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Parks and Rec. **Commission** reviews new pool design

By Paula Ouimette Editor pouimette@turley.com

WARE - The Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed a design plan and cost estimate for work needed to re-open Reed Municipal Pool.

Carolyn Cooney & Associates estimated the work to total \$3,249,800; not including the bathhouse, doors on the pool's filter house, ventilation system and cameras/lights. These additional projects could push the total project cost to \$4,000,000.

The design includes a spray deck or splash pad, which would be located between the parking lot and the playground.

The pool would be L-shaped and would hold 144,000 gallons of water. The current pool holds about 220,000 gallons.

"We're probably going to have to get a design and cost for the bathhouse," Parks Manager John Piechota said.

Piechota said he believes cameras would be a good investment, as they have been successful in reducing vandalism at Grenville Park. Lights would be used more for security and safety, than nighttime pool use.

"They [residents] really do miss it," Parks Commissioner Kim Swarts said of the pool.

Playground update

Piechota said the new playground equipment at Grenville Park has been well-respected, taken care of and appreciated.

"It's been very, very, very well received and appreciated,"

Piechota said parents send their children over to Parks Department staff just to say "thank you" for the upgraded playground.

Please see **DESIGN**, page 6



Sparkle Squad raised money at car wash

WARE - After having to reschedule because of the summer's relentlessly wet weather, the sun shined on the Sparkle Squad's car wash fundraiser at NAPA Auto Parts this past Sunday.

The nine members of the competitive dance team have been performing together for six years at Limelight Dance Center. Their teamwork was apparent as the dancers worked together to clean the long lines of cars that rolled up to support them and their passion.

GOAL joins sportsmen at gun law petition event

By Paula Ouimette

pouimette@turley.com

The Gun Owners' Action League visited Nenameseck Sportsmen's Club this past Saturday, to meet with people concerned about how their rights will be affected by proposed bill HD.4420.

Jim Wallace, executive director of GOAL was joined by his wife Holly and members of the Club, to discuss the new mandates and restrictions outlined in the 140-page proposal entitled "An Act Modernizing Firearms

Wallace and others at GOAL said the bill should be called the "Lawful Citizens Imprisonment Act," as the changes proposed to existing gun laws do more to

place limitations on lawful gun owners than address gun violence, he said.

He said if the bill is passed into law, violent crimes could increase, and citizens would be limited in how they can protect themselves.

Wallace said GOAL is made up of five members, and they rely on volunteers such as the members of the Club, to help them share information about the possible impacts the changes in HD.4420 could have.

"Thanks to people like Calvin [Club President Calvin Cieslak], I just attend," Wallace said of the information session.

In addition to distributing information about HD.4420,

Please see **GUN LAW**, page 13



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

The Gun Owners' Action League joined members of Nenameseck Sportsmen's Club to share information about their concerns with proposed bill HD.4420, "An Act Modernizing Firearms Laws." Shown seated from left are Calvin Cieslak, Holly Wallace and Jim Wallace; and standing from left are Kevin Lizotte and Bob Lamb.

Coleman named as Director of Student Services in Ware

By Paula Ouimette Editor pouimette@turley.com

Sparkle Squad dancer Evelyn made sure this car was spot-

less during the dance team's car wash fundraiser this past

Sunday at NAPA Auto Parts. The Sparkle Squad is a com-

petitive dance team from Limelight Dance Center.

WARE - Chicopee resident Dr. Ginger Coleman came before the School Committee as a candidate for the position of Director of cipal, then principal.

Student Services. Coleman told the School Committee at their Aug. 2 meeting that she has spent a few decades in education, starting as a teacher before becoming an assistant prin-

"I've been working in districts that have served very diverse communities, very marginalized populations," she said. Coleman said she has a lot of English Language Learners and special education stu-

dents at the large urban school she currently works at in Lowell.

"I'm ready for my next career step," Coleman said. "I was looking to do a job in a community that you could see really valued educa-

She said from looking at the school district's data, there is some work to be done to close the achievement gap for special education students; something that all schools are addressing post-pandemic.

Please see **COLEMAN**, page 5

Workshop teaches basics of flower arrangements

By Ryan Drago Correspondent

WARE - Fair season is approaching as the Ware Grange hosted a new gardening workshop involving simple flower arrange-

For any gardeners seeking to get their flowers into a long vase-life, this workshop provided well-detailed insight.

The speaker for the workshop was Roberta McQuaid, the staff horticulturist of Old Sturbridge Village and "In the Garden" columnist for Turley Publications.

McQuaid provided a beautiful display of some of the most common garden flowers that are put into arrangements in order to last longer in vases and during different seasons. Providing programs

and packets about some of the most popular flowers that can be arranged, the aspiring gardeners at Ware Grange Hall observed curiously.

One of the main topics in the workshop McQuaid referred to in almost every flower listed in her packet was saving the seeds of cut

"The whole purpose of the flower is to make seeds," said McQuaid.

For saving seeds, McQuaid gave some helpful tips on when trimming stems of certain flowers. In her packet with some of her flower choices, she mentioned the seeds from open pollinated flowers are fun to save.

Flowers such as calendulas, bachelor buttons, marigolds, and

Please see **FLOWERS**, page 6



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago Roberta McQuaid, right, hosted a flower arrangement workshop

Troopers swear selfless commitment to service

State Police Academy's 88th Recruit Training Troop graduates

> By Paula Ouimette Editor pouimette@turley.com

SPRINGFIELD - Earlier this month, the State Police Academy graduated its 88th Recruit Training Troop, which featured 165 men and women from cities and towns across the commonwealth.

The State Police Pipes & Drums Band ushered dignitaries into the Mass Mutual Center on Aug. 3, where Sgt. Mike Goonan, Director of Training at the State Police

Academy acted as master of ceremonies.

The 88th RTT began training at the State Police Academy in New Braintree earlier this year, passing through an intensive 16-hour day program, five days a week.

Following a moment of silence for police and military personnel who have given their lives defending the nation and a prayer by State Police Chaplain Rev. Dr. Johnny Wilson, the 88th RTT demonstrated Troop drill under the command of Senior Drill Instructor Trooper Alicia Amaral.

"Since 1921, your uniformed State Troopers have been subject to demands of strict discipline that only paramilitary training can provide," Goonan said. "Troop drill

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Route 20 named 'Medal of Honor' highway Page 7

SPORTS Quabbin

field hockey wins league

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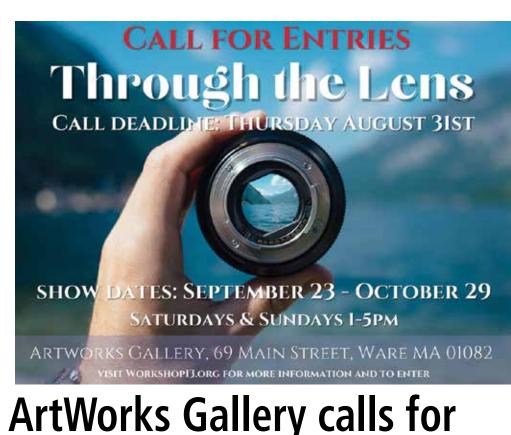
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ArtWorks Gallery calls for fine art photography

WARE - ArtWorks Gallery, 69 Main St., invites photographers from throughout the northeastern U.S. to submit their fine art photography to "Through the Lens".

A diverse range of subject matter is welcome, from landscapes to portraits to abstract photography and beyond. Digital photography is welcome, but AI-generated images are not.

The deadline for entry is Aug. 31 by midnight. The entry form and full details can be found on workshop13.org.

"Through the Lens" will be on display from Sept. 23 to Oct. 29, opening with a reception on Saturday, Sept. 23, from 3-5 p.m. Gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays from 1-5 p.m.

The juror for "Through the Lens" is Stephen Petegorsky, an artist and freelance photographer based in Florence. Born in New York City, he graduated from Amherst College and later received his master's degree in photography from Rhode Island School of

He has taught at Amherst College, Smith College, Hampshire College, and the University of Connecticut.

His work has been exhibited internationally and is in collections throughout this country as well as in Europe. Most known for his black and white landscapes, he has for many years also made images based on photographs of cleared and stained animal specimens typically found in natural history museums and university biology departments.

Since 1998 he has documented the work of the Polus Center for Social and Economic Development, a human services agency that works internationally to improve the lives of victims of conflict and people with disabili-

About ArtWorks Gallery and Workshop13: ArtWorks Gallery is Workshop13's gallery on Main Street. This space features numerous art exhibitions each year and is also available to rent for individual or group shows. Workshop13 Cultural Arts and Learning Center is a rural non-profit arts innovator located in Ware, Massachusetts and devoted to increasing the appreciation and accessibility of the arts, strengthening the creative life of our community through instruction, collaborations, and arts-based initiatives.



The Ware River News will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 3. To request a correction, send information to ekennedy@ turley.com, or call 967-3505. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Ware River News, Attn: Editor, 80 Main St., Ware, MA 01082.

Last week's photo from 1991 showed Ted Gumula, Paul Lagrant and Leroy Moody, listening to the needs of the Ware High Athletic Boosters. If you recognize the folks in this week's photo, please send their names and your full name to pouimette@turley.com.

Cultural Council seeks funding

proposals beginning Sept. 1

Are You Old News?

WARE – The Ware Cultural for-profit entities that propose Council announces the beginning of its 2024 Grant Cycle starting Sept. 1 through Oct. 17, 2023.

All grant applications must be created on the Massachusetts Cultural Council website; www.mass-culture.

The Ware Cultural Council will give funding priority to artistic projects, social and educational activities, lectures, exhibits, festivals, field trips, concerts and theatrical performances. The Cultural Council now has the option of funding

projects that provide public benefit.

All events must take place in Ware and provide public benefit in the form of promoting culture, diversity, and inclusion for its residents.

The Ware Cultural Council receives its funding from the MASS Cultural Council, a state agency, serving all 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts. The state legislature provides an annual budget to the state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

Last year, the Council

awarded over \$10,000 to promote cultural activities in the Town of Ware.

digs into its submitted photo

archives and selects a people

photo to publish. We need your help to help identify those

Email your answers by Monday at

noon to pouimette@turley.com.

The Council is also seeking new members. If you believe that the work of artists, culture enthusiasts, and creative individuals is essential to a healthy and vibrant society please consider volunteering.

Interested persons 18 years and older can serve on the Council. For local guidelines and complete information on the Ware Cultural Council, contact Aileen O'Regan by email at wareculturalcouncil@yahoo.

Main line rail track reopens Aug. 14

 The March 2023. PALMER Massachusetts Central Railroad Corporation, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, has undertaken the rehabilitation of its main

The Massachusetts Central Railroad Corporation is pleased to report that this project has been completed to the point where train operations will resume a daytime schedline rail track starting this past ule on Monday, Aug. 14, starting at 7 a.m. (up to a possible 12-hour period). This is a Monday through Friday service schedule for the rail customers from Palmer to South Barre to then return back to



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Ware Fair returns to **Meeting House** on Sept. 16

WARE - Join the Ware Center Meeting House and Museum, 295 Belchertown Road, for its Ware Fair on Saturday, Sept. 16 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. to enjoy food, crafts, artisans, and music from Deb Deschamps

The rain date is Sept. 17. Fairgoers can make a bid at the silent auction, peruse the tables with their unique offerings, check out the activities for kids at the nonprofit tables, and learn more about Ware's history in a tour of the museum.

Admission to the Fair is free.

The Proprietors of the Ware Center Meeting House and Museum can report that they are celebrating their 25th year of service to the community. They were formed in 1998 to educate, entertain, and maintain the beautiful 1799 building.

With the help of the Ware Historical Society and members of the community, they have made many improvements: replaced the roof, rebuilt the carriage shed with lumber from the Ware-Gilbertville Covered Bridge, painted inside and out, repaired plaster walls and ceilings, maintained and improved the interior, restored and stabilized windows, replaced steps at the kitchen door, resettled the steps in front, repaired the dais and north wall, restored the belfry and bell, repaired all the windows on the top floor and two of the windows on the lower level, painted the entire building, and overall kept the place in good condition.

The unique windows required attention and they were blessed to get a donation from the Urban Foundation to complete the window project. Additionally, Pennington Painting donated time and materials in order to paint the entire building and Curaleaf donated \$3,000 to assist in the paint project.

The Fall Fair is another big fundraiser for the Proprietors, and all are encouraged to attend.

This building is an integral part of our town's history: the first church, first town hall, first library, first cemetery. The Proprietors partner with the Ware Historical Society to give to the town free concerts on the green this summer, an educational day for third graders, the Ware Remembers event, and open museum hours all summer long.

Planning Board discusses waving signs; zoning changes

By Paula Ouimette Editor

pouimette@turley.com

WARE - The Planning Board discussed waving signs in front of businesses, and whether or not they are permissible with current bylaws.

Town Manager Stuart Beckley said at the Aug. 3 meeting that the businesses were given a break during the pandemic, allowing them to use signs, but some continue to use them.

Building Commissioner and Zoning Enforcement Officer Anna Marques said there were concerns brought to her department about why some businesses were

allowed to use them. She said the changes that previously occurred bylaw prohibits "flashing, moving and animated signs; including signs containing reflective elements which sparkle in sunlight."

Marques said she can notify business owners that they will need to apply for a 30-day permit (up to four times a year) to use the

Proposed zoning changes

The Planning Board continued discussion on proposed zoning changes for 415-417 Belchertown Road, including an overlay district on the Route 9 corridor to allow for limited commercial uses.

Property owners, who said they were not aware of the zoning to the corridor, have requested the zoning be changed from rural residential to rural business.

"What we're looking for is a pathway to address these buildouts," one owner said.

The owner, who has been there since 1984, said in talking with those issuing zoning at that time he was told his property was grandfathered in.

"I realize I have an agricultural foundation, but residential is not compatible with my property or even the greater good of the endeavor," he said.

Beckley said during a public hearing held last year, concerns were raised about "spot zoning."

Board members agreed to revisit the zoning concerns presented by the property owners.

"Maybe there's a way we can look at this one more time and protect both interests," Planning Board member Chris DiMarzio

The Board will continue discussion of the matter at its next

Babcock Tavern Road

The Board received a response from Bond Construction regarding the demarcation of the buffer area for the earth removal operation at 240 Babcock Tavern Road.

Planning and Community Development Department

Administrative Assistant Kristen Jacobsen said the stakes were set on the buffer line on July 20.

Board members agreed that the plan from Bond Construction was representative of their previous requests.

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Board members voted to recommend the Open Space and Recreation Plan as presented

Tractor Supply

Beckley said Tractor Supply will meet with the Conservation Commission in September before coming to the Planning Board with a site plan for the project at 256 West St.

Wild Bill Swim includes 'Floatilla' on Aug. 20

Hawaii, Paris, New York City, and Brookfield have in common?

They've all hosted a 'Floatilla," which is a gathering of fun-loving people and their colorful, splashy floaties, tubes and other inflatables.

"You get your craziest float, put it in the swimming area, you get on it – maybe with your friends – and it's a Floatilla!" said Jennifer Yorzyk-Triger, organizer of the upcoming Wild Bill Swim at South Pond Beach on Aug. 20, which includes a Floatilla.

Just like the Wild Bill Swim's 3-mile, 2-mile, 1-mile and 400vear swims and the 1-mile paddle, the Floatilla is in keeping Wild Bill Swim's "Just Get in the Water" theme.

The theme also applies to the Wild Bill Swim goal: to finance "Just Get in the Water" swimming and water-safety lessons for 200 local third graders this fall.

The Wild Bill Swim honors South Pond's own Olympic Gold Medalist, the late William Yorzyk, who invented the butterfly stoke as it is swum today and took the Gold Medal at the 200-meter butterfly at the 1956 Summer Olympics in Melbourne, Australia – just seven years after learning to swim as a freshman at Springfield College. Yorzyk passed away three years ago.

Last year's inaugural Swim



This Wild Bill Swim enthusiast is ready for the "Floatilla" that will be part of the Wild Bill Swim at South Pond Beach Sunday, Aug. 20.

raised funds for treatment of South Pond (Lake Quacumquasit).

With the funds raised at that event surpassing organizers' reach-for-the-sky goal, organizers this year set an even loftier of goal: paying for swimsuits, goggles, transportation and a series of

"Just Get in the Water" swim and safety lessons at the Southbridge YMCA. The lessons will take place during the school year and through the school systems, but at no cost to parents or the schools.

The "fun, fitness and philanthropy" event also offers prizes,

raffles, family fun and games on the beach as well as a special menu at nearby Oakholm Brewery, which is donating a percent of proceeds from their "Wild Bill Beer," "Wild Carrol Seltzer" and "Wild Bill Pizza (with everything on it)" at various times throughout the summer - including the weekend of the event.

The Floatilla, which is new this year and unlike the swim events requires no registration, will certainly up the level of fun, said Yorzyk-Triger, Yorzyk's daughter and event creator.

"The Floatilla is just the right kind of Wild Bill excitement. You just need to have a float, show up, and you're good to go," Yorzyk-Triger said, adding that a \$5 cash donation per float to cover insurance and lifeguard services is requested.

For information and registration (no registration is required for the Floatilla), go to WildBillSwim.org. For information about swim lessons, contact your school principal.

Information is also available through emailing Yorzyk-Triger at jenn@wildbillswim.org, through YouTube and Instagram @wildbillswim, and through the Facebook page, The Wild Bill Swim & Paddle Challenge. Donations can be made to gofundme.com/the-wild-bill-swim-andpaddle-challenge.

Local author releases genealogical thriller

A genealogical thriller/memoir, "The Long Walk Home with the Ceinture Fléchée: The Arrow Sash", by local author Paula Grandpre Wood, has elements of suspense, adventure, joy, and grief.

Her story is a testament to the endurance of faith, family, and traditions. A Barre resident who grew up in Central Falls, Rhode Island and Northboro, Grandpre Wood tracks down her ancestors, pieces together their stories, and wraps herself in the cloth Arrow Sash, a tradition that has been passed down in her family for generations.

Travel back in time to La Rochelle, France, in the 1600s, where Grandpre Wood's ancestors survived the siege of La Rochelle. Learn of their immigration to New France in the 1658 to begin a new life there.

Some of her ancestors, subjected to colonial empires' politics, survived the Acadian dispersal, and later returned to Quebec. Grandpre Wood's family left Quebec in the 1920s to start anew

Grandpre Wood carries her lessons learned onto the Long Trail in Vermont.

Throughout her travels the family Sash and its enduring tradition have helped bind together her family. The connecting theme throughout the book is finding her way home-home with the Arrow Sashthe Ceinture Fléchée.

Grandpre Wood is available for interviews by email, phone, Zoom or in person. She is also available for in person presentations, including slide shows documenting her travels and research discovering ancestors who had been lost to her family.

For more information about Grandpre Wood's book, visit paulagrandprewoodsash.com, email info@paulagrandprewoodsash. com or call/text 978-434-1246. The book is available through

Vendors wanted for annual fall fair

WARE - Vendor applications are now being accepted for the Annual Fall Fair at the Ware Center Meeting House and Museum, 295 Belchertown Road.

The Fair will be held on Saturday, Sept. 16, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The rain date is Sept. 17.

Outdoor spaces are \$20 for a 10 foot by 10 foot space. Vendors selling food should contact the Ware Board of Health for any permits that may be required (no baked goods please).

Applications are due by Sept. 10, and can be mailed with checks payable to Proprietors of the WCMH, P.O. Box 1401, Ware, MA 01082. Online applications and printable PDF applications are available at warecentermeetinghouse.org/warecenter-meeting-house-museum-fall-

Instructions for set up will be emailed a week before the event. Contact Janice by email at janicehills110@gmail.com for informa-

Fairies return to Hardwick Fair-y Village Aug. 18-19

Hardwick Community Fair will be held Friday, Aug. 18 and Saturday, Aug. 19.

The Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, will have a real, live fair from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 19. People should bring their fairy houses to display in the Hardwick Fair-y Village, or just

HARDWICK - The 261st come and see what others have made.

> There will be surprises for the little ones.

The Friends of the Paige Memorial Library Book Sale will be held downstairs at the library from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday as well. There will be lots of new choices and your donations help support the programs at the

Buy tickets for the four raffle baskets and be a winner when the names are drawn on Saturday afternoon. There is something for everyone at the oldest agricultural fair in the U.S.

For more information, call the Library at 413-477-6704 or email director.paigelibrary@

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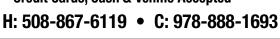
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Saturday, August 26, 2023

The flea market will be free and open to the public.

Email for a registration form: fccofwbfleamarket@gmail.com or call and leave a message at: 508-867-3241



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Why is Social Security withholding my monthly payments?

Dear Rusty: I have been working since I started collecting Social Security when I turned 62.

Last year I was apparently overpaid because of my job. I made \$37,000 and now the Social Security Administration says I owe them \$8,800 dollars because I made too much and they have withheld my \$2,000 monthly SS payment.

I am close to the maximum allowable again already this year. So, I am looking at quitting my job so I don't go over, but they are holding my payments so then I would have no money.

Any help would be appreciated. Signed: Frustrated by Social Security

Dear Frustrated: You are being affected by Social Security's "earnings test," which applies to everyone who collects early Social Security and also works before reaching their Full Retirement Age. If your earned income exceeds the annual limit, which was \$19,560 for 2022, Social Security will withhold \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit.

If you earned \$37,000 in 2022 you were more than \$17,000 over the limit and owe half of that back to Social Security. They usually recover what you owe by withholding your future benefit payments, so they won't pay you benefits until they have recovered that \$8,800, after which your benefits will resume, but only for a while.

If you are working full time and also collecting early Social Security benefits, the earnings test lasts until you reach your full retirement age, which for you is 66 years and 8 months. The earnings limit goes up a bit each year for 2023 it is \$21,240, but if you continue to work full time, you'll receive another overpayment notice and have more benefits withheld.

A better approach might be to contact Social Security in advance and tell them what your 2023 earnings are expected to be, thus permitting them to suspend your benefits in advance and avoid overpaying you. I'm afraid there is no way around this collecting early benefits while working full time means the "earnings test" will affect your benefit payments.

The "good news" in all of this is that when you reach your Full Retirement Age, you will get time-credit for all months your benefits were withheld. By that I mean they will, at your FRA, recalculate your benefit entitlement as though you had claimed later (later by the number of months you had benefits withheld), which will result in a higher monthly payment after your FRA.

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

I suggest you contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 or at your local office and tell them you want to provide them with an estimate of your 2023 earnings because you are working and collecting early Social Security benefits.

They will work with you to suspend your benefits for an appropriate number of (additional) months to avoid another overpayment situation. Note, you'll likely need to do this each year you continue to work full time, until the year you reach your full retirement age when the earnings limit more than doubles. The earnings limit goes away when you reach your full retirement age.

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

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Soil test this fall and beat the rush

A dear friend of mine sent me a picture of her pepper; her one pepper.

Granted, the fruit was picked a wee-bit prematurely by her 3-year-old granddaughter Genevieve, but still, one single fruit measuring 2 inches by 2 inches for all of her many pepper plants is nothing to brag about.

If I'm not mistaken, she used the word "pathetic" to describe said plants. Along with "stunted" and "pale."

Alas, what is a friend to do, but recommend a soil test.

I finally got the soil in two of my gardens tested last fall and I am so very happy that I did. With the necessary amendments added to bring up sub-par soil, I am enjoying bush beans and happy flowers in those areas.

Many of us garden for years before we have our soil tested. It is likely that we get fixed on our own routine of liming and fertil-

Perhaps too, we live with the same insect and disease problems each season and think that little can be done to remedy our situation. Maybe with a better understanding of our soil through testing, we will be able to create and maintain a fertile soil that supports healthy, optimal plant growth.

Rather than waiting until spring, beat the

rush and send your sample off this fall. Here of organic matter in the soil can be deteris a refresher on the nuts and bolts of soil

We test the soil for many reasons. Perhaps the most important reason is to learn its pH.

Here in New England soil tends to be on the acidic side. Vital soil nutrients are unavailable to plants in an overly acid soil, even if they are in great supply.

Optimum pH for most plants is close to neutral, in the range of 6.2-6.8. Before you head for the garage to dust off the spreader, be forewarned that all limes are not the same!

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

The test will also give you recommendations for boosting necessary soil nutrients, the most common of which are phosphorous, and potassium, magnesium, calcium and more. Let the soil testing laboratory know what crops you grow and what kind of gardener you are, that way their advice can be specific to your needs.

Organic gardeners will want to use natural fertilizer sources such as blood meal, bone meal, bone char, wood ash, rock phosphate and greensand among others to feed the soil.

The standard soil test will also give you the levels of lead in your soil. As we all know, lead poisoning is a particular concern to children under the age of 6.

Produce grown in soils high in lead can accumulate enough lead in their tissue to be hazardous when eaten. The most likely cause of soil contamination is from particles of lead based paint that have been removed from nearby structures.

To reduce the risk of contamination, locate gardens away from old painted structures and keep pH and organic matter contents at optimal ranges.

For just a few dollars more, the percentage

mined. Organic matter is very important because it encourages a healthy population of soil microbes that solubilize stored nutrients, making them more available for plant uptake.

As organic material decomposes, humus results. Humus binds sandy soils and improves their water holding capacity; alternately, it aerates heavy clay soils and promotes better drainage.

If the percentage of organic matter in your garden comes in low, add compost, aged animal manure, or cover crops to bring levels up. Established shrub or perennial borders benefit from an application of bark mulch for the same reason.

It is very easy to gather soil for testing. First, remove a 6-8-inch core of soil from your garden with a stainless steel trowel. Remove surface debris and air dry.

If your garden is large, mix about a dozen cores together to end up with about a cup of soil for testing. The different microclimates of your landscape should be tested separately.

Official directions and an order form are available at http://soiltest.umass.edu. The standard soil test is \$20, add an additional \$6 for the standard test including organic matter.

Test results could initiate some revisions to our fertilization and liming routine this fall, preparing the way for a healthier, more productive garden next spring and summer, and maybe even a few more peppers for Genevieve to enjoy!

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

THESE AREN'T

THE VISITORS WE

WERE HOPING TO

ATTRACT!

Ware River News



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Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and "Your Turn" guest col-umn 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 authenticate 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.

> Send opinions to: Ware River News Letter to the Editor 80 Main Street Ware, MA 01082 or via email to: pouimette@turley.com

The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will

print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

GUEST COLUMN

A series of misfortunate events

By Julie Midura

When Tom and I began planning a five-day backpacking trip in the Sandwich Wilderness of New Hampshire, we envisioned lovely days of easy hiking followed by peaceful evenings sitting beside a campfire before crawling into our tent for a restful night's sleep.

But this time, things didn't turn out quite as we planned.

Misfortunate event #1:

The three and a half hour drive to New Hampshire became a five and a half hour drive due to an accident, which forced us to start our five and a half mile hike at 4:30 p.m. Now if you think that we'd be well rested after sitting in a car for over five hours while battling heavy traffic, you'd be wrong.

We were thoroughly exhausted; and we hadn't even started hiking yet.

Misfortunate event #2:

When we reached the swollen Whiteface River, it was too high to cross over on rocks, so we changed into our Crocs and forded instead. With two more crossings ahead of us in the next 1.3 miles, we decided that instead of taking the time to dry our feet and pull on our socks and shoes after each crossing, we'd just hike in our Crocs until the final crossing.

Which lead to...

Misfortunate event #3:

In spite of the fact that we were wearing Crocs, we raced along the trail in a vain attempt to arrive at the tentsite ahead of the darkness. Which caused Tom's Croc-wearing feet to sink into calf deep mud, whereby he crashed to the ground like the proverbial tree falling in the forest. (And yes, there was indeed a sound when he fell!)

Misfortunate event #4:

We slowed our pace after misfortunate event #3, arriving at Flat Mountain Pond tentsite at dusk- which is the time we'd normally already have the tent set up, camp clothes on and dinner eaten. With no time to waste before darkness set in, we located a level patch of dirt to set up our tent.

I dropped my backpack, unclipped the straps, flipped the top open...and didn't see the single most important item that is usually

@DAVEGRANLUND.com

Panic set in while I yanked one item after another out of my pack and tossed it in a heap on the ground in a desperate attempt to find the missing item. When my hand finally reached the bottom of my now empty pack, I knew that we were about to endure the greatest misfortunate event in the life of a back-

"Tom? Did you by any chance pack the tent?"

I already knew the answer before I even asked. After all, Tom always packs the fly and ground cloth while I always pack the tent body itself.

Well...almost always. But the process of asking allowed me to hold on to a split second of hope before hearing Tom's response, "No. Didn't you?"

Tom and I looked at each other, both of us realizing that there would be no tent to protect us from the hoards of mosquitoes that had plagued us for the past 5+ miles in spite of the gallons of bug spray we had liberally applied back at the car. With a pond nearby, we knew that this could be an incredibly rough night.

Since hiking five miles back to our car in the dark in our exhausted state wasn't an option, we had no choice but to make the best of this latest misfortunate event.

I apologized to Tom as we went about staking out just the fly. He was gracious in his response, "No need to apologize, kiddo. We all forget stuff sometimes.'

In spite of his understanding, I felt terrible. When we finished blowing up our air mattresses, zipping our double-wide sleeping bag together and laying out all of our gear, everything looked like it usually does - with the exception of the eight inch gap between the bottom of the fly and the ground. In an effort to find something to be grateful for in the midst of what had been a very trying day, I said brightly, "Well at least there isn't any rain in the forecast tonight."

Ten minutes later, the skies opened up. Yes folks, God does indeed have a sense

All was not bad, however. With the exception of slightly wet sleeping bags and over a dozen spider bites, we made it through the night unscathed...and so the adventures con-

See you in the wild places, my friends!

To read more about our hiking adventures (and misadventures) follow us on Instagram @morethanthemountain.

Josh's golden scam

The nickel that caused a dollar's worth of scandal

> By J. Mark Powell jmarkpowell.com

Like so many things in life, it seemed like a good idea at the time, and it would have been. too, if one man's swindle hadn't ruined every-

When all was said and done, a conman got off scot-free, Washington had egg on its face, and a new phrase entered the American vocabu-

lary that's still used today. This is the story of Josh's golden scam.

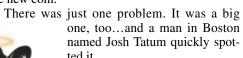
Back in 1866, the government began minting

the first five-cent piece. It had the United States the new coin. shield - our country's coat of arms if you will - on the front and "5 Cents" sur-

rounded by 13 stars on the back. The public liked the new coin and immediately began referring to it by the metal used to produce it: the nickel. (Its predecessor had been silver and called the "half dime.")

But it proved difficult to strike, HOLY COW! HISTORY causing countless headaches for the United States Mint. So a new design was produced.

Released on February 1, 1883, it featured Lady Liberty on the front with a giant V (the Roman numeral for five) in the center of the reverse. Americans enthusiastically embraced



No denomination appeared on the coin. There was just that great big V.

It could mean 5 cents or 5 dollars. Which caused a lightbulb to switch on in Josh's head.

The new nickel was about the

same size as a \$5 gold piece. Both bore the likeness of Liberty on the front and, while not identical, to the untrained eye they looked similar to

So, Josh took several of the new nickels to a

jeweler and had them electroplated with gold. Then he went to a store. Walking up the counter, he pretended to be

deaf mute and pointed to a cigar. The clerk said, "Five cents, please." Josh handed over his phony gold-plated coin

and was promptly given \$4.95 in real money in change. When he pulled the scam at different stores, it worked perfectly every time. Apparently, Josh liked to think big. He had

1,000 nickels covered with a thin layer of cheap gold and worked his way to New York City. Never speaking, only pointing, and always

walking away the richer for the exchange. He supposedly made \$15,000 (about \$375,000

Please see **HOLY COW**, page 5

Magician's act steals the show at

program's finale

By Ryan Drago Correspondent

WARE - The Young Men's Library Association wrapped up their Summer Reading Program last Wednesday, with a finale featuring magician, Ed Popielarczyk and his "Magical Moments."

Living up to the title of his show business name of, Popielarczyk conveyed many magical moments during his performance in front of many excited children and adults.

It was an ironic environment at the Ware Library, since libraries are traditionally quiet places to pick out and read books. As soon as magician Ed began his magic show, the library was echoing cheers from the audience of

Popielarczyk of Florence has been a magician for nearly 40 years. His act consists of not only magic shows, but balloon sculpting and flea circuses.

Popielarczyk's circus consists of trained fleas performing the usual circus acts, but in miniature form. For his balloon sculpting, he creates unique hats, flowers, animals, airplanes, and games.

At the Young Men's Library

Association, it was all about magic.

Popielarczyk's magic act depends greatly on audience participation. He enjoys getting the kids involved in his act and thinks they truly make the magic happen.

"It's fun to watch the kids participating. If the kids are having fun, we're having fun," said Popielarczyk referring to the number of parents and other adults enjoying his magic show.

Every trick performed required some help and Popielarczyk was seeking helpers throughout the whole show. However, Popielarczyk was asking for helpers who were sitting nicely and calmly raising their hands.

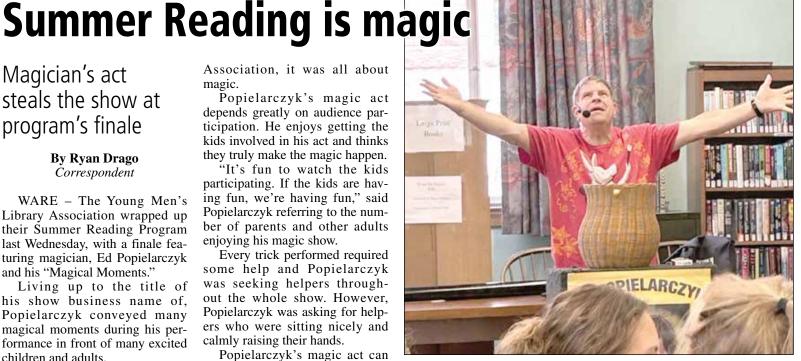
Popielarczyk's magic act can be described as comedy magic as every trick involved during the Summer Reading finale brought a lot of pranks and laughter to the children and adults.

There were a lot of disappearing tricks, card tricks, props and rewards. Popielarczyk rewarded all of his volunteers with a magician's wand.

Many magic tricks have been part of Popielarczyk's act for

He included in his act one unique trick that he considers one of his favorite magic tricks to perform, the chair suspension trick. A trick consisting of a set of chairs, a blanket and one volunteer.

The chairs form a bed with a



Magician Ed Popielarczyk entertains at the Young Men's Library Association's Summer Reading Program finale.

blanket lying on top. The volunteer rests on top where the blanket is set, and Popielarczyk takes one side of the bed set up with the volunteer still lying still and flat

A unique magic trick that left both the children and adults surprised.

To wrap up his performance, Popielarczyk thanked his audience with gratitude and encouraged all the kids in attendance to visit their library often and read. The kids enjoyed the show to wrap up their Summer Reading Program.

The Summer Reading Program offered numerous activities and events from mid-June through

For more information on Ed Popielarczyk's Magical Moments, he can be reached by calling 413-584-7675 or e-mailing balloonpop@comcast.net. More information about Popielarczyk's magic shows, balloon sculpting and flea circus can be found on his website, www.edpop.com.

Passage of **PACT** Act expands benefits for veterans

SPRINGFIELD - Rep. Richard E. Neal joined U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs officials, local veterans' service officers, and members of the western Massachusetts veteran community to highlight the PACT Act that was signed into law by President Joseph Biden on Aug. 10, 2022.

The PACT Act marks the largest expansion of veteran health care and benefits in generations, extending health coverage to more than 5 million veterans exposed to harmful chemicals from burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic sources.

In addition, the PACT Act adds more than 20 new conditions presumed to be service-connected due to various in-service toxic exposures and requires the VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to

Please see **PACT**, page 10

Quabbin Visitor Center hosts late summer hike

BELCHERTOWN - The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center will offer several free programs this spring.

Enjoy a later summer hike at Quabbin Park on Thursday, Sept. 7 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. This hike will meet at the parking area at the Middle Entrance and walk along the Spillway Road to a small meadow across from the Boat

Cove.

The approximately 1-mile walk is easy, but the road along the Spillway is heavily trafficked, so caution is advised. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear, bring water, and come prepared for

Meet at the Middle Entrance parking lot (https://goo.gl/ maps/2xFhXUWcU7H8fmae8).

All ages are welcome. Email QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov

with questions or to be added to the mailing list

Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks. Dogs are not allowed anywhere on the Quabbin Watershed. Space is limited.

To register for any of these events, visit www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events?_ page=1.

HOLY COW from page 4

today) by the time he was arrested. Josh was eventually hauled into court and tried for his hoax. But prosecutors had a serious problem.

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

He simply handed it over and trusting clerks accepted it was as genuine. Because he never claimed it was actually gold, the jury found Josh had committed no crime. He was acquitted.

While all this was happening, Washington was dealing with similar headaches caused by the new nickel. Other con artists had spotted the design oversight and were also taking advantage of it.

The head of the Secret Service had noted the potential for criminal mischief at the outset and warned the government. Then as now, bureaucrats are loath to admit The Philadelphia Mint's direc-

r loudly defended the new nickel

He pointed out a three-cent coin had been minted for 22 years with just the Roman numeral III on the back and no denomination, and there hadn't been any problems. Although he didn't mention that

coin was smaller than a dime and the \$3 gold piece was larger than a quarter, making it impossible to confuse the two.

By now the scam was being reported as far away as St. Louis, Morgan City, Louisiana, and San Francisco. The government had no choice but to act.

On March 11 new nickels began coming out of the Mint with

the word "cents" added directly below the V. It remained there until the Buffalo Nickel replacement debuted in 1913.

Today, the gold-plated frauds re called Racketeering Nickels and are cherished by collectors.

Two lessons from this story. First, the phrase "I'm joshing you" was popularized by the incident.

Though it appears to have shown up in print as early as 1845, its usage exploded after 1883.

And, the Mint learned its lesson. That was the last time it ever produced a coin that didn't bear the denomination.

I'm not joshing you.

Holy Cow! History is written by novelist, former TV journalist and diehard history buff J. Mark

School committee appoints interim superintendent

By Ellenor Downer edowner@turley.com

BARRE - The Quabbin Regional School Committee unanimously appointed Colleen Mucha interim superintendent at their June 8 meeting.

Following an interview with Mucha, the School Committee made the appointment for one year from July 1 of this year to June 30, 2024. Dr. Richard Allan said she answered the questions posed by Committee Chair Mark Brophy and Vice-Chair Debra Chamberlain

He said the better indicator than her interview was what she did in the five years she worked for the

Chamberlain said Mucha's "work ethic was second to none." Other committee members agreed.

In a second motion, the Committee unanimously approved the Chair and Vice-Chair to enter into negotiations with Mucha for the interim superintendent position. Brophy said the School Committee could do an external search for full-time superintendent working with the consultants they hired, an internal search or hire the interim superintendent as full-time superintendent.

Before the candidate arrived, Brophy said he and Chamberlain would ask Mucha five questions each. The school committee members ranked questions from a list provided and selected ten of them.

At the beginning of the interview, Mucha gave an opening statement. She said, "I love what I do, professional development and grant writing.'

Mucha said, "it was one of the reasons she didn't apply initially for the position."

She came to Quabbin five years ago and served as a principal in a neighboring school district before that position.

When asked by Brophy what were her core values that drive her as an administrator, she responded, "treating others as you want to be treated." She said it was important to understand "our people" are the

Mucha said another core value she had was to "work hard and work until you succeed."

Her response to the question of how she would develop a plan to prepare for role of interim superintendent in the first 90 days, she said it was essential to meet with school committee, parents, students.

She said in her current role she had not reached out to the community, and she would do that as interim. Mucha also said she would rely on mentors, one who was a former superintendent.

She said in response to a question on how she would reach out to the community. She said she would send out district wide newsletters, attend evening events such as select board meetings and hold drop in office hours.

Mucha said it was important to be visible.

Chamberlain asked her what her visions and thoughts for Quabbin were. Mucha answered to continue to offer robust programs and to find any opportunities for efficiency and look for lots of grants.

In answer to a question about greatest challenges, Mucha said Quabbin was a rural area and spread out. Budget and funding was a concern as well as challenges around emotional well being.

Mucha said if she served as interim superintendent for one year and did not get the full-time superintendent position, she would like to go back to the position she currently holds.

Mucha in her closing statement said, "I think I am good at handling conflict in time of stress, I know what I know really well and learned how to accept and embrace help"

Baystate Health CEO announces retirement

SPRINGFIELD — Mark A. lenging dynamics in healthcare Baystate Health CEO in July 2024 after 10 years of leadership as CEO of the region's primary health system. The Board of Trustees will launch a national search for his successor.

"It has been and continues to be the privilege of a lifetime to serve as CEO of Baystate Health and partner with the amazing people who provide such outstanding care to our communities," said Keroack in a press release. "While I look forward to spending the next chapter of my life with my family, I plan to be fully engaged in both day-to-day leadership and our strategic efforts to address the chal-

Keroack, MD, MPH, recently today in a way that prioritizes the announced his plans to retire as health needs of our communities and continues our role as an employer of choice."

Keroack joined Baystate Health in 2011 as chief physician executive and President of Baystate Medical Practices and was appointed to the CEO role in 2014. He has had a long career in both medicine and health administration, serving in leadership roles at UMass Memorial Medical Group and the University Health System Consortium.

A specialist in infectious diseases, Keroack was a leading voice

Please see **RETIRE**, page 12

COLEMAN from page 1

Making sure families are involved with the special education process is very important, Coleman said, as well as meeting mental health needs.

"Working in that small community really allows you to be handson and do some really purposeful work," she said. "I saw how hard and how impactful the pandemic was on not just our educators, but our students and our families."

Coleman said Ware looks "ripe" and has many wonderful things happening and she liked Superintendent Michael Lovato's vision for the school district.

"We need to really promote positivity," Coleman said.

School Committee members approved the recommendation to name Coleman as the new Director of Student Services.

Salary adjustments

School Committee Chair Christopher Desjardins said the School Committee discovered several positions are paid "significantly lower" than they are in other dis-

Lovato said these include elementary and middle school principals, the Superintendent's executive

assistant and the business office. He said the middle school prin-

cipal's daily rates are the lowest in the area, at \$350 a day (\$91,000 annually).

'We need to be within the competitive range," he said. The average is \$420 a day for a 260-day

Lovato said the elementary principal has a 210-day contract instead of 260 days, even though she is there every day. The 210-day contract was previously negotiated, and it makes her daily rate appear higher than it actually is compared to the hours she works.

"I do think we need to have a conversation about what some consistency looks like with our contracts," he said.

Lovato said the Superintendent's executive assistant position salary is lower on the list for comparable positions at \$43,000. He said he believes Ware is the lowest in the

Desjardins agreed that this salary was "embarrassingly low."

Lovato said the business office is also lower paid than comparable districts, and they have one person covering both payroll and accounts payable. Many other school districts have these responsibilities split into two positions.

"I would wholeheartedly advise us to take a good look at increasing these salaries in a big way," Desjardins said of the business office and executive assistant positions. He agreed the middle school principal is "way below" what others are making.

School Committee member Michael Foran said the Committee should also look at workload in addition to salary equity.

Desjardins credited the school district's staff for their dedication and commitment to their positions.

Desjardins suggested increasing the middle school principal to \$103,000; and both central office positions to \$60,000 each. He said he will leave the elementary school principal salary off the table while Lovato discusses the scope of the position during nego-

Lovato said both the elementary and middle school principal contracts are up for negotiation.

The School Committee approved the salary increases as

Job description change

Desjardins said the Committee received a draft of the proposed change in the Director of Special Education job description, which would now become a Director of Student Services.

This change in title and description would make the position more aligned with other school districts in the commonwealth.

School Committee Vice-Chair Brian Winslow said he likes that the position provides "an umbrella" for school counselors, as well as the dual credit offerings.

Winslow said one of his concerns involves students who do not intend to go to college following high school.

"They do need to be consid-

ered," he said.

Lovato said dual credit is also for students that don't intend to attend a four-year college or university after graduation, as it can also be for students heading into the military or a trade.

position is a "great direction" for the school district to head in.

School Committee members

voted to accept the changes proposed for the position.

Safety Committee

School Committee member Aaron Sawabi volunteered to serve as the Committee's representa-For an said this change to the tive on the school district's Safety Committee.

PUBLIC NOTICE BAIL COMMISSIONERS NEEDED EASTERN HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COURT JURISDICTION

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

A Bail Commissioner is appointed by the Massachusetts Trial Court to make release and bail determinations for persons arrested when courts are closed (overnights, weekends and holidays.)

PLEASE NOTE: This is an appointment only. No salary or benefits are included but fees may be collected from the person in custody at the time of release. The base fee is \$40.00. Bail Commissioners are required to have reliable transportation in order to travel to the Eastern Hampshire District

Court and the police departments located in Amherst, Belchertown, Granby, Hadley, Pelham, South Hadley and Ware.

Proximity to the communities listed and familiarity with criminal law and procedures helpful. If you are interested in being considered for appointment please contact: CATHERINE M. COUGHLIN, ESQUIRE STATE BAIL ADMINISTRATOR **EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE TRIAL COURT**

The appointing authorities do not discriminate against any applicant because of race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, status as a veteran, basis of disability or any other federal, state or local protected class.

tcbail@jud.state.ma.us

Firefighter unites Okinawa veteran's documents with his family in Rhode Island

By Marcelo Gusmão Staff Writer

MONSON - A heartwarming story of family and legacy has been compiled by Monson Fire Captain Lisa Hamill, which started with the discovery of one U.S. Marine, who had long been thought lost to time.

Henry Sozek was a U.S. Marine from Rhode Island who fought in World War II, received two Purple Hearts and died in the Battle of Okinawa. Hamill happened to buy a box that contained photographs of Sozek, along with documents from his service.

"I have been flea-marketing probably about 30 years," Hamill said. "I go every year to the Brimfield Flea Market that comes three times a year, and then to the Marier's Flea Market that comes the week prior to Brimfield."

This past May, Hamill purchased a box full of what she thought were just photographs at Marier's

"Once I got home, underneath was a lot of documentation of what I later found out was this Marine," she said.

After looking through the documents and realizing how valuable they were, Hamill decided she wanted to document Sozek's story. She started by scanning the over 256 pictures and documents and everything that was in the box, and putting them in the order that made the most sense to her.

"I started just taking notes and putting things in chronological order," Hamill said. "Then I just started typing it, let it flow freely. I'd never written a book before, so I wrote it in order.'

To make sure it read more like a memoir than a series of personal notes, Hamill proofread the book several times, and had her dad, Brian Hamill of Warren, proofread it as well. Hamill then sought to publish the collection through an online publisher.

Once the book was published, Hamill started looking for Sozek's surviving family. She was able to trace his family to Cumberland, Rhode Island.

"I found out through the Internet that he had some living relatives that were still in the Rhode Island area," Hamill said. "So I was able to contact them and tell them that I had this stuff that they should really have it back - obviously, it ended up at a flea market when it shouldn't have."

Hamill compiled all the information she had into a book, titled "Beneath Cross 308: The Story of a 1st Marine". In the box, Hamill found his birth certificate, discharge papers from the Marine Corps, and receipts from a funeral home, from when he was repatriated to the United States.

"I was able to go down there and meet with [the Sozeks] and return everything to them," Hamill

Sozek's surviving family, Peter and Merla, never had a chance to meet their uncle, according to Hamill. She said that when she first reached out to Sozek's nephew, Peter, he was worried it was a



Walter Sozek, pictured by his brother's grave.

Submitted photo

"I was listing off the items that I had, and when I got to the receipt [from the funeral home], Peter kind of stopped, and he said he didn't realize that his uncle had been brought back to the United States, he always thought that he was still in Okinawa," she said.

"They just knew of him from stories from their dad, but for my understanding, the stories were about their childhood and about growing up, and really about his brother - not really the involvement in the war, because I think that was probably too painful for them to talk about," Hamill said.

"I think, like a lot of families in that time, they didn't talk about the war and didn't talk about their losses," she said.

Sozek's remains were buried at St. John's Ukrainian Cemetery in Cumberland, Rhode Island, the same place that his parents were buried.

Hamill has chosen not to sell the book, as she felt uncomfortable profiting from the Sozeks' story. "I don't feel that it's right for me to make any money off it," Hamill

Copies from her first printing have been distributed for free to the Sozek family, the Cumberland



Here is a photo of Henry Sozek. the U.S. Marine whose story was nearly lost, but for a box of his memorabilia bought by Monson Fire Captain Lisa Hamill.

Public Library in Rhode Island and Hamill's own family.

"Another niece of Henry's reached out to me, the daughter of the eldest Sozek daughter," Hamill said. "I'll be meeting with her at the end of August and getting her story. She was actually 7 or 8 at the time her uncle passed away and has a lot of pictures and things. Once I meet her and have a discussion with her, I'll do a revision, or maybe a second edition."

From her experience flea-mar-



Turley Photo by Marcelo Gusmão Lisa Hamill holds up a copy of "Beneath Cross 308: The Story of a 1st Marine," which she hopes to donate to the Monson Free

keting, Hamill has seen things for sale that were never intended to leave the family, recalling an experience when she and her father who she credits as inspiring her love of history and antiquing recognized a photo of her father's cousin Margaret that was being sold with an antique frame.

Hamill said that the most important thing to her was preserving Sozek's legacy, saying that she felt very lucky to have found him when she did.

"I bought that box almost 78 years to the day from when he died," Hamill said, and mused at the serendipity of her finding and buying it.

DESIGN from page 1

Access from the road to the green area of the playground will be created, even if it's only temporary, until grant funding can be secured to pay for it.

Piechota said the Parks Department will need to create an entryway at the gate when the road closes to traffic for the winter months. The entryway would need to be at



least three feet wide for accessibility.

He said they would just need to move a rock slightly, and add stone dust to make the entryway.

Piechota said the basketball courts adjacent to the playground have been getting less use, but he is still receiving some complaints about people using foul language while playing basketball.

Field use and rain

The Commission discussed field conditions at Grenville Park (in front of the bandstand), following a season of heavy rain. Many of the scheduled events including concerts and the annual fireworks were either rescheduled or canceled due to the

Piechota said weather will need to be

considered in the future after the field was damaged by vendor vehicles driving on the wet ground during a sudden downpour at an event. He said the field has mended well, and there were no major costs associated with the damage.

Fall field use

The Commission discussed scheduling for fall sports, and whether or not Memorial Field would need to be utilized. With daylight hours decreasing and without lights at the athletic fields aside from Memorial Field, teams are limited in their

Piechota said one of the coaches for football is looking into getting light towers to use at one of the unlit fields.

If light towers are not a viable option,

Piechota said, teams will need to use Memorial Field. "The only option is Memorial Field," he

The Commission had hoped to rest Memorial Field, to allow for the grass to

Memorial Field update

Piechota said Palmer Paving has the bid to pave the basketball court, but that the price of asphalt has increased substantially. "It's a tremendous increase," he said.

There is no bid out yet for the field's

A new slice seeder was scheduled to arrive at the beginning of this month.

New Parks/Cemetery hire Piechota said both candidates for the position interviewed well for the position and the top applicant could start in two weeks. The second candidate could be offered a seasonal position that is available.

Dog park

Piechota said dog waste bags have been replaced at the Ware Dog Park on Pleasant Street, at a cost of \$386. He asked the Commission to reach out to the Friends of the Ware Dog Park about upkeep of the park, including managing weeds.

Event approval

The Commission approved use of Grenville Park for a Lions Club walk on Sept. 24 to benefit the Senior Center.

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MARKET COVERAGE





FLOWERS from page 1

zinnias were listed as having good seeds to save. McQuaid suggests having these seeds placed in a cool and dry location in sealed envelopes with the flower named and dated.

In addition, McQuaid mentioned that flowers are best cut in the morning or in the evening after the sun has gone down. The purpose of sharing this was to inform any gardeners who wish to have the flower stems endure a longer

According to McQuaid both morning and evening cuts have their own advantages.

If gardeners want to get the most out of their cut flowers, McQuaid insists on cleanliness.

'Cleanliness is the key to keeping them looking their best. Clippers, buckets, and vases should all be washed thoroughly before coming in contact with flowers," said McQuaid.

During her presentation, McQuaid showed another useful tool, besides vases and jars, to put flowers in organized arrangements. The item is oasis floral foam, which does a great job absorbing water and keeps stems in arrangements hydrated.

Another helpful tip from McQuaid for flower arranging is keeping any completed bouquets in a cool place as low as 38 degrees because it will slow the aging process. McQuaid made it clear that no one should put flowers in a refrigerator along with fruits and vegetables because of a natural gas called ethylene, causing the flowers to turn a nasty shade of brown after one night.

Other flowers in McQuaid's display included Celosias, Cosmos, Globe Amaranth, Lemon Bee Balm, Black-Eyed Susan's, Snapdragons, and Sunflowers. Each flower mentioned is handled differently when they are put into an arrangement and McQuaid

explained each principle carefully for each flower.

After a brief questions and answers segment with McQuaid, the Ware Grange gave away gardening related prizes during their free raffle.

For more information on flower farming, McQuaid recommends a great resource in the book, "The Flower Farmer" by Lynn Byczynski. The book provides many resources for specific flowers, gardening, arranging, and marketing cut flowers.

The 76th annual Ware Grange Fair will take place at the Ware Grange Hall on Friday, Aug. 25 and Saturday, Aug. 26. The fair will provide a myriad of exhibits from canned goods, baked goods, fruits and vegetables, clothing, home furnishings, games, a barbeque dinner, raffles and many more.

The next gardening workshop at Ware Grange Hall will be held on Friday, Sept. 8 at 7 p.m., talking about Terrariums.

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Ceremony unveils 'Medal of Honor' Highway

Route 20 now honors veterans

> By Marcelo Gusmão Staff Writer

PALMER - On Saturday morning, residents gathered on Thorndike Street to commemorate the renaming of Route 20 to the Medal of Honor Highway.

Massachusetts Military Order of the Purple Heart Commander Brian Willette served as the Master of Ceremonies, announcing state Senators Jake Oliveira and John Velis, who filed the legislation to dedicate the highway last year. A similar event was happening in Boston at the same time.

U.S. Senators Ed Markey (D-Walden) and Elizabeth Warren (D-Cambridge) have acted as co-sponsors for the redesignation of the highway, along with U.S. Congressman Richard Neal (D-Springfield) in the House of Representatives. The legislation is supported by many national veterans service organizations.

"Last legislative session, we did more than probably any other legislature in the entire country under John's [Velis] leadership to support our veterans and to support our troops," Oliveira said during his remarks.

"Absent today, and I did promise him that I would mention him, is State Rep. Todd Smola, son of Palmer, wishes he could be here today," Oliveira said. "His dad, some of you may know, is a veteran of the U.S. Navy during Vietnam, and he and Todd's mom are celebrating 50 years of being married, so they are away right now, but Todd wishes the best as we celebrate the better celebration here in Western Massachusetts on this Medal of Honor highway right along Route 20."

Oliveira chronicled the establishment of the award in the various different branches of the military, and spoke of the sacrifices made by soldiers who earned the Medal of Honor.



State Sen. Jake Oliveira, D-Ludlow, made a speech about how proud he is of how well Massachusetts takes care of its

"Many of those awardees of that award were awarded it posthumously," Oliveira said. "Meaning they unselfishly gave their lives to save their fellow troops and servicemen on the fields of battle in our country. Many of them never got to see their country and their hometowns that they came from. Many of them, unselfishly, if you read the stories about them, either threw themselves on grenades, or threw themselves in the way of harm's fire in order to support their troops and to preserve the quality of life that we all enjoy."

These unselfish acts of service and sacrifice, should never be for-

"As we take a moment to recognize and dedicate Route 20, please understand that behind each one of those medals is a person, a person who, consciously, in many cases, gave their life for their nation and sacrificed to enjoy the freedoms that we all enjoy," he said.

After Oliveira's speech, Willette announced Velis, who has served as the chairperson of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs in the state, and shared a story of being offered a position elsewhere and turning it down.



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



Veteran Mark Hebert was on hand for the renaming ceremony.

"Anything in Massachusetts that involves veterans comes across my desk," Velis said. "I have to tell you, that is an honor and a privilege. Massachusetts does a very good job in terms of veteran advocacy. Make no mistake about it, on any given day, we could be surpassed by another state. There are many states that rival us, so it's absolutely critical that we not waste a single session not making sure that our men and women who so selflessly served this nation are recognized."

Velis thanked the veterans groups that attended the ceremony, and expressed concern about low recruitment rates among young people, comparing it to the mandatory conscription in Israel.

"Service is not mandatory here [in America]," Velis said. "I want to bring to people's attention that right now, as we speak, right now less than one half of 1% of this



Ceremonies, speaking to the crowd gathered in front of the Fire Service Group building on Thorndike

country is serving. That is a lot of men and women doing a whole lot for the rest."

The event was hosted by the Massachusetts Military Order of the Purple Heart and Palmer American Legion Post 130. It included tributes for Medal of Honor recipients, wreath laying, and a rifle salute.

The highway formerly known as Route 20 is 3,365 miles long, from Newport, Oregon to Kenmore Square in Boston. Its dedication as the Medal of Honor Highway honors the sacrifice made by the over 3,500 veterans who have been awarded the medal.

Chairman of the nonprofit Bend Heroes Foundation in Bend, Oregon, Dick Tobiason, began this project to create a national tribute to recipients of the Medal of Honor. States had been dedicating their own portions of the highway as the Medal of Honor Highway, until legislation was introduced to unify the Route 20 as the National Medal of Honor Highway on the federal level.

"I wish we had more publicity about it," said Sandie Miller a resident who stumbled on the ceremony by chance when it was already underway.

"I was coming home from the grocery store," Miller said, "My dad was in the Korean War, and my brother was in the Navy, so it's interesting to see. I didn't know we were getting a highway, but now here we are. It's great!"

There will be an official dedication of signs for the Massachusetts



Hope Dudek, Steve and Dolly Sawyer, Barbara and Mark Hebert attended Saturday's commemoration ceremony of renaming Route 20 the Medal of Honor Highway in Palmer. A similar ceremony was held in Boston at the same time.



Palmer Town Manager Ryan McNutt attended the ceremony.

Medal of Honor Highway to be ers who will see to the placement presented by the Order of the Purple Heart to local veterans' organizations, as well as lawmak-

of the signs in their communities. All these signs were donated by the Order of the Purple Heart.



Veterans, residents and local officials gathered Saturday to celebrate the renaming of Route 20 to the Medal of Honor Highway.

NEWS & FEATURES

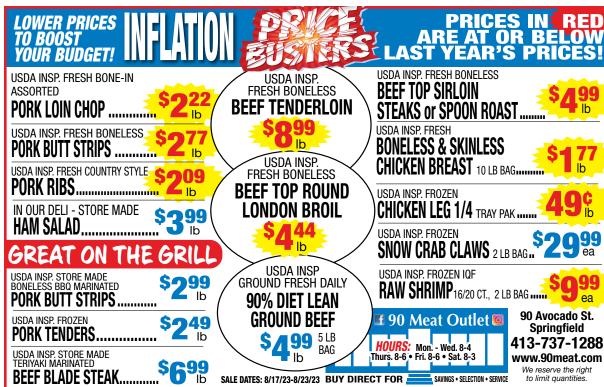
As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

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Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette Dancers and their families washed a steady stream of vehicles.

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Indians edge West Side





Callie Cygan tries to shoot ahead of a block.

WARE - In the playoff opener of the Spec Pond Summer Basketball League held last Monday, Ware Indians 7-8 girls defeated West Side Spirit 25-19. The Indians would move on to play Longmeadow in the semifinals later in the week. Highlights from that matchup will be in next week's edition.



Maya Lewis shoots over an opponent.

Molly McGrail gets ready to shoot.



Kelsey Clark dribbles inside the arc.



The Quabbin summer field hockey team celebrates after Kylie Casey's winning goal in a matchup.

Quabbin summer field hockey wins league

WORCESTER - The Quabbin summer field hockey team wrapped up their summer league play at Assumption College this past Tuesday, Aug. 8. They ended up winning the entire league for the second year in a row. They ended their summer season 9-1 overall. They played Notre Dame Academy and won in a shoot out 4-3. The game was tied 3-3 and then went into a shoot-out, and they won in sudden victory in the second set of three shooters. Scorers were: Senior Annabelle Magill, Sophomore Farrah Wojcik; Junior Haley Ayer; and Senior Captain Kylie



This year's summer team participants. They were: Olivia Breault, Farrah Wojcik, Makenzie Casey, Haley Ayer, Gracie Talbot, Kylie Casey, Violet Kelley; Alyssa Ebert; Abigail Rogowski, Annabelle Magill, Camryn Orsini, Abbey Ramsey, and Kylie George.

West showcased in boys soccer

BOSTON - In last month's Ludlow HS). West then went Bay State Games, the Western part of the state featured a boys soccer team showcased. Here is a look at how they fared in some of their matchups held July 6-9: The West would win the gold medal in the showcase.

In the gold medal match, the West won 3-2.

The Gold medal match saw powerhouse West face off against Central in what would be an exhilarating and heated match. West opened the scoring within the first minute of the match with a blast from Cole Bamford (Ludlow,

up 2-0 with help from a penalty kick, expertly taken by Mateo Balbino (Ludlow, Ludlow HS). Swiftly followed by another goal to give them a commanding 3-0 lead. Central was able to crawl back within one with a strike from Jovuan Mensah (Worcester, Burncoat HS) and Kingston Mcgee (Sutton, Sutton HS). West ended the showcase with a dominant 5-0 record. Central ended with a 3-1-1 record.

The West started out the showcase with a 5-2 win over the Metro team.

West got on board first with a sensational strike from forward Brayden Marta (Ludlow, Suffield Academy). Followed by a hat trick of goals from Balbino. Down 4-0, Metro was able to get on the board with a tremendous effort from Oscar Martinez (Boston, East Boston HS) who scored both Metro goals to bring them within two. West then scored to make it 5-2 to capitalize on a dominant win in their first match.

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

Nicole Callini makes a throw-in.

Westside Sports Shop takes women's summer soccer title

By Tim Peterson Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW-While the Monson girls and the Ludlow boys soccer teams captured the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League A-Division titles for the third consecutive year, Westside Sports Shop also took home the women's championship trophy for the third year in a row.

The second-seeded Westside Sports Shop outshot the sixth-seeded Celtic Grey for almost the entire match, but goalie Brianna Kubik, who's from Agawam, managed to keep the contest scoreless until the penalty shootout.

Westside goalie Emily Letendre made a couple of outstanding saves during the shootout and her team celebrated a 0-0 (3-1 PK's) win at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow on Aug. 5.

"I never expected this game to be so close," said Westside Sports Shop coach Chris Andre. "Their as we did in tonight's match."

goalie was outstanding. She kept her team in the game during regulation and in overtime. Emily made a couple of saves in PK's. We were finally able to score a couple of goals during the penalty shootout."

Westside Sports Shop (9-2), which is also known as Andres, joined the prestigious summer league in 2021, They posted a 4-0 shutout victory over fifth-seeded Here for Beer in last year's championship match. They defeated the Lusitano Women, 2-1, in the 2021 finals.

For her outstanding performance during the shootout, Letendre received the MVP Award following this year's championship

"It just feels amazing to win our third championship title in this summer league," said Letendre, who's from West Springfield. "We did beat Celtic during the regular season, but they wanted it as much

Six of the Westside Sports Shop players played high school soccer for longtime head coach Nundi Goncalves at Minnechaug Regional. They are Emily Howard, Chapin Jeannotte, Rhianna Ryan, Madison Sanborn, Katie Shea, and Gabby Williams.

Several of the other players are from Ludlow, South Hadley, and Chicopee.

"Most of the players on this team played on the same youth soccer teams," Andre said. "Then they went their separate ways in high school and it's very nice having them back together again. It has been a lot of fun coaching them and I'm already looking forward to next season."

It was a history making day for Celtic Grey (4-6-1). They have been a member of the summer league for the past twenty years,

Please see **WESTSIDE**, page 10



Jennifer Galindo sends a free kick away for Celtic Gray.



Turley photos by David Henry Katie Shea makes a quick pass.

Chapin picks up Modified win at Monadnock

WINCHESTER, N.H. -Brian Chapin guided his fabled "Studebaker" Modified to victory Saturday night at Monadnock Speedway and, on the same card, Milton Duran topped the pointsrich Late Model 50-lap main event.

Bob Williams made it two in a row on the high banks in Mini Stock action, while Chelsea, VT's Andrea St. Amour scored her first career Monadnock victory in the Pure Stocks. Young Gun Owen Zilinski made it a hat trick season with his third youth division feature win of the summer.

In support card action, Doug Meservey held off a storming Rob Richardi in the Pro 4 Modified feature, and Jason Pomfry romped to victory in a North East Mini Cup Series 15-lapper.

Chapin and last week's winner Tyler Leary led the NHSTRA Modifieds to the green to get their 40-lap main underway, with Chapin jumping all over the lead. And while the popular Palmer. Mass. pilot would lead all the way; he'd never in all 40 laps had an inch of breathing room.

Both Nate Wenzel and JT Cloutier had All Star runs at Chapin's back bumper but he ran a perfect line the entire distance to earn the win. Wenzel, a twotime 2023 winner and the current points leader finished second, with Cloutier impressive in his second straight podium finish.

With a boatload of points and cash on the line, Saturday's Late Model 50-lapper drew an All Star

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four-person scramble event will take place on Monday, Sept. 18 at Wintonbury Hills

Golf Course in Bloomfield, CT. The event will be an 11 a.m. shotgun start. There

will be prizes up for grabs

(Closest to Pin/Long Drive)

along with a putting contest.

Entry fee covers golf, lunch

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cast. Teddy Bear Pools 2023 Triple Crown, NHSTRA Battle for The Belt, and Monadnock Speedway seasonal champ points were all up for grabs, with leaders Geoff Rollins, Milton Duran, and Tim Wenzel, respectively, all in the

Wenzel set fast time atop the 23-car field, but Duran drew the pole. Rollins started sixth. Duran led the first 15 laps, then giving way to Chris Buffone on the third of what would become eight total restarts. Duran would then drift back to seventh.

Rollins, aboard probably the fastest car in the field, took charge on lap 33. Wenzel was whacked out of the top three on the 41st go-round, with Rollins then railed from the lead just moments later, the second time he'd been taken out. And who was patiently waiting in the wings? Duran.

He took charge again on lap 41, bringing potent Matt Sonnhalter with him, and held strong to score his third consecutive Battle for The Belt series victory .Sonnhalter finished at his bumper in second, with strong and steady Billy Clement Jr. third on the night.

Andrew Brousseau came home fourth, with Rollins' second charge through the field netting him fifth, while Wenzel stormed back for sixth.

Kevin Clayton, from row two, led the first 15 laps of the Mini Stock main, but rocket man Bob Williams then sailed past him in turn two and sped off to his second

Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame

announced four benches that

will be installed in the Naismith

Coaches Circle. Sylvia Hatchell,

Rollie Massimino, Tom Young,

and Kay Yow, will be honored

with a bench dedication cere-

mony on Saturday, August 12 at

2:00 PM EST in the MassMutual

program was first launched in

2015 and is the brainchild of Hall

of Famers John Calipari, Jerry

Colangelo, and Geroge Raveling.

The intent of the program is to pay

tribute to basketball's first coach,

The Naismith Coaches Circle

Gallery at the Hall of Fame.

Monadnock victory in as many weeks. Clayton held strong in second, with top points man Louie Maher coming home third on the night, just ahead of the Sontag siblings, Cameron and Chris.

Hot shoe Jimmy Zellman took the lead from Dominick Stafford on lap two of the Pure Stock 25, holding the point until Andrea St. Amour took over on a lap 18 restart. A lap later, Zach Zilinski moved up to second but came up one spot shy of duplicating his younger brother Owen's earlier Young Gun win.

Zellman, strong all night, joined St. Amour and Zilinski on the podium, with Chris Davis and Colton Martin rounding out the top five. Davis' one position advantage left he and Martin deadlocked atop the points parade at the end of the night.

Owen Zilinski led all the way in the Young Guns 15-lapper, earning his third victory lap of the summer. Markus O'Neil was solid in second, and Kailyn Hubbard earned the third-place trophy just ahead of her sister Cambri.

Pro 4 super star Rob Richardi was bounced off the frontchute wall at the drop of the green and then made a rock star effort to charge back to the winner's circle, coming up just short of winner Doug Meservey, who'd taken the

lead from Jack Dumas on lap five. With Meservey victorious, Richardi, Dumas, Justin Faford and Kurt Lester made up the top five in the fast-paced event.

Coaches honored during Hall of Fame weekend

SPRINGFIELD - The Dr. James Naismith, and the core their players on the court, while

values Dr. Naismith instilled in

his players - teamwork, determi-

nation, self-respect, leadership,

initiative, and perseverance. He

believed these principles to be the

foundation by which young men

and women should play the game

The Coaches Circle features

a sculpture created by Master

Sculptor Brian Hanlon, dedicat-

ed to celebrating Dr. Naismith.

Additionally, it showcases gran-

ite benches on a recognition plat-

form, paying tribute to coaches

who share the same core values of

teaching, nurturing, and mentoring

and conduct their lives.

Monadnock Speedway returns to action next Saturday, August 19, when a large field of NHSTRA Modifieds will square off in twin feature events atop a full card of racing on the high-banked speed-

> Monadnock Speedway August 12 **Unofficial Top Tens**

NHSTRA MODIFIED: Brian Chapin, Nate Wenzel, JT Cloutier, Scott Zilinski, Tyler Leary, Joel Belanger, Andy Major, Kimmy Rivet, Kyle Boniface, Adam Lapoint.

NHSTRA LATE MODEL, 50-LAP: Milton Duran, Matt Sonnhalter, Billy Clement Jr., Andrew Brousseau, Geoff Rollins, Tim Wenzel, JD Stockwell, Robert Hagar, Chris Buffone, Hillary Renaud.

MINI STOCK: Bob Williams, Kevin Clayton, Louie Maher, Cameron Sontag, Chris Sontag, Erin Aiken, Nolan McClay, Jake Puchalski, David Pratt, Skyler Shippee, Pat Houle.

PURE STOCK: Andrea St. Amour, Zach Zilinski, Jimmy Zellman, Chris Davis, Colton Martin, Chris Chambers, Teagan Edson, Dominick Stafford, Tim Taft, Aaliyah Tacy.

YOUNG GUN: Owen Zilinski, Markus O'Neil, Kailyn Hubbard, Cambri Hubbard, Sofia Rego, Addison Brooks, Madison Cousino, Hunter Duquette.

offering perspective off the court.

video is exhibited on the second

floor of the museum, which allows

coaches to share their personal

stories and honor those in their

Program Legacy Initiative, coach-

es are honored posthumously by

either one individual or a group

of individuals. Honorees include

Denny Crum, Bill Fitch, Cotton

Fitzsimmons, Dave Gavitt, John

MacLeod, Dean Smith, Jim

Valvano, and John Wooden,

Through the Coaches Circle

lives who inspired them.

An interactive Coaches Circle



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

WESTSIDE from page 9

but it was their first appearance in the women's finals.

"We just wanted to keep this game close as long as we could," said Celtic Grey coach Rob Galazka. "We played very well defensively in tonight's game. We're hoping to make it back here again next year."

One of the key defenders for Celtic Grey is Jennifer Galindo, who's from Chicopee.

Galazka has also been the women's soccer coach at Holyoke Community College for the past 19 years.

"I coached most of these players at HCC," Galazka said. "It's awesome coaching them again in this league. It's a lot of fun."

Celtic Grey peaked at the right time of the season.

"We ended the regular season with a shutout," Galazka said. "Then we played the top three seeds in the playoffs, and they were all shutouts. The players just stepped up."

Celtic Grey posted a 1-0 shutout versus the third-seeded Heat in the quarterfinals. They also posted a 1-0 win against the top-seeded W. Mass Extremes.

The first shot of the shootout was taken by Westside's Jocelyn Trajkovski, who's from Ludlow. She fired a low shot into the right corner to give her team a 1-0 lead.

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

After both teams hit the post

Olivia Crespo, of Ludlow, corrals the ball.

in the second round, Jeannotte stepped up to the line and fired a shot into the left corner giving her team a 2-1 lead.

Galindo managed to put her team on the scoreboard, which sliced the deficit in half. It wound up being the only shot made by the Celtic Grev.

Following a goal by Olivia Crespo (Ludlow), Letendre made a diving save giving the Westside Sports Shop another championship

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

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Thunderbirds general manager Kevin Maxwell announced today that Jeff Jordan has been promoted to Manager of Hockey

Previously the Thunderbirds' Video Coach and Team Services Coordinator, Jordan will continue his work with the coaching staff in the video department during the

and business side," said Maxwell. "He is a tireless worker with a wonderful personality, making him a terrific conduit between front office. We look forward to

Antonio Rampage as the team's video coach. Before starting his professional career, Jordan served as an assistant coach with the players, management, and the OHL's Ottawa 67's in 2014-15 and 2015-16.

Thunderbirds name new operations manager seeing him continue to excel in "Jeff has deservedly earned the future.' Jordan joined the St. Louis this promotion through hard work, Blues' AHL affiliate in 2019 loyalty, and his dedication to the Thunderbirds on both the hockey when he was hired by the San

among others.

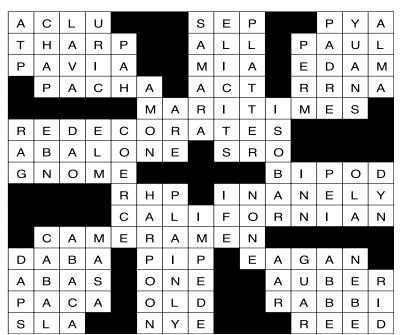
Tips for driving safe with pets this summer

concern in summer, when more people take the opportunity to travel, explore and visit family.

Traveling with pets compounds this concern, as unrestrained pets can both cause distractions and make accidents more dangerous.

"Pets can easily take a driver's attention from the road, posing a serious risk not only to the pet but

Distracted driving is of most also to the passengers riding in the same vehicle," says Michael Leung, co-founder and lead product designer of Sleepypod, a manufacturer of premium pet carriers and pet restraint systems. "If there is nothing restraining a pet in a hard stop or car accident, the pet can become a projectile and potentially collide with fellow pets or human passengers."





Such a collision could be catastrophic, regardless of a pet's size.

According to a press release, a 10-pound dog in a 50-mile-anhour car crash exerts 500 pounds of force. Meanwhile, an 80-pound dog in a 30-mile-per-hour crash exerts 2,400 pounds of force.

Unrestrained pets may also fall or jump out of open windows or flee the car in fear after a crash, potentially becoming lost, injured, or worse.

A quality, rigorously tested pet restraint can make all the difference in preventing distracted driving and keeping human and pet passengers safe during an acci-

Interestingly, an American Automobile Association survey found that, while more than 80% of drivers admitted that they recognize the dangers of driving with an unrestrained pet, only 16% used pet restraints.

Follow these tips for minimizing pet-related distractions and keeping pets safe during accidents: Pets should always be restrained in a back seat to prevent them from injury if an airbag is deployed.

If you cannot restrain your pet with a reputable, tested car restraint, the next safest option is to place the pet in the footwell behind the front seat.

Smaller pets are safer when fully contained in a restrained carrier, while larger dogs should ride in a car safety harness that does not connect the pet with an extension tether. Pets should be unable to slide forward far enough to "submarine," or drop off the seat, at any point during a collision.



Emily Howard, of Wilbraham, takes a shot on goal.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and

share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

PACT from page 5

every veteran enrolled in VA health care. The PACT Act also provides resources to the VA to help improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures.

"When our service members return home, many of them are confronted with a new set of challenges stemming from a service-connected disability or disease. For those struggling with complications resulting from toxic exposure, it has been difficult to treat not only due to the lack of coverage, but because unlike a physical disability, it is not something others can see. Now, with the PACT Act, we have finally delivered the care and treatment that these men and women deserve," said Neal in a press

With more than 27,000 new hires in the first six months of the fiscal year, the highest hiring level in the history of the VA, coupled with additional funding and resources authorized by the PACT Act, veterans are promptly receiving treatment.

As of May 21, nearly 600,000 PACT Act claims have been filed with the VA and more than 3.5 million veterans have received the VA's new toxic exposure screenings since President Biden signed the PACT Act into law.

Veterans can apply or learn more about the PACT Act by visiting VA.gov/PACT or by calling 1-800-MYVA411.

please recycle this newspaper

Area kids to showcase summer dance and drama program

By Michael Harrison Correspondent

 $PALMER - Talk \ about \ teen \ drama.$

In this case, longtime besties Harley and Ally are in a drama class with the rest of their friends. Harley is used to commanding the spotlight, but the script is flipped with Ally winning the lead role while Harley has to swallow her pride as her friend's understudy.

Watch it all play out at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 26, on the Harmony Hall stage at the Palmer Historical and Cultural Center in downtown Three Rivers. "Left in the Dust" is an original play by Ware resident Torie Jock, who directs the show and has been leading her cast of kids – mostly tweens and teens – through rehearsals during her summer drama and dance camps at PHCC

"Even though Harley and Ally are best friends, Harley is very competitive," Jock explained.

"She always gets the lead in every show she auditions for, but not this time. Instead, she is cast as the understudy for her best friend Ally, who landed the lead role. What will Harley do to reclaim her role as the number one lead?"

Jock, a singer, songwriter, actor and dancer who is a Hip Hop dance instructor at Stepping Up Dance Center in Easthampton, initially planned to present "Left in the Dust" with a prior group of students.

"I wrote this show last year, and started it with another group of kids, some of them being the same kids as this group," she said.

"It was never performed, so when I started it with

this group, I added some more characters into the show and recast it."

Though not a musical, the show opens with a dance performance developed the past few months.

"I had a very drastic mix of ages for dance sign ups for this summer," Jock said.

"The routine that is being performed is a military-themed routine, starting with my older girls, and ending with my younger girls coming onstage to join the older ones."

During a recent rehearsal, Jock offered critiques and tips, often showing an intuitive knack for driving home an important lesson.

"You guys are just swapping lines right now!" she said at one point from the back of the room, coaxing the actors to play off one another in character.

During another scene she got on stage to demonstrate how a pivotal prop should be used to make it believable for the audience.

"It won't work if it's not rehearsed right," Jock reminded an actor.

Most of the young actors in "Left in the Dust" have worked together – and with Jock – before and some were familiar with the first interaction of the play. The more experienced actors also coached those new to drama.

"It's fun helping them out and it's really nice seeing them learn how to play a part," Callie Cygan said.

The young actors and dancers also talked about the disruption of the COVID pandemic that began in early 2020 and led to a prolonged quarantine.

"It was a little scary because it's been like two years and you don't know how someone is going to react to you and you don't know how much their acting has progressed compared to yours," Sofia Roman said.

"It was nice getting to see people again and get along with people again," Cygan said.

"It was definitely very fun to get back into the program and to get back with the same group of people and it gives everyone a chance to do more stuff," Addison Peolquin said.

They all seemed to be having a fun time.

"My part is a very loud, obnoxious girl and I can relate to it because when I was younger I used to be really dramatic," Peolquin said.

"It's a really fun part to play."

Those asked said they enjoyed learning from and being directed by Jock, who was voted onto the PHCC

Please see **DANCE**, page 15



Maddison Harrington, Hadleigh Auffrey and Jamie Zolendziewski (top) rehearse the dance routine that opens "Left in the Dust." On the bottom are (from left) Jolani Hilyard, Sophia Rheaume, Janasia Roman and Sofia Roman.

NBSB names Borawski as new president and CEO

NORTH BROOKFIELD – North Brookfield Savings Bank announced that Kaz Borawski has been appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of North Brookfield Savings Bank effective Aug. 1.

"The Board and I have been impressed by Kaz's extensive and varied banking experience and we look forward to continuing to work with Kaz to grow North Brookfield Savings Bank" said Chairwoman of the Board of Trustees Donna L. Boulanger in a press release. "The Board of Directors has been impressed by his commitment to the Bank, our employees, and the community."

Borawski, a resident of Wilbraham, holds more than 26 years of experience in industries including retail banking, investment banking, wealth management, and technology and operations at organizations such as JPMorgan Chase and Mass Mutual Financial.

He has spent the last 13 years in community banking with United Bank, Merchants Bank, and Holyoke Credit Union before joining North Brookfield Savings Bank in February 2022 as Chief Financial Officer. Kaz's depth of financial industry expertise and his community involvement will serve the Bank well.

Kaz shares NBSB's value of continued learning and goes the extra mile to stay in front of industry trends and concepts. Kaz holds a certificate from The New England School for the Financial Studies at Babson College, a Master of Business Administration, with a major in Finance, from Manhattan College in New York City and a Bachelor of Business Administration, with a major in Accounting, from Baruch College also in New York City.

"I would like to thank the Board of Directors for this opportunity to lead North Brookfield Savings Bank," said Borawski. "Our bank has a valued team of employees who are dedicated to helping our customers with their financial needs and I am proud to be the leader of this team. I look forward to building lasting relationships with our customers. North Brookfield Savings Bank is important to the communities we serve, and it has a long-standing tradition of excellence in customer service. The Bank has enjoyed strong growth over the years and has a very strong capital position. I'm committed to continuing that legacy."

New bill to supports plant-based food production

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. James P. McGovern (D-MA), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee and Senior Member of the House Agriculture Committee, introduced a bill to support American farmers and rural communities through plant-based food production.

McGovern's bill establishes new opportunities for farmers and food companies, creates new jobs in farming communities, advances U.S. Department of Agriculture's efforts to connect American farmers to new markets at home and abroad, and expands consumer choices at the grocery store, through plant-based food research and production.

The Peas, Legumes, and Nuts Today Act, or PLANT Act, provides a blueprint for maintaining America's leadership in plant-based food production, while empowering farmers and rural communities and producing delicious, affordable food options for all

Americans.

"The PLANT Act will help us win the future of food," said McGovern. "Plant-based foods are already creating new opportunities for farmers across the country and exciting new options for consumers, and this legislation will be a game-changer. By putting farmers and their communities front and center as we grow the greatest plant-based sector in the world, we can create countless good jobs while showing the world what makes American agriculture so strong. Now is the time to embrace the enormous potential that plant-based foods have to strengthen our economy

Please see **NEW BILL**, page 13



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I public safety

Ware Police Log

During the week of Aug. 8-15, the Ware Police Department responded to 35 miscellaneous calls, 38 administrative calls, 12 traffic violations, 10 emergency 911 calls, seven animal calls, three harassments, two frauds/ deceptions, one theft/larceny, three motor vehicle accidents, three assist other agencies, one breaking and entering, two safety hazards, one damage/vandalism, one trespass and nine motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Tuesday, Aug. 8

10:17 a.m. Fire Alarm, Convent Hill Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

11:26 a.m. Fraud/Deception, Pine Crest Circle, Services

12:16 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Otis Avenue, Unfounded

3:08 p.m. Traffic Incident/ Crash, Chestnut Street, Investigated

11:01 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Church Street, Services Rendered

Wednesday, Aug. 9

2:30 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Warren Road, Services Rendered 4;10 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/ Threat, North Street, Services Rendered

4:35 p.m. Drugs, Main Street, Could Not Locate

4:42 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/ Threat, North Street, Dispatch

5:30 p.m. Assist Other Agency, North Street, Advised

During the week of Aug. 7-14,

the Hardwick/New Braintree

Police Department responded to

51 building/property checks, 13

directed/area patrols, eight traf-

fic controls, five emergency 911

calls, 16 radar assignments, eight

citizen assists, one complaint, four assist other agencies, three safety

hazards, one larceny/theft/shop-

lifting, one vandalism, one stolen

motor vehicle, three motor vehicle

investigations, one motor vehicle

accident, two investigations, one

animal call and eight motor vehi-

cle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Hardwick Police Log

9:37 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/ Threat, North Street, Advised

Thursday, Aug. 10

9:05 a.m. Damage/Vandalism/ Mischief, Aspen Street, Services

2:17 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Babcock Tavern Road, Advised

4:31 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Could Not Locate

Friday, Aug. 11

8:14 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Main Street, Dispatch Handled 10:43 p.m. Alarm, Aspen Street, False Alarm

Summons: Dennis Cook, 55, Ware

Disorderly Conduct, Subsequent Offense c272 §53 11:03 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Monson Turnpike Road,

Could Not Locate

Saturday, Aug. 12 11:09 p.m. Abandoned 911

Call, West Street, Dispatch

Sunday, Aug. 13

1:20 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, North Street, Dispatch Handled 1:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop,

West Street, Criminal Complaint Summons: Natiel A. Brown, 24, Springfield

Uninsured Motor Vehicle 7:34 p.m. DUI/Impaired, Bacon Road, Could Not Locate

Monday, Aug. 14

7:33 a.m. Traffic Incident/ Crash, South Street, Advised 9:06 a.m. Breaking and

Entering/Burglary, Pleasant Street,

10:36 a.m. Abandoned 911

Editor's Note: People in this country are presumed to be innocent until found guilty in a court of law. Police provide us with the information you read on this page as public record information. If you or any suspect listed here is found not guilty or has charges dropped or reduced, we will gladly print that information as a follow-up upon being presented with documented proof of the court's final disposition.

Call, Morse Avenue, Advised

11:26 a.m. Traffic Incident/ Crash, West Street, Advised

2:27 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Monson Turnpike Road, Advised 4:20 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Church Street, Advised

6:41 p.m. Fraud/Deception, Highland Village, Dispatch Handled

9:29 p.m. Assist Other Agency, West Street, Assist Given

Tuesday, Aug. 15

4:09 p.m. DUI/Impaired, West Street, Services Rendered 6:59 a.m. Warrant Service, Homecrest Avenue, Services Rendered

Arrest: Jamal Clark, 21, Ware Warrant/Non-WMS

7:02 a.m. Safety Hazard, Belchertown Road, Services Rendered

Former Ware Fire Chief indicted for embezzlement

release from the Office of the Inspector General, on Aug. 11 a Hampshire County grand jury indicted the former fire chief of Ware for allegedly embezzling more than \$28,000 from the town and three regional fire associa-

Former Town of Ware Fire Chief Thomas Coulombe will be arraigned on four counts of larceny over \$1,200 on a yet to be determined date. He is accused of submitting false and inflated reimbursement requests to the Town of Ware and for allegedly stealing funds from three regional non-profit fire associations.

The Office of the Inspector General conducted an investigafindings of the investigation were shared with the Northwestern District Attorney's Office for pros-

The Northwestern District Attorney's Office referred the matter to the Worcester District Attorney's Office to avoid the appearance of a conflict of inter-

Coulombe served as the fire chief for the Town of Ware from 2002 to 2019. The indictments allege that between 2014 and 2019, Coulombe submitted reimbursement requests to the town for expenses that he did not incur and that overstated his expenses with false or altered receipts.

As a result of this scheme,

WARE – According to a press tion as the result of a tip. The Coulombe allegedly stole more than \$3,700 from the Town of

Overlapping with his service as Ware Fire Chief, Coulombe also served as the treasurer of three regional non-profit fire associations. These associations were funded by area communities and provided training and services to the region.

The indictments allege that between 2013 and 2020, Coulombe embezzled more than \$24,000 from these associations while serving as their treasurer.

Indictments are allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

9:38 p.m. Falls, Main Street,

Friday, Aug. 4

Quaboag Street, Information

North Street, Ambulance Signed

Main Street, Citation Issued

Report Filed

52, Warren

to Intimidate

12:55 p.m. Fraud/Forgery,

6:30 p.m. Bicycle Accident,

7:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop,

10:50 p.m. 911 Hang-up/

Summons: Daniel B. Peristere,

Disorderly Conduct; Witness/ Juror/Police/Court Official,

Intimidate; Interfering with a

Police Officer; Threat to Commit

Crime (To Wit Murder); Assault

Saturday, Aug. 5

6:37 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop,

1:18 p.m. Allergic Reaction,

Misdial/Abandoned, Reed Street,

Ambulance Signed Refusal

Warren Police Log

During the week of July 30-Aug. 6, the Warren Police Department responded to 251 building/property checks, 137 community policing, 11 traffic enforcements, six radar assignments, 22 emergency 911 calls, two frauds/forgeries, one complaint, one vehicle fire, one threat, one harassment, one property dispute, one bicycle accident, three animal calls and 38 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, July 30

11:59 a.m. Vehicle Fires, Southbridge Road, Fire Extinguished 1:38 p.m. Sick/Unknown,

Independence Lane, Transported to Hospital 9:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop,

Boston Post Road, Removed to Court/Lockup

Arrest: Tyler J. Majka, 26, Brookfield

Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Drug, Possess to Distribute Class A (Heroin); Speeding in Violation of Special Regulation; Drug, Possess to Distribute Class A (Fentanyl)

Monday, July 31

Activation, Quaboag Street, Filed Investigated

9:12 a.m. Complaint, Milton O. Fountain Way, Officer Took

4:20 p.m. Fraud/Forgery, Bemis Road, Report Filed

Tuesday, Aug. 1

11:31 a.m. Property Dispute, Southbridge Road, Officer Spoke

4:08 p.m. Threats, Old West Brookfield Road, Report Filed

10:46 p.m. 911 Hang-up/ Misdial/Abandoned, Prospect Street, Information Taken

Wednesday, Aug. 2

6:55 a.m. Leg Pain, Boston Post Road, Transported to Hospital

7:16 a.m. Harassment, Comins Pond Road, Report Filed

11:11 a.m. Near Drowning, Nelson Street, Transported to Hospital

2:49 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Brimfield Road, Transported to

9:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Boston Post Road, Written

Thursday, Aug. 3

12:05 a.m. Low Blood Pressure, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital

4:23 p.m. Larceny/Theft, 12:25 a.m. Fire Alarm Milton O. Fountain Way, Report

> 5:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ware Road, Written Warning

8:49 p.m. Diabetic/Cramping, Main Street, Transported to Old West Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital

Main Street, Vehicle Towed

1:50 p.m. Heat/Cold Environmental, Old West Warren Road, Referred to Other Agency

8:25 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital

Monday, Aug. 7

11:32 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Jackson Road, Spoken To 1:07 p.m. 911 Misdial, Sullivan Avenue, No Action Required

4:13 p.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Main Street, Officer Handled

5:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Barre Road, Investigated

5:50 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, Aug. 8 9:14 a.m. Assist Other Agency,

Main Street, Dispatch Handled 11 a.m. Assist Citizen, Pine Street, Spoken TO 11:33 a.m. Medical

Emergency, River Run, Services Rendered 6:09 p.m. Safety Hazard, Main

Street, Removed Hazard

Wednesday, Aug. 9

6:38 a.m. Stolen Motor Vehicle, Main Street, Report Taken

11:03 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital 12:33 p.m. Assist Citizen,

Memorial Drive, Officer Handled 2:30 p.m. Assist Citizen, Church Lane, Spoken To

5:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Citation Issued 9:01 p.m. Vandalism, Upper Church Street, Officer Handled

Thursday, Aug. 10 4:13 a.m. Safety Hazard, Church Street, Unfounded

2:38 p.m. Larceny/Theft/ Shoplifting, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled

2:51 p.m. Assist Citizen, Turkey Street, Officer Handled 6:48 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled

> Friday, Aug. 11 5:43 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop,

10:45 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Services Rendered 11:46 a.m. Investigation,

Lower Road, Written Warning

Petersham Road, Officer Handled 1:28 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered

2:41 p.m. Investigation, Main Street, Officer Handled

3:54 p.m. Assist Citizen, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled 4:03 p.m. Assist Citizen, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled

Saturday, Aug. 12

12:30 a.m. Motor Investigation, Main Street,

Investigated 12:36 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Main Street,

Spoken To 5:14 a.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Petersham Road, Transported to Hospital

6:21 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Petersham Road, Citation Issued 9:14 a.m. Complaint, North Road, Officer Handled

Sunday, Aug. 13

3:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Petersham Road, Written Warning 3:30 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled

RETIRE from page 5

during the COVID-19 pandemic, offering clear, fact-based public health information and partnering with public health officials to

address the crisis. "Baystate Health plays a unique role as a major employer, community asset, and safety net for our most vulnerable community members and their health needs. Mark leads with a focus on

mission; even though the financial environment has been challenging, his decisions always prioritize local health needs," said Harriet DeVerry, Board Chair. "While Mark's strengths, vision and commitment to the community will not be easy to replace, the Board recognizes this transition as an important opportunity to plan for the future needs of Baystate Health and the patients, families, and communities at the heart of

our mission."

The Board has established a search committee and identified a search firm to assist in conducting a nationwide search for a new

It is expected to take several months to a year to identify a candidate and finalize the next CEO. During this period, Keroack will continue in all aspects of the CEO

WARE from page 1 helps develop the core qualities of pride, professionalism, respect, attention to detail and esprit de corps. Troop drill inspires the common spirit necessary to become a

Massachusetts State Trooper." Captain Jon Provost, Commandant of the State Police Academy, thanked all for attending the ceremony in Springfield, which he described as a "resilient city of

"Today, they add another first to that list, as they for the first time, host the Massachusetts State Police in our graduation ceremony," Provost said. "Our friends in Springfield selflessly rolled out the red carpet in support of our 88th Recruit Training Troop and your Massachusetts State Police."

Provost said the 88th RTT is full of strong men and women who, "selflessly and humbly persevered to reach this proud moment."

He addressed the family and friends of the Recruits in the audience, thanking them for their sacrifices as their loved ones dedicated themselves to the training program. "At orientation, a true lifetime

ago, we promised you we'd even-

tually give them back," he said. "Today, we make good on that Provost spoke about the training the Recruits received since they started at the State Police Academy on Feb. 27 in a class that started with 249 eager members. The

Academy, he said, was a day that had already gone by. He addressed the Recruits,

only "easy day" at the State Police

"88th RTT, together we embarked on an incredibly challenging and humbling journey. Together, we have persevered. It has been one of the great honors of my career to share in this accomplishyou. We are the 88th RTT."

Provost welcomed the new Troopers to the State Police family, saying it opened up a "world of opportunity" to do justice, to show kindness, to walk humbly, to self-

congratulations," Provost said.

The newly graduated Troopers received a shield-shaped badge, which was pinned on their uni-

justice, service, sacrifice, and an honor to all those who wear it," Goonan said. The badge is considered the most recognizable symbol of policing around the world, he

'The badge is not a gift; it's not awarded lightly...it must be earned," he said, which the 88th

Following the pinning, the 88th RTT received its final inspection by Governor Maura Healey before being officially sworn in. Healey administrated the Oath of Office to the 88th RTT, having them swear allegiance to the commonwealth

be with you here today, for what is a most joyful and meaningful occasion," she said. This was Healey's ment with all of first graduation ceremony in her **OUR ONCE DREAM HAS NOW BECOME A REALITY. ON BEHALF** OF THE 88TH TO ALL FRIENDS AND FAMILY WHO HELPED US GET TO THIS POINT IN OUR **JOURNEYS, A THANK** YOU IS SIMPLY NOT **ENOUGH.**"

> TROOPER RYAN L RUEF LEE, MASS.

role as Governor.

"Public safety remains the most important function of government," she said. "We can't do anything without a safe and secure common-

wealth." Public safety takes investment and collaboration, she said, as well as community engagement, focus, commitment and dedication at "every level."

"Ultimately, it rests on the ability, the character, the courage and the professionalism of our law enforcement officers...the men and women on the front lines. In other words, it depends on all of you,'

Healey said. "Your training...has prepared you so well."

State Rep. Carlos Gonzalez (D-Springfield), Chair of the Committee of Public Safety and Homeland Security, addressed the

new Troopers. "You have chosen a noble path, to serve the residents of Massachusetts," he said. "Policing is a profession that demands courage, compassion, and unwavering

dedication." Gonzalez urged Troopers to remember the importance of com-

"Policing is not merely a job; it is a calling to serve and protect the people who rely on you for safety

and security," he said. State Police Superintendent Col. John E. Mawn Jr. said this was an important day for the department.

"We welcome to our ranks, and to our mission, a large group of highly skilled, deeply motivated and expertly trained new members. I stand here today...and look out over the future of the Massachusetts State Police," Mawn said.

Mawn said it took many to make this day possible, including State Police Academy staff, drill staff, civilian work force, legislators and many more. He also thanked former Governor Charlie Baker, who attended the graduation ceremony.

"You are among the best trained recruit classes in the nation," Mawn said. "Congratulations 88th Recruit Training Troop; you earned it."

important distinction the Troopers should remember. "Your achievement was not

Several members of the 88th RTT, hail from communities covered by Turley Publications' newspapers, including Charles P. Oberg of Barre, Jonah C. Vaclavicek of Granby, Stephen M. Houle of Ware, Matthew R. Pingitore of Rutland, John M. Sarnacki of Chicopee, Jacob F. Crevier of Ware, Nicholas R. Brooks of Oakham, Brandon M. Aviles of

Representing the 88th RTT was Trooper Ryan L. Ruef of Lee, who said it was "truly an honor" to stand before everyone at the gradu-

ation ceremony. 'Our once dream has now become a reality," Ruef said. "On behalf of the 88th to all friends and family who helped us get to this point in our journeys, a thank you is simply not enough."

Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships? We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm

to explore these topics and more.

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

Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.

lessly serve their communities and to persevere. "Persevere 88th...be safe, and

"It represents allegiance to

RTT has done.

and its constitution. "It is an honor and a privilege to

"Earned" Mawn said, is an

given to you; you had to earn it... you'll have to continue to earn your way forward," he said.

Rutland, Ryan E. Monteiro of Wilbraham, Matthew S. Pepin of Sturbridge, David Soto of Holyoke and Zuzu Y. Demetrius of Warren.

obituaries

Dakin Humaine Society rescues over 40 cats and kittens

SPRINGFIELD - Dakin Humane Society has participated in rescue efforts involving two separate hoarding cases in the past week and has taken over 40 cats and kittens into its care.

The felines are being medically and, in some cases, behaviorally evaluated, with several newborn kittens and mothers being placed in foster homes. Many are available for adoption, with more becoming available in the days and weeks ahead.

On Aug. 1, the organization traveled to a one-bedroom apartment in Berkshire County that contained more than 80 cats and brought several felines back to provide care and place for adop-

The following Saturday, Dakin assisted a Hampden County animal control team with the intake of over 30 cats and kittens, several of them Siamese and Ragdoll breeds, and returned with 21 cats to treat and make available for adoption at Dakin.

According to Dakin's Executive Director Meg Talbert, "It's very unusual that Dakin responded to two hoarding cases just days apart, but it's a vital part of our mission to answer the needs of our community. Cats that come from these circumstances tend to be very shy and are typically not confident or social around people for what may be just an initial period, or for their entire lives. They're perfectly happy to have a home with a cat companion or two. They're very special animals, and we're hoping that people will open their hearts



Dakin staff member evaluates one of the cats rescued from

and homes to them."

Berkshire County.

Talbert noted that cats and kittens will be spayed or neutered prior to being made available for adoption.

Due to the large number of cats taken in between the two rescues, Dakin has created an online form to collect contact information and other data from prospective adopters of these felines. All Dakin pets available for adoption, including the cats and kittens recently rescued and ready to be rehomed, can be seen here.

Several of the recently rescued cats have reduced adoption fees.

Dakin Humane Society, located in Springfield, delivers effective, innovative services that improve the lives of animals in

need and the people who care about them.

In a typical year, the organization shelters, treats and fosters more than 20,000 animals and has performed over 100,000 spay/neuter surgeries since 2009, making it New England's largest spay/neuter provider. Dakin's Pet Health Center, a non-emergency veterinary resource for pet dogs and cats, opened in 2022 and has treated more than 2,500 pets.

Dakin is a local non-profit organization that relies solely on contributions from individuals and businesses that care about animals to bring its services to the community. For more information, visit www.dakinhumane.org.

Grilling safety tips offered to prevent accidents

nothing like a backyard barbecue on a beautiful summer day, but it's important to remember that grills can also cause serious damage and injuries if not used safely.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, U.S. fire departments respond to an average of 10,600 fires involving grills each year, and nearly 20,000 people seek medical care annually because of grill-related injuries, about half of which are

The experts at Rocky's Ace Hardware stress the importance of grill safety, especially as we enter the most popular months for grilling.

"We are big fans of the grilling lifestyle, but it's only fun if it's safe," said Rocky's Ace Hardware President Rocco Falcone in a press release. "This starts with having a working fire extinguisher on hand every time you grill. Hopefully, you'll never need it, but you'll be glad it's there if you do. Remember, water doesn't work on a grease fire, so a nearby hose is not enough."

Falcone said ongoing grill maintenance is a key safety factor. He recommends doing a thorough grill inspection at the start of the season to look for rust,

SPRINGFIELD - There's cracks or damage to the fuel line and other parts.

A deep clean at the start of the season, and then regular cleaning after every use, is also advisable.

When it comes to the grates, Falcone advised cleaning them before and after each use.

"There are a variety of tools designed for this, including wire brushes and scrapers," he said. "If you opt for a wire brush, be sure to inspect the grill carefully afterward to ensure none of the wire bristles remain on the grill as they can be very harmful if they attach to food and are swallowed."

To prevent flare-ups, Falcone noted that best practices include trimming excess fat from meats, keeping the lid open when searing high-fat foods, leaving space on the grill to move food away from a flareup and avoiding grilling in windy areas.

When deciding grill placement choose a flat, open area at least 10 feet from the home or other

"Never grill in your garage, even with the door open, or on a covered patio," Falcone said. "Also, never leave a grill unattended, and make sure children and pets stay at least 10 feet

NEW BILL from page 11

and our food system."

The United States is already the world leader in plant-based food production, with over 55,000 people directly employed in a sector that generates \$4.5 billion in annual revenue. Other countries are making significant public investments in plantbased food innovation that may eclipse U.S. production.

Since 2020, Canada, France, Denmark, Australia, the European Union, and Sweden have all invested more in this sector than the United States. The PLANT Act would enable the U.S. to maintain a leadership role in plant-based food production by supporting farmers, food manufacturing workers, and rural communities.

Specifically, the PLANT Act would provide support for U.S. farmers who grow the ingredients used in plant-based foods; ensure that food companies who turn those ingredients into plant-based foods are eligible for USDA producer programs; and make targeted research and development investments at USDA to foster American inno-



Paul A. Gunther, 56

Paul A. Gunther, of Ware, died on Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2023, at Massachusetts General Hospital, at the age of 56

He leaves his loving wife

of 32 years, Mary Beth (St. George) Gunther; two daughters, Rachel Genereux and her companion JP, and Jenna Gunther and her companion Alex of Bondsville. He also leaves five grandchildren, Mason, Connor, Levi, Elaina, and Carter, as well as his "bonus" granddaughter Marley.

He was born in Palmer, the only son of Ernest, Jr. and Judith (Trombly)

Paul worked for Beacon Communities, LLC for 27 years. He worked his way up from Landscaper to Senior Director of Capital & Safety

Death notices

Gunther, Paul A. Died Aug. 8, 2023 Funeral Aug. 21, 2023

Sands, James Edward

before retiring last November.

Paul had many unique talents that he would often share with others. He liked to keep his skills sharp and held many certifications and licenses in his trade.

He also loved to be outside tending to his garden and flowers as well.

A Funeral Service for Paul will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 21, 2023, in the Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., in Ware. Calling hours will be held on Sunday, Aug. 20, from 2-4 p.m. in the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Mass General Cancer Center at Cooley Dickinson Hospital at https://giving.cooleydickinson.org/. An online guest book is available at charbonneaufh.com.

Ware River News OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a Paid Obituary, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & **Paid Obituaries** should be

submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

James Edward Sands, 79

HEATH, OH – James Edward Sands of Heath peacefully passed away on July 28, 2023, at the age

He was born in Ware, to Edward Jason Sands and Marie Rose Query on July 29, 1943, the second of three chil-

After graduating from Ware High School in 1961, James attended the American International College in Springfield, on a fullride basketball scholarship. He graduated with

a bachelor's degree in psychology in 1965 and landed his first job as a personnel manager, for Spalding Corporation.

In 1971, he joined American Cyanamid Company, a New Jerseybased Chemical, Consumer, and Pharmaceutical Company. He held several management positions supporting their international business, was relocated to Toronto, Canada for two years, traveled extensively worldwide, and retired in 2000 as Vice President, International Human Resources.

At a young age, he met his soulmate, Jeanne Marie Fournier, at Mount Carmel Grammar School. As childhood friends and high tle soul, James always had such to share a special memory about school sweethearts their endearing an endearing way of lighting up a James or to leave a message of conlove story has woven its way into the hearts of everyone they touch.

They were married on June 15,

1963, and have four amazing sons. Upon retirement, James and

Jeanne made their second home in the Catskill Mountains of New York their primary

> residence in 2000. There he continued his passion for supporting people and his community. As Reiki Certified

> individuals, they owned and operated "The Secret Garden" Healing and Teaching Center in Meredith, New York. In 2004, Governor

Pataki of New York appointed James to the College Council for the State University of New York, School of Technology. He served as Treasurer and member of the Board of Directors for the Honest Brook Music Festival in Meredith,

He was also an active member and past President of the Kiwanis Club of Delhi, New York.

In 2016, James and Jeanne made their final home in Ohio, settling into a comfortable life enjoying family and friends, and recently celebrated their 60th wedding anni-

Admired for his kind and genroom with his smile and making everyone around him, on a very personal level, feel special.

He passionately loved and cared for his wife, laughing and kidding with her every day. He was incredibly close to and proud of his sons, cherished his daughters-in-law, and deeply adored his grandchildren.

James was predeceased by his parents, Edward and Marie Sands, and his older brother, Robert. He leaves behind his loving wife, Jeanne, and his four sons and their families: James Jr. (Terri), Jack (Vicki), Jonathan (Michelle), and Jason (Lauren) Sands. He is survived by nine incredible grandchildren: Abigaile, James III, Ryan, Michael, Amanda, John, Isabella, Alex, and Cameron. He also leaves behind his younger brother, Philip (Maryanne) Sands, and his brother Robert's daughter, Bridget Sands.

A Funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 2, 2023, at The Church of Saint Edward the Confessor 785 Newark Granville Road, Granville, Ohio 43023 with Father Timothy Hayes as celebrant.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in James' name to: The American Cancer Society, The American Heart Association, or Saint Jude.

McPeek Hoekstra Hoskinson Funeral Home is honored to care for James and his family. Please visit www.McPeekHoekstra.com dolence for the family.

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possible.

River News

GUN LAW from page 1

GOAL also offered lawn signs and stickers to those opposed to the bill to make their voices heard. The Club provided three different copies of petitions that people could sign, if they agreed with the statements contained therein.

These petitions will be sent to the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities and the Joint Committee on the Judiciary.

Wallace said the entire bill is problematic, and it's hard to focus on just one or two of its proposed changes.

He compiled a list of concerns regarding new training requirements including a written exam of unknown content; injury prevention and harm reduction education; active shooter and emergency response training when lawful gun owners are not allowed to carry in most places under this bill; applicable laws relating to the use of force; de-escalation and disengagement tactics; and live firearms training – to be determined by the State

Police.

Other concerns involves new mandates and restrictions, such as mandatory registration of all individual firearms, receivers, frames, barrels and feeding devices; bans the passion of a gun on any property without permission; drastically changes the assault weapon laws to include things like a semi-automatic hunting shotgun with a pistol grip; mandates the registration and serialization of all feeding devices of any kind; bans anyone under age 15 from handling any type of semi-automatic rifle or shotgun; bans anyone under age 15 from training or shooting sports; a frame, receiver and barrel would separately be considered to be a firearm and each piece has to be registered and serialized; essentially bans hunting on private property; any changes, such as a sight, or repairs to a gun must be approved by the state prior to any modifications; and a new

from gaining access. Cieslak said one of his big concerns focuses on prohibiting youth under age 15 from attend-

definition of "secured locked

container" that must be able to

deter all but the most persistent

ing firearms training or sanctioned sports, as the Club has a highly competitive and skilled junior rifle league, coached by Bob Lamb.

One of the league members, Zuzu Demetrius, went on to compete in the Olympics, and has recently graduated from the State Police Academy.

Lamb said she is the second junior rifle league member to become a State Trooper. If HD.4420 were to pass,

Cieslak said, it would limit hunting and the resulting money raised through licensing to benefit state conservation efforts.

According to mass.gov, MassWildlife [Division of Fisheries and Wildlife] "is primarily funded through the sale of hunting, freshwater fishing, and trapping licenses, permits, and stamps, in addition to dedicated federal funds from the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program...All funds from freshwater fishing, hunting, and trapping licenses and dedicated federal funds go directly into the Inland Fish and Game Fund, which can only be used for administering programs by

"This bill is so overwhelm-

MassWildlife."

ing," Cieslak said. "This is a civil rights violation, it's not a gun bill. That's our fight...it turns law-abiding citizens into criminals." HD.4420 is currently on hold

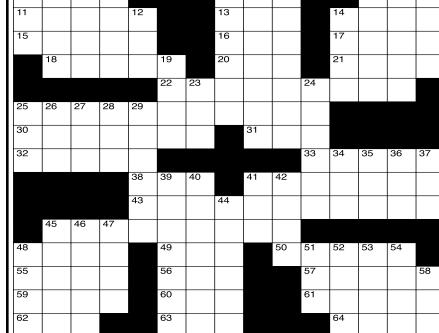
until the fall. Wallace encouraged citizens

to continue voicing opposition of this bill, as the hold is only a

Members of Nenameseck Sportsmen's Club will be at The Still Bar and Grill, 63 Springfield St., in Agawam with mayoral candidate Cecilia Calabrese on Thursday, Aug. 18 at 6 p.m. to continue sharing information about HD.4420, lawn signs and copies of peti-

Signs opposing HD.4420 are available locally at the following locations: Nenameseck Sportsmen's Club, 75 West Ware Road, Palmer; Nick's Sport Shop, 1029 Park St., Palmer; Bearded Arms, 1880 Memorial Drive, Chicopee; Down Range Sports, 590 Summer St., Barre; MB Sporting Goods, 51A Glenn St., Three Rivers; and Fairview Sportsmens Club, 280 Carver St., Granby.

For more information about GOAL, visit goal.org.



organization	45. Photographers
. Calendar month (abbr.)	48. Native religionn in
. Monetary unit of `	parts of China
Burma	49. Dickens character
1. Twyla, US dancer	50. Brodway actress
3. Everything included	Daisy
4. "Antman" actor Rudd	55. Ancient Greek soph
5. Italian city	56. Undivided
6. Nowhere to be found	57. Daniel, French
7. Mild yellow Dutch	composer
cheese made in balls	59. Nocturnal S.

CLUES ACROSS

32. Garden figurine

38. Rest here please

(abbr.)

41. In a silly way

1. Civil rights

American rodent 18. Turkish officer 20. Perform on stage 60. Rusty 61. Jewish spiritual 21. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid leader 22. Canadian coastal 63. Popular global provinces 25. Furnishes anew holiday (abbr.) 30. Edible mollusk 64. Tall, slender plant

31. No seats available **CLUES DOWN** 33. Two-legged support 1. Defunct US energy company 2. Fellow 3. It's issued from

43. One from the Golden

4. Type of acid 5. Winged nut Arouses Things are served on it 8. San Diego ballplayer 9. Currency and a ncient Greek sophist Chinese dynasty 10. __ mater, one's school

volcanoes

12. Exclamation that denotes disgust 14. Hairstyle 19. Supreme ancient Egyptian god 23. They _

62. Patti Hearst's captors 24. Connecting line on 25. Mock 26. One point north of due east 27. Chinese philosophical principle

28. Type of tree

29. Persuade to do

44. Obstruct 45. Political plot 46. Manila hemp plant 47. Dough made from corn flour 48. Fishes by letting the bob fly 51. Swiss river

something

to rest

34. A place for travelers

35. National Gallery of

Art designer

36. Panamaniaan

province

(abbr.)

40. Simply

42. Not one

39. Whalers' tool

41. Nigerian City

37. Field force unit

52. Plant that makes 53. A French abbot 54. One point east of northeast

58. Get free of

public notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

The MassHire Franklin Hampshire Workforce Board (FHWB) announces a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking one or more vendors to develop and carry out a two year youth service strategy involving effective providers of youth services and working with the FHWB, the Franklin Hampshire **Employment and Training** Consortium (FHETC) and

Hampshire Career Center (MFHCC).

Vendors are sought for youth programming to be carried out in the Franklin Hampshire region funded through Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I. This RFP solicits proposals for a 24-month program. A total of \$450,000 is projected to be available to fund activ-

during the twelve months from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. The maximum allowable request per grantee is \$90,000. The contract will be for an initial MASSHIREFHWB.ORG 12-month period, renewable for an additiona positive performance review and availabili-

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling).

ty of funds for Calendar

Year 2025. Proposals are

Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

the MassHire Franklin ities that will take place due September 15, 2023 by 4:30PM. A BIDDERS CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AUGUST 18, 2023 AT 11AM VIA ZOOM. PLEASE EMAIL INFO@

FOR DETAILS. The Request for al 12 months based on Proposals explaining what is requested, who is eligible to apply and how to apply is available on our website https:// www.masshirefhwb.org/ rfpyouth/.

Any and all questions regarding the solicitation must be received by email at info@masshirefhwb.org by August 25, 2023. 08/17/2023

Hardwick **Planning Board Notice of Public Hearing**

Notice is hereby given that the Hardwick Planning Board per Hardwick Zoning Bylaw, Sections 3.2.6.1.1, 5.2 and 9.0 will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at **6:45PM** at the Municipal Office Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville, MA 01301

This Hearing is regarding the application for Site Plan Approval by Patrick D. Rondeau of Valley Solar for a residential ground mounted 10kW solar installation at 694 Main Street in Gilbertville. All interested parties are asked to attend.

Interested parties may also view this Legal Notice at http://masspublicnotices.org

Hardwick Planning Board Jenna Garvey, Chair 08/17, 08/24/2023





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Torie Jock at a glance

Age: 22 Hometown: Ware

Q: What are some of the highlights on your performing arts resume?

Jock: I have acted in multiple movies and shows professionally and have recorded multiple albums.

I am currently signed to a record label, Dark Star Records. I have been sent to national dance competitions multiple times and danced regularly for 17 years.

Q: How did you get your start as an actor/dancer?

Jock: I started dancing when I was 1-year-old and started acting when I was 9. The first role I played was Wilbur in "Charlotte's Web!" I always loved being onstage. It feels like home to me more than anything else.

Q: Who are your professional role models?

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

Q: Please share one thing most people don't know about

Jock: Some people know this, but not everyone. I was a 'Mini Cher' impersonator when I was 11 for a traveling Cher Tribute show.



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

Turley Publications photos by Michael Harrison

Sophia Rheaume, Addison Peloquin and Sofia Roman rehearse a scene

DANCE from page 11

Board of Directors this past year. "Amazing," Cygan said.

"Torie knows how to get business done, helps us a lot and reminds us of things we might not remember at the time."

According to Roman, "She gives us motivation. She doesn't say the same thing over and over again and puts things in perspective and gives us examples. If we're not talking loud enough she'll say 'imagine someone in

the back of the room. You have to be loud enough so they can hear it, too.' We like working with her and she's giving us a good experience.'

PHCC President Bob Haveles said he hopes Jock's classes remain a fixture at the center.

"It's another great way to connect with youth for a venue that often offers programming for adults," he said.

"Torie has competed in our talent shows and we've gotten to know her well over the years,"

Haveles said.

"She has a great passion for dance and drama and we just thought with her leading the charge, it's a great opportunity for youth in the area. The response was what we needed and hopefully a lot more people will become interested."

Tickets for "Left in the Dust" are \$10 for adults and \$8 for children 12 and under. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the curtain goes up at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 26.

Want to sign up?

Registration is underway for Jock's fall and 2024 spring classes. She is offering drama, dance and adult cardio/dance. Email her trulytorie2000@gmail.com for more information and to register.

To learn more, follow Torie Jock on Facebook and Instagram (@torie_jock), visit the Palmer Historical and Cultural Center website at palmerhcc.org, email palmerhcc@gmail.com or call

JOB OPENING

STAFF WRITER

Turley Publications, based in Palmer, is seeking a storyteller who is curious about everything, and who understands how town government works to join our team of weekly reporters.

Experience in covering town government is a huge plus, and any experience in community journalism is as well. Staff writers cover all aspects of communities from features to municipal meetings to crimes and fires. Successful candidates must have people skills, plenty of curiosity and able to tell a story.

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Please tell us in a cover letter why you would be a good fit for this position and send it along with a resume and three writing samples to **Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor** 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069

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

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

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

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

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

Qualifications should include:

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

Please send resume and writing examples to: Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor

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





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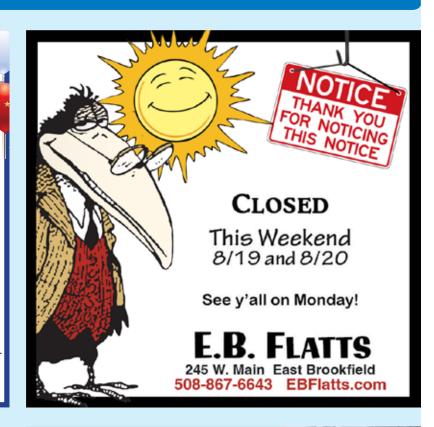
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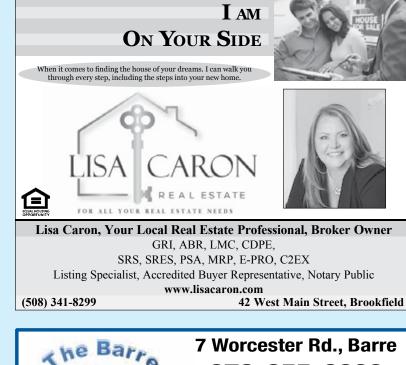




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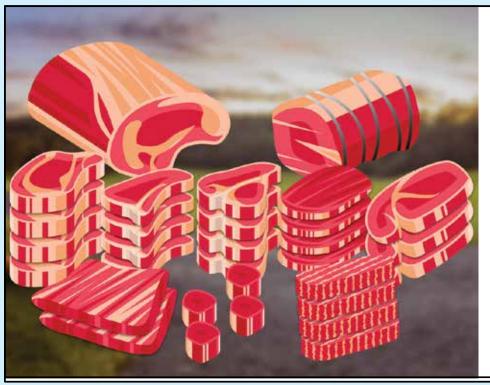
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