the retiree are paid from the OASI Trust Fund. As an aside, Social Security reform is needed to prevent the OASI Trust Fund from being fully depleted in 2033.

To answer your last questions, the Social Security Disability Insurance Trust Fund was established in 1956, after which SSDI benefit payments to eligible disabled American workers began. Federal "Supplemental Security Income" assistance was codified into law in 1974. And, as you likely know, Social Security retirement, spousal and dependent benefits were enacted in the 1930s, before the first monthly Social Security check was mailed in January 1940. The impetus behind these programs? Avoiding poverty for the neediest among us. Without these programs, at least 22 million more Americans would be living below the poverty line.

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

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Letters to the Editor

Support proposed firearms law

Deaths from gun violence are increasing everywhere, including Massachusetts, which has some of the strongest gun laws in America. That's why a strong majority of Bay Staters support stronger and more comprehensive common-sense gun-regulations. Those concerns are behind HB 4420, "An Act Modernizing Firearm Laws," which would, "stem the flow of illegal firearms into the Commonwealth" by modernizing and reforming the state's gun laws.

This bill is not an assault on anyone's second amendment rights. Instead, it call for basic gun safety regulations that would protect all of us.

The bill would:

- require a police officer to conduct a personal interview with anyone seeking to apply for a gun license.

- prohibit anyone subject to a harassment prevention order or who poses a risk to public safety or themselves from obtaining a gun license.

- create a database that tracks guns used in crimes, surrendered, or taken by law enforcement.

- ban carrying a firearm while intoxicated.

- make explicit a prohibition on carrying firearms in schools, colleges, government buildings or any private place where a resident hasn't given consent.

- strengthen the tracking down of "ghost guns" and unregistered firearms.

The increase in gun violence is a complex problem which requires a comprehensive, yet common-sense response. Bay Staters are fortunate to have both available to us in An Act Modernizing Firearms Laws. Please call your legislators to urge them support it.

Crystal Kofke, Monson

What I know about Jumping Worms

I recently saw a comment on social media about a woman that had so many night crawlers in her yard she thought she'd go into the fishing bait business.

I question if she really had night crawlers or the Jumping, Dancing or Snake Worm.

This worm has been getting a lot of attention lately and for good reason. It is seemingly showing up everywhere!

Amyntas species are the worms that are a cause of concern. The common name of Jumping, Dancing or Snake Worm is logical due to the fact that these worms thrash about when disturbed; some would even call it violent slithering, hence the snake connotation.

But worms are a good thing, yes? Not in this case.

This particular type of worm differs from the European earthworms that we like to see in our garden, happily aerating the soil and leaving behind nutrient rich worm castings.

Invasive worms live in the first few inches of soil only and devour organic matter at an alarming rate, leaving behind large castings that look like coffee grounds or gravel but are devoid of nutrients and literally soil altering.

If you think about your tomato or marigold plant and the depth of their roots: what organic matter is left for the plant if the worm eats it all? Likewise, what is left for other, less aggressive worms. Not much.

This time of year, Jumping Worms are easily identified. First and foremost, look for their crazy movements.

If you suspect you have them, pick one up and examine the ring (clitellum). If it is about one-third of the way down from the worm's head, is smooth, whitish and goes all the way around the body of the worm, you've got them.

Earlier in the season the ring will not completely encircle the worm; identification then is a little trickier. Worms tend to be reddish-purple in color with a slight iridescence.

Unlike European earthworms, Jumping Worms do not survive the winter. Beginning in August and going into the fall months, they lay eggs (no mate needed!) in cocoons that do have the ability to overwinter.

The cocoons look like small, round soil aggregates. In a recent experiment where researchers looked at the effect of heat and cold on the cocoons, there is promise that heat will kill the eggs and young in the cocoon.

What does this mean for us? I think a lot about solarization and how to do

that effectively. One research document I read indicated that cocoons die at 104 degrees; worms at 85 degrees.

The recommendation was to lay clear plastic (1 mil thickness for a home garden) on the soil for at least two-to-three weeks or until the soil temperature reaches 104 degrees for three days. This is thin plastic, mind you, but it should be OK in most garden settings free from animal visitors.

Weighting it with would prove helpful for windy situations. Clear is better than black for this purpose.

There is little else pesticide-wise that experts are recommending to combat these pests. Hand picking the adults is an option.

The best way to combat them is prevention. Too late for some of us, but for those of you who do not have them or

have them in one part of your yard and not in another I can make some recommendations.

Be careful about garden inputs. Plants you pick up at swaps or from a friend may unknowingly

ly have cocoons in the pot.

Compost you bring in or move around your yard may affect areas that aren't infested. Make sure your compost pile gets hot, hot, hot!

Consider unused bait. A friend thought she was doing a good thing by releasing bait into her garden. In the spring the worms looked like average night crawlers, but they were simply immature invasive worms...talk about wanting to cry.

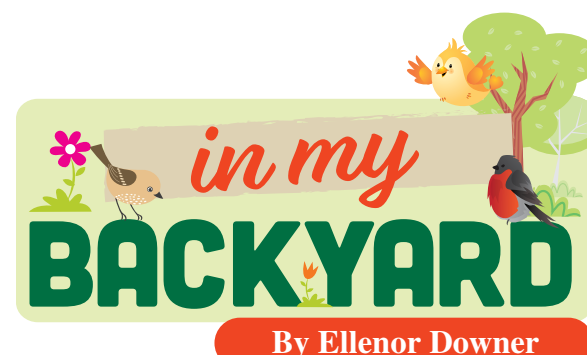
Since cocoons are in the first few inches of soil, think about your tools, tillers, shoes or wheelbarrows and such. Although the worms are bad for the garden, they are not poisonous to pets or other animals.

It's hard to look at this subject optimistically, but we gardeners are an optimistic lot.

Otherwise, would we do it all over again year after year despite blights and infestations, floods and droughts, early frosts or scouring heat? Of course, we will!

Maybe with a little more caution, but we certainly will.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



Northern harrier

I received an email about the sighting of a Northern harrier in Warren from a man who reports bird sighting for this column on a regular basis.

The Northern harriers is the only harrier in North America. Harriers are very distinctive hawks, with long wings and long tails. They are about 18 inches long. The male is gray above and white underneath and the female is larger than the male and brown above and streaked brown underneath.

They are usually seen flying low over the ground in open country. At close range, the face of Northern harrier resembles an owl. Unlike most hawks it may rely on its hearing like an owl to help it locate prey as it courses low over the fields.

Males tend to fly lower and faster than females. The female lays four to six pale bluish-white eggs in a platform nest of sticks and grasses placed on the ground. The female remains with young most of time at first and the male brings food and delivers it to female, who feeds it to young. After the young are about two weeks old, the female does much of the hunting for them.

They feed mostly on small mammals and birds. They also eat large insects especially grasshoppers as well as snakes, lizards, toads and frogs. May feed on carrion, especially in winter.

Ruby throated hummingbirds

Ruby throated hummingbirds still being seen. Pittsfield and Williamstown, Gill, Longmeadow, Amherst, Princeton, Petersham reported sightings to Massachusetts Audubon Society on Sept. 25 and Sept. 26.

Loon fact

The Loon Preservation Committee provides loon facts in a newsletter. Loons usually sleep on the water unless they are incubating a nest and loon cams captured nesting loons sleeping while incubating. To sleep, a loon will turn its head and rest it on its back, tucking its bill into its scapular feathers.

The newsletter said, "If you see a loon sleeping during the daytime, don't worry. Loons sleep in short bursts that may happen at any time, day or night." Daytime sleeping bouts tend to be a little shorter, averaging 14 minutes than nighttime one, averaging 24 minutes. Loons spend more time sleeping at night than they do during the day. When sleeping, loons tend to prefer open water, further from the shoreline.

Sightings Warren and Brimfield

Besides seeing a Northern harrier, a birder reported in an email two great egrets at a no-named pond on New Reed Street. He said, "On South Street at the pond with an osprey nest one juvenile, who fledged a few weeks ago, was still visiting the nest and perching in the tree with the nest. A second osprey had fledged from the nest and had left the area around the pond over two weeks ago."

He also said, "I did see two osprey flying high over the pond on New Reed Street. The birds were quite high, well above tree top level with one bird following a couple of hundred yards behind the first. They were too far away to tell if it was an adult being followed by a juvenile."

In another email, he said, "There was a flock of hen turkeys with some young. We have not see many turkeys near our property for a couple of years, probably because this area was had hit by sponge moths (used to be called gypsy moths) and we haven't had a decent acorn crop in several years. "He said there were about 20 birds in all with two different age groups based on the size of the young birds.

He said, "As I was watching a young gray fox appeared and that got the turkeys even more excited. I could see the fox moving around and the turkey were running back and forth, however it didn't seem as though the fox was stalking the turkeys. After several minutes a dozen of the turkeys flew away into the woods. I didn't see where the rest of the turkeys of the fox went."

The birder sent an email in mid-September and commented about how I like juncos. He said, "Juncos are harbingers of the coming change in seasons and my wife has the exact opposite reaction to their arrival that you do, 'oh no the juncos are back'"

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

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

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



Blanche, a 5 1/2 month old German Shepherd mix who had many things to say at Second Chance Animal Services' annual Cruise for Critters event.



Hannah, a 2-year-old golden retriever enjoyed the event with her person, Bill Prouseau.



Kimberly Palmucci is shown with two of her best-selling books about loveable pets.



Missy Croteau, the operator of Dusty's Treats, and her daughter, Amanda show off their all natural and nutritious toppers and treats for dogs.

Cruise for Critters

Animal shelter receives resounding support from locals

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer

MONSON – Westview Farms Creamery hosted Second Chance Animal Services for a fundraising event featuring vendors, live music, games and prizes and a raffle with prizes.

The event, which happened this past Saturday, Sept. 30, also had a truck with adoptable puppies and many people also brought their canine friends to enjoy the event and enjoy some treats with their humans.

The puppies available for adoption included Blanche, a 5 1/2 month old German Shepherd mix, Miss Lucy, an opinionated 5 month old Lab mix, and a sweet little 3 month old terrier with floppy ears named Dottie.

The three dogs were available

for adoption at the event, and you can also find other animals including cats, hamsters and rabbits to adopt at the various shelter locations.

The puppies' friend, Danielle Bowes, has worked for Second Chance for three years and has loved every minute of it. "It's a passion of mine to help these animals," she said.

Lindsay Doray, the coordinator for Second Chance at the event, wanted to express to the community the hardships that animals have gone through since COVID.

The adoption rate went up during quarantine, but after home rates and everything else went up in price, many families could no longer afford their animals, which filled the shelters back up. The shelters have been struggling and need help from the community to make donations and give these animals a home.

"I have been an employee for 13 years, before then I was a volunteer. It means the world to me to help people find a pet and keep that

pet," she said.

Doray hopes to reach out to the community with more fundraising events so these animals can get the care they need.

There is also a shortage of pet food and veterinarians are also needed across the state and country. Second Chance wants to emphasize to the community their need for donations of food and other needs for cats and dogs.

"Everything we do is happiness - to bring joy to families," Doray said.

Doray organized a vendor fair in order to raise money and awareness, but to her, it's all about the animals. Second Chance wants people to adopt and experience the joys of having a pet to add to their family.

One vendor pair that shares Doray's love for animals and wants to support them are new business owners Jackie O'Keefe and Bailey Tatro. Their business, which is new, sells bags, hats and cup cozies with original designs.

Their items can be used by a new dog owner, who can wear a

baseball hat for sunny or rainy days, use a cup cozie to keep their drinks warm or cold, and use a bag to carry all that you need for your new puppy friend.

For the readers out there, Kimberly Palmucci brought her books about pets, both chapter books and a children's picture book, and donated towards Second Chance with each of her sales.

"This organization does fabulous work on behalf of our community," Palmucci said. Her latest release, "The Door to Fur-Ever" tells of the joys of adoption - tissue box required.

Of course, a new dog in your family needs treats. Owner and operator of Dusty's Treats, Missy Croteau, and her daughter, Amanda, have homemade toppers for kibble and treats made out of all-natural human-grade ingredients that serve to boost the nutrition of your dog's meals.

Whether you are a cat person or a dog person, always remember that you are that animal's life and person. They are a commitment and an



Best friends Jackie O'Keefe (left) and Bailey Tatro (right) had their first fair set up for their new business.

invaluable addition to your family. Reach out to Second Chance today to see the many cats, dogs, and other animals up for adoption. Give these animals the second chance

they deserve, and if you can't, consider donating so they can fund their fur-ever home.

Westfield Homeless Cat Project in need of donations

WESTFIELD— Westfield Homeless Cat Project is holding adoption clinics every Tuesday from 5 to 7 p.m., Wednesday from 1 to 4 p.m., Thursday from 3 to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m. at 1124 East Mountain Road. WHCP is also seeking wonderful foster families willing to provide loving temporary homes to our wonderful cats and kittens during their stay. For more information, please contact Denise at denisesinico@hotmail.com.

WHCP is urgently seeking volunteers to help organize and manage tag sales at our 1124 East Mountain Road location. If interested, please contact Denise at denisesinico@hotmail.com for more information. WHCP will also begin collecting gently used household goods and furnishings for upcoming tag sales in the near future. Please follow the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/westfieldhomelesscatproject for more information regarding donation drop-off and tag sale dates.

With the cooler weather approaching, WHCP anticipates a dramatic increase in requests for assisting homeless and abandoned cats which creates an urgent need for monetary donations and supplies. At this time WHCP especially needs the following items: cans of KMR Replacement Milk for Kittens Stage I, towels, small blankets, potty pads, paper towels, bleach, cat and kitten food*, kitten feeding bottles, facecloths and warming discs as well as canned Friskies and Fancy Feast and Royal Canin Baby Cat and Mama and Baby Cat formulas. Monetary donations would also be most appreciated. Donated items can be sent to or dropped off at 1124 East Mountain Road at any time. WHCP

thanks the community for their support. Every day is laundry day here at WHCP and are seeking individuals who can assist with washing tow-

els and small blankets and throws. Dirty laundry can be picked up at any time at 1124 East Mountain Road.

What to know about HSAs and FSAs

Paying for health care can be challenging — but are you taking full advantage of all the resources available to you? You might have access to a Health Savings Account (HSA) or a Flexible Spending Account (FSA), so let's look at both.

An HSA is a personal savings account used to pay health care costs. If you're enrolled in a high-deductible health plan, you also may be eligible to contribute to an HSA. You aren't taxed on the money you put into this account or on the earnings generated from your contributions, as long as withdrawals are used for qualified health care costs such as deductibles, copayments and coinsurance. And there's no "use it or lose it" provision with HSAs — the money stays in your account until you use it. In fact, you can carry your HSA with you all the way until retirement, when you can use the money to pay for qualified expenses that Medicare or Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) doesn't cover. In 2023, you can contribute up to \$3,850 to an HSA, or \$4,850 if you're 55 or older; for family coverage, you can put in up to \$7,750.

It's important to keep in mind that your HSA's tax benefits only apply when your withdrawals are used for qualified health care costs. If you use the money for non-qualified expenses, it is considered taxable income, and you may also face a penalty of 20% on the amount withdrawn. However, once you turn 65, you can use your HSA funds for any purpose without a penalty, though the withdrawals will still count as taxable income.

Now, let's turn to the Flexible Savings Account. An FSA may be available to you if you get health insurance through your employer. And because you fund your FSA with pretax dollars, your contributions can reduce your taxable income. (In 2023, you can contribute up to \$3,050 to an FSA.) Your employer may also choose to contribute to your FSA. Once your account is funded and active, you submit claims with proof of your medical expenses, along with a statement that these expenses aren't covered by your plan, and you can be reimbursed for your costs.

It's helpful to have a good estimate of your yearly medical expenses for a Flexible Savings Account. That's because an FSA generally needs to be spent before the end of the plan year — if you don't use all the money, you can only carry over some of it and any remaining balance is forfeited. (You can carry over up to \$610 from 2023 into 2024.)

You can't contribute to an HSA and a traditional FSA in the same year. But if you have an HSA, you might be able to use what's known as a Limited Purpose Flexible Spending Account (LPFSA) for dental and vision expenses. You'll need to check with your plan to see if this option is available.

Managing your health care expenses should be a key part of your overall financial strategy — so consider putting an HSA or FSA to work for you.

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13th World Fright Park returns to Palmer



Enter if you dare, 13th World Fright Park returns to Palmer for the Halloween season of 2023.



The Brimstone tavern is located in the midway of 13th World offering horror themed beverages.



The park features a merchandise store with portraits, candles, masks, hoodies, and horror ornaments.

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

PALMER – It's the time of year to get scared as the fright park known as 13th World returns.

This is the second year 13th World has come to Palmer and is ready to embrace the Halloween spirit with their horror style.

Still fairly new to the scene in Palmer, 13th World is originally based out of Rhode Island. Owners, Rich Vaillant and Zeke Fortier have been utilizing the fright park for over 20 years.

The idea of 13th World sparks from the Halloween spirit, but with a more horror-based atmosphere applied to it. The park features a tour that takes frightened visitors through 13 different universes with

themes related to horror classics. The familiar horror themes that inspired some of the attractions of 13th World include the Halloween movie series, "Stranger Things", and "The Nun". The worlds are utilized in the form of a walking tour that is full of fright and exhibits locations that can be easily classified as horror settings.

The worlds include an abandoned school building, a sawmill, slaughterhouse, swamplands, a hospital, and an "I scream" creamery.

If the scenery wasn't terrifying enough, the 13th World has a crew that adds to the fear of the park.

More than 70 actors are part of 13th World and bring the scare factor to the tour.

If you're brave enough to interact with the actors, 13th World offers a spooky deal that occasionally hap-

pens on the walking tour. The special is known as the Touch of Fear.

Visitors can get a special necklace to wear indicating that it is okay to be touched by the characters during the tour. There are some sequences in some of the worlds where a walker on tour can be grabbed as if they're in a suspenseful scene in a horror film when the victim is attacked.

One year, a lot of patrons bought the Touch of Fear necklace, but many soon realized how much scarier it is an addition to the fright park tour.

According to General Manager of 13th World, Daren Bradway, more than 60 people who bought a necklace initially had learned how scary the touch of fear factor would be on the walk. Therefore, they took the necklaces off and wanted nothing to

do with the touch of fear element.

After surviving the 13th World fright tour patrons can return to the midway and enjoy the festivities and other main attractions offered by the park.

Another scary attraction that is in the midway is the Alone course. Enter the long maze alone and encounter scary features in the dark.

For refreshments, the outdoor Brimstone Tavern is there to serve. Much like the tour, the beverages are horror themed as well.

Adults can enjoy the refreshments of a murderitas, witches brew, vampire blood, a poison apple, and a skull crusher. Before your entrance or exit, don't forget to stop in for some merchandise.

Portraits, candles, masks, and horror ornaments are some of many unique items you can purchase at

13th World Fright Park. Hoodies of 13th World are popular pieces of merchandise and indicate how great of an experience visitors can have at the park.

"We want the gift shop to be an experience for those who visit the park," said Vaillant.

The creators behind 13th World Palmer expect more than 10,000 visitors this season and hope to expand more features to the park for future seasons.

One of those features is live entertainment. Currently, a DJ booth is performing while visitors arrive at the fright park.

Bradway is in his first year as general manager of 13th World and enjoys the atmosphere of Palmer.

"It's so good to be in this place. It gives people something to do in Palmer," said Bradway.

The park always enjoys bringing aboard new cast to play the characters to add to the scare factor. In Bradway's eyes, the actors are creative in how they want to portray their characters.

"For the actors, you make the part," said Bradway. "Actors have their chance to produce themselves."

During their time in Palmer, 13th World Fright Park will be featuring a "no actors" night on Thursdays, Oct. 19 and Oct. 26. The two days are a great opportunity to take pictures of the tour.

The opening night for 13th World was Sept. 30 and goes on every Friday, Saturday and Sunday until Saturday, Nov. 4.

Enter if you dare, 13th World Fright Park is located at 1701 Park St.



For memories, take photos while visiting 13th World and prove you survived the fright park.



The sawmill is one of the 13 horror worlds you will experience on the tour of the park.



Tickle Time Creamery is sure to give you a thrill.



The convent world is inspired by the new horror film the "Nun". 13th World utilizes the convent as well.



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HWBSL offers family fun at annual Fall Fest



Back row, shown from left to right, are Holland Fire Department Lt. Berg, Lt. Monroe, Capt. Mullen, Lt. Tetreault, EMT Becky Heath, Medic Miranda Heath, Firefighter Tyler, Firefighter Rivera, Deputy Chief Daniel Maudsley and Chief Gagne. Front row shown from left to right are Firefighter Tetreault Jr., Auxiliary Tetreault, Firefighter Dufresne, Firefighter Colangione, Deputy Chief Gagne, dog Bailey, department Administrator Felicia Witt and Firefighter Phillips.



Holland Wales Baseball Softball League members shown here are from left to right, in the back row, are Andy Sakska, Matthew Greene, Nathan Canty, Stephanie Canty, Maddy Sakska, Brianna Breor and Michael Breor. Front row, from left to right, are Ryder Sakska, Kelcie Greene, Carter Breor, Gavin Canty, Jameson Canty and Landon Breor.

Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon



Brothers Jayden Storm and Damian Maham share a photo after getting their faces painted and enjoying the evening's festivities.



Kemper Rico sits still while she gets her face painted at the second annual HWBSL Fall Fest.



Adrianna Fogwill is one of many attendees to enjoy face painting.



Holland residents Meghan and Josue Sierra share a photo while their kiddos play with friends, enjoy the food trucks and free family-friendly activities.



Sharon, Justin and Josie Jacobson smile for a three-generation family photo.



Piper Calabro is shown sporting a pink butterfly face painting.

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
dgagnon@turley.com

HOLLAND – Friends and family joined the Holland Wales Baseball Softball League in an evening filled with live music, food, beverages and affordable fun during the organization's second annual Fall Fest.

The event featured free activities including a bounce house, gaga ball, cornhole and face painting, followed by a bonfire and a screening of the "Super Mario Brothers" movie.

HWBSL mom Brianna Breor said

the event's "primary goal is to give people a local option," to enjoy something "family oriented, and right up the street."

In addition to offering the community an event close to home, the Fall Fest also granted the community an opportunity to support local youth sports through donations and optional paid activities such as raffle baskets and a 50-50.

HWBSL Vice President Candice Greene said she has two children in the program and believes youth sports "is an important foundation to grow off of."

She said youth sports allow children to develop skills such as "team building, looking out for one another (and) work-

ing together to achieve a common goal."

She added she grew up in Holland and "going from a player to a coach, it's nice to see the league evolve."

In the last few years, the league experienced a complete board transformation.

"We're trying to rebuild here," said Greene. "We are a small community to begin with, so doing something for the community is important to me."

She recognized the league volunteers, adding "without them, we wouldn't have a program."

Breor thanked the Holland and Wales police and fire departments for

their support and volunteering their time to attend the event.

Holland resident Meghan Sierra said "it's important to bring things like this to the community for families because we want to continue to carry on the things we had to the next generation."

Resident Ashley Calabro said she is "grateful to be a part of a community that comes together to support each other."

Breor said there were more people in attendance at this year's event than last year, adding the league is "always open to donations," and thanked "everyone who donated, however big or small."



Matt, Jaxson, Sherrie and Scarlett Farrar are all smiles as they spend time together during the second annual Fall Fest.



Many attendees were happy to participate in "gaga ball," with some coining the game as "the new fad."W

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Harper and Zachery Goddard, Brianna Petrides, Alyssa Richardson-Duff and Brady Copper share a family photo during the Chamber's final market of the season.



J. Stolar Insurance Agency staff and family volunteer to host the Palmer Food Share booth. Shown are Kate and Jazz Miller, Danielle Collins, Rachael Labrie and Grace and Renee Niedzela.



Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon
Cyndy Rymer and Jeana and Dana Jensen enjoying market festivities.



Ruth Higbe-Harrah, of Chicopee, is accompanied by several large bunnies while strolling through the market.



DyAnne Barbee, of Chicopee, shares a photo with Palmer resident Robert Lipscomb while hosting a booth. Barbee sells handcrafted jean purses.



Mark Kortekamp, of Monson, sells handmade, wooden kitchenware



Mother-daughter duo Alicia and Anneliese, of Chicopee, share a photo at the market.



Local vendors, Jean Stokowski and Nancy Greenwood, sell handcrafted jewelry at the market.



Monson natives, Joanie and Howie Tuber, are joined by Joan Watson while selling pottery.



Palmer Police Department officers were in attendance to support local artisans, food trucks and businesses. Shown are School Resource Officer Nate Pagan, Patrolman Ian Curtiss and Sgt. David Burns.



Attendees wait in line to order seafood from Cousins Maine Lobsters.



Infused syrups, candies and spices were available for purchase at Bryson's booth.

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**
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Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce members Carol Seaver and Lorraine Wisniewski are all smiles as they host the Chamber's booth alongside a furry friend.

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CHAMBER | from page 1

ing to show up and help. It's great people are willing to do that for the town to be able to do these things," said Seaver.

She said the Mass Cultural Council awarded the Chamber \$2,500 to support the festival, covering live entertainment and bathroom rental costs.

Due to the field conditions, live music was not able to perform as originally planned.

Seaver said an important aspect to continuing hosting these events is that

"you hear all the time there is nothing to do here," and Chamber events help change that narrative.

"There were four girls here from Westfield and two more girls from Westfield across from them during the event," said Seaver.

"It's neat how these events have grown. We are bringing in vendors from all over the place to our little town."

She added people tend to look forward to Chamber events, as they offer something for locals to do within the community and an opportunity to see different vendors.

"Not only do they get to see Palmer, but we get to see what other places have to offer," said Seaver.

She said that although the Chamber used to accept any vendors interested in participating, the Chamber has become more selective.

The Chamber focuses on promoting local businesses and encouraging economic prosperity.

Limiting the amount of vendors offering similar items helps deter too much competition and prioritizes quality products, said Seaver.

She added that while the Holiday Harvest Festival was the last market of the year for the Chamber, they will host a Christmas on the Common event in December.

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SOCCER

Mustangs remain perfect



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Kendall Bodak follows through as she sends the ball deep.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

MONSON— Hopkins Academy and Monson were two of the remaining unbeaten girls' varsity soccer teams in Western Massachusetts entering the final week of September.

The Monson Lady Mustangs began October with a perfect 8-0-0 record following a 7-0 non-league victory over the Hopkins Academy Golden Hawks at Larry Tassinari Field, last Thursday afternoon. "We were a little bit nervous coming into today's match because we had never faced them before," said Monson senior co-captain Ciara Monaghan, who's a midfielder. "It's very exciting to still be undefeated, especially since this is my final year playing soccer for this team."

The last meeting on the soccer pitch between the two squads took place in 2015. Monson also posted a 7-0 victory in that contest.

When the MIAA released the initial state tournament power rankings last Friday, Monson was the top ranked team in Division 5. The Lady Mustangs outscored their first eight opponents of this season, 52-2.

"All of these girls play the game very hard and they're a lot of fun to be around," said Monson assistant varsity coach Larry Pagliaro. "Our main goal this year is to win a state championship title."

Pagliaro, who previously coached the junior varsity soccer team, took over the reins from long-time varsity coach Eric Degan, who's sidelined with a health issue, which isn't COVID related.

"Eric is an outstanding soccer coach and I've learned a ton from him," Pagliaro said. "He texted me the scouting report before the start of today's game. I just relish this opportunity to coach this soccer team."

A day before facing Hopkins Academy (5-1-1), Monson made a trip to Central Mass. During the Lady Mustangs 4-0 victory at Douglas High School, sophomore forward Hannah Murphy scored her 100th career varsity goal.

"It was very special to share that moment in yesterday's game with my teammates. They really helped me get to this point," said Murphy, who recorded her fifth hat-trick of the regu-

MUSTANGS | page 10

SOCCER



Cady Hurd attempts to make a play

Panthers remain winless with defeat to Franklin Tech



Brooke Swistak looks to inbound the ball from the sideline.

PALMER – Last Tuesday and Wednesday, the Palmer field hockey team suffered consecutive losses. The Panthers lost to Franklin Tech 6-0, but the following day, had a great effort on the road falling to Amherst just 1-0. The Panthers are now 0-5 on the season. They hope to turn things around on Tuesday, Oct. 10 at Holyoke at 6 p.m.

Ellie Gelinias tries to play the ball.



Natalie Hull attempts to shoot by an opponent.



Hannah Murphy fakes a Hopkins player as she tries to make a pass.



Lynzie Bailey winds up for a big shot on goal.



Chelsea Hull tries to slip a quick pass to her teammate, Lynzie Bailey.

Pioneers keep winning

PALMER – With the exception of a setback in their season opener, Pathfinder boys soccer has kept on winning. The Pioneers defeated Hampden Charter last Wednesday 10-1 followed by a 1-0 win over Smith Vocational. With a number of postponements last month, the Pioneers still have a lot of games yet to play in October. The Pioneers head to Franklin Tech on Friday, Oct. 6 at 4 p.m.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Seth Mitchell tries to steal the ball for the Pioneers.



Basem Yaseen looks for an opening to pass.



Seth Mitchell readies a long throw-in.



Eldi Arroyo fights for possession.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Offensive struggles continue for Monson

MONSON – Last Wednesday afternoon, Monson boys soccer fell 2-0 against Mahar Regional at home. It marked the seventh time this season Monson scored one goal or less in a game. The Mustangs would also lose on the road at Northampton 4-0 last Thursday. The Mustangs attempt to get things going at Holyoke on Friday, Oct. 6 at 4 p.m.

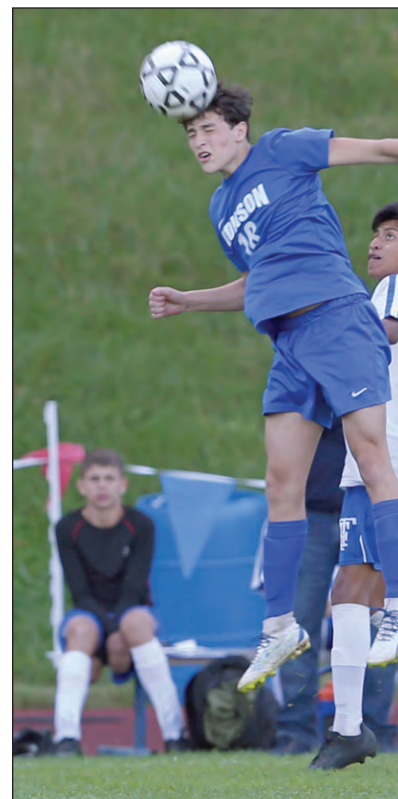
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Colin Beaupre rushes up the field.



Anthony Tulloch tries to fire a shot.



Sebastian Nava gets a header.



Kyle Beaudry tries to settle the ball.

A BLAST FROM THE PAST:

Palmer's longest running bowling league rolls on

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

PALMER – For nearly a century, the town of Palmer has offered the retro candlepin bowling alley.

Currently going by the name, Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes, the basement bowling center features league bowling, open bowling, birthday parties, the club car bar, arcade, and jukebox. A unique part of its history is the prolonged existence of one of its original bowling leagues dating back to nearly half a century.

The Monday night men's league in Palmer has been the longest running candlepin bowling league in the bowling alley's existence. What's unique about this everlasting tradition is that some of the participants in the league have been part of the journey since day one.

President of the league, Cliff Hutchinson, originally from Wilbraham, has been bowling at the Palmer bowling alley for about 40 years. The league for years and still to this day consists of residents mostly from Wilbraham and originally featured community members and local businesses of the town making up the teams.

At one point, the league was called the Wilbraham Men's Bowling League. Going back to the 1990s, the men's league would pour in immediately after

the Monday Night Ladies League finished up.

According to Hutchinson, the league has always been a men's league and this current season has been one of their best seasons in several years. A total of eight teams to



A Journal Register article from 1995 saved by Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes documenting the Monday night men's league, featuring first league president, Everett Warner.

take up all eight candlepin lanes consisting of over 30 bowlers.

The league itself had not originated in Palmer, but at the bowling center in Indian Orchard. According to Kurt Warner, league member and childhood friend of Hutchinson, his father Everett Warner had started the league and served as president of

the league for many years.

"The league originally bowled at the Indian Orchard bowling alley," said Warner.

He's not certain when exactly the alley closed, but believes that the league found its new home in Palmer sometime in the 1970s.

Warner and Hutchinson have bowled together since high school and would join the league as teenagers while Warner's father ran it. Not only is it a blast from the past for Diamond Junction to host their longest running league, but a blast for Hutchinson and Warner.

Over the years, the two childhood friends would be reunited with other school classmates as they joined the league. There are 11 former classmates bowling together on Monday nights in Palmer. Bowling is also in the family as Hutchinson's brother, Kent Hutchinson bowls in the league with him.

Keeping the history of the alley archived is the current owner of Diamond Junction John Havens Sr. and his family.

Connecting to the past, Havens found an old newspaper article from the Journal Register that was published in 1995. The story highlights the original owners of the lanes, the Midura family, and documents some of the leagues, including the current Monday men's league.

The cutline underneath the photos features the lanes and displays of achievements behind the

owners and bowlers at the time.

"Bowling is all in the family. The father and son team of Stephen and Ron Midura, who own and manage Palmer Bowling Alleys, stand in front of numerous bowling trophies with Everett Warner, president of the Wilbraham Men's Bowling League", written by Justin Doyle in his article titled "Palmer Bowling Alleys is a blast from the past", who also took the photos.

Hutchinson currently serves as president of the Monday men's league. He took the role in 2006 after Everett Warner.

Serving as treasurer of the league is veteran bowler, Frank Jazab. One of the original bowlers in the league, Jazab has been bowling candlepins in Palmer since the 1970s and had been the league's treasurer for 15 years.

Other veteran bowlers still competing on Monday nights are Lester Dutka and Tony Lengowski.

The name of the bowling center may have changed through the years, but the atmosphere of Monday nights will continue to thrive in the downstairs bowling alley.

Rolling the ball down rock maple alleys, knocking down solid plastic pins, and being in the company of veteran bowlers is all part of the unique history of the Monday night men's league in Palmer. The tradition continues under the watchful eyes of Hutchinson, Warner, Jazab, and Havens.

Owls hold on for first victory

WESTFIELD – Westfield State's Max Margeson (Littleton, Colo./Mullen HS) and Alec Rodriguez (Westfield, Mass.) combined for a memorable interception return play for a touchdown to lift the Owls to a 17-10 win over Massachusetts Maritime Academy at Alumni Field on Saturday to bring a happy conclusion to Family and Champions Weekend.

Margeson delivered a perfectly timed hit on MMA wide receiver Andrew Brightman (Wareham, Mass./Upper Cape Tech) to jar loose the ball on a catch, with the ball pinging directly to Owls' linebacker Rodriguez for the interception at the MMA 32-yard line. Rodriguez returned the ball a couple of yards before Brightman snagged him by the ankle, and Rodriguez handed the ball off to Margeson, who rambled 30 yards through traffic for the touchdown to give Westfield a 17-10 lead with 9:07 left in the third quarter.

The Owls hung on down the stretch for the win, improving to

1-4 on the season and 1-2 in the MASCAC. MMA slips to 1-3 overall and 1-1 in the league.

The two teams traded salvos in the first half, with the Buccaneers getting on the board on their first drive of the game with a 7-play, 73-yard march that was capped by a 29-yard TD pass to Brightman on deep post route completion from quarterback Marc Murphy (Norwood, Mass.).

Westfield answered on their first drive, getting a big 52-yard kick return from Christian Julian (Hingham, Mass.) to set up the drive at the MMA 32. Seven plays later, Westfield's Jordan Smith (Coventry, Conn.) rumbled four yards up the middle for a game tying TD.

The two clubs traded field goals in the final 10 seconds of the half. MMA got a 24-yard TD from Logan Tsai (E. Free-town, Mass./Appoquonnet) to take a 10-7 lead with eight seconds left in the half.

Westfield got the ball back on the ensuing kickoff, and Owls QB Gabriel Fernandez (Holyoke,

Mass.) found Danny Farrell (Milford, Mass.) on a 25-yard completion and a personal foul on the Buccaneers gave the Owls the ball at the MMA 22 yardline with four seconds left in the half.

Westfield State first-year kicker Cooper Harvey (Niskayuna, N.Y.) booted a 39-yard field goal as time expired to tie the game 10-10 at the half.

Neither team particularly threatened the end zone after the big interception return by the Owls. MMA drove the ball as far as the Owls' 38-yard line with less than two minutes to play, but Tyler Cooley (Randolph, Mass./Arch. Williams) dropped Murphy for a loss on third down, and Murphy's long bomb try to Brightman on fourth down fell incomplete to end the threat, and Westfield knelt on the ball three times to run out the clock.

Fernandez finished 14-25 passing for 138 yards. Farrell finished with six catches for 65 yards, and Smith rushed for 77 yards on 25 carries.

For MMA, Murphy complet-

ed 12 of 23 passes for 206 yards with a TD and an interception. Daniel Molloy (Franklin, Mass.) led the rushing attack with seven carries for 22 yards, and Brightman finished with eight catches for 96 yards. Molloy added three catches for 54 yards.

Defensively, Cooley led the Owls with 13 tackles, and Cam Danahy (Kingston, Mass./Silve Lake) added nine. Dylan Clark (Bellows Falls, Vt./BFA) came up with two big plays with two tackles for losses of 12 yards.

Liam Hines (Quincy, Mass./North Quincy) led MMA with seven tackles. Owen Shea (Sci-tuate, Mass./Norwell) made five tackles, 2.5 TFL's and a sack.

Westfield heads into its bye week, before returning to host its homecoming game against UMass-Dartmouth on Saturday, Oct. 14. MMA faces UMass Dartmouth next Saturday, Oct. 7 with a 4 p.m. kick off in North Dartmouth, Mass.

Bonsignore heads for Thompson for big event

NORTH WILKESBORO, N.C. – After 150 laps at North Wilkesboro Speedway, Justin Bonsignore brought his No. 51 machine home in third-place on Saturday night. As the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour made their debut at the North Carolina oval in the Brushy Mountain Powersports 150, Bonsignore ran inside the top-five for much of the race.

A final green-white-checked finish where Bonsignore lined up in fifth was exactly what he needed in the Phoenix Communications entry. Bonsignore followed fellow championship contender Ron Silk up through the field to finish third, just behind Silk.

In the title battle, Bonsignore will hold a two-point lead heading for the final two races of the season.

"The green-white-checked re-

start definitely helped get us back to the podium," Bonsignore said. "We got a good jump on the final restart. It was a good night for us. We were just a bit tight on the second set of tires. It's going to go down to the end. It's going to be a championship battle for the ages."

Bonsignore will move to Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park next on Sunday, Oct. 8 for the Sunoco World Series 150. The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour is part of a three-day event at Thompson next weekend.

For more information on three-time NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion Justin Bonsignore, visit JustinBonsignore.com and follow his Athlete page on Facebook for the latest news and updates, including from the track on race day.

Cambridge half-marathon registration open

CAMBRIDGE – Registration is open for the Cambridge Half Marathon and 5K at CambridgeSide. The races are scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 5 (race begins 7 a.m. EST) on a gorgeous new course with views of the Charles River along Memorial Drive.

The Cambridge Half Marathon is a 13.1 mile fast and flat course featuring views of the MIT, John W. Weeks Footbridge, Harvard University Stadium, Charles River and more. The new 5K race also offers scenic views alongside the Charles River. Both courses are USATF certified and start and finish at CambridgeSide.

Race registration includes quarter zip pull over (half marathon participants) or long sleeve shirt (5K participants), five complimentary CambridgeSide parking passes, training plan, race bib with timing chip, and finishing medal. Register for both races at CambridgeSide.com.

Cambridge Half Marathon and 5K at CambridgeSide race proceeds benefit Cambridge Camping (CambridgeCamping.org), City of Cambridge Scholarship Fund (Cambridgema.gov/Services/CityScholarship) as well as other local charities. Cambridge Half Marathon and 5K is sponsored by Canam Group Inc. and training sponsor MYSTRYDE.

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Turleysports

Athlete of the Week

NAME: Addie Peterson
SCHOOL: Monson
In last week's shoutout of Hopkins Academy, Peterson finished with a goal and an assist for Monson girls soccer.

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 | from page 9

lar season against Hopkins. "Scoring my 100th goal is a very big milestone for me."

Senior defender Emma Murphy assisted on her younger sister's milestone goal.

It didn't take very long for Hannah Murphy, who's been playing for the varsity team since the eighth grade, to score her first goal against the Golden Hawks.

After receiving a pass from Monaghan, Murphy fired a shot from the top of the box that whistled past freshman goalie Emmalyn Schmidt (16 saves) into the back of the net during the second minute of the match.

"Hannah is only a sophomore, but she's a very talented soccer player," Pagliaro said. "She's just a very hard worker. She always gives a lot of credit to her teammates and she's all about winning."

Monaghan, who finished the home game with three assists, is quickly approaching her 100th career point (goals + assists).

The Lady Mustangs took a 2-0 lead on Hannah's Murphy's second goal nine minutes later. Junior midfielder Addison Peterson was credited with the assist.

Down at the other end of the field, Monson junior goalie Emily Provost only had to make two saves during the first 40 minutes of the match. She didn't make any saves in the first twenty minutes of the second half before she was replaced in goal by freshman Chelsea Hull.

The two Monson goalies received plenty of support from the defensive unit

led by freshman Avery Beaudoin, senior Sierra Martinson, Hull, and Emma Murphy.

During the 27th minute of the first half, senior forward Aniah Myrie, who also joined the Monson girls' varsity soccer team as an eighth grader, blasted a shot into the back of the net giving the home team a commanding 3-0 advantage.

A couple of minutes later, Monson senior co-captain Kendall Bodak weaved between a couple of defenders before firing a low shot into the right corner for an unassisted goal.

The Lady Mustangs three second half goals were scored by Hannah Murphy, Peterson, and Bodak, who'll be playing collegiate soccer at Clemson University at this time next year.

Monson could possibly face Hopkins Academy twice more in the Western Mass. Class D tournament and in the Division 5 state tournament. One team that the Lady Mustangs won't be facing in the state tournament is Sutton High School, who defeated the Lady Mustangs in the Division 5 state semifinals and finals the past two years. They were moved up to Division 4 prior to the start of the regular season.

The Lady Mustangs are scheduled to play two road games this week against Granby and Chicopee before hosting Ludlow on Thursday afternoon, which is also senior day. The six Monson seniors are Lynzie Bailey, Emma Murphy, Bodak, Monaghan, Myrie, and Martinson.

T-Birds make roster moves ahead of opener

SPRINGFIELD – St. Louis Blues President of Hockey Operations and General Manager Doug Armstrong announced today the team has assigned 12 players to its AHL affiliate, the Springfield Thunderbirds, including forwards Mikhail Abramov, Drew Callin, Tanner Dickinson, Andre Heim, and Mitch Hoelscher, defenseman Jeremie Biakabutuka, Joseph Duszak, Marc-Andre Gaudet, Austin Osmanski, and Hunter Skinner, and goaltenders Will Cranley and Vadim Zherenko. In addition, the Blues released forward Nick Ritchie and defenseman Andy Welinski from their professional tryouts.

The Calder Cup quest begins on Saturday, Oct. 14 for Opening Night presented by MGM Springfield. In the team's annual tradition, fans will be treated to a pregame Block Party on the property of MGM Springfield from 4 to 6 p.m. presented by Community Bank N.A. with the support of the Springfield Business Improvement District (BID). The outdoor bash will feature live music, food, and drink. Thunderbirds fans will have the opportunity to get their hands on a plethora of giveaway souvenir items this season, beginning on Opening Night with jersey-shaped rally towels on each and every seat at the MassMutual Center.

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DEATH NOTICES

Murphy, Cole Ryan
Died September 24, 2023
Services October 8, 2023

Rooney, James Davit
Died September 13, 2023

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

The Journal Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

O B I T U A R I E S

Cole Ryan Murphy

Cole Ryan Murphy, 49, of Ware, MA passed away suddenly on September 24, 2023, at his beloved home on the Swift River. He was born on August 16, 1974, and was raised in Monson, MA surrounded by a large extended family. Cole is survived by his wife and

love of his life Jenniefer Murphy (Davis) and his boys Caleb Bulko, Connor Bulko, and Brandon Murphy who filled his life with purpose, joy, and pride. He will forever be missed by his adored mother Diane (Moriarty) Ouellet of Monson, sister Tina

Hood of Amherst, brother Ronnie Constantino of Hampden, nephew Charles Hood, niece Caitlyn Constantino, and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Cole was a dedicated employee, working as the Director of Residential Operations at Wayfinders in Springfield, Massachusetts. He was a passionate mustang owner, enjoying time with friends at local car shows across New England. Cole was a beloved friend and



brother to so many, always willing to lend a helping hand, be a mentor, and support folks in good times and bad. His legacy will forever be his big heart that touched so many. A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, October 8, 2023, at Tony and Penny's in Ludlow from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. For more information and to sign an online line guest register please visit www.beersandstory.com

Link to Libraries receive donation

MONSON— In July, Monson Savings Bank President and CEO Dan Moriarty met with Laurie Flynn, Link to Libraries president and CEO, to present her with a \$1,000 donation. This donation was made as a part of the 2023 Monson Savings Bank Community Giving Initiative, where the community was given the opportunity to submit their votes asking the Bank to support their favorite local charitable organizations.

"Monson Savings Bank has a proud history of supporting literacy in our communities," said Moriarty. "Link to Libraries gives our local youth the valuable gift of reading. They provide so many children in

our communities with access to books. Because of Link to Libraries efforts, literacy and language skills of our local youth are positively impacted and they are better able to find success in their educational and life journeys."

Link to Libraries is a Hampden, Massachusetts based, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to distribute new books to the school and home libraries of children in need. By increasing a child's access to books, Link to Libraries strives to enhance language and literacy skills. Since Link to Libraries' inception in 2008, the organization has put over 500,000 new books into the hands of children, the

vast majority of whom never previously owned a book. Learn more about Link to Libraries online at <https://www.linktolibraries.org/>.

"We are grateful for Monson Savings Bank's continued support of Link to Libraries. Monson Savings is an excellent community partner, not only to our organization, but also to many others throughout the local area," said Flynn. "Thank you to everyone who voted for Link to Libraries in Monson Savings' Community Giving Initiative. We are excited to put these funds to good use, purchasing books and distributing them to children in need."

O B I T U A R I E S

James D. Rooney

We deeply grieve the passing of James "Jim" Davitt Rooney (56) of Dover, Massachusetts, on September 13, 2023. We remember him as a father who loved his boys ferociously; a beloved and incredibly supportive husband and partner; a friend with a wicked sense of humor and an encyclopedic knowledge of music; and a civic leader focused on improving the lives of those in the community and on the planet. His family and friends will miss his quick wit, sharp intellect, kindness, generosity, and boundless capacity to uplift those near and dear to him.

The son of the late James P. and Marcia G. (Abdalla) Rooney, Jim was born in Springfield and grew up in Palmer, Massachusetts. He graduated from Cathedral High School and earned his bachelor's from Brown University. He later attended Harvard University, earning a master's in Public Administration at the Kennedy School of Government.

Throughout his career in nonprofit and policy leadership, Jim worked to build a more competitive, equitable, and sustainable society. He led Community & Government relations at Brown University, helped to launch and lead CEOs for Cities and served as Director of Public Affairs for the Boston Foundation. For ten years, he helmed his own public affairs consultancy, including six years in the UK. Most recently, Jim served as Director of Partnerships at Candid, coordinating campaigns and coalitions to advance transparency and equity in the nonprofit sector. He was particularly proud of co-founding the Community

Foundation Climate Collaborative, bringing together community foundations to drive and support climate action.

Alongside these accomplishments, Jim's second career was political campaigning. There, he followed in the footsteps of his grandfather and father, who worked on election campaigns for John F. Kennedy and Edward Kennedy. Jim worked on political campaigns large and small his entire life, including the Obama-Biden Urban and Regional Policy Council in 2008. He also relished rolling up his sleeves to volunteer his time to local operations. During the 2022 governor's race, Jim led the Dover Democratic Town Committee's successful get out the vote effort in support of the Healy campaign.

Jim was an intrepid traveler and eater, a passionate New England sports fan, an eloquent debater, and a proud technology Luddite (aka the last BlackBerry user in America). He will be remembered as a masterful storyteller who loved a good pun. He was the consummate host and guide – he loved showing off his "hometowns" with legendary tours of Boston and London. Jim had a gentle smile and magnetic personality that drew people in. Family and friends joked that no matter where you traveled with Jim, he would run into someone he knew.

Jim held many titles in his life, but his favorite roles were that of husband, father, and



coach. He is survived by his beloved wife, Tara Levine, and their cherished sons, Joshua and Matthew. Whether it was enthusiastically coaching his boys' sports teams, ferociously battling them in basketball, or chaperoning outdoor excursions in Maine, Jim lived to create lasting memories for his boys. Jim treasured every opportunity to initiate his sons into Boston's sports fandom. His gratitude and sense of awe for the beautiful family he built with Tara was unwavering. However, as someone who struggled with depression, Jim was unable to afford himself the kindness and grace that he lovingly provided to others. Heartbreakingly, he lost that battle.

In celebration of Jim's life, a memorial gathering will be held at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston on September 30th. A remembrance of his life will take place at the Irish Cultural Center in Canton on October 1st. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that memorial donations be made to the Community Foundation Climate Collaborative of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (<https://give.nhcf.org/JimRooneyMemorialFund>) and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (<https://afsp.org/>).

Online guestbook at gfdoherty.com. Arrangements by George F. Doherty & Sons Funeral Home, Dedham.

White Christmas celebration is in its 31st year

WEST BROOKFIELD— Please join the town of West Brookfield as they kick off their 31st annual White Christmas celebration. The event is free and there will be fun for folks of all ages going on throughout the day. Come out and enjoy the town's annual kick-off of the holiday season by touring the historic town, strolling the downtown district, exploring

local businesses and open houses, decorating gingerbread houses in the Great Hall, meeting Santa for a quick picture, as well dropping off those letters headed directly to the North Pole. There will be horse drawn carriage rides throughout the day as well as shopping with dozens of vendors set up throughout town.

A puppet show, an elf hunt and ice carvings are sure to keep ev-

eryone's spirits high. There will be plenty for the entire family to come and enjoy. Father Christmas will be strolling through town and greeting visitors. Stick around to close the day with West Brookfield's annual tradition of gathering around the largest evergreen in town (located on the town common) while it illuminates for the first time this holiday season.

MIGRANTS | from page 1

EOHLC email statement said.

According to the Massachusetts Municipal Association, the state is unique in the country with its "right-to-shelter" law providing homeless families guaranteed access to emergency shelter.

Sturbridge officials and residents who spoke on the record said that however well-meaning Healey's efforts may be, there is a growing and perhaps unsustainable cost to taxpayers. They expressed great concern about the impact to their local school district. They lauded efforts by the Massachusetts National Guard now stationed in town.

In a written statement to the newspaper last week, Sturbridge Town Administrator Robin Grimm said: "Mid-August, I received a phone message and then email indicating that a small number of families 'were placed' in a local motel. At that point I started asking what the plans were so that I could update the public and the Board (of Selectmen). I was also concerned because our (school) Superintendent hadn't been notified and school was within several days of starting. I assumed that if there were families, even a small number, there would be school-aged children. The lack of notification was extremely challenging to accept."

Education, public health services

"Right now, we're just figuring out what's going on," said Selectmen Chairman Jamie Goodwin said at Sept. 18 selectmen's meeting. "The principal obligations are through the education system. As we get more information, we can become more organized." He also termed the situation frustrating for the community.

Tantasqua Regional School District Superintendent Deb Boyd confirmed on Sunday that there are 41 additional school-age students enrolled, via the new homeless arrivals.

The five-town school district includes Sturbridge, Holland, Wales, Brimfield and Brookfield. Boyd said the new students are enrolled at Burgess Elementary School and at Tantasqua Regional Junior High and Senior High schools.

"We will receive \$1,000 per

student from the State's Emergency Shelter Fund as well as \$104 per eligible student, per day, enrolled in the district, from the state's Supplemental Budget/Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023," the superintendent said. Based on the state's 180 days of school per academic year for a student, this equals nearly \$20,000 per child.

The Legislature approved \$325 million for state's Emergency Assistance program, to address homelessness and related services this fiscal year, though this money could run out by wintertime. A \$250 million supplemental budget request was filed mid-September, which includes school-related expenses.

There are also questions about public health.

"Who is overseeing the contracts between the state and private hotels in town? We don't know," Sturbridge Board of Health Chair Linda Cocalis said in telephone interview. She said the BOH is responsible for ensuring living quarters meet the state sanitary code and the minimum standards of fitness for human habitation. Cocalis also said she has potential concerns about whether there is a system in place, and what it is, to ensure safety of meals being delivered to families at hotel/motels.

"How do we ensure they are meeting their obligations? There's been no guidance," Cocalis said, adding that she has not been provided copies of contracts between the state and local hotel/motels housing the homeless.

Costs and benefits

Long-time resident Reed Hillman said in an email, "Massachusetts communities, including my hometown of Sturbridge, are being asked to shoulder an unsustainable burden in trying to accommodate thousands of migrants lacking jobs, skills, English and transportation. This problem exists in large part because of the crazy state law guaranteeing housing to all comers, together with promises of driver's licenses, free food, clothing, legal assistance, health care and schooling, regardless of legal status."

Hillman, professor emeritus of Criminal Justice at Mount Wachusett Community College, is a former state representative and was

the Massachusetts state police commander, prior to being elected to the legislature.

But some are more concerned with helping the homeless. "I have had a number of people contact me with, racism's a strong word, maybe concern that the town didn't organize some type of... basically what the National Guard is going to do," Selectwoman Mary Dowling said at the Sept. 18 meeting. One couple in town told her that they "can come up with 10 people who are waiting to volunteer," Dowling said.

Request for federal aid

There "now exists in the commonwealth a state of emergency due to rapid and unabating increases in the number of families with children and pregnant people, many of them newly arriving migrants and refugees, living within the state, but without the means to secure safe shelter in our communities," Healey wrote in three-page letter declaring state of emergency. This was addressed to President Joe Biden's Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas.

The governor called for "immigration reform," and more federal dollars, though she did not specify an amount. Healey urged Mayorkas to "use all available executive power to remove the burdensome barriers keeping people from getting work authorizations," claiming that "we have historical demands for workers across all industries."

In a press release accompanying Healey's August state of emergency declaration, Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll said: "Our emergency assistance system is designed to be a temporary, emergency safety-net program. It is not equipped to handle the demand that we have seen in recent months. While we have made Herculean efforts to expand capacity as much as possible, we've reached a point where the expansion is unsustainable."

Sturbridge not alone

The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities said the Healey administration is now "utilizing approximately 80 hotels in about 50 communities across the state. The town of Sturbridge has been very supportive in helping

these families. We are deeply grateful to communities for stepping up to help us meet this moment and ensure families have a safe place to stay."

The number of migrants sent to Sturbridge has not been publicly provided by the EOHLC, nor was an estimate of the number of people the town may be asked to absorb going forward.

Healey, in her state of emergency declaration, said there were 5,500 homeless families in total being sheltered in the state, with 1,800 residing in hotel/motels. One recently projected total says by end of September, an increase to approximately 6,600 families, a count the \$250 million supplemental budget is targeted to help address.

According to Grimm, "Our own Board of Health did have a number of 139 people" from two weeks ago "as best as they could ascertain, but that number was before the arrival of approximately six (additional) families, she said. The state Department of Public Health "has really been the only health group heavily involved with individuals," she said.

Town working with National Guard

The town administrator, in a letter to selectmen presented at the Sept. 18 meeting, said the municipality and school department are doing what they can.

"Our library has offered to provide computer/internet access to families, provided they can get transportation to the Library," Grimm said the town's public library director indicated that they would coordinate with the (National) Guard to do on-site story hours for very young children, and would embark on literacy and translation efforts where possible.

"Multiple languages," other than English, are spoken by the arriving immigrants; Grimm said this language barrier adds to the challenges.

"I have continued to emphasize to the governor's office that despite the charitable nature of our

community, we are not equipped to handle this situation in a manner that will help the people involved as we are not a walkable community, and we have no transportation services," Grimm told selectmen.

The administrator raised similar concerns in a letter to the board on Sept. 5.

"I have also emphasized that: we have, several times during the year, all of our rooms are rented for tourism and events, and (we) need some accountability for the potential revenue loss," Grimm said.

"On September 14 we did have a National Guard meeting here" at the town hall, she said. "They are working very hard to get information on the people... they are doing the primary care... I am very grateful to those ladies and gentlemen that are doing that work," Grimm said at the Sept. 18 selectmen's meeting.

An Aug. 31 press release from governor states: "Gov. Maura T. Healey today issued an order activating up to 250 National Guard members to provide basic services at emergency shelter hotels that do not currently have a contracted service provider."

"Massachusetts is in a state of emergency, and we need all hands-on deck to meet this moment and ensure families have access to safe shelter

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Historical Society speaker shares 'Stories from the Flats'

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – The Sturbridge Historical Society started the 2023-2024 year last month with "Stories from the Flats," a presentation about the Westville Lake and dam by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers volunteer Brian Phelps.

Originally from Connecticut, Phelps has lived part-time in a travel trailer on top of the dam since he answered an advertisement seeking a volunteer to stay at the property in 2015.

"It's the best kept secret in this area," Phelps said of the Westville Lake Recreation Area.

Phelps said his boss at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had asked him to write a detailed history of life around the dam prior to the 1955 flood, and he has spent a year interviewing anyone who has a memory to share.

"The little tidbits of history, the stories...I found some amazing stuff," he said.

Phelps said all of the information he is gathering for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be made public and sent to libraries, schools and historical societies to share.

The Quinebaug River is the dividing line between the towns of Sturbridge and Southbridge, and Phelps' trailer sits on the Southbridge side.

"The Quinebaug River has always been the main factor in the area," he said.

Phelps said people that lived in the Westville area prior to the dam being built, were not happy with having to move, much like those who were displaced by the Quabbin Reservoir when their towns were reincorporated.

The area around Westville Lake was a center of industry, well-known for its production of aluminum lawn furniture at Prest-Wheel, Inc. and before that, textile shuttles for power looms at Litchfield Shuttle Works.

Phelps said Litchfield Shuttle Works sold their custom shuttles to

textile mills nationally and internationally, and was the number one custom shuttle maker in the world.

"I didn't know any of this until the past year," Phelps said. Phelps displayed a Litchfield Shuttle, which was made using dogwood or persimmon wood that the company shipped here from down south. Once it arrived at the shuttle works, it would go to the lumber yard to dry out.

"Each shuttle took a week to make," Phelps said. "They made hundreds and hundreds of thousands of these."

After the Litchfield Shuttle Works closed, the building was converted into a chicken farm, with three levels of poultry. This business operated for three years before being sold to Prest-Wheel, Inc.

Phelps said there wasn't a waterwheel to power this industry, but rather a tub turbine.

He said it's possible the dam has a turbine made by C.P. Bradley in Stafford Springs, Connecticut. An expert from Lowell Mills is hoping to be able to positively identify the maker of the turbine, which is covered with mud and water.

Phelps said during his interviews, he learned about the connection between Snell Manufacturing Company of Fiskdale (which made augers), and the USS Constitution. He said a plaque recognizing the company's contribution to the restoration of the USS Constitution hangs in its former factory.

Phelps said the archives for the USS Constitution do not acknowledge this contribution, but he will be providing his discovery to them to update their records.

Snell Manufacturing had footing in the lost village of East Brimfield, as well as Fiskdale in the site that is now the Yankee Peddler.

Phelps said he also learned that there were actually two "Flats," and that houses on the south side of the Quinebaug River had to move for the dam's flood control.

On the south side of the river, there was once a foundry and brass shop.

While researching the Westville area, Phelps discovered a

three-foot diorama of Westville Village in the 1800s, created by the late John Boniface of Boniface Tool and Die Co.

Boniface had recreated the Westville Village in the 1960s, based on an 1865 drawing of the "Flats."

Phelps found the diorama leaning against the hall in the house located at the dam, next to his travel trailer.

"It was in bad shape," Phelps said of the diorama, and he got permission from his boss to restore it.

Once it's completed, Phelps will photograph the diorama to display in kiosks at the recreation area.

About the Historical Society
Sturbridge Historical Society meetings are held monthly, September through May, at the Publick House. Meetings are usually held on the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m., and guests are always welcome.

Membership to the Sturbridge Historical Society is \$10 a year and helps to defray the cost of programs and speakers.

Upcoming programs include Oct. 26, "The Militia in Early America," by Michael Piatt, local historian and Old Sturbridge Village volunteer; Nov. 16, "A Pictorial History of Sturbridge," by Robert S. Arnold and Wally Hersee; Jan. 18, "Needle and Thread: The Art and Skill of Clothing a 19th Century Family," by Derek Heiderman, OSV Director of Collections and Research; Feb. 22, "The Stone Walls of Sturbridge," by Rich Paradise, member of Sturbridge Trails Committee; March 28, "Sturbridge in the Civil War," by Wally Hersee; April 25, "Pistol Pond and the Manufacture of Underhammer Guns in Sturbridge," by Robert S. Arnold, Charles Blanchard and Doug Quigley; and May 23, to be announced.

All programs are free to attend, with refreshments and meeting room donated by the proprietors of the Publick House.

For more information and upcoming programs, follow Sturbridge Historical Society on Facebook.



Submitted Photo

Left Pam Iwasinski, principal, Stanley Koziol Elementary School; John Mancini, HVAC tech, Baystate Wing Hospital; Nick Connors, facilities manager, Baystate Wing Hospital; and Kim Thompson, principal at Ware Middle School.

Baystate Wing Hospital Employees donate school supplies

PALMER— Throughout the month of August, Baystate Wing Hospital employees made donations to the hospital's annual back-to-school drive with the goal of supporting the great work of local teachers and learning opportunities for students at Ware Public Schools, Palmer Public Schools, and Quabog Regional High School. Team members from the hospital filled several bins with school supplies which included pens, pencils, colored markers, folders, spiral notebooks, glue sticks, Post-it Notes, disinfectant wipes, crayons, and much more.

"We are grateful for the school supply donation from Baystate Wing Hospital," said Pamela

Iwasinski, principal, of Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School. "We cannot thank you enough for your support of our students. These donations went directly into the hands of students and teachers in the Ware Public Schools. It takes a village to successfully support the students and we thank you for being part of that village."

"Education is essential to success, and we're proud to help equip local students with some of the tools they will need to be successful in school," said Karli Barrett, MS, RN, NE-BC, vice president & chief nursing officer/ chief administrative officer of Baystate Wing Hospital. "We believe that these school supplies are a mes-

sage of hope and inspiration to our local students that receive them. We want them to know we are saying, we believe in you, and we want you to succeed."

"Baystate Health is committed to creating healthier communities by embracing the definition of health to include access to health care and basic needs including quality education, safe neighborhoods, food security, affordable housing, social and racial justice, and arts and culture. All these elements are needed to help communities to thrive," said Barrett.

For more information about Baystate Wing Hospital visit Baystatehealth.org/wing.

Joshua Hyde Public Library October Happenings

STURBRIDGE— Joshua Hyde Public Library's schedule for October.

TEENY TINY ART SHOW - Pick up an entry packet between Sept. 27 and Oct. 15. Share talents on a 3"x 3" canvas or paper board. Create works of art with any medium. Submissions due by Oct. 16. Prizes will be awarded to the winner and a runner-up in 2 ages groups (teens ages 13-18 and adults ages 19+).

FALL STORY TIMES - Tuesdays & Fridays at 10:45am (except for Oct. 3). Drop-in for stories, songs, rhymes, and a take and make craft. Children must be accompanied by an adult caregiver. No registration is required. *Starting Oct. 17, story times will be held on the lawn in front of the library.

READ FOR TREATS - Stop by the Children's Room between Oct. 2 - 31 and pick up a Halloween themed reading log. Return it and receive a prize. More details at the library.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - Join the Library for a volunteer in-

formation session with LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF SOUTH CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS - Tuesday, Oct. 3 at 6 p.m. LVSCM trains volunteers to provide free, individualized and confidential tutoring in basic literacy or conversational English to adults. Registration is required. There will be a second session on Thursday, Oct. 19 at 6 p.m. at the Sturbridge Town Hall.

BOOKS ON TAP: BANNED EDITION - Thursday, Oct. 4 at 6:30 p.m. at Avellino/The Duck, 502 Main St., Fiskdale. Come ready to discuss banned books. Registration is recommended.

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP - Exploring the Importance of Place - The Venice Sketchbook by Rhys Bowen. Tuesday, Oct. 10 at 1 p.m.

DELUXE SOCK PUPPETS - Wednesday, Oct. 11 from 4 to 6:30 p.m. - Join Homeslice Puppetry for a 2.5 hour advanced sock puppet class for kids and teens ages 10+. Participants will be given an introduction to puppetry and then everyone will learn how to build/create

a puppet character. All necessary materials will be provided. Registration is required.

INTRODUCTION TO BEEKEEPING - Thursday, Oct. 12 at 6:30 p.m. Join John Hedly of the Worcester County Beekeepers Association for this presentation on beekeeping for all ages. Registration is required.

Friends of the JHPL **BAG-OF-BOOKS BOOK SALE** - Saturday, Oct. 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come support the Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library and buy a bag of books.

ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS BOOK GROUP - Challenging Boundaries - The Last Beekeeper by Carrick Dalton. Wednesday, Oct. 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the Senior Center.

SPOOKY BONES AND CREEPY CRAWLIES - Wednesday, Oct. 25 at 2 p.m. at the Senior Center. Explore real bones and skeletons from endemic Massachusetts animals, or hold and pet some of the biggest bugs you've ever seen. Registration is required.

Police Logs

Palmer
The Palmer Police Department reported 356 incidents on its logs for Sept. 19- Sept. 25.

Sept. 19
At 6:44 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage at the corner of Wilbraham Street and N. Main Street.

At 10:44 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage at the corner of Shearer Street and Thorndike Street.

At 6:34 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on State Street.

Sept. 20
At 7:02 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Wilbraham Street.

At 10:48 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on W. Ware Street. Alivia Grace Lynch, 20, of 10 Morse Ave., Ware, on charges of OUI liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, marked lanes violation, transporting a minor possessing alcoholic beverage, and open container of Marijuana in the vehicle.

Sept. 21
At 9:46 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Thorndike Street and Lawrence Street.

At 3:15 p.m. police pulled over and gave a summons to Ryan Stearns, 18, of 74 East Road, Warren, on charges of uninsured motor vehicle, unregistered vehicle, attaching plates to a motor vehicle, passing violation, marked lanes violation and negligent operation of motor vehicle.

Sept. 22
At 2:04 a.m. police assisted another agency resulting in the arrest of Christian Javier Costoso Pagan, 33, of 472 Main St. Indian Orchard, on 6 warrants and charges of reckless operation of a motor vehicle, marked lanes violation, failure to stop/yield, speeding, possession of a class A drug and possession of a class B drug.

At 5:25 p.m. police arrested Nadalya Rosalia Rodriguez, 18, of 14 Valleyview Lane, Worcester, on charges of unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and resisting arrest. Anna Marie Hart, 26, of 128 Rice Road, Templeton, was also arrested on charges of 2 counts of vandalizing property, interfering with a police officer and possession of a class B drug.

At 11:39 p.m. police arrested Melanie C. Stevens-Rosati, 46, of 75 Longview St., Palmer, on charges of OUI liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, and motor vehicle lights violation.

Sept. 23
At 5:34 p.m. police arrested Rui Manuel Bravo, 57, of 154 Ware St., Thorndike, on charges of OUI liquor, negligent operation of motor vehicle and marked lanes violations.

Sept. 24
At 1:52 a.m. police responded to an accident on I-90 with personal injury.

Sept. 25
At 7:37 a.m. police responded

to an accident with property damage on Ware Street.

At 11:15 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on N. Main Street.

At 12:34 p.m. police arrested Peter Martin Wiers, 41, of 10 Allen St., Palmer on 3 counts of assault and battery at Baystate Wing Hospital.

At 10:23 p.m. police arrested Veronica Diaz, 37, of 2042 Main St., Three Rivers, on a warrant.

Monson
For the week of Sept. 24 to Sept. 30 the Monson Police department responded to 227 incidents, including the following:

Sept. 28
At 1:12 p.m. police gave Jessica Lynn Abbott, 46, of 16 Chestnut St., Chicopee, for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

Sept. 30
At 1:13 a.m. police pulled over and issued a summons to Heidi Elaine Girard, 35, 290 Main St., Monson for no inspection sticker and suspended registration.

At 1:56 a.m. police pulled over and arrested Jessica Michelle Lynde, 27, of 97 Cubes Dr., Brimfield on charges of negligent operation of a motor vehicle, marked lanes violation, following too close, assault and battery on a police officer, resisting arrest, carrying a dangerous weapon and possession of class B drug.

Big Y's to hold vaccine clinic

SPRINGFIELD— From Oct. 1 until Oct. 7, every Big Y Market location will hold an on-site multi vaccine clinic for all customers, employees and their families (check local stores for specific dates and times).

All stores will offer seasonal flu, high dose flu and COVID-19 vaccines including the updated COVID-19 booster. Stores with an on-site pharmacy also offer a variety of additional vaccines including the newly approved Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine, Pneumococcal (pneumonia) Shingrix (shingles), Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis), Hepatitis A and B, Meningococcal (Meningitis), MMR (Measles, Mumps & Rubella), and Gardasil (HPV).

Vaccines are administered to eligible adults and children ages 5 and older based upon product avail-

ability. Further details are available on bigy.com where each location's specific times are listed. No appointments are necessary.

This third community wide event spans every one of Big Y's locations throughout Massachusetts and Connecticut. Patients who receive a seasonal flu or COVID-19 vaccine from their pharmacist or trained pharmacy technician at any one of the clinics or pharmacy locations will receive a Big Y Coupon for \$5 off of a \$25 grocery purchase. Each location will have other giveaways as well.

Big Y's vaccination program continues to grow. Over the past year alone, they've administered nearly 100,000 doses of various vaccines. For those who might be interested, CDC guidance states that it is acceptable to receive 2 or more of these different vaccines at

the same time making it more convenient for all.

According to Big Y's president and CEO, Charles L. D'Amour, "The safety and health of everyone in our region is so vitally important to us that we are excited to offer our 3rd Big Y Big Vax Week to everyone; our customers, employees and their families. Our professional pharmacy staff has been working hard to be able to provide this essential service in each of our neighborhoods at every one of our locations throughout Massachusetts and Connecticut. This week-long event provides a convenient way for anyone to receive one of many vaccines to keep our community healthy. Big Y's Big Vax Week is one more way we've been serving our community for over 87 years."

Fire Logs

Bondsville
For the period Sept 19-25, Bondsville fire responded to no calls.

Three Rivers
The Three Rivers Fire Department responded to six calls for the week of Sept. 25-Oct. 2.

On Monday, Sept. 25 at 7:29 a.m. the Department responded to

a CO detector activation on Belanger Street. The Department returned to service at 7:51 a.m.

At 8:07 p.m. the Department responded to an EMS call on Skyline Terrace, returning to service at 9:02 p.m.

At 8:47 p.m., the Department provided an EMS assist on Sylvia Street, returning to service at 9:09 p.m.

At 9:15 p.m., the Department responded to an EMS call on Main Street, returning to service at 9:40

p.m.
On Wednesday, Sept. 27 at 10:13 p.m. the Department responded to a fire call on Skyline Terrace, returning to service at 11:22 p.m.

On Saturday, Sept. 30 at 10:21 a.m. the Department responded to a smoke odor call on Springfield Street, returning to service at 10:41 p.m.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

POLISH PLATE Dinner (Kielbasa, Golabki, Pierogi(4),Kapusta, Bread) and Frozen Polish Food Sale will be held at Immaculate Conception Parish Hall, 25 Parker St. Indian Orchard, (Eat in or Take Out) on Oct. 21, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$20. please call:

Maria Kowalski at 413-222-6229 or Maria Bukowski at 413-427-9464 to get tickets.

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.

JIMMY FUND WALK: Registration is now open for the 2023 Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk Scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 1. Proceeds from the event support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at one of the nation's premier cancer centers, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. All four routes will culminate at the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line in the Fenway neighborhood. If walkers want to participate a bit closer to home, the Jimmy

Fund Walk has flexible opportunities, including virtually. Register as an individual walker, team member or start a team at JimmyFundWalk.org or by calling 866-531-9255.

INTERESTS

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

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

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.

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

LINE DANCING CLASS: 3-5 p.m. and/or 6:30-8:30 p.m., every Thursday at the Monson Polish Club, 7 Bliss St, Monson. Rose's line dancing classes include absolute beginners and beginners, and par-

ticipants get to dance to all types of music. \$10 per class. Please wear comfortable footwear, no sandals.

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

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

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

Baystate Wing Auxiliary Gives \$25,000 to Wing Emergency Dept.

PALMER—The Baystate Wing Hospital auxiliary met with Ron Bryant, president of Baystate Health Regional Hospitals to present him with a \$25,000 check, as payment toward their second pledge of \$125,000 to the Baystate Wing Emergency Department capital campaign. This brings their total pledge for this important campaign to \$200,000.

"I've been a member of this wonderful group of volunteers for many years," said Evelyn Glabicky, auxiliary president. "We have a long tradition of raising money for a variety of hospital projects, from purchasing medical equipment, and providing student scholarships, to supporting the capital campaign

that helped to bring the much-needed expanded emergency department to this region. Often patients and visitors stop in our gift shop to talk about the wonderful care they have received at our hospital, and we are proud to support the tremendous care provided by the Baystate Wing Hospital team."

For over 65 years, the auxiliary has been actively supporting Baystate Wing Hospital through its sponsorship of special events and management of the gift shop.

This diverse group of women and men includes teachers, nurses, and business owners, both young and retirees, who live in many different communities and are united by a shared commitment to support

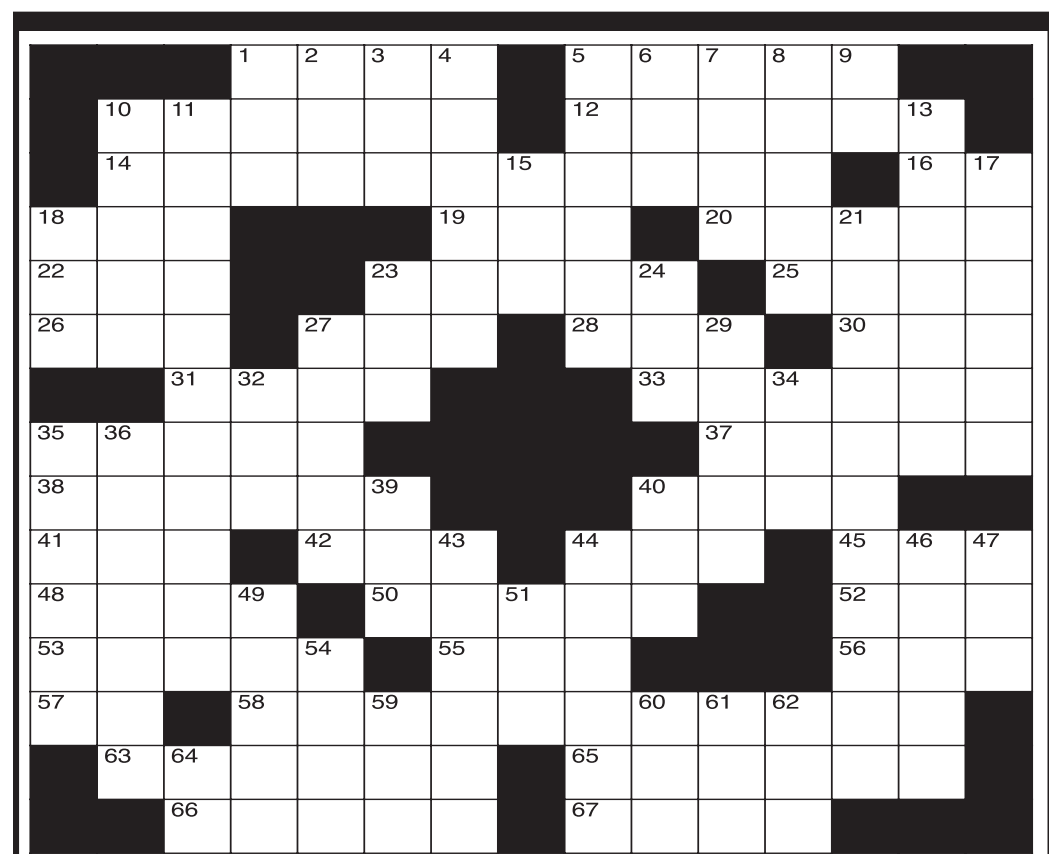
the mission of the hospital.

"Our community and this hospital are indeed fortunate to have such a talented and dedicated group of people volunteering on our behalf, and we are thankful to the Auxiliary members for their continued commitment and support of our hospital," said Bryant. "They are not only enthusiastic fundraisers, but also serve as goodwill ambassadors throughout the many communities we serve."

For more information or an application to become a member of the Baystate Wing Hospital auxiliary, stop in the gift shop located on the first floor or call Teresa Grove at 413- 544-4046.



Submitted Photo
The Baystate Wing Hospital auxiliary presenting Ron Bryant president of Baystate Health Regional Hospitals with a check for \$25,000.



CLUES ACROSS

- Flat tableland with steep edges
- Byproduct of fire
- Talked
- Unique skill
- Unembarrassed
- Where teenagers go
- Boxing's GOAT
- Used to anoint
- Reproductive structure found in rust fungi
- Auburn great
- Newton
- Some are for Christmas
- Dried, split pulses
- Self
- Where to get your mail
- High schoolers' test
- Flightless bird
- Expectorated
- Practice of misrepresenting the truth

CLUES DOWN

- Licensed for Wall Street
- Partner to flow
- A very large body of water
- Accumulate on the surface of
- Central cores of stems
- Angry
- Spanish stew: ___ podrida
- Fastened with a pin
- On your way: ___ route
- Soviet labor camp system
- Enmities
- B complex vitamin
- Go quickly
- Toast
- A team's best pitcher
- Philly culinary specialty
- Small child

CLUES DOWN

- Unhappy
- Trims away
- Full of tears
- Touch softly
- Former OSS
- A person's chest
- Came from behind
- Fall back
- Nellie ___, journalist
- A part of a river where the current is very fast
- Weather
- Sports broadcaster
- lan
- Electroencephalograph
- Phenyl salicylate
- Web of Things
- Ship goods as cargo
- The bill in a restaurant
- Young female
- OJ trial judge
- One's grandmother
- West Siberian river

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

WARE RIVER NEWS is published weekly by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069. Phone: 413-967-3505. Fax: 413-967-3506. Email: ware@turley.com

WARE FAIR & FLEA raised funds for Meeting House

Request for forensic audit withdrawn

Main Street banners honor 'Hometown Heroes' for Veterans Day

Basketball brings us together: honoring 'Hois'

Mass. State Button Society marks 80 years

CHIP will identify priority health issues; set plan for action

Ware River News is a weekly publication serving the Ware, Warren, West Warren, Gilbertville, Hardwick, and Wheelwright areas. It features local news, sports, and community events. The publication is available in print and online at www.turley.com.

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 Ware River News

Call Dan today at 413-967-3505

St. Paul's holds Blessing of the Animals Oct. 22

PALMER – All are welcome to bring their pet to a special Blessing of the Animals service at St. Paul's Church, 1060 Central St., on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 10 a.m.

This unique church service will feature music, readings and prayers of blessing for the animals.

Pet photography will be offered by John McCarthy of Longleash LLC. Pet Photography of Wilbraham, at 11 a.m. at

the church's fellowship hall. A free 4 x 6 photo of pets will be given. Additional prints and gift certificates will also be available.

Bring your pet as they are, or in festive Halloween attire; perhaps even dressed for Christmas for a special Christmas card photo shoot. If your pet is unable to attend, then be sure to bring a photo of your pet to be blessed.

Reverend Steven Sousa of

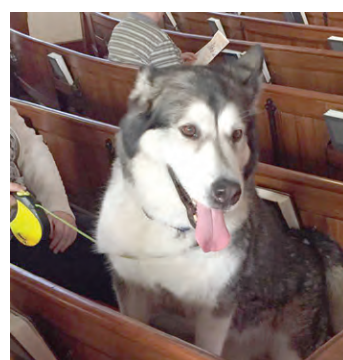
St. Paul's speaks of the importance of being a blessing to the animals in our lives. "They do not ask for much in life, and just need a warm, safe and sheltered place to live, as well as adequate food, water and exercise. In return they will give you unconditional love, loyalty and companionship. Having a furry friend means you will always have a little living being, waiting patiently for you at home and ready to welcome you with

a wagging tail or a purr."

Drinks and refreshments will be served as well as treats for the animals.

About St. Paul's Church
St. Paul's Church has faithfully served the greater Palmer community through various outreach and spiritual avenues since 1937. At its heart is the message of grace, acceptance, and love.

St. Paul's new website is: www.StPaulsPalmer.org.



Submitted Photo

St. Paul's Church will welcome pets to their Blessing of the Animals during the Sunday, Oct. 22 church service.

Girl Scouts chief executive officer stepping down

HOLYOKE— Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts announced that the nonprofit organization's Chief Executive Officer, Pattie Hallberg, is stepping down at the end of 2023. Pattie's decision to leave the Girl Scouts will bring to a close a remarkable 16 years of service to GSCWM.

"Pattie's legacy at Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts is nothing short of extraordinary," says Nicole Messier, GSCWM Board President. "Her leadership has been instrumental in shaping the organization into what it is today. We are profoundly grateful for her unwavering dedication, expertise, and vision, which have empowered countless girls and women to embrace their potential. As we embark on this transition, we remain steadfast to upholding the values and mission that Pattie has championed throughout her tenure. The GSCWM board is committed to finding a worthy successor who will carry on Pattie's legacy and uphold our mission to nurture the future female leaders of tomorrow."

"It has been my honor and a sincere privilege to lead Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts, an organization dedicated to the development of a girl's personal leadership journey. I am proud of the organization we are today and the impact we've made, working with thousands of fabulous girls and adults to further the Girl Scout mission to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place," said Hallberg. "Our sustainability through a global pandemic and our current growth both in membership and revenue represents the collective effort of an incredibly talented staff, a dedicated board of directors, generous funding partners, and an innovative and dedicated membership. I couldn't be more excited about what's next for this important organization."

The GSCWM board will oversee the process to choose Pattie's successor. The board of directors has engaged the search firm, Find Good People (FGP) to assist with the transition.

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

PLOW DRIVERS WANTED

The Town of West Brookfield is looking for part-time plow drivers.

This is an on-call position. Must have a valid, clean MA Driver's License and a DOT physical card. Pay rate \$20.41/hour or \$23.38/hour with a Class B License with air brakes. Snow plowing experience is preferred but not required.

Please contact:

Jim Daley – (508) 867-1417
or via email jdaley@wbrookfield.com

The Town of West Brookfield is an Equal Opportunity Employer and values diversity at all levels of the workforce. EOE

Community Newspaper EDITOR WANTED

Turley Publications is looking for a "hands on" energetic candidate who loves telling stories to be the editor for two weekly publications. This position will include managing and coaching a small news staff that will provide the community with a great local newspaper.

The editor will need to cover local government and events while representing the newspaper at public venues.

The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills and is also expected to gather news and write stories for the two papers as well as for other occasional companywide publications.

This is a job for a self-starter who has a vision for growing and connecting with our valued readers, and who thoroughly enjoys community journalism.

This full-time position with flexible schedule is based in our Palmer office at 24 Water St., this is not a remote position.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- Willingness to mentor a staff writer and correspondents
- Editing experience and ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style
- Management experience and/or experience managing content for a print publication.

Please send resume and writing examples to:

Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to ekennedy@turley.com

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THE TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD is looking for part-time plow drivers. This is an on-call position. Must have a valid, clean MA Driver's License and a DOT physical car. Pay rate \$20.41/hour or \$23.38/hour with a Class B License with air brakes. Snow plowing experience is preferred but not required. Please contact: **Jim Daley, 508-867-1417** or via email jdaley@wbrookfield.com. The Town of West Brookfield is an Equal Opportunity Employer and values diversity at all levels of the workforce. EOE

TOWN OF PALMER DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Town of Palmer DPW is seeking contractors for snow removal for the upcoming winter season. If interested, contracts are available on the town website under Public Works or at the DPW office. Completed contracts with a copy of the necessary insurance can be delivered to the DPW office located at 1015 Bridge St. Palmer. Rates have been increased for fiscal year 2024 and will be effective on 11/01/23. Please call our office at (413) 283-2615 for our most recent rate schedule.

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FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-689-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or call: 413-283-8393

DEADLINES: QUABBIN & SUBURBAN – FRIDAY AT NOON
HILLTOWNS – MONDAY AT NOON

CATEGORY:

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Buy the Quabbin Village Hills or the Suburban Residential ZONE for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word. Add \$10 for a second Zone or add \$15 to run in ALL THREE ZONES.

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 Subtotal _____
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Quabbin
 Suburban
 Hilltowns

WATER | from page 1

“That’s logical, because without water, fire trucks are nice pieces of equipment that sit there and look nice, but they can’t do anything.”
 “What we do here in the District is, we have a good solid cooperation with the Fire Department,” LaVallie said. “They let us know what they need, and we try to give them everything we can, as far as water.”

LaVallie said that only town legislature could create or combine districts, and added that, with the exception of Palmer, the districts have been collaborating for over a decade. He described John Sasur,

then the Water Superintendent in Three Rivers, speaking with the villages and saying, “we all know where we’re going, we should work together.”

The water districts overcame any uncertainty they had about collaboration, according to LaVallie, and they ended up saving money for the residents. Approximately eight years ago, LaVallie said that a strategic study was done on the town’s water, and the villages have been collaborating ever since.

“District One didn’t participate,” LaVallie said, referring to Palmer.

“We hired an engineering firm to come in, and we had them look

at all three districts,” LaVallie said. “To tell us where our shortfalls were, to tell us where we needed to improve, and [suggest] an organizational structure that might work.”

The big problem that the study identified was the Bondsville water tank, which LaVallie described as “a concern” ever since it was built in 1908. About two weeks ago, a leaking valve was discovered that required the whole tank to be flushed so it could be repaired and refilled.

“We’re repairing it right now so that we can get some usage out of it, temporarily,” LaVallie said. “We’re actively seeking funds for a new tank right now, but it’s going to

be about \$8 million.”

The current problems with the tank mostly affect its pressure as it pumps water throughout the districts.

“We decided to come down with a list of strategic priorities for the three districts,” LaVallie said. “The first priority we came up with was that we needed to put in a connecting line with Three Rivers, a fully-functional line. We have kind of a half-baked one over in Thorndike, but that’s not enough.”

In order to fund this line, the Bondsville Water District got a loan of \$2.6 million from the United States Department of Agriculture, which will allow them to put a 12-

inch water main along Route 181.

Solving Palmer’s issues with water quality and distribution will not be an easy fix. LaVallie said that there is a “rule of unintended consequences” that needs to be considered.

“John [Sasur] was the initiator of all this, and he had a great vision,” LaVallie said. “We all took it up, and it’s working—slowly. Nothing happens that quick, and we don’t want it to, because of the rule of unintended consequence.”

LaVallie said that the process has been about working slowly, figuring out how the Districts can cooperate, and then working together for the good of the town.

“You just have to look at your system and understand it,” LaVallie said. “Know its strengths and its weaknesses, and then you have to keep your strengths going and work on your weaknesses. It’s a continuous process.”

One of the things that the Water District is particularly proud of is its quick response time. Those who live in Bondsville and have a problem with water may call the Department at 413-284-1627, or send an email to bfwd3174@comcast.net.

“That’s what we’re here for,” LaVallie said. “And that really works out well, because we can get right on it and fix it.”

Public Notices

Town of Monson Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with MGL Chapter 40A the Monson Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing **Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 7:10 PM** in the Select Board meeting room at the Town Administration Building, 110 Main Street, Monson. The applicant is seeking a Special Permit for a Common Access Driveway as provided by Section 6.21 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The properties are located at 25 Bradway Road, Map 018, Parcel 003F and 27 Bradway road Map 018, Parcel 003G Zoned Rural Residential. Both properties are held in common ownership, owned by Julvyette Rodriguez and Xavier Cody. A copy of the plan is available for viewing in the Planning Board office during regular office hours
 Craig Sweitzer, Chairman
 Monson Planning Board
 09/28, 10/05/2023

(SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 23 SM 003607 ORDER OF NOTICE TO:
 Lynn Chicoine
 a/k/a Lynn Rutkowski
 and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (et seq).

Citizens Bank, N.A. f/k/a RBS Citizens, N.A. claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Monson, numbered 37 Waid Road, given by Lynn Chicoine a/k/a Lynn Rutkowski to RBS Citizens, N.A., dated October 27, 2014, and recorded at Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 20502, Page 248, as affected by Loan Modification Agreement dated May 2, 2018 and recorded at said Registry in Book 22261, Page 293 has/ have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant/s/Defendants’ Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **November 6, 2023** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, **GORDON H. PIPER**, Chief Justice of said Court on **September 25, 2023**.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
 Recorder
 10/05/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD23P1993EA Estate of: Bernard L Dupuis Also known as: Bernard Lucius Dupuis Date of Death: 04/06/2023 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL

ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Bernard C Dupuis a/k/a Christopher Dupuis of Becket, MA and Taylor Dupuis of North Brookfield, 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: **Bernard C Dupuis a/k/a Christopher Dupuis of Becket, MA and Taylor Dupuis of North Brookfield, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
 You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/23/2023**.

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
 A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: September 25, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 10/05/2023

TOWN OF PALMER NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Palmer Town Council will hold a public hearing **Monday, October 16, 2023, at the Palmer Town Building, 4417 Main Street, Thorndike, Palmer, MA at 6:30pm**. Amending the Palmer Zoning Ordinance Article XXIV, Section 171-124 Marijuana Establishments and Registered Dispensaries to raise the number from three allowed to operate to four. Anyone interested in being heard should appear at the time and place so designated.
 09/28, 10/05/2023

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Open – End Mortgage dated March 29, 2013, given by Krystine A. O'Connor to Farm Credit East, ACA, and recorded in the Hampden County

Registry of Deeds in Book 19750, Page 325, covering property known as and located at 121 Haynes Hill Road, Brimfield, Massachusetts, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder (the “Mortgagee” or “Mortgage Holder”) for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at public auction taking place on the premises of **121 Haynes Hill Road, Brimfield, Massachusetts on Tuesday, October 31, 2023 commencing at 11:00 AM**, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage (the “Mortgaged Premises”), to wit:

The land in Brimfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts, being more particularly bound and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin in the easterly line of Haynes Hill Road in the town of Brimfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts, said iron pin being located at the northwesterly corner of the premises herein described, and being also at a corner of land now or formerly of Andrew W. and Kathryn V. Gondek as the same is described in a deed dated 18 July 1962, recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 2891, Page 412;

Thence running S. 71 degrees 30'42" E. a distance of 235.67 feet along a stone wall and along land of said Gondek to an iron pin;

Thence running S. 72 degrees 45'56" E. a distance of 577.97 feet along a stone wall and along land of said Gondek to an iron pin;

Thence running S. 72 degrees 22'38" E. a distance of 821.31 feet along a stone wall and along land of said Gondek to an iron pin at land now or formerly of the Town of Brimfield, known as the Brimfield Town Farm;

Thence running S. 10 degrees 17'40" W. a distance of 710.74 feet along an old fence line and with land of said Brimfield Town Farm to a ten inch oak tree at a corner of land now or formerly of Lyman Stanton as the same is described in a deed dated 23 June 1956 recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 2740, Page 368.

Thence running N. 68 degrees 17'08" W. a distance of 1695.68 feet along the easterly line of Haynes Hill Road to an iron pipe;

Thence running N. 16 degrees 00'36" E. a distance of 334.50 feet continuing along the easterly line of Haynes Hill Road to the place if beginning, containing a calculated area of 24.549 acres of land, more or less; being the same premises described in a deed recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 3339, Page 78.

Being the same premises conveyed to Philip P. Welz and Fiona M. Welz by Deed of Antonio J. Batista and M. Constance Batista, dated May 26, 2004 and recorded at the Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 14204, Page 468. See also deed dated 1-28-2013 in Book 19657, Page 348.

Excepting therefrom the parcel described in a deed from said Antonio J. Batista and M. Constance Batista to Florence Henderson, recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 10383, Page 251 and more accurately bounded and described as follows:

The land in Brimfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts, being more particularly bound and described as follows:

Beginning at the iron pin in the easterly side of Haynes Hill Road, said from pin located at the Northwesterly corner of the premises herein conveyed and the southwesterly corner of other land of Grantor.

Thence S. 68 degrees 12'45" E. a distance of 275.00 feet to an iron pin;

Thence S. 20 degrees 03'20" W. a distance of 271.49 feet to an iron pin;

Thence N. 68 degrees 19' W. a distance of 250.00 feet to an iron pin;

Thence N. 12 degrees 44'30" E. along the easterly side of Haynes Hill Road, a distance of 99.45' to a point;

Thence N. 16 degrees 00'35" E. along the easterly side of Haynes Hill Road, a distance of 174.50 feet to the point of beginning.

Meaning and intending to convey Lot 2 containing 1,648 acres as shown on “Plan of land in Brimfield, Mass., surveyed for Antonio J. and M. Constance Batista,” Kenneth Sherman, Engineer. Said Plan recorded at Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 279, Page 53; and

Also excepting therefrom, the land bounded and described as follows: Being “Lot 1” on said plan recorded at Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 279, Page 53.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

TERMS OF SALE: The Mortgaged Premises will be sold subject to the terms set forth above and as hereinafter provided. Twenty thousand (\$20,000.00) dollars must be tendered in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder to be held by the Mortgagee’s attorney, Jonathan R. Goldsmith, Esq., Goldsmith, Katz & Argenio, P.C., 1350 Main Street, Suite 1505, Springfield, MA 01103 (“Escrow Agent”). The successful bidder will also be required to deposit a sum equal to ten (10%) percent of the successful bid (less the \$20,000.00 deposit) with the Escrow Agent within

five (5) days of the date of the sale. The balance of the purchase price, plus a Buyer’s Premium equal to five (5%) percent of the successful bid amount, shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check at the closing, which shall occur within thirty (30) days after the date of the foreclosure sale, time being of the essence, unless the Mortgagee agrees otherwise in writing.

The deposit tendered by the highest bidder shall be held as earnest money by the Escrow Agent which, at the option of the Mortgagee, shall serve as liquidated damages for any default by the successful bidder. Upon payment of the balance of the purchase price and the Buyer’s Premium, the respective foreclosure deed will be released to the successful bidder, whereupon the obligations of the parties shall be deemed to be properly fulfilled and discharged. Each successful bidder shall be required to sign a Memorandum of Sale containing the within terms at each of the Public Auctions.

In the event that any successful bidder at the public auction shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Mortgagee’s Sale of Real Estate and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the public auction, the Mortgagee reserves the right, at its election, to sell that parcel of the Mortgaged Premises by foreclosure deed to the second highest bidder at the public auction provided that: (i) said second highest bidder shall deposit with the Escrow Agent, the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within three (3) business days after written notice to the second highest bidder of the default of the previous highest bidder; (ii) the second highest bidder shall execute a Memorandum of Sale; and (iii) title shall be conveyed to the said second highest bidder within twenty (20) days of said written notice, time being of the essence unless the Mortgagee agrees otherwise in writing. The terms of sale shall be the same as described above.

Other Terms, if any, to be announced at the time and place of the sale.
FARM CREDIT EAST, ACA,
 Present Holder of said Mortgage,
 By its attorney,
 Jonathan R. Goldsmith, Esq.
 Goldsmith, Katz & Argenio, P.C.
 1350 Main Street, Suite 1505
 Springfield, MA 01103
 Tel. (413) 747-0700
 10/05, 10/12, 10/19/2023

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises:
 11 Christine Street,
 Palmer, MA 01069
 By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Randall E. Paxton to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for First Federal Savings Bank of Boston, and now held by **U.S. Bank 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) 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.
Being 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 Mortgagee’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

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) 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.
Being 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 Mortgagee’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

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Department Hampden Division Docket No. HD08P184334CV1 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S ACCOUNT
 To all persons interested in the estate of **ROBERT L SHAW** of Palmer, Hampden County, MA, a protected person.
 You are hereby notified pursuant to Mass. R. Civ. P. Rule 72 that the **Thirty-fourth and Final** Account(s) inclusive of T.D. Bank, N.A and Benjamin F. Shaw, Trustees under a written instrument for the benefit of said **ROBERT L SHAW** have been presented to said Court for allowance.

If you desire to preserve your right to file an objection to said account(s), you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said court at Springfield on or before the **26th day of October, 2023**, the return day of this citation. You may upon written request by registered or certified mail to the fiduciary, or to the attorney for the fiduciary, obtain without cost a copy of said accounts. If you desire to object to any item of said accounts, you must, in addition to filing a written appearance as aforesaid, file within thirty days after said return day or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order a written statement of each such item together with the grounds for each objection thereto, a copy to be served upon the fiduciary pursuant to Mass R. Civ. P. Rule 5.
 Witness, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of said Court at Springfield this 21st day of September.
Rosemary A. Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 10/05/2023

TOWN OF PALMER NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
 The Palmer Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday October 16, 2023, at the Palmer Town Building, 4417 Main Street (Thorndike), Palmer, MA at 6:30pm**. That the Town appropriate the amount of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) for the purpose of paying costs of designing and reconstructing wastewater treatment plant roof and four pump house roofs. Anyone interested in being heard should appear at the time and place so designated.
 Palmer Town Council.
 09/28, 10/05/2023

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 a 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 Mortgagee by Deed of Michael R. Ray and recorded immediately prior thereto.
 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

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.



Shown is evidence of the charge against Monson Savings Bank Vice President Michael Rouette Sr. and CEO Dan Moriarty.



Monson resident Sara Malo is accused of "rooting for the wrong team."



Local business owner Kathy Foster poses for a mug shot after being charged with "letting the dogs out."



Local business owner Craig Levesque's mug shot is released to the public, revealing his charge of creating "loud noises at the gym."



Town Collector Dot Jenkins is accused of "moving other peoples' golf balls on the green." The Friends of Monson have hailed her the "Ball Bandit of Quaboag Country Club."




Sara Malo is caught red-handed, sporting Palmer sportswear and pom-poms.



Kathy Foster is caught climbing a fence to break dogs out of the pound.



Craig Levesque is shown committing his crime in real-time.



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HALLOWEEN TRUNK OR TREAT

Saturday, Oct. 28
Town Hall at 3:00 PM
Farmer Matt's at 4:00 PM

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

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

Check FarmerMatt.com for details & more events.



FarmerMatt.com
860 West Brookfield Rd.
New Braintree, MA



Turley Photo by Dallas Gagnon
Stephen appears to be pleading at the mercy of Judge Watson during the Jail Bail kick-off, on Sept. 28.



"Judge" Mary Watson's dog Stephen is charged with stealing treats. Stephen posted bail the morning of Oct. 3, in the amount of \$500.

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charged and caught red-handed "stealing treats." However, Stephen was one of first "criminals," to post his \$500 bail.

"Stephen is very well-known and liked in town," said Davis.

She added his "arrest" caught the attention of many, resulting in his bail amount being surpassed with an uproar of community support for Stephen's freedom.

Among the others who made bail, is Monson Booster Association member, Sara Malo, who was caught wrongfully "rooting for the other team."

Photos of Malo's offense spread throughout social media, with Malo sporting a long-sleeve Palmer sports shirt and pom-poms.

Duval alleged the "town has spoken in huge volumes," adding "apparently, the parents could care less about her rooting for the other team, as long as Monson keeps winning games."

Local business owner, Kathy Foster of Westview Creamery, made her \$750 bail, despite being arrested for "letting the dogs out."

Pictures of Foster sneaking dogs out of the local pound were also revealed "evidence," however, the community chipped in to support Foster's freedom and the fundraising initiative.

Of the seven volunteers, four have made bail, while three of the accused are still short.

Craig Levesque, of C.R Levesque Trucking, made his \$750 bail, despite Duval deeming his charge "the worst of offenses," for making "loud noises at the gym."

She added "nobody likes a grunter."

Those who have not made bail include Dot Jenkins, charged with moving other people's golf balls at the Quaboag Country Club, Curt Jameson, charged with parading without a permit and the Monson Savings Bank team, CEO Dan Moriarty and Vice President Michael Rouette Sr., charged with playing with "funny money."

The Jail Bail fundraiser will end Oct. 14. Those who do not make bail are at risk of "going to jail," which in this case, is spending some time cooped up in the gazebo.

To support the FOM and Monson's first Wreaths Across America wreath-laying ceremony, please scan the QR Code provided, or email friendsofmonson@gmail.com to inquire about donation options.

Davis said that the ceremony will be a "big day" for Monson, as they have never participated in one before.

"It's a very emotional day. The history of the town is very important to us, and of the country," said Davis. "My father was a veteran. It's important to honor our veterans; the people who gave their lives for the freedom we have today."

The FOM will hold a chili cook-off fundraiser on Oct. 21, at TJ's Tavern to help deter wreath costs.

Those interested in sampling chili will be asked to make a \$10 donation and cast their votes. More updates will be included on the Friends of Monson official Facebook page.

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Deadline for submissions is October 16th

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