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The Journal Register

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MONSON



Turley Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Cemetery Commissioner Mat Wawrzyk, in the guise of Jacob Thompson, spoke to the crowd.

Cemetery Walk resurrects local history

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – This weekend's Fifth Annual Cemetery Walk presented a great opportunity to relive the history of the town's industry and keep our ancestors' memory alive.

The growing tradition of Cemetery Walks during the fall continued with the town's fifth tour through Hillside Cemetery on Oct. 10. After a tour of the Jacob Thompson House at 6 p.m., a crowd of residents gathered in the cemetery at 7 p.m. for a tour performed by Cemetery Commissioner Mat Wawrzyk and his crew.

"I thought it was well-received," Wawrzyk said. "I had a lot of fun, and I hope everybody else did, too."

The tour involved multiple actors reading scripts about local history, originally performed in the 1990s. Wawrzyk announced that the commission hopes to match the town's previous record of 12 annual Cemetery Walks, and that preparations are already underway for next year.

"Currently, we are in the process of applying for our local Cultural Commission grant for 2027, and getting all the criteria posted for the application for the state grant," Wawrzyk said. "After we get approved for that stuff, we'll start looking at scripts."

Wawrzyk estimated about 100 visitors attended the walk this year. The commission also held a drawing to give away commemorative items for this year's event, including six fliers by artist Tyler Mortenson, and two lanterns by local craft artisan, Kevin Pelissier.

"Two of the lanterns he made ended up being given away for the drawing,"

CEMETERY ❙ page 18

PALMER

Palmer receives grant

By Kevin Flanders
Staff Writer
kflanders@turley.com

PALMER – The state's Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (HLC) selected Palmer as the recipient of a major grant award.

Palmer received $150,000 through the HLC's Community Planning Grant Program. The funds will support the Planning Board's vision of creating standards that promote walkability and economic development downtown.

The new code will enable more predictable, attractive, and community-aligned growth, officials said.

"The Planning Department's commitment to re-evaluate our Depot Village's code reaffirms Town Council's larger goal to revitalize our community and make the development process stronger for our stakeholders," said Town Manager Brad Brothers. "A key component of updating our form-based code is enhancing walkability throughout downtown."

Officials said increased accessibility in the downtown district will bring several benefits for residents and business owners.

"Walkable downtowns attract residents, visitors, and

GRANT ❙ page 15

MONSON

Finding new paths forward

Monson author to release poetry collection

By Kevin Flanders
Staff Writer
kflanders@turley.com

MONSON – Local veteran and author N. J. Shamey is looking forward to the release of his new poetry collection exploring several themes.

Shamey, a Monson-based author and Army veteran, will release "The Paths Lead Only Forward: Poems of War, Memory, Faith, and Renewal" on Oct. 20.

The collection brings together 54 poems organized around five themes: war and service, grief and absence, the natural world, faith and renewal, and service to the common good.

PATHS ❙ page 15



Submitted photo

Monson's N. J. Shamey will soon release a poetry collection.

MONSON

Monson set for Public Safety Night

By Kevin Flanders
Staff Writer
kflanders@turley.com

MONSON – Residents are invited to take part in several activities at the town's sixth annual Public Safety Night.

Set for Saturday, Oct. 17, the event will run from 3-6 p.m. at Veterans Field (8 State Street, Monson). Another large attendance is expected, with guests of all ages enjoying the program.

The free event will offer food and refreshments to guests at no charge. Residents and families will also be able to meet several first responders and members of local organizations, in addition to enjoying activities throughout the afternoon.

The event provides a great opportunity for residents to connect with public safety leaders in an informal setting, officials said. The program will also set the stage for a busy autumn of community events, including many Halloween-themed activities.

"This event consistently draws a great turnout from the residents and serves as a fantastic opportunity for the community to connect with local public safety agencies, businesses, and resources," said

SAFETY ❙ page 18

BRIMFIELD

Car Show to benefit Fire Department

Turley Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Ralph Harris and Gordon Holstrom had a chat by the restored Auburn fire truck.



By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

BRIMFIELD – This weekend boasted one of the largest car and auto shows in the area, with proceeds going to the local fire department.

On Oct. 10, the annual Brimfield Auto Show was held at Brimfield Winery. Proceeds from the event went to benefit the Fire Department and Hitchcock Free Academy.

Cars from all over the region flocked to the field behind the winery to compete for 87 trophies in 28 categories. One prestigious award,

CAR SHOW ❙ page 9

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Author brings history to life

BRIMFIELD – Hitchcock Academy will resume its Brown Bag Speaker Series this month, with its first fall event slated for Oct. 21.

Local author Don Duffy will delve into the Brimfield chapters of his latest book, "Native Americans React to British Incursions."

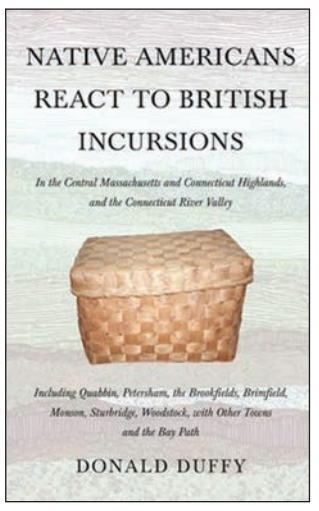
The presentation – "A Rock & A Hard Place: Brimfield at Odds with the Winthrop Family" – will begin at 12:30 p.m.

An optional lunch will precede the program at noon. Attendees may order a lunch or bring one in. Reservations are required for both ($10 for the talk and an additional $10 for the optional lunch).

Reservations can be made by visiting Hitchcock's website or calling 413-245-9977.

The talk will likely run approximately one hour, and additional time is reserved for questions and discussion.

In 1644, English Puritans led by John Winthrop II (the son of the Massachusetts Bay Colony's first governor and later the governor of the Connecticut Colony) first explored an area known to the native Nipmuc people as Tantiusques, which translates to "a black deposit between two hills."



Recognizing the value of the region's "black lead" (graphite), Winthrop purchased the land from the local Nipmuc sachem, Tantasqua. He established what became one of the earliest and most significant colonial commercial mines in New England, extracting graphite, lead, and iron.

The Winthrop family retained control over the Sturbridge mining lands for 140 years.

"This talk examines upset among Brimfield farmers from a time when the mining land fell within Brimfield territory," read a statement promoting the presentation.

Don Duffy began his writing career as a result of his time serving on the Town of Palmer Conservation Committee. That involvement sparked an interest in the area, and he began researching and discovering interesting facts about the region. He is the author of four books.

The Brown Bag Speaker Series is presented with support from The Shirley Frye Memorial Fund.

For more information, visit www.hitchcockacademy.org.

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

Special birthday celebration for Winnie the Pooh's 100th

WALES – All are welcome to join the Friends of the Wales Public Library (77 Main Street) in celebration of Winnie the Pooh's 100th birthday.

Festivities will take place on Saturday, Oct. 24. Drop in for this free celebration between 9 a.m. and noon to hear stories of Winnie the Pooh and his friends, play a game of Pooh sticks, and build a house for Eeyore.

Guests will also write birthday cards for Winnie the Pooh, get a tattoo of the characters from the book, enjoy a scavenger hunt, and meet a beekeeper, among other activities.

Please register on the Wales Public Library Facebook events page. You may also send an email to wales@cwmars.org, or call 413-245-9072.

Country Bank for Savings is thanked for sponsoring this event. The Publick House will provide birthday treats.

Special Town Meeting set for Oct. 26

MONSON – The Special Town Meeting will take place on Monday, Oct. 26, at 7 p.m. at the Granite Valley School auditorium.

The STM warrant can be found online at www.monson-ma.gov. Copies are available in the Monson Town Clerk's Office.

The deadline to register to vote for anyone who is currently not registered is Oct. 16.

For more information, please contact the Monson Town Clerk's Office at: townclerk@monson-ma.gov. You may also call 413-267-4115.

Palmer Senior Center



PALMER – The Palmer Senior Center, located at 1029 Central St., has plenty of activities and programs this month.

Fuel Assistance

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program helps eligible households challenged by the high cost of home heating fuel pay a portion of their winter heating bills. This program through Valley Opportunity Council, Inc., provides fuel assistance through a fixed benefit amount for the cost of the primary source of heat.

Sources include oil, electricity, natural gas, propane, kerosene, wood, and coal. Additional potential benefits included are utility discounts, homeowner heating system repair, and weatherization.

The Palmer Senior Center is a local site for seniors, 60-plus, to apply for fuel assistance. Please call Cindy at 283-2670 (Extension 2) to schedule an appointment to complete an application. If you applied last year, Valley Opportunity Council, Inc., sends fuel assistance renewal applications to the address on file.

Friday, Movie Matinee

12:30 p.m.

Oct. 16: "Cast Away" – A FedEx systems engineer whose ruled-by-the-clock existence abruptly ends when a harrowing plane crash leaves him isolated on a remote island.

Oct. 23: "Hocus Pocus" – Three outlandishly wild witches who return from 17th century Salem for a night of zany fun and comic chaos. After they're accidentally conjured by some unsuspecting pranksters, the tricky trio sets out to cast a spell on the town and reclaim their youth – but first they must outwit three pesky kids who are determined to foil their scheme.

Monday Evening Programs at 4:30

Oct. 19: Henry Quinlan will present "Fifty Years in Publishing." Henry will share experiences and stories from the world of celebrities and book publishing.

Oct. 26: Pilgrim and Turkey Shelf Sitters with Kim. Cost free. See sample at center.

Volunteering

Join RSVP (the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) and help to support nonprofits in your community. If you are over 55 and have hours available each week or month to volunteer your time, we have dozens of opportunities with area organizations that need you. RSVP offers free liability insurance to all volunteers, mileage reimbursement if needed, and other benefits.

Party planning

The Center will hold its annual Christmas Party on Friday, Dec. 4, at the Ludlow Elks this year. Like in the past, tickets will be available at the Center (we will have exact days and times to sign up and pay). We will serve family style, have door prizes, giveaways, and entertainment. More information to follow in the November Newsletter.

The Senior Center is located at 1029 Central Street. For more information about programs, please call 413-283-2670.

Notice of public comment period extension for MWRA application

The Massachusetts Water Resources Commission hereby gives notice pursuant to MGL Chapter 21 Sections 8B - 8D, and 313 CMR 4.00, Interbasin Transfer Act and Regulations, that the public comment period for the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's Regional Water Supplier Donor Basin Application is being extended to Oct. 28.

Section 4.10 of the Interbasin Transfer Act regulations enables a Regional Water Supply System to file an application that allows the Water Resources Commission to evaluate and approve criteria applicable to the Donor Basin separately from criteria applicable to the Receiving Area.

MWRA, as a Regional Water Supply System, has filed a Donor Basin application pursuant to section 4.10 for the supply of an additional 20 million gallons per day on average to accommodate the expansion of its service area to multiple public water systems. The MWRA's sources are located in the Chicopee River and Nashua River Basins.

Copies of the application are available for review at the Clapp Memorial Library in Belchertown, the Bigelow Free Public Library in Clinton, and on the Interbasin Transfer Act applications webpage. Copies of the application may also be obtained by contacting Vanessa.Curran@mass.gov.

The Commission will be accepting comments on the substance of the application (whether the application is consistent with the environmental criteria set out in the Interbasin Transfer Act, such as impacts on the fisheries, recreation, and the aquatic ecosystem of the donor basin). The Commission will also be accepting comments on the process by which a regional water supplier may apply to the Water Resources Commission for an Increase in the Present Rate of Interbasin Transfer under section 4.10.

Comments will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Oct. 28.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic submittal, via email to Vanessa.Curran@mass.gov. Written testimony may also be mailed to: Water Resources Commission, Attention: Vandana Rao, EOEEA, 100 Cambridge St., Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114.

Church hosting Polish dinner

MONSON – A Polish dinner will be held this month at Monson-Glendale United Methodist Church (162 Main Street). The event will take place on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Dine-in and takeout options are available.

To learn about menu items, or to reserve your dinner ahead of time, please call 267-5207. Orders will be taken until Oct. 23. The price is $20 per adult and $10 per child.



Button appraisal day to be held Nov. 1

MONSON – A Button Appraisal Day will be held on Sunday, Nov. 1, at the Keep Homestead Museum (35 Ely Road).



The event will take place from 1-3:30 p.m. with button expert and dealer Betty Korostynski. She is well-versed in the identification and current pricing of buttons and has been a button dealer for 35 years, selling in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Hampshire.

There is no cost for the appraisals; however, donations will be accepted.

Visitors are welcome to tour the museum and enjoy light refreshments.

For more information about the museum, visit www.keephomesteadmuseum.org.

Early voting hours available in Palmer

PALMER – Early voting hours are available on several upcoming dates for the Nov. 3 State Election.

Early voting will take place at the Palmer Town Clerk's Office (4417 Main Street, Palmer).

Early voting dates and times are as follows: Saturday, Oct. 17 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.); Monday, Oct. 19 (8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.); Tuesday, Oct. 20 (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.); Wednesday, Oct. 21 (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.); Thursday, Oct. 22 (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.); Saturday, Oct. 24 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.); Monday, Oct. 26 (8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.); Tuesday, Oct. 27 (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.); Wednesday, Oct. 28 (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.); Thursday, Oct. 29 (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

Residents are reminded that Saturday, Oct. 24, at 5 p.m. is the deadline to register to vote for the Nov. 3 election.

Early voting in Monson

MONSON – All early voting will take place at the Town Office Building in the Public Meeting Room (110 Main Street).

Early voting will be available on the following dates and times: Saturday, Oct. 17 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.); Monday, Oct. 19 (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.); Tuesday, Oct. 20 (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.); Wednesday, Oct. 21 (8 a.m. to 6 p.m.); Thursday, Oct. 22 (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.); Friday, Oct. 23 (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.); Saturday, Oct. 24 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. – last day to register to vote); Monday, Oct. 26 (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.); Tuesday, Oct. 27 (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.); Wednesday, Oct. 28 (8 a.m. to 6 p.m.); Thursday, Oct. 29 (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.); and Friday, Oct. 30 (8 a.m. to 4 p.m. – last day for early voting).

The polling location for the Nov. 3 State Election is Quarry Hill Community School (43 Margaret Street – use pool entrance).

Polling hours are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information, contact the Monson Town Clerk at 413-267-4115. You may also send an email to: townclerk@monson-ma.gov.




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HOLIDAY
Harvest Fair
October 17, 2026
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palprobike@gmail.com
palprobike.com
(413) 289-9458

Legislators, local leaders speak against MWRA request

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com



Turley Staff Photo

Representatives from the communities surrounding the Quabbin Reservoir attended a public hearing on Sept. 30.

BELCHERTOWN – A public hearing was held by the Massachusetts Water Resources Commission to discuss a request from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority to transfer an additional 20 million gallons of water per day from the Quabbin Reservoir to the eastern Massachusetts communities the reservoir serves.

The reason cited is to accommodate the expansion of its service area.

Legislators and local officials, along with residents spoke strongly in opposition of this request at the Sept. 30 hearing, citing fairness, equity and history, among other themes. State leaders in attendance included Rep. Aaron Saunders, Sen. Jake Oliveira, Sen. Jo Comerford and Sen. Peter Durant.

Saunders spoke of the history of the Quabbin, saying "The Quabbin is not merely a distant water source."

He spoke about how it displaced residents and reshaped the region of the state for the benefit of millions of people in metro Boston, and how to this day, the residents and communities protect and steward the water. He said the lands of the Quabbin are taken from the tax bases of communities and residents live with water restrictions to preserve the water, but they cannot access it when their own wells run dry.

"This is the context in which I urge the commission to reject the MWRA's application as presented," Saunders said.

He also noted that the request of 20 million gallons is the largest request ever made in 40 years of the interbasin transfer being law.

Saunders also spoke about the interbasin transfer act, which is the legal process for the request being made. He said under the statute, the donor and receiving communities need to have access to the same information to weigh their decisions, but in this case, the donor communities are not being told what the need for the water is, which communities will be getting it, and how much water is going to each individual community.

He said the eastern Massachusetts communities will have all that information.

"The MWRA's attempt to leverage the very law designed to protect our communities to instead deprive us of basic information about a proposed transfer adds immeasurable insult to generations of injury," he said of the request.

"Quabbin region residents are being asked to comment on the extraction of 20 million gallons of water per day without knowing where the water will go, who will receive it, how much each community needs, or what public benefit supposedly justifies the burden," he said.

Oliveira spoke about the levels of the Quabbin being the lowest they have been in his lifetime.

"If you go to the Quabbin Reservoir right now, you can see how low the water is," he said.

He said the request of 20 million gallons is equivalent to one John Hancock building in Boston, and there is no clear guidance on who will receive the water. He urged the commission to hold a future hearing on the decision in western Massachusetts so people from the region can attend.

Oliveira also spoke about the interbasin transfer law, saying "the spirit of the law is intentionally being broken right now, and if this makes its way to a court of law, I guarantee that they would probably side with the legislators."

Comerford spoke about the commission's responsibility to safeguard the water future for the entire commonwealth, and spoke about how the Quabbin towns face restrictions on economic development while getting little payment in return.

"Your decisions today have generational impacts…I urge you to reject the MWRA's application," Comerford said.

She also recommended against future water transfers until fundamental questions are answered, saying, "I ask the commission today to recommend against any future water transfers from the Quabbin until the commonwealth has resolved fundamental questions of equity, stewardship and a common water future for all in Massachusetts."

She said the region has chronic population decline, limited infrastructure and a dearth of economic activity, and asked what would happen when the region runs out of resources to protect the water.

Comerford said the towns took formal votes during town meetings and select board letters asking for more representation on the MWRA board of directors, since the region has no seat, and for more payment in lieu of taxes funding.

"The MWRA and its advisory board responded negatively with disinterest, disinformation and even open disdain," Comerford said.

Durant said the water system is under stress and extracting with no compensation is not good, and he also spoke of the proposed battery energy storage system in Oakham.

Stephen Garabedian of the Belchertown Conservation Commission said he believes the application is a done deal, saying the governor wants this water to develop a former naval base and turn it into 6,000 housing units. He said since there are no resources for water near Boston, they are turning to the Quabbin.

"Water flows toward money," he said.

Some leaders, including Patty Gamborini of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and Sue Cloutier of New Salem asked about desalination plants, and whether one could be built on the coast of Boston. Cloutier said when she was in eighth grade, she did a study on desalination happening in Florida, saying the technology is there.

Matthew Broderick of the Oakham Planning Board said a third of their town was taken for the watershed, and the town takes its stewardship seriously, and they are also in support of protecting their self interests and the reservoir from the BESS facility.

"Our confidence in the stewardship of the MWRA has been severely eroded," he said, and noted there could be severe impacts if the BESS system experiences an accident.

Ed Comeau of Belchertown said the Quabbin is 12 feet below capacity, and the Quabbin/Wachusett system is still a good reserve, but with climate change and changes in precipitation, it could take years to build back to the levels the reservoir was once at.

The commission will make a decision about this request at a future public hearing, which is yet to be scheduled as of this publication.

Sound therapy sessions available at Hitchock

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

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

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

Sound therapy aims to utilize aspects of music, tones and notes to improve physical, emotional and mental health.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Annual water quality report available

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

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

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

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





Submitted photo

Members gathered with Dr. Rawad Elias, Interim President and Chief Operating Officer of Baystate Wing Hospital, and Kathy Tobin, Interim Vice President of Philanthropy, Baystate Health, to celebrate the contribution.

Wing Auxiliary check presentation

PALMER – Behind every volunteer shift and welcoming interaction at the Baystate Wing Hospital Gift Shop is a group of people who care deeply about their local hospital and community.

For more than 65 years, members of the Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary have shared their time, talent, and heart in service to Wing Hospital and the people it serves. They operate the hospital gift shop, organize fundraisers and special events to benefit Baystate Wing, and help create a warm, welcoming experience for patients, families, employees, and community members alike.

Their efforts have supported a wide range of needs at Wing Hospital over the years, from medical equipment to major capital projects, including the new Emergency Department, helping to expand care in the region. The Auxiliary also provides scholarships to students pursuing healthcare careers, helping create pathways for the next generation of healthcare professionals.

That spirit of service and generosity continues today, with the Auxiliary recently presenting a $25,000 gift to support Baystate Wing Hospital.

This donation is toward the Auxiliary's $200,000 pledge to Healthier Tomorrows: The Campaign for Baystate Health, a philanthropic initiative focused on advancing care across Baystate Health. The Auxiliary was among the first to pledge support to the campaign, continuing its longstanding investment in the hospital and the health of the region.

This gift funds critical needs and projects at Wing Hospital, helping ensure patients and families can continue to receive compassionate, quality, and accessible care close to home.

DEADLINE

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

CORRECTIONS *The Journal Register* will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send an email to: journalregister@turley.com, or call (413) 283-8393. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069

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.

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Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Does a Veteran who uses VA Healthcare need Medicare at age 65?

Dear Rusty:

I'm not yet old enough, but must I enroll in Medicare at age 65?

I am a disabled military veteran with VA benefits, so must I still take Medicare when I turn 65?

Signed: Disabled Veteran

Dear Disabled Veteran:

First, please accept my gratitude for your military service to our country. And please also know that if you now rely 100% on the VA for all your healthcare needs and you expect that to continue for the rest of your life, then you have the option to decline enrolling in Medicare Part B when you turn 65. However, if you believe that using healthcare providers from outside the VA may someday be in your future, you should enroll in Medicare when you are first eligible.

Although you are required to enroll in Medicare Part A (coverage for inpatient hospitalization services) if you collect Social Security after age 65, enrolling in Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient medicals services) is always optional because there is a monthly premium for Part B ($202.90 for 2026 - changes yearly).

So, as a military veteran using VA healthcare, you have a choice to either enroll in Medicare Part B at age 65, or not if you get all your healthcare services from the Veterans Administration.

Just be aware that VA healthcare is not considered "creditable" for Medicare purposes, so if you do not enroll in Medicare Part B during your Medicare Initial Enrollment Period and later choose to enroll in Medicare Part B, there will be a permanent Late Enrollment Penalty for enrolling in Medicare Part B outside your initial enrollment period (your Medicare IEP is three months on either side of the month you turn 65).

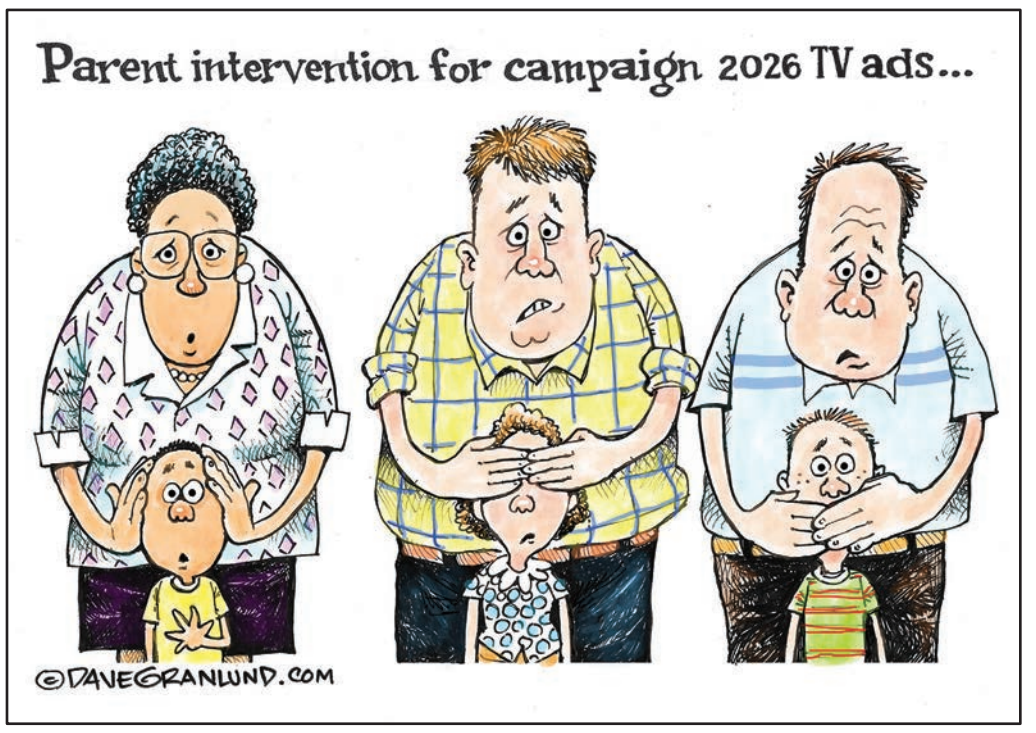
So, the decision you will need to make as you approach 65 years of age is this: will all of your healthcare needs always be provided through the VA? Or do you want the convenience (and flexibility) to know you can use any healthcare provider anywhere the U.S. or its territories, whenever and wherever you wish.

If the latter is true, then you should likely enroll in Medicare Part B when you turn 65. You can still use the VA for some services if you are enrolled in both, but there is no coordination of benefits (e.g., the VA will not make copayments if you use Medicare services, and vice versa).

Which means that you may also wish to also consider a Medicare Advantage plan or a Medicare Supplement plan to go with Medicare Part B if/when you enroll.

I hope this answers your question, but please don't hesitate to contact us again if needed. And, importantly, thank you for your service to our country.

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



When to wash and when not to wash, that is the question

In the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



This is one of my more funnier titles, isn't it? It occurred to me that not everyone knows which fruits or vegetables should be washed prior to storage.

Just yesterday I was pondering this topic myself, wondering if my fresh picked apples should be washed before I stored them away in the fridge.

Read on to learn the answer to that question as well as the same for other crops. While we're at it I will provide additional tips to help achieve lengthy storage.

Apples should not be washed prior to storage. There is a protective waxy covering over the fruit that helps to increase its shelf life.

Experiments prove that washing it off caused the apples to spoil much more quickly. Placing unwashed apples in a plastic bag that is either left open or has perforations in it then putting the bag in the crisper drawer of the refrigerator will give them the best chance at longevity. This method provides both air flow and humidity.

Want to store carrots or beets? Use the same method.

You will have to cut back the greens first, however. If you leave them on they will pull moisture from the roots rendering them limp. Cut back to a half inch or so.

If your carrots or beets are super muddy it's best to let them air dry briefly to get some of the extra dirt off, but just like apples, that protective waxy layer should not be washed off. If you are hoping for a long storage life, it makes sense to go through your bags of produce to remove any that begin to rot so that they won't infect their neighbors.

There is something to be gleaned from the old adage "one bad apple spoils the whole barrel."

Likewise, never wash potatoes before putting them in storage! Gently brush off dirt and store them in a single layer in the darkness around 55 degrees.

Darkness will prevent greening, which renders potatoes inedible. Potatoes should not be stored in the refrigerator. It changes their texture and makes them prone to rot.

I think it's safe to say that we would never consider washing onions or garlic prior to storage. We should, however, gently brush off the dirt near the roots and bottom portion of the bulb. After onions are properly cured, store them at temperatures close to 40 degrees.

Place apples, bananas, and tomatoes away from onions, these vegetables excrete ethylene gas as they ripen, causing onions to sprout prematurely. Ethylene will also encourage potatoes to sprout.

Use onion bulbs that have two centers first; they won't store well. Garlic stems should be cut back to a couple of inches before storing for the winter in a cool and dry location in mesh bags or on slatted trays etc.

Softneck types of garlic have pliable foliage that lends itself well to braiding. In any case, allowing for good air circulation will ensure a long storage life.

Keep your garlic fists intact; once broken apart, individual cloves do not keep as long.

Gently wash winter squash in a 10% bleach solution prior to storing at temperatures between 50 and 60 degrees; in this case it will help prevent rot.

The flavor of many of our favorite squashes only improves with age. The same advice for washing prevails for pumpkins and gourds.

As the harvest season continues, may these tips help to ensure that you get the longest possible storage life. A much deserved reward after all of your hard work!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

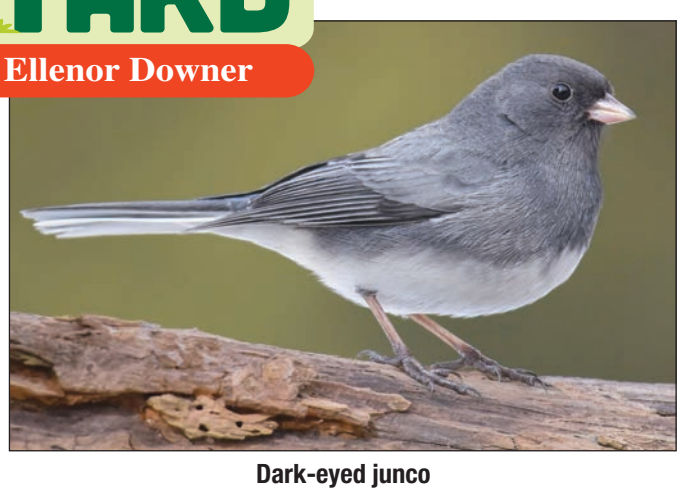
Every fall I look for the return of the dark-eyed juncos, also known as "snow birds" in the middle latitudes.

Over most of the eastern United States, they appear as winter sets in and then retreat northward each spring to breed. Other juncos are year-round residents, retreating into woodlands during the breeding season or, like those of the Appalachian Mountains, moving to higher elevations during the warmer months.

I have not seen any yet, but I keep an eye out for them. Often my first sighting of the year is along the side of the road when I spot their white tail feathers as they fly.

Dark-eyed juncos are little sparrows with gray plumage and white outer tail feathers and white underneath. Females and juveniles are slightly browner and duller.

They breed in forests including coniferous and deciduous types and can be found at elevations from sea level to over 11,000 feet. Typically, the female lays between three to six eggs per clutch. She usually lays one egg per day until the clutch is complete



Dark-eyed junco

Their diet primarily consists of seeds and insects, adapting to available food sources throughout the year.

Juncos are social birds, often seen in flocks during winter and they exhibit a distinctive hopping behavior on the ground. They flit about forest floors of the western mountains and Canada, then flood the rest of North America for winter.

They are among the most abundant forest birds of North America. They come to feeders and like many sparrows feed on the ground to glean seeds dropped there by other birds.

They prefer open, partially wooded areas with understory for cover. They also have a twittering call or trilling song. If flushed from the ground, they appear gray or dark brown overall with visible white outer tail feathers.

The dark-eyed Junco is one of the most common birds in North America and

BIRDS | page 5

POETRY CORNER

October Tea

Witches Come A-Calling

From the woodlands wild and deep -
Where the witches never sleep:
Come in, with your distant kin -
Mix once more with civilization;
Shake the yellow woods again;
Reap the su1111noern the vine.
Spill your tonic on the ground ...
The berries, blood-red have ripened ...

Steep your brew from ancient land -
Tip the cauldron for modem millions;
Remove the plastic from his dome.
The machine wears out the man;
Dip forth the tea, til understands -
The future goes not ... his direction.

Cold the hour where the roadless go -
And where it is, ahead, do follow .
Waken us where we die! - or, sleep .
Like the cradles onward creep .
Rattle the gadgets, then let the demons keep...
Where love is real, love runs deep.

Wrap your gold in murky leaves -
Come tip-toeing up to our eaves:
Leave the drink by the windowsill.
Peek in to give us a glimpse there still -
Like you, lift us on an autumn breeze -
Say we're more than falling leaves,
That you come a-calling.

– Charles Barnes

The Journal Register

We Want to Hear From You

EDITOR
journalregister@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
dflynn@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

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WEB
journalregister.turley.com

PHONE
(413) 283-8393

ADDRESS
24 Water Street
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www.turley.com

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Letters to the editor policy

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

Please send opinions to:
The Journal Register
Letter to the Editor
24 Water St.
Palmer MA 01069
or by e-mail to:
journalregister@turley.com

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

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

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

Calendar of Events

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

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

UPCOMING

VENDORS FOR THE BAYSTATE WING HOSPITAL GIFT SHOPPE

October Vendors
Oct. 20 - Wicked Good Treats
Oct. 22 - Jewelry For Diane
Oct. 27 - Geriations & Sew On

November Vendors
Nov.10 - Crystal Clear Emotions
Nov. 12 - Hobbit Hollow Herbs
Nov. 18 - How Charming
Nov. 19 - Generations of Cookies
Nov. 23 - Geriations & Sew On
Nov. 24 - Wicked Good Treats

SATURDAY, OCT. 17

HOLIDAY HARVEST FAIR: Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a fair offering food, entertainment, raffles, games and over 80 vendors. The event will take place Saturday, Oct. 17 at 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Pulaski Park located t 40 Belchertown St., Three Rivers.

ONGOING

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

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

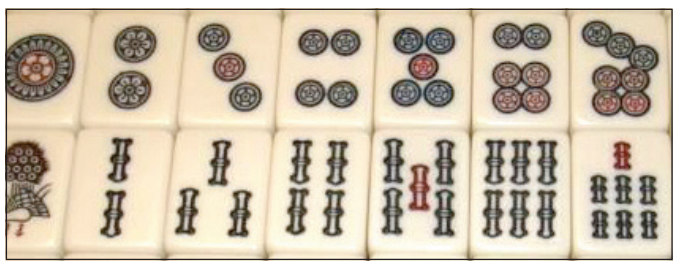
KEEP HOMESTEAD MUSEUM: Located at 35 Ely Road, Monson, nature trails are open daily until dusk for hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Trail maps can be found in the parking lot. For more information call 413-267-4137, email khm@keephomesteadmuseum.org or visit keephomesteadmuseum.org.

QUABOAG VALLEY QUILTERS GUILD: Members meet at 1 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month in the AMETS Post at 2150 Main St., Three Rivers. The Guild is a no-pressure group with varying degrees of accomplishments, from novice to Big E "Best In Show" winners. Dues are $55 a year. Follow them on Facebook for more information.

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

GAME NIGHT: 6-7:45 p.m. the second Tuesday at the Palmer Library at 1455 N. Main St. Free and open to the public. Play available board and card games or bring your own. Must be 16 or older unless accompanied by an adult. No registration required. For more information call 413-283-3691, or email palewis19@yahoo.com.

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



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Peter Warren running for State Representative

I am running for State Representative in the 2nd Hampden district because I believe our community deserves a strong, independent voice on Beacon Hill—someone who will listen to the people, stand up for taxpayers, and focus on the issues that matter most to our families.

Government works best when it is accountable to the people it serves. As your State Representative, I will work to make state government more responsible, transparent, and responsive. I will not forget that every dollar government spends ultimately comes from the taxpayers.

Our state faces real challenges. The cost of living continues to put pressure on working families, seniors, and small businesses. Property taxes and housing costs are concerns for many of our neighbors. We need to find ways to make Massachusetts more affordable while protecting the quality of our schools, public safety, infrastructure, and essential services.

I will be a strong advocate for our local communities. State government should partner with cities and towns—not dictate to them from Boston. Local officials and residents understand their communities best, and their voices deserve to be heard.

I also believe Massachusetts must create an environment where small businesses can succeed. Small businesses are the backbone of our local economy, providing jobs, services, and opportunities. Excessive regulations, high costs, and an unpredictable tax environment make it harder for them to grow. I will support policies that encourage entrepreneurship, investment, and job creation here in Massachusetts.

Public safety must remain a fundamental responsibility of government. Our police, firefighters, emergency responders, and other public servants deserve our support and the resources they need to keep our communities safe.

I will also fight for responsible stewardship of taxpayer money. Before government creates another program or increases spending, we should ask a simple question: Is this the best use of the taxpayers' money? We need to prioritize essential services, eliminate waste, and demand measurable results.

Most importantly, I will be accessible and accountable to the people I represent. Being a State Representative should not be about political titles or party leadership. It should be about representing the people back home.

I am asking for your support because I believe our community deserves a representative who will work hard, listen carefully, and put our communities and taxpayers first.

I will bring an independent voice, common sense, and a commitment to service to Beacon Hill.

You can contact me through my website: PeterWarrenforMA.com.

I would be honored to earn your vote and serve as your State Representative.

Peter Warren
Monson

POETRY CORNER

A Case for Comfort

Civilization not big enough to contain both anymore?
Man and woman now so alike til they war-
We minimize natural differences, at our peril:
They are diverse! or nothing - the world grows sniall.

Violate the woman - from the mothers sacred realm -
Do it in the name of the new education.
Emancipated into one gender ... ?
Respect dies, at the border.

Til coarseness is where now we lay -
The epideniic, of the lower way ...
Seperate Church, from the reasons of steeple ...
The television - machine, grows the opium of the people.
Too hard today for the fullness of man -
Til, nature operates - and says; Socialism ...

– Charles Barnes

Election letters must be received by Oct. 20

The Journal Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's state election by writing letters to the editor for publication.

Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to *The Journal Register*, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to journalregister@turley.com by noon on Tuesday, Oct. 20 to be published in the Thursday, Oct. 22 edition. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

Letter writers need to provide their name and the town they reside in.

Please include a daytime telephone number (for verification purposes only) when submitting your letter. Your phone number will not be printed.

BIRDS | from page 4

can be found across the continent from Alaska to Mexico, from California to New York. A recent estimate set the junco's total population at approximately 630 million individuals.

The oldest recorded dark-eyed Junco, originally banded in 1991, was at least 11 years, 4 months old when it was recaptured and rereleased during banding operations in the same state of West Virginia in 2001.

Large flock of sparrows

Recently, while driving to the bus stop to pick up my grandson, I flushed a large flock of sparrows along the side of the road. A large number of them flew across the road in front of the car. It happened quickly so I was not able to identify them. They were not juncos as they did not have white tail feathers

New bird feeder

A man, who attends meals at the Oakham Senior Center, built a feeder from tubing someone gave him.

He filled it with seed and put it outside. It took a few days for the birds to arrive, but he has a lot of birds coming to it now.

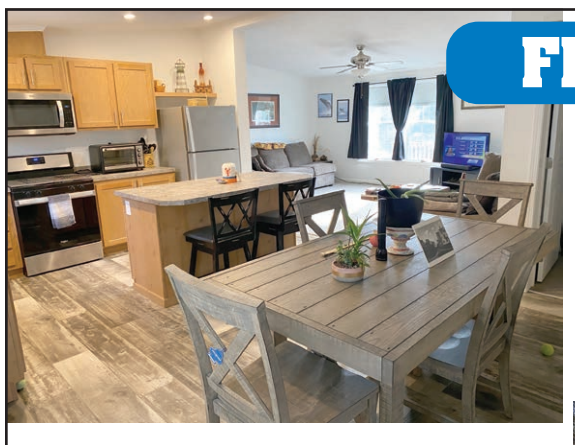
eBird sightings

Recent eBird sightings included a Cape May warbler on Oct. 6 in Belchertown and an American redstart and a black-bellied plover, both spotted in the northeast Quabbin area on Oct. 6.

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

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email: director@topfloorlearning.org
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Celebrate Women in BUSINESS week

How to create a greater work/life balance

A more even balance between professional and personal life is a goal for many individuals. The demands of work too often extend beyond traditional working hours, leaving many professionals to confront work-related challenges long after they've left the office or left the desks in their home offices. With work never more than a smartphone notification away, it can be hard to create and maintain work-life balance.

Work-life balance is rarely discussed in terms of individuals' overall health, but that could be a mistake. In fact, the organization Mental Health America® notes that when workers' lives are balanced and workers are happy, they are more productive, take fewer sick days and are more likely to remain in their jobs. Each of those things benefits workers and employers equally.

With so much to gain from creating a greater balance between work and life, professionals can consider these tips to do just that.

• Make a concerted effort to be an effective communicator. MHA notes the benefits of being honest with colleagues and superiors when challenges feel overwhelming. Open and effective communication can be a great way to solve work-related problems, but MHA urges professionals to remain calm and suggest practical alternatives when confronting such issues. Simply accepting more work or responsibilities when you already feel overwhelmed can tip the scales even further away from an even work-life balance.

• Establish manageable daily goals. MHA reports that research has found that individuals feel less stressed about work when they feel as though they have more control over it. Setting daily goals is a great way to achieve that sense of control, and this can be as simple as creating a daily to-do list.

• Seek alternatives to your working arrangement. Previously unthinkable working arrangements are now possible after companies were forced to confront pandemic-related changes to their operations. If you've found it impossible to create an equitable balance between work and life, speak with your supervisor about alternatives to your arrangement. Flex time and hybrid working are some measures that could ensure you have as much time for your personal life as your professional life.

• Unplug at the end of the workday. One of the simpler, though not necessarily easier, ways to create and maintain a greater work-life balance is to unplug at the end of the workday. Turn off work-related smartphone notifications at the end of the work day so you aren't tempted to work during those of times of day that you've earmarked for your personal life. Smartphones can be addictive, so unplugging could test your resilience. If possible, block work-related notifications automatically after a certain time each day so you don't have to turn them off manually. Once the blocking is automated, you might not think twice about all those missed emails.

There's no secret formula for establishing a healthy work-life balance. But various strategies can help professionals achieve greater balance between their professional and personal lives.

Extraordinary qualities women bring to business

Women continue to thrive in the workforce. Wells Fargo reports that, from 2019 to 2023, the growth rate of women-owned businesses outpaced the rate of men-owned businesses in relation to number of firms, rate of employment and revenue earned. LinkedIn also indicates there are 114 percent more women entrepreneurs now than there were 20 years ago.

Every business owner or employee brings something unique to the employment landscape and certain characteristics are universal, regardless of gender. Still, there are certain qualities that women bring to the workforce that can help businesses excel. Forbes indicates women employees offer traits that can help drive engagement, productivity, satisfaction, and various other attributes. The following are some of the traits women may bring to business.

Emotional intelligence: Women First Jobs says that women often bring high emotional intelligence to the table. Emotional intelligence involves understanding and managing emotions and the emotions of others. Women may be more inclined to understand different perspectives and to help resolve conflicts and build relationships.



The following are some of the traits women may bring to business.

Collaboration: Women employees often have traits that can foster collaboration in the workplace, such as reading non-verbal cues and willingness to take turns in conversations, indicates Forbes. This can help everyone collaborate more effectively.

Room for improvement: Women in the workplace continually seek opportunities for improvement, advises Sparklight Business. This can involve taking advice from other workers and peers. Women leaders embrace opportunities to do things better and work to improve their skills for the greater good.

Communication: The IWEC Foundation, which empowers women entrepreneurs, says women tend to be effective communicators and often make great leaders because of this trait and their ability to inspire others. Communication often is key to any relationship, whether personal or in a business setting.

Organization and planning: Women may excel at organizing and planning. Women can look at things with a detail-oriented eye and recognize flaws in plans even before getting started. This means women can be in charge of distributing workloads or organizing the schedules of others.

Adaptability: Even though it is a cliche, women tend to be natural multi-taskers. Handling multiple jobs at the same time means women can adapt to changing situations.

Generally speaking, there are some inherent characteristics women may possess that can make them viable assets as business owners or leaders in their fields.



Katie Gagner and the team at Trucordia Insurance are dedicated to helping individuals, families, and businesses protect what matters most. From our Ware office, we provide personalized guidance, comprehensive coverage reviews, and insurance solutions tailored to each client's unique needs.

In 2020, Moulton Insurance Agency joined Trucordia Insurance, combining the hometown service our community has trusted for decades with the resources of a national organization. Today, our clients benefit from access to a broader array of top-rated insurance carriers, providing more choices and competitive coverage options.

Katie has been with the agency for 17 years and has earned both the Certified Insurance Counselor (CIC) and Certified Insurance Service Representative (CISR) designations. In addition to serving local clients, she now leads Personal Lines Operations for Trucordia throughout New England. Katie is a Director for the Ware Business and Civic Association and serves on several insurance carrier advisory councils. She resides in Belchertown with her husband, Jeff, and their sons, Coleman and Clay.

Today, Trucordia Insurance offers solutions for virtually every insurance need, including home, auto, business, life, pet, Medicare and senior health, final expense, travel, and cyber insurance.

At Trucordia Insurance, we remain committed to the personal relationships, trusted advice, and exceptional service that have made us a valued part of the surrounding communities. Contact Katie and the Trucordia team to learn how we can help protect what matters most to you.

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Celebrating 16 years of practicing dentistry in Ware, Dr. Navkiran Dhillon and her 10-member staff at Dhillon Family & Cosmetic Dentistry, located at 173 West St., offer their patients the very latest in state-of-the-art technologies and techniques in a small-town, family-friendly environment.

A native of India, Dr. Dhillon earned her DMD degree from Boston University in 2009, and worked briefly as a dental assistant at an Ohio practice before relocating to Ware. She cares deeply about her patients' oral health, and she will work closely with them to discover the care options that best suit their personal needs.

Some of the new techniques include digital radiography, intraoral cameras, soft tissue lasers, CEREC restorations, gum grafting, bone grafting, implants, implant supported dentures, same-day teeth, same-day crowns, same-day root canals, C.T. scans, and more. Making use of these advanced technologies, Dr. Dhillon explained, assures that the exact problem being experienced by the patient is identified and treated.

She and her staff welcome children as young as 2 in order to establish a friendly, trusting atmosphere. She encourages toddlers to explore the office, look at the implements, have their teeth brushed and take a ride in the big dental chair. Finally, the young patients are invited to select a prize from the Treasure Box. Dr. Dhillon emphasizes the importance of having young children receive regular dental care. "It's important to expose them to the environment in order to alleviate any fear," she said. "And after their first visit, children are usually eager to return."



Dr. Navkiran Dhillon, BDS DMD MAGD
Only 2% of all dentist have earned degree

Dr. Dhillon and most of her staff have received COVID-19 vaccines, and all necessary precautions have been implemented to ensure a safe environment. A fogger is used before and after each visit, and all areas are regularly and thoroughly sanitized. Additionally, patients are screened prior to appointments with medical questions and temperatures taken.

Whatever your dental needs, the experienced professionals at Dhillon Family Dental & Cosmetic Dentistry will meet them. You may even get to pick a prize from the Treasure Box!

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Celebrate Women in BUSINESS week

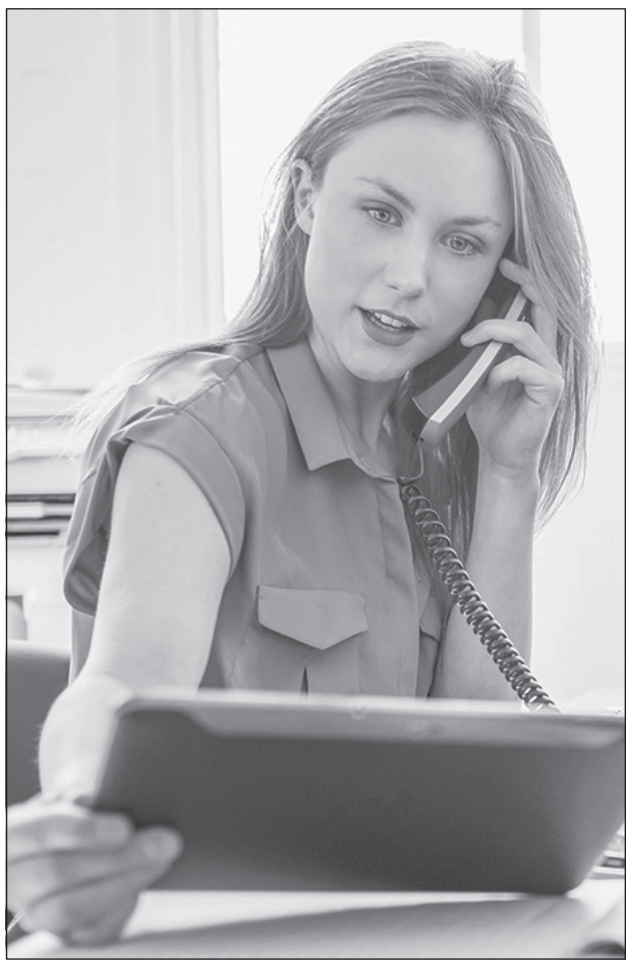
Women-owned businesses are thriving

Women entrepreneurs are not to be underestimated. Data affirms that women-owned businesses are growing and thriving.

According to North One banking, women-owned firms account for more than 12 million businesses in the United States. In addition, the 2024 Wells Fargo Impact of Women-Owned Business Report, in partnership with Ventureneer, Core Women and Women Impacting Public Policy, found the number of women-owned business increased at a rate of 4.5 times between 2019 to 2023. Women-owned businesses are driving economic growth, and a deeper look at some of the numbers supports that notion.

- The Women's Business Enterprise Council says there are 12.3 million women-owned businesses in the U.S., which comprises about 40 percent of the total number of businesses.
- Women-owned businesses bring in nearly $2 trillion every year, says the National Women's Business Council.
- During the pandemic, women-owned businesses added 1.4 million jobs and $579.6 billion in revenue to the economy, says Wells Fargo.
- World Bank indicates that roughly one-third of principal owners of all businesses are female.
- WBENC advises that 64 percent of new women-owned businesses are started by women of color.
- Women's Business Enterprises Canada says more than 85 percent of buying decisions are influenced by women. The Canadian Minister of Small Business notes that women business ownership is growing. In 2023, approximately 18.4 percent of all businesses in Canada were majority owned by women, compared to 15.6 percent in 2017.
- According to Forbes, women-led tech companies achieve a 35 percent higher ROI. A Forbes study with First Round Capital, a venture capital firm, found female-founded businesses in their portfolio outperformed male-founded companies by more than 60 percent.

Women-owned businesses are making a large impact on North America and around the world. Such firms continue to employ millions of people and foster strong economies.



Women-owned businesses are driving economic growth, and a deeper look at some of the numbers supports that notion.

Renee Niedziela

Leadership rooted in relationships

As the President of J. Stolar Insurance Agency since 2005, Renee Niedziela is committed to helping individuals, families, and businesses protect what matters most while providing the personal service her clients value. She is a businesswoman, insurance professional, and passionate community advocate who believes that success is about more than building a business—it's about building relationships.

Beyond her work in insurance, Renee is actively involved in the local business community through the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce. She is passionate about creating opportunities for women and local professionals to connect, learn, and grow. Her work with Quaboag Hills groups EmpowHer and Ascend reflects that commitment, bringing professionals together for networking, education and professional development.

A strong believer in supporting other women in business, Renee embraces leadership with energy, authenticity, and a little fun. For her, being a successful businesswoman means lifting others up, strengthening the community, and always finding the next opportunity to make a difference. Outside of her professional life, Renee is a mom, wife, sister, and friend. She enjoys spending time with her family and her 2 rescue pups!



Mary C. McGovern, MBA
Country Bank President & Chief Executive Officer

Mary McGovern brings more than 37 years of financial services experience to her role as President and Chief Executive Officer of Country Bank, where she is proud to be the institution's first female leader. A results-driven executive, Mary is recognized for her authentic leadership style that blends innovation, collaboration, and compassion.



Since stepping into the role, she has embraced opportunities to inspire others and elevate women in leadership, from speaking engagements to mentorship. She currently serves on the boards of the Massachusetts Bankers Association, the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, and the Massachusetts Housing Authority, extending her impact beyond banking into community well-being.

Mary has helped Country Bank earn Women Led Business and Top Workplaces recognitions, along with the No. 1 spot in Massachusetts on Forbes' Best-in-State Banks list. She has also been honored by the Worcester Business Journal and Hannaford Supermarkets, and was named a Women Empowered 2026 honoree by Scouting America. At the heart of it all, Mary remains dedicated to advancing Country Bank's mission and empowering our team members, customers, and communities to thrive.

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Meet
Teri Frykenberg
RN, CCM, CDP, BCPA



For Teri Frykenberg, patient advocacy is more than a profession-it is the culmination of a lifetime devoted to nursing, service, and helping people through some of their most difficult moments.

A Western Massachusetts native who grew up in Brookfield and now calls Monson home, Teri spent nearly four decades as a registered nurse, much of that time in critical care. Fifteen years ago, she brought that clinical experience to a new calling: professional patient advocacy.

Today, Teri is the founder of Nurse Advocacy Enterprises, Inc., helping patients and families navigate an increasingly complex healthcare system. As an independent RN patient advocate, she helps clients understand their medical care, communicate effectively with healthcare providers, coordinate complex treatment, prepare for appointments, navigate hospitalizations and plan safer transitions home.

Teri also trains experienced nurses to become independent professional patient advocates and build advocacy practices of their own.

After years of advocating for patients and families, Teri is especially pleased to bring her experience home to Western Massachusetts.

"My clients deserve someone at their side who understands the healthcare system and works solely for them."

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Celebrate Women in BUSINESS week

Caitlyn R. Garceau, RMA

Practice Manager - Hakim Medical, PC



Caitlyn lives in Ware with her husband, Nick, and 2 children, Addyson and Zander, along wth quite a few pets and farm animals.

Caitlyn started working as a file clerk/medical receptionist in May 2006 for Hakim & Safi, MD's and quickly moved to medical assisting and assisting Dr. Hakim with surgical procedures. She took over as Practice Manager of Hakim Medical, PC in October 2020, totaling 20 years of service.

She has certification in RMA-American Registry of Medical Assistants and Basic Life Support (CPR and AED), American Heart Association

What do you like best about your career?

"My career brings me so much joy and a sense of fulfillment in helping patients and making genuine connections with them. I also work with the most amazing people! Our practice is like one big family, full of encouragement and gratitude for one another," said Caitlyn.

When not working, she enjoys spending time with family, friends, and pets as well as baking, dancing, and supporting her children by being their biggest fan at dance competitions and sporting events.

HAKIM MEDICAL

Michael H. Hakim, MD

182 West Street, Ware MA 01082
413-967-5562 OPT 1

Diane Vadnais, REALTOR®

RE/MAX Connections



Diane has called Palmer home for 52 years, and its small-town charm is something she could never leave behind. "Everywhere I go, I run into friends and familiar faces from across the generations, and we pick right back up as if no time has passed. It's a wonderful feeling to call this community home," said Diane.

When asked why she got into the field, Diane said, "I've always loved houses and could spend hours looking at them. I also love people and getting to know them. Real estate has brought those two passions together, and I've truly fallen in love with my career."

"My favorite sale was of a little cottage on Forest Lake. The seller has since become one of my dearest friends, and we still get together for coffee often," said Diane

"Always remember that there are no emergencies in real estate, just deadlines with extensions, said Diane. "And the right home will always show up."

Diane has a passion for community engagement. "I volunteer at the Swift River Club as often as I can, whether that means helping clean up after an event, running the children's holiday party, or simply showing up to lend support. I'm also involved with the Three Rivers Chamber and the WBCA (Ware Business and Civic Association), and I've helped with community events such as Christmas on the Common, Stuff a Bus, and Celebrity Bartending, among others," said Diane.

On her off time, you will find Diane often walking her dog, Murphy, through the villages of Palmer and Ware. "Whenever I get the chance, I love getting out on the water to paddleboard," said Diane

Contact Diane today
with your real estate needs
413-233-8113
email dianevadnaisrealtor@gmail.com
dianevadnais@remaxconnections.com



Pictured are Lauren Jeffery, Jessica Morra and Chris Jeffery.

Christine Pekala Jeffery was raised in Monson, graduated from The Cooley Dickinson Hospital School of Nursing and worked at Mary Lane Hospital.

In 1976 she married Reid C. Jeffery. They have 2 children, Reid Jr. and Jessica. After Virginia Jeffery retired in 1983 began working at Jeffery and Son Deputy Collectors and later became President of Jeffery and Jeffery Inc.

Christine is active in mission and ministry at Trinity Episcopal Church in Ware. Member of MA Collector/Treasurer's Association, National Altar Guild Association, Quaboag Valley Chamber of Commerce and Clowns of America Inc. She enjoys walking on the beach at Cape Cod and expeditions and adventures with Reid.

Jessica Jeffery Morra born in Ware, graduate of Wilbraham Monson Academy 00' and Union College 04'. Married to Robert Morra in 2010 and moved to Belchertown. They share two children, Annabelle and Jameson. She has been working at Jeffery & Jeffery Inc full time since 2004, but in reality, it has been in her blood since the day she was born. In her free time, she is busy shuttling her kids to their many activities. She also enjoys playing pickleball and relaxing watching family movies.

Lauren E. Adamczyk Jeffery, born in N.C., raised in Ware. Lauren worked in the insurance industry prior to joining the family business in 2008. Lauren married Reid C. Jeffery Jr. in 2001 and they share 4 children. In her spare time Lauren enjoys gardening, cooking, is a expert seamstress and doing construction at her father's business.

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CAR SHOW | from page 1

the Eugene V. Randall Award, was handed to Brian Tetrault, for the car that Randall himself used to work on.

"It's always a special car. I was really surprised to get this award," Tetrault said. "We all grew up in the same town, and (Randall) always did work on it, he always loved the car. That car has been in our town for probably 50 years, so they really got to know it well, and then I ended up getting it from my cousin."

Another restored vehicle on display at the show was an old fire engine from Auburn, which was brought by Ralph Harris, who served in the Auburn Fire Department for 19 years, following in his father's footsteps.

"We found it in Portland, Connecticut," Harris said.

The event was DJ-ed by Cruisin' with Bruce Marshall, and featured food trucks from Deep Roots Distillery, Cookies by Ray, Flippin' the Bird BBQ, and Hot Rod Dogs.

For more information on the Brimfield Winery, you can visit their website at BrimfieldWinery.com. For more information about the Hitchcock Free Academy, visit HitchcockAcademy.org. Information on the Fire Department can be found on the town's website at BrimfieldMA.org.



Alan and Deb Bercovici walked around the lot and enjoyed the festivities together.



Craig Amelisko and Clara, age 4, showed off a 1948 Chevy truck with Emma Amelisko and Dean, age 2 (not pictured).



Jasmine Tetrault held the Eugene V. Randall Award trophy her father won.

Classic car show



Over 100 classic cars were on display at the annual Auto Show.

Turley Photos by Marcelo Gusmão



Patty Michalski accidentally matched her sweater with her classic Ford pickup.



Brian Tetrault's classic car, The Judge, won the Eugene V. Randall Award.



A bearded wizard could be seen riding around in this old, green, classic car.



The Hot Wheels car has been seen at multiple car shows in the area, and is hard to miss.



Cars from various different eras competed in their own categories at the Car Show.

Public safety

Palmer Police Logs

During the week of Sept. 27-Oct. 3, the Palmer Police Department responded to 60 building checks, 41 motor vehicle stops, 10 motor vehicle violations, 87 informational calls, 32 medical emergencies, eight animal complaints, 33 calls for officers wanted, 21 alarms, nine silent, accidental, abandoned or hung up 911 calls, seven fire calls, three fraud calls, 12 investigations, four motor vehicle accidents, seven motor vehicle releases, eight general services, 10 out of jurisdiction reports, 14 assists to other agencies, nine transports, 23 traffic posts, 10 school resource officer calls and eight assists to citizens.

Sunday, Sept. 27

2:32 a.m. Suspicious Vehicle, South Main Street

2:39 a.m. Breaking and Entering Vehicle, Beacon Drive

3:25 a.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Converse Street

7 a.m. Property Found, Main Street and Pleasant Street

9:09 a.m. Trespass Complaint, State Street

9:28 a.m. Medical Emergency, Shearer Street

10:05 a.m. Hazard Wire/Pole/Tree, Ware Street

11:19 a.m. Medical Emergency, River Street

11:24 a.m. Well Being Check, Main Street

11:24 a.m. Hazard Wire/Pole/Tree, Coache Street and Main Street

1:31 p.m. Medical Emergency, Main Street

1:54 p.m. Animal Complaint, Burlingame Street

2 p.m. Fire-Smoke, Shearer Street

2:03 p.m. Hazard-Other, Michael Drive

2:29 p.m. Hazard-Road Condition, Thorndike Street and Woodland Heights

6:14 p.m. Fire-Mutual Aid, Montague

6:34 p.m. Medical Emergency, Sykes Street

6:34 p.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, Diane Street

7:29 p.m. Medical Emergency, Colonial Street

Monday, Sept. 28

6:49 a.m. Fire-Electrical, Flynt Street

7:23 a.m. Hazard-Other, Baptist Hill Street and Burlingame Street

7:41 a.m. Medical Emergency, South Main Street

9:35 a.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, Main Street

9:56 a.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, Wilbraham Street

10:18 a.m. Hazard-Road Condition, Wilbraham Street

10:44 a.m. Disabled Motor Vehicle, Old Warren Road

10:47 a.m. Hazard-Other, Church Street

12:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Springfield Street and Bridge Street

12:43 p.m. Medical Emergency, Calkins Road

12:46 p.m. Investigation, Springfield Street

1:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, North Main Street

2:37 p.m. Hazard Wire/Pole/Tree, Springfield Street

3:50 p.m. Medical Emergency, Shearer Street

4:28 p.m. Investigation, Main Street

4:52 p.m. Property Return, Dublin Street

8:53 p.m. Investigation, Main Street

Tuesday, Sept. 29

6:52 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Main Street and Wright Street

Arrest: Richard M. Hicks, 33, Thorndike

License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With, Subsequent Offense; Speeding Rate of Speed Greater than was Reasonable and Proper

7:49 a.m. Disabled Motor Vehicle, South Main Street

7:54 a.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Third Street

9:39 a.m. Medical Emergency, Holbrook Street

10:38 a.m. Investigation, North Main Street

10:50 a.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Mt. Dumplin Road

11:01 a.m. Missing/Runaway, High Street

11:30 a.m. Medical Mutual Aid, Stony Hill Road

11:33 a.m. Medical Emergency, Meadowbrook Lane

12:09 p.m. Fraud, Main Street

12:51 p.m. Fire-Smoke, Bowden Street

2:47 p.m. Soliciting, Boston Road

3:08 p.m. Unwanted Person, Park Street

3:25 p.m. Medical Emergency, Main Street

3:33 p.m. Property Return, Main Street

3:47 p.m. Animal Complaint, Carpenter Road

4:03 p.m. Medical Emergency, Thorndike Street

4:10 p.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Bennett Street

4:49 p.m. Investigation, N orth Main Street

5:28 p.m. Well Being Check, Maple Terrace

5:47 p.m. Suspicious Vehicle, State Street

6:12 p.m. Well Being Check, Thorndike Street

6:29 p.m. Unwanted Person, Park Street

7:30 p.m. Medical Alarm, Main Street

9:03 p.m. Well Being Check, Main Street and Bridge Street

11 p.m. Medical Emergency, Belanger Street

11:24 p.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Main Street

11:27 p.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Main Street

11:44 p.m. Well Being Check, Palmer

Wednesday, Sept. 30

12:30 a.m. Suspicious Person, Barker Street

2:01 a.m. Suspicious Person, North Main Street

4:36 a.m. Medical Emergency, North Main Street

5:11 a.m. Animal Complaint, South Main Street and Prospect Street

9:08 a.m. Investigation, Ford Street

9:32 a.m. Animal Complaint, Carpenter

9:34 a.m. Investigation, Thorndike Street

9:59 a.m. Property Return, Main Street

10:07 a.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Pine Street

10:08 a.m. Medical Emergency, North Street

11:08 a.m. Medical Alarm, Palmer Street

12:23 p.m. Well Being Check, Main Street

1:11 p.m. Medical Emergency, Flynt Street

1:40 p.m. Hazard Wire/Pole/Tree, Palmer Street

1:53 p.m. Investigation, Main Street

2:34 p.m. Unwanted Person, Park Street

2:51 p.m. Solicting, Flynt Street

3:06 p.m. Animal Complaint, North Main Street

3:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Thorndike Street

3:57 p.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, Baptist Hill Street

4:18 p.m. Investigation, North Main Street

4:51 p.m. Fraud, South Main Street

5:26 p.m. Medical Emergency, Bourne Street

6:35 p.m. Medica Mutual Aid, Warren

6:59 p.m. Suspicious Person, Converse Street

7:41 p.m. Medical Emergency, Beacon Drive

10:44 p.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, Park Street

Thursday, Oct. 1

12:29 a.m. Medical Emergency, Winthrop Street

6:23 a.m. Medical Lift Assist, Mason Street

9:33 a.m. Medical Mutual Aid, Mill Valley Road

9:36 a.m. Well Being Check, Walnut Street

11:24 a.m. Investigation, Thorndike Street

12 p.m. Investigation, Main Street

12:24 p.m. Well Being Check, Main Street

2:46 p.m. Medical Emergency, High Street

3:31 p.m. Soliciting, Mason Street

3:34 p.m. Missing/Runaway, Sykes Street

4:02 p.m. Soliciting, Calkins Road

4:41 p.m. Medical Emergency, Ruggles Street

5:38 p.m. Medical Mutual Aid, Wandering Meadows Lane

5:54 p.m. Animal Complaint, North Main Street

5:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Thorndike Street

6:09 p.m. Fraud, Thorndike Street

6:32 p.m. Unwanted Person, Park Street

6:38 p.m. Suspicious-Other, Allen Street

7:09 p.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Beech Street

11:53 p.m. Well Being Check, Ware Street and Cyd Alan Street

Friday, Oct. 2

6:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, River Street

Arrest: Jacob P. Jurczyk, 19, Palmer

Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle

7:10 a.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Wilbrham Street

7:33 a.m. Medical Emergency, Main Street

8:33 a.m. Animal Complaint, Old Thompson Street

9:25 a.m. Medical Emergency, Vicardav Ave

9:27 a.m. Medical Emergency, Sykes Street

11:15 a.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Emery Street and State Street

11:21 a.m. Hazard-Other, Shearer Street and North Main Street

12:47 p.m. Breaking and Entering Residence, Forest Hill Drive

12:54 p.m. Medical Emergency, Beacon Drive

1:04 p.m. Disturbance, Park Street

1:11 p.m. Soliciting, Pinney Street

1:21 p.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Hovey Hill Road

2:30 p.m. Investigation, Main Street

3:56 p.m. Noise Complaint, West Ware Street

4:29 p.m. Noise Complaint, West Ware Street

5:33 p.m. Trespass Complaint, Converse Street

6:28 p.m. Public Service, Park Street

6:40 p.m. Medical Emergency, Belchertown Street

9:36 p.m. Well Being Check, Thorndike Street

10:42 p.m. Animal Complaint, High Street

10:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violations, Sykes Street

Arrest: Jessica Orozco, 44, Ludlow

OUI Liquor or .08%; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Marked Lanes Violation

Saturday, Oct. 3

12 a.m. Medical Emergency, North Main Street

1:26 a.m. Medical Emergency, Central Street

2:38 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Thorndike Street

Arrest: Jerry A. Owens, 47, Springfield

Lights Violation, Motor Vehicle; License Suspended for OUI/CDL/MVH, Operating Motor Vehicle With

4:45 a.m. Medical Emergency, High Street

6:51 a.m. Found Property, Thorndike Street

9:04 a.m. Well Being Check, North Main Street

9:54 a.m. Medical Mutual Aid, South Street

2:45 p.m. Property Return, Main Street

3:33 p.m. Medical Alarm, Main Street

4:56 p.m. Vandalism, Thorndike Street

5:33 p.m. Assault and Battery, Shearer Street

5:55 p.m. Medical Emergency, Diane Street

6:00 p.m. Public Service, Park Street

6:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Park Violation, Walnut Street

6:15 p.m. Fire-Brush, Olney Road

6:24 p.m. Medical Emergency, Beech Street

8:23 p.m. Fire-Burn Complaint, Pine Street

8:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Main Street and Crawford Street

Arrest: Shannon M. Griffin, 43, Bondsville

OUI Liquor or .08%, Second Offense; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Marked Lanes Violation; Child Endangerment While OUI

8:39 p.m. Medical Emergency, Park Street

8:41 p.m. Medical Mutual Aid, Ware

11:20 p.m. Weapons Violation, Park Street

Monson Police Logs

During the week of Oct. 5-11, the Monson Police Department responded to six miscellaneous calls, 37 administrative calls, 14 property checks, 23 traffic assignments, six traffic violations, two safety hazards, four investigations, seven assists to other agencies, 39 police vehicle checks, 13 motor vehicle stops, 10 directed patrols, 11 details/overtimes and eight phone calls.

Monday, Oct. 5

12:15 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call

1:17 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted

5:45 a.m. Animal Complaint

11:50 a.m. Alarm

12:47 p.m. Community Policing

12:53 p.m. Medical Emergency

2:51 p.m. Traffic Violation/Hazard

4:17 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat

5:27 p.m. Well Being Check Urgent

6:05 p.m. Investigation/Follow Up

6:25 p.m. Traffic Violation/Hazard

6:45 p.m. Suspcious/Wanted

Tuesday, Oct. 6

7:10 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call

9:05 a.m. Fire Alarm Testing

9:36 a.m. Fire Alarm Testing

11:58 a.m. Investigation/Follow Up

1:06 p.m. Fraud/Deception

2:29 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted

3:26 p.m. Fire Alarm

7:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash

7:50 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call

Wednesday, Oct. 7

1 p.m. Well Being Check

2:47 p.m. Well Being Check

4:39 p.m. Safety Hazard

4:40 p.m. Traffic Violation/Hazard

8:11 p.m. Police Response

Thursday, Oct. 8

9:33 a.m. Fire Alarm

10:05 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call

12:59 p.m. Well Being Check

3:26 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call

3:38 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat

7:39 p.m. Well Being Check

9:21 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted

Friday, Oct. 9

5:07 a.m. Transport Service

6:14 a.m. Trespass/Unwanted

7:39 a.m. Traffic Violation/Hazard

8:46 a.m. Traffic Violation/Hazard

9:05 a.m. Well Being Check

10:55 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call

12:46 p.m. Investigation/Follow Up

1:39 p.m. Investigation/Follow Up

2:23 p.m. Safety Hazard

3:09 p.m. Service Call Response

5:38 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call

10:44 p.m. DUI/Impaired

Saturday, Oct. 10

10:31 a.m. Medical Emergency

11:10 a.m. Car Wash

11:22 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted

3:08 p.m. Animal Complaint

3:18 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call

3:26 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted

3:47 p.m. Traffic Violation/Hazard

Sunday, Oct. 11

11:09 a.m. Fire Alarm

4:11 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance

Monson Fire Logs

The Monson Fire Department responded to 16 EMS calls and five fire calls for the week of Oct. 5-11.

On **Tuesday, Oct. 6** at 3:28 p.m., the department responded to 194 Moulton Hill Road for a fire alarm sounding. The department returned to service at 4:10 p.m.

On **Friday, Oct. 9** at 9:07 a.m., the department responded to 41 Stafford Road for a lockout. The department returned to service at 9:20 a.m.

On the same day at 3:10 p.m., the department responded to 3 Heritage Lane for a furnace malfunction. The department returned to service at 3:39 p.m.

On **Saturday, Oct. 10** at 7:57 p.m., the department responded to 31 State St. for a smoke investigation. The department returned to service at 8:30 p.m.

On **Sunday, Oct. 11** at 11:10 a.m., the department responded to 12 Bumstead Road for an alarm activation. The department returned to service at 12:38 p.m.

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SOCCER

Panthers edge rival Mustangs

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER – Prior to last Wednesday afternoon's non-league soccer match at historic Legion Field, the Monson Lady Mustangs had posted an impressive 23-1-2 record in their previous 26 meetings against the Palmer Lady Panthers.

The Lady Panthers erased a 1-0 halftime deficit and rallied for a 2-1 victory over the Lady Mustangs, securing their first victory in the rivalry series since 2014.

"This is the first time that we've beaten Monson since I've been coaching here," said Palmer head coach Celso Sandoval. "I think both teams are in the rebuilding stage this year. We were trailing at halftime, and I was a little bit frustrated. We were able to battle back in the second half."

Sophomore Jillian Holbrook scored what turned out

RIVAL | page 12



Adrianna Loglisci brings in a pass.



Audrey Gregoire looks to clear the ball.



Lillian Pronovost heads off the ball.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Harper Brouillette heads up the field.



Chelsea Hull is pressured near the sideline.



Jillian Holbrook makes a throw-in.



Avery Beaudoin tries to keep possession.



Anabelle Ladue is pressured.

SOCCER

Mustangs looking for tournament berth

MONSON – The Monson High School boys soccer team suffered a defeat at home against SICS 2-0 last Monday afternoon, but rebounded to beat Mahar 1-0 later in the week. Unfortunately, the Mustangs would then suffer a loss against Wahconah 5-1 last Friday afternoon. The Mustangs are 5-6-1, but need a win to get back to .500 as they stand at No. 41 in the power rankings, outside of the top 32. Monson faces Chicopee Comprehensive on Friday afternoon at 4 p.m.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Kreslan Casseus passes before a defender interferes.



Anthony Tullouch looks to clear the ball.



James Bridges pursues clearing the ball.



Issac Somers tries to slow his opponent's progress.



Jackson Pignone tries to steal the ball away.

FOOTBALL

Pioneers football suffers loss to Tigers

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – Since the MIAA implemented its current postseason format in 2021, the South Hadley Tigers have played two road games in the state football tournament.

In 2021, South Hadley dropped a 35-0 decision at Winthrop High School in a Division 6 first-round state tournament game. Two years later, after moving down to Division 7, the Tigers suffered a 39-8 first-round loss at West Bridgewater.

The members of this year's South Hadley football team are determined to secure a home game for the first time in the state tournament.

The Tigers improved to a perfect 5-0 following a convincing 34-0 non-league home victory over the Pathfinder Tech Pioneers, last Thursday night.

"One of our goals this season is to host a playoff game," said South Hadley sophomore quarterback Nolan Soderbaum. "We take practice seriously, and we're a confident team. We know that we can beat these teams."

Soderbaum is following in the footsteps of his older brother, Griffin, who was the Tigers starting quarterback a year ago.

South Hadley, who has outscored its first five opponents, 203-14, were ranked fifth in the MIAA Division 7 power rankings that was released on October 9. It puts the Tigers in position to potentially host a state tournament game.

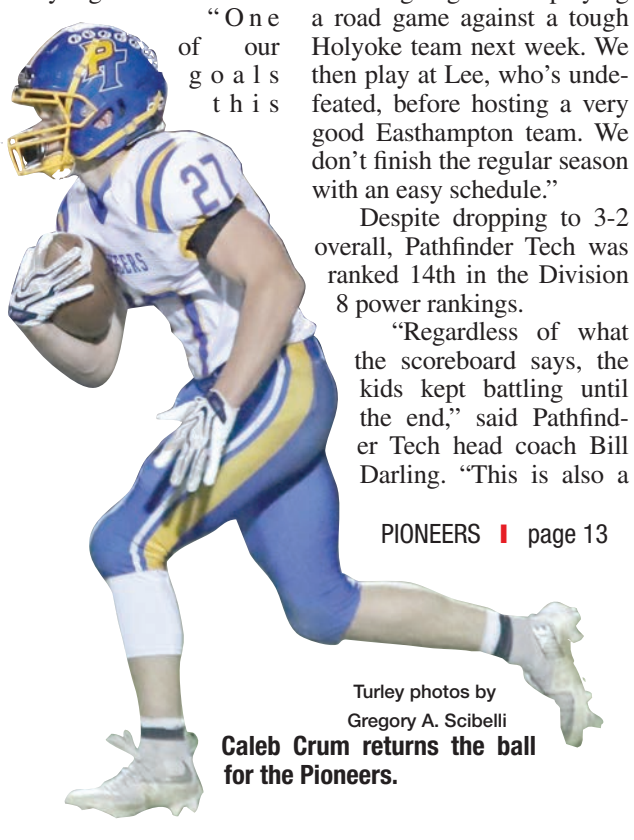
Unlike the soccer or field hockey state tournaments, only the top 16 teams in each of the eight football divisions qualify for the state playoffs.

"We still have a long way to go," said South Hadley head coach Brian Couture. "We're going to be playing a road game against a tough Holyoke team next week. We then play at Lee, who's undefeated, before hosting a very good Easthampton team. We don't finish the regular season with an easy schedule."

Despite dropping to 3-2 overall, Pathfinder Tech was ranked 14th in the Division 8 power rankings.

"Regardless of what the scoreboard says, the kids kept battling until the end," said Pathfinder Tech head coach Bill Darling. "This is also a

PIONEERS | page 13



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Caleb Crum returns the ball for the Pioneers.

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Turleysports

Athlete of the Week



Jillian Holbrook
Palmer High School

Holbrook scored the game-winning goal for Palmer in the Panthers' victory over Monson last Wednesday afternoon.

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

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Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Bondsville League

WARE – The Bondsville League at Roll-A-Way Lanes has completed five weeks of league candlepin bowling.

Spare Parts took a commanding lead in the west division and has the best record in the league with 25-10. Cannonballs are in second place, first in the east division, with a record of 22-13.

To kick off October, the defending champions Fire Mountain bowled against Ironmen. In game one, Fire Mountain defeated Ironmen by a score of 500-452.

Filling in on Fire Mountain was Chris Geoffrion who began with 114. Rick Trott and Gary Delisle had scores of 107 and 104.

In game two, Ironmen defeated Fire Mountain 456-446. Steve Swistak of Ironmen scored 111 for his team.

In game three, Fire Mountain won by a score of 465-461. Delisle finished with 105 and a three-game series of 316.

The final score was 1411-1369 in favor of Fire Mountain.

Cannonballs bowled against Zeke's Freaks during week five. In game one, Cannonballs defeated Zeke's Freaks by a score of 461-433.

Game two also went to Cannonballs with a score of 489-416. The Cannonballs won game three, 511-458, for a three-game sweep over Zeke's Freaks.

Micah Hinckley of Cannonballs finished the match with 112 in game three. The final score was 1461-1307 in favor of Cannonballs.

The Pincesses bowled against Slow Burners during week five. In game one, Pincesses held onto the lead to win by one pin, 470-469.

Scott Radisic of Slow Burners had a strong showing in game one with 118. Keith Ferenz bowled over his league average with 98.

In game two, Pincesses won again by a score of 456-442. Jane Cho of Pincesses had a strong game over average with 89.

In game three, Slow Burners won by a score of 463-460. Radisic finished with 101 and a series of 307. Ferenz finished with a solid game of 95.

Pincesses won total pinfall with a final score of 1386-1374.

Spare Parts bowled against Spare Tires during the first league night of October. Game one went to Spare Parts with a score of 498-457.

Steven Daniel of Spare Parts would lead his team to a decisive victory by starting with 130.

In game two, Spare Parts won by a score of 479-442. Daniel scored 115 and his teammate Alexxia Bell scored 108.

In game three, Spare Tires won by a score of 473-457. Tony Burke of Spare Tires scored 104 to end the match and secure two points for his team.

Daniel finished with 110 and a three-game series of 355. Spare Parts won total pinfall with a final score of 1434-1372.

Rollies bowled against Night Hawks during week five. In game one, Night Hawks won by a score of 447-446.

Sue Horton had the highest game for Rollies with 108. Darryl Sinclair had the highest game for Night Hawks with 106.

In game two, Night Hawks won by a score of 471-464. Lee Robinson of Night Hawks scored 132 and Sinclair 110.

Brandon Lane of Rollies scored 111 and Horton scored 118.

In game three, Rollies won by a score of 479-463. Lane finished the match with 135 for a series of 342.

Robinson scored 100 for a series of 335. The final score was 1389-1381 in favor of Rollies, who won three points and Night Hawks won four.

Flaming Bowling Balls bowled against P&J Meats during week five. In game one, Flaming Bowling Balls won by a score of 454-424.

Ryan McCarthy of FBB bowled a 111 to start the match. Game two, went to P&J Meats with a score of 448-420.

Shaun Midura of P&J Meats was the only bowler over 100 in game two with 102.

In game three, FBB won by a score of 501-425. Three out of four bowlers of FBB broke 100 with Don Paulus at 100, Brandon Haley at 118 and Ryan McCarthy at 101.

The final score was 1375-1297 in favor of Flaming Bowling Balls.

RIVAL | from page 11

to be the winning goal in the 54th minute.

"I scored my first goal of the season in today's game," said Holbrook. "It just feels amazing, especially doing it against one of our biggest rivals."

Holbrook scored her first varsity goal in the 2025 season opener at Greenfield High School, which was a 2-0 victory.

The Lady Panthers' last victory on the soccer pitch against Monson came on October 28, 2014. On that night at Legion Field, Maddy Stahelski scored what turned out to be the only goal of the match during the 53rd minute. The 1-0 win also clinched a berth in the Western Mass. Division 3 tournament.

After graduating from Palmer High School, Stahelski played Division 1 college soccer at Sacred Heart University, which is in Fairfield Connecticut. She would return home and was an assistant varsity coach for the Lady Panthers soccer team in 2021.

"I've known Maddy since she was a young kid and I attended that game against Monson as a fan," Sandoval said. "Maddy was also my assistant coach in the first season that I was the varsity coach. That was the same year we lost to Sutton in the Division 5 state finals."

Addyson Petrashewicz, who assisted on Holbrook's game winning goal, is the Lady Panthers senior captain this fall.

"I was only five years old when we last beat Monson, so I wasn't there for that game, but I do know Maddy Stahelski," Petrashewicz said. "Being a senior, it feels really special to finally beat Monson."

Petrashewicz, who also plays basketball, has been a member of the varsity soccer team since she was an eighth grader.

"Addy is our senior captain for a reason," Sandoval said. "She's a dominate soccer player and I'm going to enjoy watching her play the rest of the season. She's an outstanding leader for our younger players."

The other senior listed on the Lady Panthers roster is Rylee Ostiguy.

Last Wednesday's victory evened Palmer's overall record at 5-5-1. They were ranked ninth in the MIAA Division 5 state power rankings.

Despite having a 1-11 overall record, the Lady Mustangs were ranked sixth in the Division 5 state power rankings.

"We do play a very difficult regular season schedule," said first-year Monson head coach Brooke Murphy, who never lost to Palmer during her outstanding varsity soccer career. "We've played some close games, and I think that we're a state tournament team. This has always been a big rivalry game."

The Lady Mustangs, who celebrated a 5-1 win against Lee High School in their annual home night match, lost,1-0, to Central Division rival Granby last Friday afternoon. Granby is also the top ranked team in Division 5.

There wasn't very much action during the first 40 minutes of last Wednesday's contest, which was played on a sunny day.



Addy Petrashewicz clears the ball to the other end of the field.



Adelynn Allard sends the ball to Monson's end of the field.

With a minute left in the opening half, the Lady Mustangs scored a corner kick goal.

Senior Chelsea Hull booted the ball into the box from the right corner. After it bounced around, senior Avery Beaudoin put a shot into the goal past Palmer freshman goalie Cora Lachance (7 saves). Senior Mackayla St. George was credited with the assist.

The only other Monson senior is Lylia Ellis, who's a starting defender.

The Lady Mustangs couldn't maintain the momentum during the second half.

Palmer also scored a corner kick goal six minutes after the break.

The kick was taken from the left corner by sophomore Anabelle Ladue, and eighth grader Harper Hawk fired a shot past Monson junior goalie Grace Berry (11 saves) tying the score at 1-1.

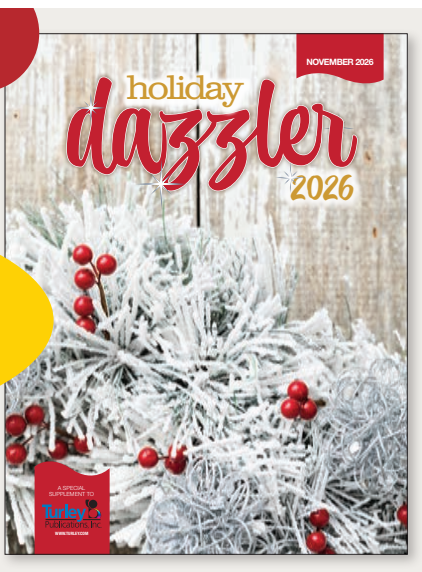


Ada Wojcik makes a throw-in.

Less than ten minutes later, Holbrook became the hero by lofting a shot into the upper right corner.

It'll be a shot that the Lady Panthers supporters will probably still be talking about ten years from now.

While Monson and Palmer will be playing in different classes in the Western Mass. tournament, they could face each other for the second time during the Division 5 state tournament.

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Tantasqua Warriors battle to 1-1 draw with Doherty Highlanders

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

FISKDALE – Matt Guertin began his coaching career almost 20 years ago as the Tantasqua girls' varsity soccer coach. He switched over to the boys' side in the fall of 2013.

In Guertin's first season leading the boys' varsity soccer team, the Warriors didn't qualify for the postseason tournament, but they've been postseason regulars ever since.

"We finished with an 8-10 record and just missed making the postseason tournament in my first season as the boys soccer coach," Guertin said. "We've been able to qualify for the playoffs every year since, and that's something I'm very proud of."

The first month of the 2026 campaign didn't exactly go Tantasqua's way.

The Warriors had a 2-6-2 overall record and a 1-3-1 record against Central Mass. Athletic Conference (A) opponents following a 1-1 home draw against the Doherty Highlanders on Oct. 5.

"We just need to have a good October. This is a very good result for us because Doherty is a very good soccer team," Guertin added. "We've been in every game so far this season, but we just haven't gotten over the hump yet. I think we still have a chance to qualify for the state tournament, but we need to start fitting the pieces of the puzzle together."

The only match that the Warriors lost by more than two goals was a 3-0 setback in their first meeting against the Highlanders (5-1-4, 2-0-3), who are currently in first place in the CMAC (A) standings.

Tantasqua's first two victories came on the road against Northbridge (1-0) and Blackstone Valley Reg Voc/Tech High School (4-2). They also tied Shepherd Hill (2-2) at home in their previous match.

The Warriors were ranked 40th in the MIAA Division 3 state power rankings released on October 9. The top 32 teams in each of the five Divisions automatically qualify for the state tournament. The other teams, who finish the regular season with a .500 or better record, will also be competing in the state soccer tournament, which is scheduled to start on November 6.

The Warriors were trailing 1-0 against the Highlanders with a little more than twenty minutes remaining in regulation before senior tri-captain Easton Ferro netted the tying goal.

"I just ran towards the ball and was able to put it into the net," Ferro said. ""We lost to Doherty earlier in the season, so we'll take this tie

Ferro's fourth goal of the regular season was unassisted.

"Ethan has had many scoring chances so far this season and he's capitalized on a few of them," Guertin said. "He's a very strong soccer player and we put a lot on his shoulders."

Doherty broke the ice with an unassisted goal from sophomore Henrique Almeida during the 26th minute of the opening half.

The other two Warriors senior captains are Conor Boivin and Jax Buday.

Rounding out the Warriors senior class are Jeremy Mrotek, Jeremy Shea, Graydon Curboy, Matt Santos, and Nico Fazzuoli.

Mrotek and Buday are starting defenders, along with junior Evan LaFountain and sophomore Ethan Melidone.

The four Warriors defenders made things easy for junior goalie Brayden O'Keefe, who only needed to make a handful of saves against the Highlanders.

Less than ten minutes into the opening half, O'Keefe made an outstanding diving save following a corner kick, which kept the match scoreless.

The Warriors' other junior starters in the home match against Doherty were Nathan Cutler, Griffin Chase, and Jacob Delong. Another junior is Nathan Regan, who's a reserve player.

The Warriors' head coach is related to two members of the sophomore class.

Matt Guertin Jr. is his son, while Jason Guertin is his nephew.

Rounding out the varsity roster are sophomore Owen Gendreau, sophomore Henry Cournoyer, and freshman Ben Henry Cournoyer

Tantasqua returned to the win column two days later, squeaking out a 3-2 road victory over Worcester North at Foley Stadium. Ferro, Cutler and Matt Guertin Jr. each found the back of the net for the Warriors.

PIONEERS ❙ from page 11

very good learning experience for us. We still need to get to a level where we can compete against very good football teams like South Hadley."

The Pioneers four seniors, who are hoping to play in a state tournament game for the first time, are Peyton Kularski, Franklin Webster, Chase Fett, and Emerson Boronski.

The only other meeting on the gridiron between the two squads was a non-playoff game in 2024. The Tigers posted a 27-9 win in that contest.

The Tigers won the coin toss in last Thursday's game and deferred until the second half.

South Hadley senior Brody Keller recovered a fumble at the Pioneers 22 yard line on the second play of the game.

It looked like the home team had scored a touchdown on a 15-yard dash into the end zone by senior Lincoln Belsky, but it was nullified due to a holding penalty on the home team.

The Tigers wound up turning the ball over on downs.

Belsky finished the game with 109 rushing yards on 13 carries. He did cap off a quick five play scoring drive, which covered 44 yards, with a one yard rushing touchdown with 4:48 left in the opening quarter.

The extra point attempt was no good.

A little more than a minute later, the Tigers had another rushing touchdown called back due to a holding penalty.

"Our offense struggled a little tonight, but hey, hopefully this is our bad game of the season," Couture said. "Every team has one and we got fortunate tonight."

With 27 seconds left in the first quarter, senior Chase Pecia scored a 23-yard rushing touchdown giving the Tigers a 13-0 lead. Senior Cooper Wall made the extra point attempt.

The Pioneers offense, which is led by junior quarterback Grayson Griswold, was forced to punt three times in the second quarter. They didn't pick up a first down until the third quarter.

Soderbaum, who has thrown 13 touchdown passes this season, connected with Keller for a 24-yard TD reception with 9:52 remaining in the opening half.

"Nolan is only a sophomore," Couture said. "From what we thought at the beginning of the year and what we have right now with him is incredible. It looks like he's been playing on this team for four years. He has great leadership."

The Tigers held a commanding 27-0 halftime lead following an eight yard touchdown run by senior Noah Hambley with 14 seconds left in the second quarter.

Hambley is also a guard on Tigers basketball team. He only needs 16 more points to join the elite 1,000 point.

Belsky took the direct snap on the two-point conversion play and walked into the end zone.



The Pathfinder offense lines up to start a play.



Trevor Alexander makes a punt.



Matthew Carney makes a tackle.

The South Hadley defense set-up the only touchdown of the second half.

With 3:37 left in the third quarter, sophomore Ryder Mayer tipped a pass, and it was picked off by junior Adrian Garcia at the Pioneers 34.

Four plays later, Soderbaum threw his second TD pass to Pecia for 12 yards.

It was an enjoyable evening for the home team and its supporters.



Franklin Webster makes an effective block.



Grayson Griswold takes the snap.



Town of Palmer
Department of Public Works

Snowplow Contractors

The Town of Palmer Department of Public Works is seeking snow removal contractors for the 2026–2027 winter season. Contracts are available on the Town website and at the DPW office. Interested contractors should submit a completed contract and copies of the required insurance forms to the DPW office at 1015 Bridge St., Palmer. Rates have increased for the 2026–2027 season. For questions, call (413) 283-2615, Monday through Friday, from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. or email edeterman@townofpalmer.com for more info.

Plowing Rates

DESCRIPTION – ALL PLOWS MUST BE POWER ANGLE	RATE
Pickup, minimum size ¾ ton, 4x4, 8' plow	$100/ hour
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Large six-wheeler, 10' plow	$108/ hour
Large truck, 11' plow at least 3' high	$128/ hour
Skid steer with attachments	$100/ hour
Front end Loader with bucket/snow pusher/plow	$183/ hour

Public notices

PALMER
PLANNING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 5 M.G.L. the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, October 26th, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Police Department Meeting Room 4419 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

To consider amending the Town of Palmer Zoning Map for a change of zoning districts from the Town Residential District to the Highway Business District. The parcel affected by this zoning amendment, is 1280-1292 Park St. (Map 56 Lot 77).

A copy of the map may be inspected on the Planning Department website at www.townof palmer.com/planning or at the Planning Department office at Town Hall Monday through Thursday 8:30am – 4:30pm.

Anyone interested in more information or wishing to be heard on the application can contact the Planning Department at 413-283-2605 or appear at the time and place designated above.

This notice shall also be posted on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association's (MNPA) website (http://masspublicnotices .org).

Norman Czech, Chairman
10/08, 10/15/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD26P2171EA
Estate of:
Gary E Brown
Date of Death: 06/08/2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Peggy A Boyer of Dunnellon, FL** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Peggy A Boyer of Dunnellon, FL** 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 11/06/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: October 09, 2026

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
10/15/2026

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
County of Hampden
Superior Court
Docket No. 2679CV00575
RE:Patrick J. Cavanaugh
ORDER OF NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
TO:
United Mortgage Lenders, Inc.

WHEREAS a civil action has been begun against you in our Superior Court by Patrick J. Cavanaugh ("**Plaintiff**") wherein he is seeking service of process by publication in a quiet title action pertaining to the title to the real estate at **3102 South Main Street, Palmer, Hampden County, Massachusetts** more particularly in which the Plaintiff seeks to expunge and discharge a March 25, 2005 Mortgage to the Defendant recorded at the Hampden Registry of Deeds in Book 14900, Page 267.

We COMMAND YOU if you intend to make any defense, that on November 27, 2026 or within such further time as the law allows you do cause your written pleading to be filed in the office of the Superior Court, Clerk's Office at Roderick L. Ireland Courthouse, 50 State Street, Springfield, Massachusetts 01103, with a copy to Thomas J. Flaherty, Esq., Bacon Flaherty LLC, 15 South Main Street, Randolph, MA 02368 and further that you defend against said suit according to law if you intend any defense, and that you do and receive what the Court shall order and adjudge therein.

Hereof fail not, at your peril, or as otherwise said suit may be adjudged and orders entered in your absence.

It appearing to this Court that no personal service of the Complaint has been made on the defendants identified herein above that after diligent search Plaintiffs can find no such persons upon whom they can lawfully make service, it is **ORDERED** that notice of this suit be given to them by publishing on **three** (3) occasions in The Palmer Journal, with said publication to be at least 20 days before the above responsive pleading due date.

Dated at Springfield, Massachusetts this 6th day of October, 2026.

T. Trapani, Justice
10/15, 10/22, 10/29/2026

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
26 SM 003246
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: **Dennis E Curboy and Caroline Curboy**

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (*et seq.*)

Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency

claiming to have an interest in a mortgage covering real property in **Holland, numbered 172 Stafford Road**, given by **Dennis E Curboy to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Guaranteed Rate, Inc., dated June 30, 2025, and recorded at Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 25923, Page 202**, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, has filed with this court a complaint for determination of 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 23, 2026** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on October 7, 2026

Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
10/15/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD26P1773EA
Estate of:
John Francis Ferris
Date of Death: 03/02/2026
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Joshua R Ferris of Palmer, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Joshua R Ferris of Palmer, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
10/15/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD26P2133EA
Estate of:
Brenda A Gagne
Date of Death: 09/02/2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **James J Gagne of Brimfield, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **James J Gagne of Brimfield, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/30/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: October 02, 2026

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
10/15/2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Lynne Haney to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for First Horizon Home Loan Corporation, dated September 12, 2006 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 16202, Page 313, as modified by a certain modification agreement recorded on March 24, 2022, and recorded with said Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 24465, Page 333, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to MetLife Home Loans, a division of MetLife Bank, N.A., recorded on November 8, 2011, in Book No. 18987, at Page 357 MetLife Bank, National Association, also known as MetLife Home Loans, a division of MetLife Bank, N.A. to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, recorded on November 20, 2013, in Book No. 20106, at Page 445 JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association to Federal National Mortgage Association, recorded on May 12, 2014, in Book No. 20277, at Page 112 Federal National Mortgage Association to Nationstar Mortgage, LLC, recorded on September 8, 2025, in Book No. 26018, at Page 108 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at **Public Auction** at 10:00 AM on October 26, 2026, on the mortgaged premises located at 9 Laflame Road a/k/a 9 Laflamme Road, Brimfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT: The land with the buildings thereon located in Brimfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts, southerly of Green Pond, on the northerly side of Laflamme Road leading westerly from the East Brimfield-Holland Road as relocated in 1959, to the former location of said Road, being the generally southerly portion of Lot 28 on plan of building lots at Green Pond by J.G. Clarke, Engineer, dated December 1939 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book of Plans 20, Page 35, bounded as follows:

BEGINNING by the land now or formerly of the United States of America next to Green Pond used for the East Brimfield Dam and Reservoir project 85 feet, more or less;

THENCE easterly by lot 27 on said plan 288 feet more or less;

THENCE southerly by Laflamme Road as relocated in 1959, 85 feet more or less;

THENCE westerly by lots 29, 30, and 31 on said plan, 308 feet more or less;

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 11597, Page 59.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Five Thousand ($5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC
S/B/M NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC
Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
28272

10/01, 10/08, 10/15/2026

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
Docket Number:
26 SM 003111
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:
Ritah Nalunga and May Nsubuga,

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (*et seq.:*)

U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee for Tiki Series VI Trust

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in **Palmer, 37 North Street**, given by **Ritah Nalunga and May Nsubuga to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for CMG Mortgage, Inc. dba CMG Home Loans, dated July 17, 2023, and recorded at the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 25081, Page 149**, 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 **11/9/2026** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on 9/25/2026.

Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
10/15/2026

Town of Monson
Zoning Board of Appeals
REVISED
LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 40A, M.G.L. §11, the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, October 22, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.** in the Public Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main Street, Monson, Massachusetts, on the application of Shahani Inc. for a Special Permit for Site Use under Section 3.3.2 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws and a Special Permit for Advertisement Signage under Section 5.3.4.5 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws, and a Variance from the required setbacks under § 3.1, Table 2, Dimensional & Density Regulations. The applicant proposes the redevelopment of an existing gas station through the construction of a new convenience store, installation of gasoline pumps, and related site improvements at 27 Palmer Road, Monson, MA, Map 112, Parcel 90. The property is located in the General Commercial District, the Water Supply Protection District, and the Riverfront Area of Chicopee Brook.

A copy of the application is on file with the Zoning Board of Appeals and available for viewing during regular office hours.

David Beaudoin, Chairperson
10/08, 10/15/2026

Town of Wales
Consservation Commission

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act, Chapter 131, Section 40, a Public Hearing will be held by the Wales Conservation Commission on **October 22, 2026, at the Wales Senior Center (Old Stafford Rd. Wales, MA) at 5:30 PM** for a **Request of Determination Applicability** filed Maryellen Finch for the property located at 17 Cordially Colony Rd., Wales, MA 01081, tree removal within 25 feet of resource area. For more information regarding this application contact conservation@townofwales.net and visit our website for any updates.
10/15/2026

Send Us Your Community Holiday Events

Turley Publications will print your Summer event FREE OF CHARGE in our **Holiday Dazzler Supplement** which will be published November 19, 2026. Total circulation of 85,000 which reaches over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley.

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

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Deadline for Calendar submissions is October 28.

Event Name _____
Date/Time _____
Location _____
_____
Description _____
_____
_____
_____
_____
Cost _____
Contact name & phone number for more information _____
_____

Please specify if you would like your name and number printed in the paper.

MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO: Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
***or email* them to: jamie@turley.com* *Be sure to indicate "Summer Event" in the subject line of your email.**

Obituaries

Jacqueline (Bouchie) Carlson



Jacqueline (Bouchie) Carlson, 89, a cherished and lifelong resident of Palmer, MA, passed away peacefully on October 5, 2026, at her home with the love of her family surrounding her.

Born on February 11, 1937, in Ware, MA, Jackie lived a life rich with simple pleasures and meaningful connections.

She is remembered as a dedicated dental receptionist for many years, having worked for both Dr. William Riley and upon his retirement Dr. Jonathan Neumann. Her career was marked by her warm presence and commitment to her work. Prior to that she spent many years as one of the first teacher's aides at Thorndike Street School, where she left a lasting impact on both students and those she worked with.

Travel was a passion she shared with her late husband, Kenny, as they explored new places together. Jackie had a special fondness for their home in Dennis on Cape Cod, where she found joy in its serene beauty. Her heart was truly with her family, and she treasured the time she spent with them, especially her beloved grandchildren and great granddaughters.

Jackie's legacy is carried forward by her family, her daughter, Cheryl and her husband Alan Roy of Palmer, her son, David and his wife, Pamela Carlson of Monson along with grandchildren Nicole Tavernier and her husband, Timothy as well as Jeffery Carlson and his husband Jordan Strader. Her love continued with the next generation of her two great granddaughters, Eloise and Caroline.

Jackie was predeceased in 2009 by her husband of 52 years, Kenneth J. Carlson, as well as her sister, Constance Gopfert.

Her life was a testament to the importance of family and the fulfillment found in everyday joys.

Visitation was held on Monday, October 12, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., with a service beginning at 12 p.m. at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home. Burial followed in St. Thomas Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, for those wishing, donations may be made in her memory to the Arthritis Foundation, 1355 Peachtree St NE Suite 600, Atlanta, GA 30309.

EmmaLadd Shepherd

EmmaLadd (Emy) Shepherd died on October 6, 2026. Born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri, she lived in Columbia, MO, Temple, TX, New Haven, CT and Springfield, MA before moving to Monson permanently in 1974. She graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia with a teaching degree and taught for several years in Columbia.

After moving to Massachusetts, she worked for the Mass Rehabilitation Commission, Northampton State Hospital and Child and Family Service in Springfield before working at Monson Developmental Center from 1976 until her retirement in 1994.

Since then, she worked for Municipal Public Access Television, Monson Junior-Senior High School; started the Computer Mommy business, giving lessons and support to individuals as well as teaching classes at the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corp., Top Floor Learning and the Yellow House, all in Palmer.

She has performed many hours of volunteer work including serving the town of Monson as Emergency Management Director, also with the Monson Arts Council, the Monson Historical Society, the Quaboag Valley against Casinos, Citizens for a Palmer Rail Stop and the Keep Homestead Museum, serving in many capacities including the Chair of the Board of Directors at the Keep. She was chosen Monson Citizen of the Year in 2014.

She will be missed by her son, Mark Johnson, his wife Donna, their children Lou and Alice, all of Bridgewater, MA and her daughter, Barbara Shepherd and her husband Bob Price of Monson, and many friends in Monson and in the area.

Lombard Funeral Home has been entrusted with Emy's arrangements. Visitation will be Friday, October 16, 2026 from 4-6 p.m. in the funeral home. At Emy's request, there will be a party for all at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Monson Open Pantry PO Box 566 Monson, MA 01057, or Keep Homestead Museum, P.O. Box 14 Monson, MA.

For online condolences please visit Lombardfuneralhome.com.

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 $275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

DEATH NOTICES

Jacqueline (Bouchie) Carlson
Died Oct. 5, 2026
Beers & Story
Palmer Funeral Home

EmmaLadd Shepherd
Died Oct. 6, 2026
Services Oct. 16, 2026
Lombard Funeral Home

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

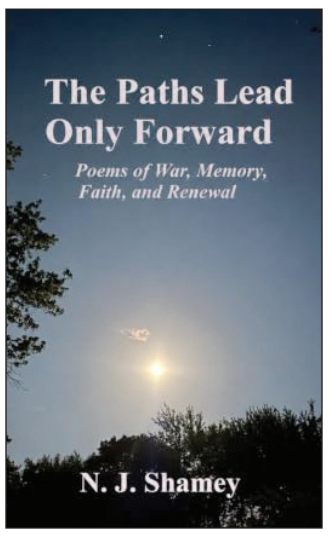
PATHS ❙ from page 1

Rather than focus his collection on one facet, Shamey decided to feature several elements to help convey the complex journey of transitioning from war to civilian life. Among the subjects presented in his writings are memories of war, mercy, nature, faith, and the challenges of moving forward while still carrying the weight of the past.

"I didn't want the collection to suggest that healing means forgetting," said Shamey, who is medically retired from the Army. "A lot of these poems are about learning to carry memory differently, and eventually about turning attention back toward ordinary life, other people, and service."

Completed over two years, the collection ranges from the power of loss and grief to the healing comforts that can be taken in the familiar – including nature.

"The inspirations are deeply rooted in my personal experiences with service and



the transition back to civilian life after medical retirement, as well as observations of the natural world in Western Massachusetts," Shamey added.

After years of hard work in preparing his poetry collection for publication, Shamey is hopeful that it can help inspire others navigating challenges along their own paths.

"Reaching this point has been a long and rewarding journey. As someone who comes from a military and security background, writing poetry was a totally new wheelhouse for me, so being able to share these works publicly is a significant milestone," Shamey said. "I have written fiction previously as a hobby, but this process has been very different, as it is based on my internal growth rather than imagined characters."

An audiobook edition of the poetry collection, narrated by Matt Quandt, has already been released through Audible. Additionally, the Kindle and print editions are scheduled for release on Oct. 20.

About the author

N. J. Shamey is a veteran and retired international security contractor who uses his real-world experiences in the Middle East and Asia to inform his writing.

He now spends his time with his family and at the barn where he works as a stablehand.

To learn more about the author's works, visit www.njshamey.com. You can also find him on Amazon and Goodreads.

GRANT ❙ from page 1

businesses, helping to create vibrant community destinations and support local economic activity," Brothers added. "With several potential development projects on the horizon, these updates will help ensure Palmer is well-positioned for thoughtful growth and revitalization."

The project will focus on developing and implementing a form-based zoning code for the VCI Depot Village zoning district.

Unlike conventional zoning, which separates land uses and regulates development through dimensional requirements, a form-based approach places greater emphasis on the physical form of buildings, their relationship to streets and public spaces, and the overall character of development.

"The new code is a great way to promote connectivity and people-oriented growth," said Interim Town Planner Maxwell Ballou. "This project is very well-timed, as the town seeks to connect the new east-west rail stop to a walkable, economically vibrant downtown, which a form-based code would enable."

Officials anticipate that the project will examine existing zoning requirements within the district, identify barriers to desirable development and redevelopment, establish appropriate development and design standards, and prepare the regulatory language and supporting materials necessary for implementation.

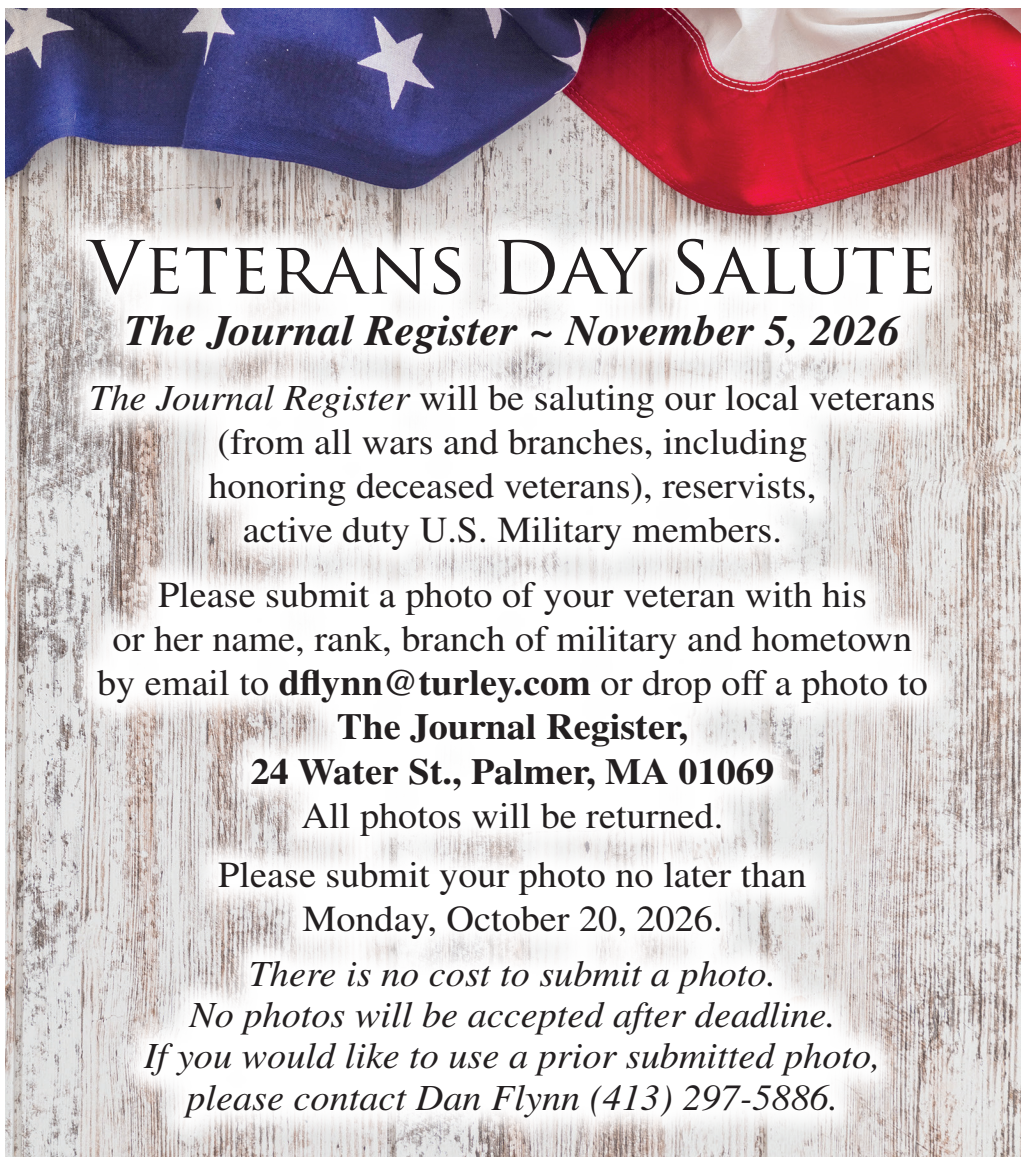
The resulting code is intended to encourage development that strengthens the pedestrian environment, supports local businesses, and expands opportunities for housing and mixed-use development, officials said.

The code is also intended to better coordinate new development for existing buildings, streets, sidewalks, transportation infrastructure, and public spaces.

"Community participation will be critical to this process," Ballou added. "Depot Village belongs to the people who live, work, own property, operate businesses, and spend time there. We want the regulations that come out of this project to reflect a shared vision for what the village can become while preserving the characteristics that make it distinct."

Interested parties may view the Town of Palmer's current VCI Zoning Regulations on the town website: https://www.townofpalmer.com/planning.

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

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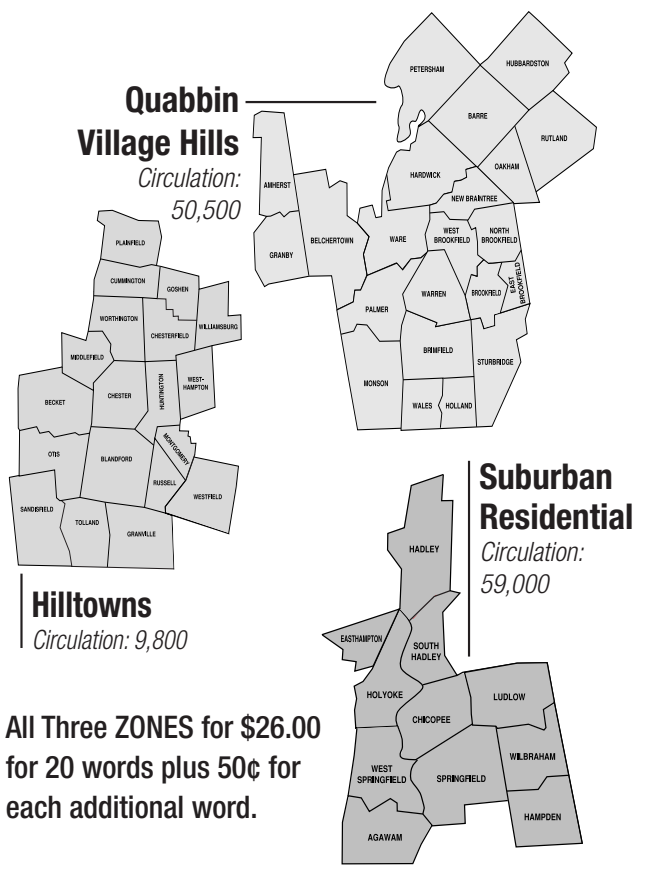
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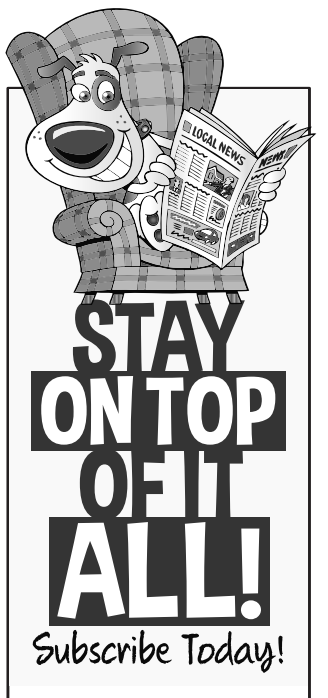
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Annual walk brings awareness to domestic violence

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – The Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force is preparing for its 11th annual Domestic Violence Awareness Walk & Gathering to be held on Sunday, Oct. 18 at 1 p.m.

The walk will start and finish at Veterans Park on Main Street. In the event of rain, the event will be held inside Town Hall, 126 Main St.

Monica Moran, Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force Coordinator, said this year's walk will have a lot of the same things it has had in the past, but also include some new things.

The walk was the idea of task force member Jennie Simmons, who led its organization efforts for the past 10 years, before turning the reins over to others.

As always, the task force is partnering with the Ware High School Domestic Violence Task Force, and the walk and gathering will be led by the students. Student Reese McKeever will emcee the event.

There will be a free children's bike raffle, free donuts, free hot dogs prepared and served by the Ware Knights of Columbus Council 183, a photo booth, music by DJ Roy Erickson, children's art, and tables set up by local organizations and resources.

"Every year there's new partners," Moran said.

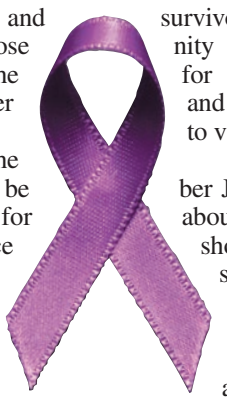
Moran said this is the second year the Knights of Columbus have volunteered to provide food for the event, and she said their support is "really great."

During the event, the task force will display a table set with plates and dinnerware. Each plate has a place card with the name of a person who died due to domestic violence.

This year, there are two more names to add to the table, and both hit close to home.

Diane Opper of Belchertown was killed in March, and Emma Pasterczyk of Palmer was killed in April in a hotel room at UMass Amherst.

"My hope for the walk is that domestic violence victims/survivors see that their communities support and care about them," task force member Erin Ballard said. "There are many resources that participate in tabling at the event to get conversations going on what is available. Connecting victims to services is crucial and can make a huge difference. The Empty Table display's purpose is to make an impact on how these situations are so tragic and what people have to lose especially when the victims children suffer this type of loss."



Moran said the task force will also be collecting donations for its domestic violence survivor's fund, which provides emergency assistance for people needing to leave dangerous situations. The fund can help pay for things like hotel rooms, car repairs, cell phone replacement and utility bills.

"The kinds of things that when you're dealing with a lot, will spiral you down," Moran said.

Moran said this fund is getting low, and people will be able to make donations to it during the walk and gathering.

State Rep. Todd Smola and District Attorney David Sullivan and others will speak at the event.

The walk itself will follow the same route as last year, traveling Main Street, then turning left to go up Church Street, left onto Pleasant Street, then a left onto North Street, before returning to Veterans Park.

Moran said one of the goals of the walk is to show survivors that the community has zero tolerance for domestic violence, and help connect them to vital resources.

Task force member Jenny Raiche talked about the importance of showing support for survivors.

"The recent case of the 'Cornell 7' is national news, and for every social media post we see in support of the survivor, we also see posts questioning her judgment and defending her attackers," Raiche said. "The women in our community – our friends, our daughters, ourselves – are seeing these posts too. It's more important than ever to support survivors, and to push back on the harmful idea that survivors are to blame for the criminally abusive behaviors of other people."

Moran said the task force and the Ware High School Task Force are working to bring awareness to different types of domestic violence, including coercive control and blame-shifting.

"Even today, a lot of people think of domestic violence as just physical abuse," Moran said.

Moran said the high school task force members are working on a writing prompt related to blame-shifting, to help students identify this type of controlling behavior in their relationships.

"The statistics show that most people who experience domestic violence, experience it young," Moran said.

Now the that Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force is in its 26th year (and the high school task force in its 16th), its members continue to work with local police departments to provide resources and assistance to survivors.

Moran said the task force has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ware Police Department to provide two hours a month for Officer Somer Bren to do follow-up calls with survivors of domestic violence in the community.

The task force has recently released a video that helps survivors through the process of requesting a restraining order. This video has been shared with every police department in the state, Moran said.

The task force has also printed a pamphlet explaining how to fill out a 209A affidavit (an abuse protection order) and file it with the court.

About the task force

The Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force currently serves Ware, Warren and Hardwick. The mission of the task force is to prevent and respond to domestic violence in these towns with community-led, community driven initiatives.

The Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force is funded by a grant awarded to the Town of Ware by the Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development Community Development Block Grant Program, by the Massachusetts Office of Rural Health, and by donations from the community.

Task force members are a group of over 300 community members, survivors and representatives from local and county agencies that have been at work preventing and ending intimate partner violence since 2000.

For those seeking help, local advocacy services are available through Behavioral Health Network in Ware at 413-967-6241. For those who use abuse, but want to change and become safe, a Call for Change Helpline can be reached at 877-898-3411. The Task Force can be reached on Facebook, at www.waredvtaskforce.org, or at wrvdvtaskforce@gmail.com.

Mystics & Makers returns as The Enchanted Market

Annual event has vendors, psychics and holistic practitioners

BROOKFIELD – What began last fall as a new gathering of local makers, intuitive readers, healers and small businesses is returning to Brookfield this October with a growing following and an expanded marketplace.

Mystics & Makers: The Enchanted Market will return for its second annual event on Saturday, Oct. 17 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Brookfield Rod & Gun Club, 56 Webber Road. Admission is free.

Co-hosted by Candace Ouillette Gaumond of Spiritology by Candace and Lauren "Lulu" Ayer of Lulu's AvalonRose Cottage, The Enchanted Market brings together the worlds of handmade artistry, holistic wellness and spiritual exploration in an autumn market designed to appeal to the curious as well as the committed enthusiast.

This year's event will feature approximately 30 vendors, eight psychics and a healer, creating one of the market's most diverse lineups yet. Visitors can browse everything from handcrafted and artisan creations to herbal and apothecary products, jewelry, crystals, seasonal pieces, and mystical and spiritual goods.

With the event taking place just two weeks before Halloween, shoppers will also find plenty of unusual treasures for those who prefer their autumn shopping with a little more enchantment.

A food vendor will be on site throughout the day as well.

For visitors interested in a more personal experience, psychic practitioners will offer a variety of intuitive services, including tarot, mediumship, astrology, oracle readings and other forms of spiritual guidance. A healing practitioner will also be available.

Psychic readings and healing sessions will be offered at a standardized rate of $25 for 15 minutes, giving guests an opportunity to explore different practitioners and modalities throughout the day.

"The response to Mystics & Makers has shown us that people are looking for experiences that feel more personal than a typical shopping event," said Gaumond. "They want to meet the person who made what they are buying. They want to ask questions, experience something new, have a reading, discover a practitioner, or find an item they simply wouldn't encounter in an ordinary store. We wanted to create a market where all those experiences could exist together."

For Ayer, the continued growth of the event reflects both the talent of participating small businesses and the community that has begun forming around the market.

"Last year's Enchanted Market showed us how much people enjoy having artisans, readers, healers and unique small businesses gathered together in one place," she said. "This year we have even more to explore. There is something special about watching someone discover a handmade piece they love, sit down for a reading, or find a product or practitioner they have never experienced before. That sense of discovery is a big part of what Mystics & Makers is about."

The organizers said that interest in Mystics & Makers has continued to grow among both attendees and participating businesses, helping establish the event as a developing destination for the region's artisan, holistic and metaphysical communities. Yet visitors do not need to consider themselves "mystical" to enjoy the market.

The event is designed as an accessible fall outing for friends, families, shoppers, spiritual seekers and anyone simply curious to see what they might discover. Guests can browse the market, meet local and regional small-business owners, enjoy food, explore holistic and spiritual practices, or begin their Halloween shopping with something decidedly different from the usual seasonal fare.

"We want people to feel comfortable coming because they're curious," Gaumond added. "You don't have to know anything about tarot, energy work or metaphysics. You can come for the artisans, the food or the atmosphere and see where the day takes you. Part of the fun of The Enchanted Market is not knowing exactly what you're going to find."

For additional information, contact: Spiritology by Candace, Candace Ouillette Gaumond at 413-537-5715, or Lulu's AvalonRose Cottage, Lauren "Lulu" Ayer at 774-745-8550.

Baystate announces progress for Ware Convenient Care

WARE – According to a recent press release, Baystate Health is moving forward with plans to bring Baystate Mary Lane Convenient Care - Ware to the Quaboag region.

Construction is expected to begin in November following completion of final design, local permitting, Department of Public Health regulatory review and final project approvals.

A general contractor has been identified for the project, which will transform the former Smithland Pet and Garden Center at 144 West St. into a new convenient care facility. Construction is anticipated to be completed in late spring 2027.

The new facility will provide residents with convenient access to care for a wide range of illnesses and injuries, with on-site diagnostic services designed to make it easier for patients to receive the care they need in one location. Services will include: Convenient care for common illnesses and injuries; digital X-ray services on site; laboratory services on site; scheduled appointments and walk-in visits; and evening and weekend hours

"Expanding access to care means being present in the communities we serve and making it easier for people to get the care they need," said Dr. Seth Gemme, Chief Physician Executive of Baystate Health and President of Baystate Medical Practices. "This is an important investment in the health of the community and in making healthcare more accessible for the people we serve. It gives individuals and families another place to turn for the right care at the right time, while strengthening our ability to support the health and well-being of the community for years to come."

Baystate Mary Lane Convenient Care - Ware will offer a convenient way for community members to access care and common diagnostic services in one location. In addition to addressing immediate health needs, the team can help patients connect with primary care and other services to support their ongoing health.

Baystate Health previously announced that the Ware location could eventually expand to include primary care services and potentially serve as a site for a family medicine residency program. The potential expansion is dependent on securing support from the Rural Transformation Health Fund.

If funded, the program could launch as early as 2028-2029 and would build on the community-focused approach used by Baystate Franklin Medical Center's family medicine residency program.

The press release stated the Ware project is part of Baystate Health's continued investment in expanding access to care across Western Massachusetts and reflects its mission to deliver compassionate, quality and accessible care while advancing our communities' health for all.

Learn more at BaystateHealth.org.

Friends of the Poor Walk to be held Oct. 18 during harvest fest

STURBRIDGE – The St. Vincent de Paul Society in Fiskdale will host its third annual Friends of the Poor Walk, on Sunday, Oct. 18, at noon at the Sturbridge common during the harvest fest.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will go toward supporting local individuals and families in need across Brimfield, Brookfield, Holland, Sturbridge, Wales and other nearby towns.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society in Fiskdale provides practical assistance throughout the year, including emergency housing, rental and utility help, food, clothing and other essential needs – serving people of all backgrounds and faiths.

The Fiskdale conference raises funds through parish poor boxes, public donations and events such as this one.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul operates in 153 countries, with more than 4,000 local conferences, and is run entirely by volunteer members committed to tackling poverty in all its forms.

Residents are encouraged to come to the harvest fest and join the St. Vincent de Paul Society in the walk for their neighbors in need.

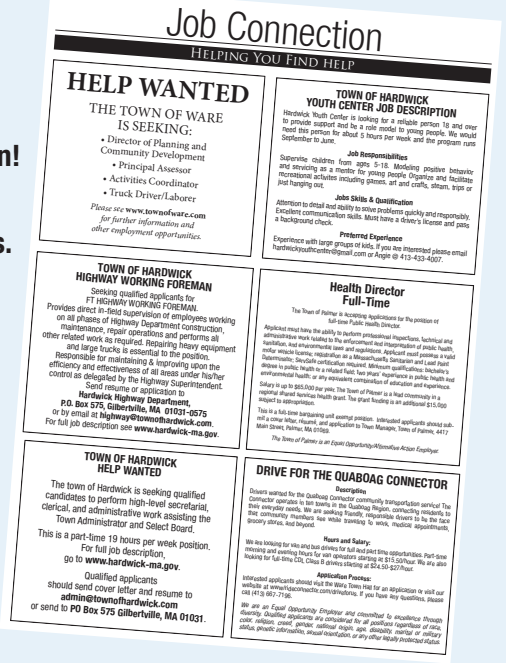
For more information contact svdpfiskdalepr@gmail.com. To make a donation, visit svdpfiskdale.org and click on the "Donate" button.

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Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club to meet on Oct. 27

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its upcoming membership meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 27, at the Senior Center at 73 Central St.

Doors open at 6 p.m. with the meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

The presentation at the meeting this month will be "Using AI to Design a Ham Shack". The presentation will be done by one of the club members, Liam, KC1YRP.

The summary of his presentation will be location topography analysis to antenna optimization to rig recommendations. AI can be a great tool to assist a new, a novice or an experienced ham design his or her shack.

Outline: Brief summary of AI tools selection and AI best practices, site topography analysis, antenna recommendations and design, gear research and selection and shack layout and setup

QVARC warmly welcomes area hams and anyone curious about amateur radio to reach out and get involved. Whether you're a licensed operator, a lapsed one looking to get back on the air, or simply curious what ham radio is all about, there's a place for you in the club as it heads toward its 40th year.

For more information about QVARC, upcoming events, or how to get involved, visit www.qvarc.com or find the club on Facebook at Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club.

Business

New business a perfect fit for Palmer

By Kevin Flanders
Staff Writer
kflanders@turley.com



Jody Hastings welcomes customers to her store in Palmer. Turley photo by Kevin Flanders

PALMER – Since the grand opening of Off With Their Threads in March, owner Jody Hastings has seen a steady increase in traffic.

Located at 1108 Park Street, the thrift and consignment store features an eclectic collection of offerings. Hastings enjoys putting together seasonal displays that focus on providing clothes for all guests' styles and preferences.

"A lot of the items are vintage, and there is a good cross-section," said Hastings, who enjoyed a strong summer season at the store. "We see everyone from teenagers to seniors."

In recent months, Hastings has expanded her roster of consignors to 120 local partners. She appreciates each opportunity to support area residents while providing customers a convenient location.

"It's been great working with them and building those relationships," said Hastings, who accepts clothing from consignors by appointment only.

As a staff of one, Hastings embraces the joys – and also the challenges – of wearing all the hats when it comes to clothing sales. From running social media marketing and scheduling consignors, to changing displays with each new season, there is always something to keep her busy on the job.

"You have to prioritize your time and figure out what is needed. There's a lot of work beyond the store hours," she told The Journal Register.

Having previously worked at a consignment store before opening her own business, Hastings brought plenty of helpful experience to Palmer. When searching for a location in town, she immediately knew the Park Street building would be a highly visible, conveniently accessible venue for customers and consignors alike.

"Having a freestanding building has been great, and a lot of people also find out about it through social media," she said.

A dressing room is available on site, enabling customers to ensure the perfect fit.

Hours of operation for the business are Wednesday through Friday (11 a.m. to 5 p.m.), Saturday (11 a.m. to 4 p.m.), and Sunday (11 a.m. to 3 p.m.).

Customer parking is available behind the store.

To learn more about the business, check out the Off With Their Threads Facebook page. Photos, product information, and customer reviews are all featured on the page.

For more information, please call 413-813-8127. You may also send an email to: jody@offwiththeirthreads.net.

To learn about consignment opportunities, call the number above to schedule an appointment. You are also welcome to send a message through the Facebook page.

Please note, there are no drop-in consignment opportunities available. Also, a limit of ten items per consignor will be accepted.

Zonta Service Grants applications available

The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley is currently soliciting proposals from local nonprofit organizations for projects that benefit women and/or youth.

The Zonta Service Grant Form application can be downloaded at www.zontaqv.org/service-grant/ or requested by contacting info@zontaqv.org. Grants are awarded biannually, in November (Nov. 1 deadline) and May (April 1, 2027 deadline).

Proposals must include specific details of the project including the need that will be addressed with the funds. In reviewing completed applications the committee will give preference for a hands-on component that can involve Zontians (and supporters, if appropriate).

As a community-driven organization, Zonta's grant capacity is tied directly to the success of its fundraising efforts. While it reviews and awards service grants twice a year, the total amount distributed each cycle fluctuates based on the funds raised during the annual golf tournament, calendar raffle, etc.

Two-thirds of all profits are used to fund local initiatives; one-third goes to the Zonta Foundation for Women to fund global projects with partners including UNFPA, UNICEF USA, Girls Not Brides, and the Coalition to End Violence Against Women'

Since its inception in 1991, the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley has contributed over $150,000 in cash and in-kind donations to local nonprofits.

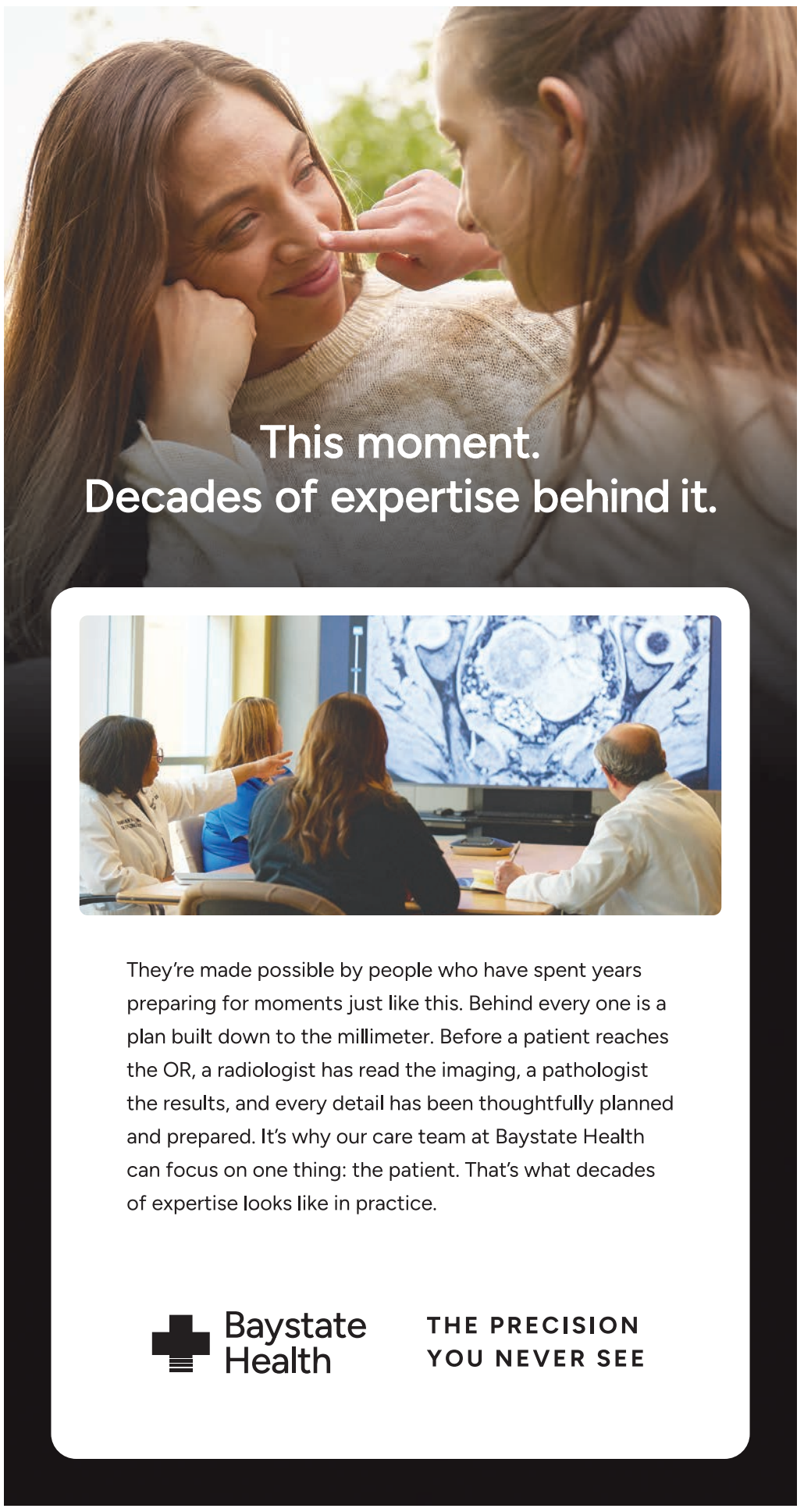
MCC seeking grant proposals

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

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

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

Monson priorities can be found online at: www.MassCulturalCouncil.org, along with the link to the online application. The deadline for submission is Oct. 15, 2026.



SAFETY I from page 1

Monson Police Chief Nicholas Gasperini.

The BBQ smokers will once again be fired up at this year's event, and members of the police and fire departments are eager to renew their BBQ rivalry.

"Public Safety Night is always one of the highlights of the year, and we're thrilled to be celebrating our sixth annual event," said Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz. "It's a great opportunity for our police, fire, and other town departments to come together with residents in a fun, relaxed setting and strengthen those connections within our community."

Guests are also invited to cast their votes to help determine the winner of the annual BBQ battle between first responders. With bragging rights on the line, every vote counts.

"The BBQ Smoke-Off between the Police and Fire Departments is always a crowd favorite," Wolowicz added. "Fire is the reigning champion, so there's definitely a little friendly competition in the air. It's a great night of food, fun, and community spirit, and we're looking forward to another memorable event."

Guests will also be able to learn about resources offered by area nonprofit agencies, businesses, and other attendees.

The Town of Monson Public Safety Night is made possible each year through a collaboration of the Monson Police and Fire Departments, local nonprofits, businesses, and community volunteers.

Veterans Field is located behind the town offices. Parking is available at several nearby locations.

To learn more about upcoming events and activities in town this fall, visit www.monson-ma.gov.

CEMETERY I from page 1

Wawrzyk said. "Another one he made specially for the Historical Society as a gift from the Cemetery Commission for five years of doing cemetery walks, which I gifted to them at the end of the event."

One change this year was to hold tours of the Jacob Thompson House before and after the Cemetery Walk, which Wawrzyk said was a change that worked well.

"Per usual, thanks to my crew for always showing up," Wawrzyk said. "There was somebody that didn't make the rehearsal, but came in at the last minute and absolutely crushed it. Everybody does what they need to do and has a good time doing it. I'm so grateful, and thanks to everybody that came out."

To learn more about what's going on with the town's local cemeteries, you can visit Monson Cemetery Commission page on Facebook.



