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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," he said.

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



Irelyn, left, made sure to have some fun while fundraising to cover the team's competition costs.

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 8.

Suds and sunshine

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.



Sparkle Squad dancer Evelyn made sure this car was spotless during the dance team's car wash fundraiser this past Sunday at NAPA Auto Parts. The Sparkle Squad is a competitive dance team from Limelight Dance Center.

GOAL joins sportsmen at gun law petition event

By Paula Ouimette
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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 Laws."

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



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
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WARE – Chicopee resident Dr. Ginger Coleman came before the School Committee as a candi-

date for the position of Director of 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-

icipal, then principal.

"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 education."

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 arrangements.

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 flowers.

"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



Roberta McQuaid, right, hosted a flower arrangement workshop at the Ware Grange Hall last week

Troopers swear selfless commitment to service

State Police Academy's 88th Recruit Training Troop graduates

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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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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SPORTS

Quabbin field hockey wins league

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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.



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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 Design.

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 disabilities.

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.

ACCURACY WATCH

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.

Are You Old News?

Each week the Ware River News digs into its submitted photo archives and selects a people photo to publish. We need your help to help identify those pictured.

Email your answers by Monday at noon to pouimette@turley.com.

File Photo
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

WARE – The Ware Cultural 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.org.

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

for-profit entities that propose 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.

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.com.

Main line rail track reopens Aug. 14

PALMER – The Massachusetts Central Railroad Corporation, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, has undertaken the rehabilitation of its main line rail track starting this past

March 2023.

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 schedule on Monday, Aug. 14, start-

ing 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 Palmer.

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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 Band.

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 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 signs.

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

changes that previously occurred 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 build-outs," 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 said.

The Board will continue discussion of the matter at its next meeting.

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

BROOKFIELD — What do 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 400-year 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 stroke 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 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-and-paddle-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 in the U.S.

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 Sash-the 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 Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

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-fair.

Instructions for set up will be emailed a week before the event. Contact Janice by email at janice-hills110@gmail.com for information.

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

HARDWICK – The 261st 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

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

Library.

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@gmail.com.

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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 said.

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.

scam.

"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 said.

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



Submitted photo
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 Library.

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 weather.

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 options.

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 said.

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

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 irrigation.

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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Youths find enrichment at Pathfinder
By Dan Gagnon
A group of about 20 youth from the Brimfield Youth Center spent the day at the Pathfinder Center in Brimfield, Mass., for a day of enrichment activities. The youth participated in various activities, including archery, fishing, and outdoor games. The day was supervised by staff and volunteers from the Pathfinder Center.

Selectboard deem dog dangerous
By Dan Gagnon
The Brimfield Selectboard has voted to deem a dog dangerous after a series of incidents. The dog, a pit bull mix, has been involved in several attacks on people and other dogs. The board has ordered the owner to take specific measures to ensure the dog's safety and the safety of the community.

Brimfield Old Home Days, family fun for everyone
By Dan Gagnon
The annual Brimfield Old Home Days festival was a success, with families enjoying a day of fun and activities. The festival featured live music, food, and a variety of games. The event was held at the Brimfield Fairgrounds and was attended by hundreds of people.

Disability Pride, "Yes You Can"
By Dan Gagnon
A group of people with disabilities participated in a "Disability Pride" event, celebrating their achievements and abilities. The event was held at the Brimfield Community Center and featured a variety of activities, including a parade and a picnic. The event was a great success and was enjoyed by all who attended.

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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 vase life.

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 barbecue 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 veterans.



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



Massachusetts Military Order of the Purple Heart Commander Brian Willette served as Master of Ceremonies, speaking to the crowd gathered in front of the Fire Service Group building on Thorndike Street.

"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 forgotten.

"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.



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

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 Tobiasson, 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 presented by the Order of the Purple Heart to local veterans' organizations, as well as lawmakers who will see to the placement 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.

For more information on news or community features for The Ware River News, please email pouimette@turley.com

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Indians edge West Side



Maya Lewis shoots over an opponent.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
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.



Molly McGrail gets ready to shoot.



Kelsey Clark dribbles inside the arc.



Submitted photos
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 shootout 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 Casey.



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 Bay State Games, the Western part of the state featured a boys soccer team showcase. 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,

Ludlow HS). West then went 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.

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

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 match.

"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 as we did in tonight's match."

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,



Nicole Callini makes a throw-in.



Jennifer Galindo sends a free kick away for Celtic Gray.



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

Please see **WESTSIDE**, page 10

sports

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 points-rich 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 two-time 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

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 house.

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

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 him 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.

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-pant.

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.



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.”



Olivia Crespo, of Ludlow, corrals the ball.

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

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 Grey.

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

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



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

Foursomes needed for charity golf tournament

AGAWAM – Registration and signups are currently open and underway for the Sixth Annual “Shoot Fore The Stars To Cure Cancer” Golf Tournament to benefit the Dana Farber Cancer Institute.

In the first FIVE years we have raised over \$15,000 for cancer research. The 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 and dinner. Please contact ShootFORETheStarstoCureCancer@gmail.com more information. We hope you can join us.

Coaches honored during Hall of Fame weekend

SPRINGFIELD – The 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 ceremony on Saturday, August 12 at 2:00 PM EST in the MassMutual Gallery at the Hall of Fame.

The Naismith Coaches Circle program was first launched in 2015 and is the brainchild of Hall of Famers John Calipari, Jerry Colangelo, and George Raveling. The intent of the program is to pay tribute to basketball’s first coach,

Dr. James Naismith, and the core values Dr. Naismith instilled in his players – teamwork, determination, self-respect, leadership, initiative, and perseverance. He believed these principles to be the foundation by which young men and women should play the game and conduct their lives.

The Coaches Circle features a sculpture created by Master Sculptor Brian Hanlon, dedicated to celebrating Dr. Naismith. Additionally, it showcases granite benches on a recognition platform, paying tribute to coaches who share the same core values of teaching, nurturing, and mentoring

their players on the court, while offering perspective off the court.

An interactive Coaches Circle video is exhibited on the second floor of the museum, which allows coaches to share their personal stories and honor those in their lives who inspired them.

Through the Coaches Circle Program Legacy Initiative, coaches 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, among others.

Thunderbirds name new operations manager

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

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

2023-24 season.

“Jeff has deservedly earned this promotion through hard work, loyalty, and his dedication to the Thunderbirds on both the hockey and business side,” said Maxwell. “He is a tireless worker with a wonderful personality, making him a terrific conduit between players, management, and the front office. We look forward to

seeing him continue to excel in the future.”

Jordan joined the St. Louis Blues’ AHL affiliate in 2019 when he was hired by the San Antonio Rampage as the team’s video coach. Before starting his professional career, Jordan served as an assistant coach with the OHL’s Ottawa 67’s in 2014-15 and 2015-16.

Tips for driving safe with pets this summer

Distracted driving is of most 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

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.”



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		P	A	C	H	A		A	C	T		R	R	N	A		
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R	E	D	E	C	O	R	A	T	E	S							
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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-an-hour 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 accident.

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.

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 treat-

ment that these men and women deserve,” said Neal in a press release.

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



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 Rheame, Janasia Roman and Sofia Roman.

Please see **DANCE**, page 15

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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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 Rendered
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 Handled
5:30 p.m. Assist Other Agency, North Street, Advised
9:37 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Advised

Thursday, Aug. 10
9:05 a.m. Damage/Vandalism/Mischief, Aspen Street, Services Rendered
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 Handled

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, Advised
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

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
12:25 a.m. Fire Alarm Activation, Quaboag Street, Investigated
9:12 a.m. Complaint, Milton O. Fountain Way, Officer Took Call

Saturday, Aug. 12
12:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle 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

Former Ware Fire Chief indicted for embezzlement

WARE – According to a press 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 associations.

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 investigation as the result of a tip. The findings of the investigation were shared with the Northwestern District Attorney's Office for prosecution.

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

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,

Coulombe allegedly stole more than \$3,700 from the Town of Ware.

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.

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

Tuesday, Aug. 1
11:31 a.m. Property Dispute, Southbridge Road, Officer Spoke to Party
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 Hospital
9:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Boston Post Road, Written Warning

Thursday, Aug. 3
12:05 a.m. Low Blood Pressure, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital
4:23 p.m. Larceny/Theft, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed
5:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ware Road, Written Warning
8:49 p.m. Diabetic/Cramping, Main Street, Transported to

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.

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

Tuesday, Aug. 1
11:31 a.m. Property Dispute, Southbridge Road, Officer Spoke to Party
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 Hospital
9:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Boston Post Road, Written Warning

Thursday, Aug. 3
12:05 a.m. Low Blood Pressure, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital
4:23 p.m. Larceny/Theft, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed
5:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ware Road, Written Warning
8:49 p.m. Diabetic/Cramping, Main Street, Transported to

Hospital
9:38 p.m. Falls, Main Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Friday, Aug. 4
12:55 p.m. Fraud/Forgery, Quaboag Street, Information Taken
6:30 p.m. Bicycle Accident, North Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
7:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
10:50 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned, Reed Street, Report Filed
Summons: Daniel B. Peristere, 52, Warren
Disorderly Conduct; Witness/Juror/Police/Court Official, Intimidate; Interfering with a Police Officer; Threat to Commit Crime (To Wit Murder); Assault to Intimidate

Saturday, Aug. 5
6:37 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Vehicle Towed
1:18 p.m. Allergic Reaction, Old West Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital
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

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Aug. 7-14, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 51 building/property checks, 13 directed/area patrols, eight traffic controls, five emergency 911 calls, 16 radar assignments, eight citizen assists, one complaint, four assist other agencies, three safety hazards, one larceny/theft/shoplifting, one vandalism, one stolen motor vehicle, three motor vehicle investigations, one motor vehicle accident, two investigations, one animal call and eight motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

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,

Lower Road, Written Warning
10:45 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Services Rendered
11:46 a.m. Investigation, 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 Vehicle 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

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 firsts."

"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 eventually give them back," he said. "Today, we make good on that promise."

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 only "easy day" at the State Police Academy, he said, was a day that had already gone by.

He addressed the Recruits, "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 accomplishment with all of

you. 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 selflessly serve their communities and to persevere.

"Persevere 88th...be safe, and congratulations," Provost said.

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

"It represents allegiance to 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 said.

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

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

"It is an honor and a privilege to be with you here today, for what is a most joyful and meaningful occasion," she said. This was Healey's first graduation ceremony in her

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 CEO.

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 role.

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 commonwealth."

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 community.

"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."

"Earned" Mawn said, is an important distinction the Troopers should remember.

"Your achievement was not given to you; you had to earn it... you'll have to continue to earn your way forward," he said.

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

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



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 you.

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.



Sophia Rheaume, Addison Peloquin and Sofia Roman rehearse a scene

Turley Publications photos by Michael Harrison

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 289-9295.

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.

If you're a self-starter who enjoys community journalism and who can envision themselves connecting with our communities, we encourage you to apply for this position. Not a remote position.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- A determination to get the story, whatever it might be
- Equally comfortable writing hard news, features and event coverage
- Ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style

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
or email directly to
ekennedy@turley.com



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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.

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- 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
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