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SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

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PALMER

School Committee closes out year with ideas from students

By Marcelo Gusmão
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PALMER – To close out the school year, the School Committee held its regular meeting on June 12.

Superintendent Matthew Francis's report featured a list of the district's accomplishments for the past year.

"We lose sight in the day-to-day minutia of our jobs, and (this report) provides us the time to just reflect and to appreciate all the hard work that all the faculty, staff, and the leadership throughout the district have done," Francis said.

Though not an exhaustive list of the year's accomplishments, Francis noted improvements to the facilities, curriculum, instruction, professional development, and technology.

"I think it's fairly impressive to show what we've done as a district this year, so I wanted to provide that to you this evening," Francis said.

Francis also recognized a number of retiring staff members who had just participated in an end-of-year celebration, naming each of them and congratulating them on their cumulative 141 years of service to the district.

Francis also took a moment to respond to a comment made at the recent Town Council meeting concerning the budget.

"The school district was referenced in regards to (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funding and pre-buying," Francis said. "I've been very open throughout the budget process that we have been using ESSER funds to purchase capital that has a multi-year usage."

Francis added that the school has been purchasing curriculum and materials for more than three years ahead with the ESSER funds, and that he wanted to set the record straight.

Committee member Sandra Noonan mentioned that she attended the meeting where this discussion was brought up.

"I commended the school department for what I thought was very creative use of funds," Noonan said.

Student suggestions

At the start of the meeting, Committee Chair Bonny Rathbone reading letters she had received from the public. Committee members expressed amusement that only Rathbone regularly receives correspondence.

Of the four letters that Rathbone read, only one was from a parent, who praised the district for its special education offerings.

"She said her daughter is happy, she's calm, and she's excited for school every single day," Rathbone said.

The letter praised Hannah Timmerwoodz, and referred to the para-professionals as "the dream team."

The first letter was from a student asking that the district consider changing the start and stop times for high schoolers.

"She noted that in her research, 70% of teens do not get the required nine hours of sleep," Rathbone read. "Sleep-deprived teens are more

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Ice cream social



Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Katherine Santiago sat with Zoey, age three, Yamareliz, age 12, and Raphael, age 11.

to kick off Summer Reading Program

By Marcelo Gusmão
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MONSON – Last week, the library invited residents to participate in an ice cream social, where they had the opportunity to learn about the Summer Reading Program.

Every year, when school lets

out, libraries all over the country launch Summer Reading Programs to entice students and kids to read during their vacation. Here in town, the library will be providing a Bingo game to help participants keep track of their reading, separated into kid, teen, and adult divisions.

"We've got a couple different ways they can go about it," said Youth Services Librarian Denise

Newland, as she explained the 12-and-under Summer Reading Program.

"There's some timed reading logs and stickers for younger kids," Newland said. "The older kids can fill out a list of what they've been reading and give it a rating for me to turn in anytime in August and get a little prize."

Newland said that the library is

offering a variety of events geared towards kids over the summer.

"For the youngest kids, we've got the Baby Time, Sensory Time, and Storytime on the Go is every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. at a different location in town," Newland said. "Next week we're starting with the fire department, and then

ICE CREAM | page 8

MONSON

School Committee restructures, discusses policy

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Staff Writer
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MONSON – The recent School Committee meeting saw the board restructured after the recent election.

The June 12 meeting began with the committee welcoming Peter Wiggins, after his victory at this year's town election. In the restructuring of the board, Alison Morgan was unanimously voted in as Chair, Jamie Murphy was voted in as Vice Chair, and Karen Nothe-Valley was voted as secretary.

In the Superintendent's Report, Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Clarke recent events that have happened over the last few weeks in the district for the high school seniors, including the spring concerts, a successful signing day, and the graduation ceremony, which she described as "a wonderful event."

"There's been a lot going on in the district to celebrate our students, that's been exciting," Clarke said.

Clarke announced that Off. Paul Mayo will join the school as the School Resource Officer in the fall.

"He is not our official SRO as of yet, because he hasn't gone through the training, which he will do over the summer," Clarke said. "He's serving kind of as a liaison when he's available. He was at, for example, Field Day, at Granite Val-

MONSON | page 3

ACROSS THE REGION

Massachusetts Walking Tour

Traveling musicians make stop at Lucy Stone Park

By Paula Ouimette
 Editor
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WARREN – Since 2010, the Massachusetts Walking Tour has traveled by foot, covering more than 100 miles over a two week period of time, all while sharing songs and exploring trails along the way.

Co-founded by the husband and wife team of Mark Mandeville and Raianne Richards, the Massachusetts Walking Tour aims to bring awareness to the trails and greenways of the commonwealth, while sharing the talents of a variety of musicians. "We always invite wonderful musicians to join us," Mandeville said.

One of the stops along this year's tour was to Lucy Stone Park in Warren, located about quarter of a mile from the town's common. Named after noted West Brookfield

abolitionist and suffragist, the park has been the focus of a dedicated group of volunteers, who have helped bring recognition to this hidden jewel.

Joining Mandeville and Richards were fellow Massachusetts Walking Tour members Eli Go and Quasi Lane, along with five-time participant Vito Caccavelli and the duo Green Heron, featuring husband and wife, Scott Heron and Betsy Heron.

Caccavelli first joined the Massachusetts Walking Tour WALKING TOUR | page 5



Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Mark Mandeville, Raianne Richards, Eli Go, and Quasi Lane made up the band that performed at the Second Congregational Church.

COMMUNITY

Annual fundraiser held in memory of Carol Rivest

Raises funds for domestic violence survivors

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Staff Writer
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BRIMFIELD – Last Saturday, the Brimfield Winery hosted the annual memorial fundraiser for the Carol Rivest Foundation.

The storm did not prevent the region from coming together to support the victims of domestic violence at last weekend's fundraiser. Residents, vendors, and the family and loved ones of the late Carol Rivest set up under the tents and canopies of the winery

to sell wares, enjoy drinks, and raise funds for organizations that can prevent other women from losing their lives the same way Rivest did.

"Carol had many friends who loved her zest for life and adventurous personality," the website read. "She was a young devoted mother that took such pride in watching her son's growth. She was a very caring daughter and sister eager to help her family at any time."

RIVEST | page 6

Photos by Marcelo Gusmão
 Robert and Sheila Rivest set up the Carol Rivest Foundation in honor of their sister.



Pet of the Week



MARSEILLE

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



Submitted Photos

This weekend, several girls and boys of PYBA (Palmer Youth Basketball Association) participated in Hooplandia which is the Northeast's premier 3x3 basketball tournament held at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, MA.

Local basketball players enjoy Hooplandia

HOOPLANDIA came to West Springfield this past weekend. This 3-on-3 Basketball Tourney and Festival was held on the Eastern States Exposition fairgrounds. Teams from around the region played on Saturday and Sunday, June 22 & 23. Players, families, friends, basketball aficionados and the public were invited to see great basketball, attend clinics, and enjoy the food,



Springfield Mayor Sarno stopped to take a pic with the Palmer Breaker's team during the Hooplandia basketball tournament at Eastern States Exposition Friday night. Pictured (left to right) AJ Braden, Nathan Drewnowski, Connor Baer, Landon Desautels, Tony Braden (coach) and Mayor Sarno.



Hooplandia championship games were played at the Basketball Hall of Fame on Sunday, the final day of the 3 day tournament. Among the winners were the Springfield Ballers, champions of the 12U girls division, (left to right) Adrianna Mars, Aletta Robinson, Harper Brouillette and Sania Abdul Ali.

entertainment, special guests and features. The event was hosted by Eastern States Exposition and the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. Hoops were installed throughout the byways of Eastern States Exposition, where most games took place. Select youth championship games were held at the Hall of Fame on Sunday.

CAMPUS NOTES

Emmanuel College Announces Spring 2024 Dean's List

In recognition of their outstanding academic achievement, Emmanuel College has named more than 800 students to the Dean's List for the Spring 2024 semester. To earn a spot on the Dean's List, Emmanuel students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher for a 16-credit semester.

Olivia Sloat of Palmer
Emily Sayball-Wimmer of Bondsville

Univ. of Hartford Congratulates the Class of 2024

The University of Hartford is pleased to announce that 964 students received graduate and undergraduate degrees as part of the class of 2024.

Among the members of the graduating class are:

Andrew Briere, Holland - College of Engineering, Technology and Architecture - Bachelor of Science

Daniel Fiester, Monson - Barney School of Business - Bachelor of Science

Katherine Roberts, Monson - The Hart School - Bachelor of Music

The University is proud to congratulate all the members of the graduating class and to wish them the best of luck!

URI celebrates more than 4,100 new graduates during 2024 Commencement

The University of Rhode Island celebrated more than 4,100 of its newest alumni during the University's 2024 Commencement. Nearly 4,000 undergraduate degrees and 800 graduate degrees were conveyed to students during the ceremonies which took place May 17-19, 2024.

Among them were:
Erin McCarthy of Brimfield
Christopher Ballou of Brimfield

Jill Gombos of Brimfield makes Dean's List at RIT

Jill Gombos of Brimfield was named to the Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology for the spring semester of the 2023-2024 academic year. Gombos is in the biotechnology and molecular bioscience program.

Full-time degree-seeking undergraduate students are eligible for Dean's List if their term GPA is greater than or equal to 3.400; they do not have any grades of "Incomplete", "D" or "F"; and they have registered for, and completed, at least 12 credit hours.

Sales Tax holiday approved

BOSTON—The Massachusetts Legislature approved Aug. 10 and Aug. 11 as a sales tax holiday weekend for Massachusetts. On those days, the Massachusetts sales tax of 6.25% will be suspended for most items that retail for less than \$2,500.

The holiday welcomes Massachusetts residents to visit retailers and small businesses around the state. A spike in consumer activity routinely boosts indirect tax revenues. According to the Department of Revenue, during the 2023 sales tax holiday, indirect tax revenues due to increased economic activity were approximately \$3.54 million.

"I am glad to see the sales tax holiday be approved in the legislature today, giving our residents a great chance to get outside and embrace their local businesses and community at a little bit of a discount," said Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield). "This annual holiday gives a boost to our small business owners and consumers, and I am proud to support this measure annually."

DEADLINE

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

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Wilbraham Hiking Club announces July hikes

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Hiking Club has five hikes currently planned for July, all starting at 9 a.m.:

- Tuesday, July 2 at Thayer Brook in Wilbraham
 - Thursday, July 11th, Deer Park in Hardwick (and Rose32)
 - Sunday, July 14 - a moderate or challenging hike. Stay tuned for details.
 - Monday, July 22nd - Mill River Conservation Area in Amherst
 - Sunday, July 28, Miller Forest Tract in Monson
- More information about these hikes can be found on the club's TeamReach pages, or write to wilbraham-hiking@gmail.com.

Corrections

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



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Baystate Wing recognized for outstanding performance

PALMER — Baystate Wing Hospital has earned national recognition by the Lown Institute as one of the most socially responsible hospitals in America, ranking first in Massachusetts. The recent Lown Hospital Index is a report that evaluates over 2,700 acute care hospitals and 800 critical access hospitals nationwide.

Overall, 154 hospitals earned “A” grades for equity, quality of care and outcomes. The evaluation analyzed up to 54 metrics related to health equity, value of care and patient outcomes, with equity receiving a higher overall weight this year compared to previous rankings. Lown used publicly available data from CMS and the IRS, among other sources, for its analysis.

“Baystate Wing Hospital is among only 5% of hospitals nationwide to earn Honor Roll status from Lown this year, with ‘A’ grades across all top categories: Social Responsibility, Health Equity, Value of Care, and Patient Outcomes,” said Karli Barrett, MS, RN, NE-BC, Vice President, Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer for Baystate Wing Hospital. “Our high ranking by the Lown Institute demonstrates our unwavering commitment to community health throughout the many communities we serve in the region and is a testimony to our commitment to serve as a leader in providing high-quality, equitable care.”

The Lown Institute Hospitals Index is the first ranking to define clear, measurable standards for hospital social responsibility. They examine performance across three primary metrics: Outcomes, Value, and Equity.

The Index analyzed 54 metrics to provide a unique and holistic ranking of hospital performance:

Equity grades reflect Baystate Wing Hospital’s commitment to equity, inclusion, and community health. The equity assessment measures the extent of hospital investment in community health.

Value grades indicate the avoidance of inappropriate tests/procedures and cost efficiency.

Outcome grades represent Baystate Wing Hospital’s excellent performance related to patient safety and a patient’s experience of care.

To learn more about the Lown Institute Hospitals Index and explore this year’s rankings, visit lownhospitalsindex.org.

To learn more about Baystate Wing Hospital, visit baystatehealth.org/wing.

BACKYARD | from page 4

hours at the pond in South Street where the osprey nest is located. In addition to the osprey nest there are four great blue heron nests with at least eight chick, I can’t see the fourth nest very well but an adult is standing on the nest so I assume there are young chick there also. Young herons can’t stand for awhile so they probably wouldn’t be visible yet.”

He said he saw common grackles, chickadees and tree swallows at the pond as well phoebes, Eastern kingbirds and belted kingfishers.

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

YOUR HEALTH | from page 4

multiple directions. Today’s doctor spends hours documenting health records and completing insurance forms—time that once was directly devoted to patients. At the same time, they’re reimbursed by health insurers at ever-shrinking rates, even as their malpractice insurance premiums soar.

This is why many doctors are increasing their patient load or relying on less-qualified Physician Assistants to handle their caseload. End result: less one-on-one time with patients and a greater risk of something falling through the cracks.

For all these reasons, patients and their families need to take a more active role in managing their healthcare. They need to be informed and vigilant. They need to be ready to advocate for themselves whenever necessary.

Of course, it’s impossible to eliminate 100% of your risk of becoming a victim of medical error. But by paying attention and speaking out, you can vastly improve your odds.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN, is a board-certified patient advocate and Monson resident. A critical care nurse for 30+ years, she is founder of NShore Patient Advocates, (www.NorthshoreRN.com). Her book, “How to Be a Healthcare Advocate for Yourself & Your Loved Ones” is available on Amazon. She is offering a free phone consultation to Turley Newspaper readers. Contact her at Teri@northshorern.com to set it up.

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Raienne Richards, Mark Mandeville, Eli Go, and Quasi Lane performed music by Lena Simone, Nat King Cole, the Beatles, and Keane.

WALKING TOUR | from page 1

when he was still in high school, and Mandeville described him as a “tremendous musician.”

“Vito has been at the Massachusetts Walking Tour for so many years,” Mandeville said.

Caccavelli performed three songs, including “Rockin’ Chair” by The Band and “Blue Spotted Tail” by Fleet Foxes. All of the songs performed during the concert have references to nature or walking.

Next to perform was Green Heron, driving down from New Hampshire to share a set ranging from the blues to a lively jig.

Betsy Heron grew up in Hubbardston and began her music career as a member of the family band, and continues to sing and play the fiddle alongside her sisters in their band, The Green Sisters, in addition to Green Heron.

Hérons have been a common theme for this year’s tour, being both featured on the logo and spotted along the musicians’ walking route.

The tour logo was created by artist Dan Blakeslee, who has created the logo for the Massachusetts Walking Tour each year it has been in existence. Blakeslee’s artwork is often featured on music posters as well as craft beer labels.

“We’ve encountered at least two if not three of them a day,” Mandeville said of the herons. “My wife thinks it’s a spirit animal.”

Mandeville, Richards, Go and Lane joined together to perform the first song in their set, “Walk Right In” made popular by the Rooftop Singers, followed by Pat-

sy Cline’s classic “Walkin’ After Midnight”, “The Guitar Man” by Bread, “Bein’ Green” by Kermit the Frog and many more.

This was Lane’s first time playing a full set for an audience, and also the first time the Massachusetts Walking Tour has included a bass player. Go has been with the tour for his third year and brings a “jazz edge,” Mandeville said.

Prior to the start of the concert, members of the Massachusetts Walking Tour along with Warren resident Tim O’Brien led a community hike through Lucy Stone Park, exploring the banks of the river and the pollinator garden before heading into the woods.

O’Brien, whose name is synonymous with Lucy Stone Park, said nature had taken its “normal course” at the park until over a decade ago, when work began to remove invasive plants and improve accessibility.

With time and effort, the invasive plants were removed and native plants, including wild strawberries, mountain laurel, serviceberry, swamp azalea, red-osier dogwood, and many more, were added to the park. O’Brien said in the next week or so, the garden will begin to bloom, and he invited people to return and see its splendor.

“Tim and a crew of volunteers have tirelessly worked to bring the park to its glory,” Richards said.

The park has also been improved by three separate Eagle Scout projects, which includes a hardpacked accessible trail, an accessible parking lot and a storage shed. Students from the nearby Quaboag Regional Middle High School even constructed a bench.

As the tour “broke ground” on the park’s newest section of trail, participants enjoyed the cool shade of the trees and were able to view North America’s largest woodpecker, the pileated woodpecker, as it flew just overhead.

This event was made possible with support from the Warren Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. The Rotary Club of the Brookfields provided refreshments and the Community Emergency Response Team handled traffic detail.

For more information about the Massachusetts Walking Tour, visit masswalkingtour.org or find them on Facebook.



Married couple Andy Rogovin and Monique Byrne made up Crowes Pasture.



Rich Leufstedt encouraged people to visit his website, KazoosForChrist.org.

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We’re on Facebook!



William and Mary Kirchmann sheltered from the rain under Brimfield Winery's canopy.



Mamie Flowers, Margaret Koske, Calli Osborne, and 10-month-old Delilah were happy to participate.



Emily Skoczylas and Elsa Bonilla staffed the Alianza table.



Thom Semanie goofed around with Robert Rivest, Carol's brother.



Cindy Skowyra and Ross Flowers enjoyed beer and food provided for the event.



Ryan Ober, Eric Zepke, Jimmy Swinard enjoyed drinks as the band played.



Pete Polis and Chuck Emery of Johnny Six-Gun practiced before their performance.



Cindy Levey and Tommy Thomson sat at a table with Paul and Barbara St. Louis.



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RIVEST | from page 1

The website describes Rivest as a funny and charming mother, daughter, sister and friend, with a "bright smile with dimples that would light up a room." She was murdered on May 11, 1982, by

her estranged boyfriend and the father of her son.

In the wake of her sister's death, Sheila Rivest started to organize donations among her family and friends every year on the

anniversary.

"We would start off with maybe \$1,000 donation or \$2,500," Rivest said. "I ended up realizing that I had enough family that would want to come out and celebrate Carol's life as well as donate."

This year's fundraiser was the 10th annual benefit in Carol Rivest's memory. It featured a raffle, along with a variety of food trucks, parked outside the winery, as well as a musical performance by Johnny Six Gun.

"We have been so blessed with a lot of supporters who have been coming out," Rivest said. "All the raffle prizes have been donated from friends, supporters, and local businesses."

Robert Rivest, Sheila and Carol's brother, pointed out that one of the prizes raffled off was a handmade guitar that was built specifically for the event.

Sheila added that Brimfield Winery was willing to let the foundation use the venue for

free.

"We used to have it at Westview, but this one has a shelter," Rivest said. "So on days like today, you don't have to cancel everything."

The funds raised by the foundation at these annual events go to organizations like Alianza in Holyoke, or The Network, based out of Enfield, CT. The foundation has also been able to use these funds to provide scholarships, and creating Carol's Community Care Connector, which hosts "local pop-up events with rotating offerings to give back to the community."

"We also sponsor programs to empower women," Rivest said, and described a partnership with Asnuntuck Community College in Enfield.

"It's the Launch Your Leadership Program," Rivest said. "It helps women to get a job, build confidence, and learn skills from other volunteers that are professionals."

"Though this devastating incident was decades ago, the family is still affected by Carol's loss and they continue to heal to this day," the website read. "Domestic violence has become more prevalent over the years, and continues to be a serious issue raising concern in society. Many women are abused and many lives are taken too soon."

To learn more about the Carol Rivest Foundation, visit their website at CarolRivestFoundation.org.

Food Trucks, Farmers & Artisans Markets



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"Clients tell me that I'm changing their lives but in actuality they have changed my life for the better."

Chris
An employee since 2021

"I am a proud member of Sunshine Village because I love being with people here, I have fun all the time and I just enjoy it."

Louis
A client since 2021

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Richard and Lisa Walch were a delightful couple attending the fundraiser.



Lisa and Erik Nenendorf found the perfect spot to watch the festivities without getting soaked. Photos by Marcelo Gusmão



Vendors set up tables beneath the tent to sell wares out of the storm.



To read about Carol's tragic story and learn more about how you can support the foundation, visit CarolRivestFoundation.org.



Event attendees were able to avoid the downpour beneath the winery's roofed structures.

MA Senate acts boost recycling and composting

BOSTON— The Massachusetts Senate passed legislation that builds on the state's climate and environmental leadership by banning single-use plastic bags, making straws and plasticware available by request only, and making it easier to recycle. The legislation passed by a vote of 38-2.

"In Massachusetts, we take pride in being a leader when it comes to protecting our environment and people's health, and this bill continues that leadership" said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "Limiting our plastics use means less trash in our water ways and on our streets, and giving our kids the green, clean planet they deserve to inherit. This is a crucial part of achieving the Commonwealth's climate goals, and I want to thank Senator Rausch for her leadership, Chair Rodrigues, our members, and every advocate who has spoken up on this issue, for their hard work."

"We're seeing more and more the impact that plastics have on our lives and world, our health and future generations," commented Senator Adam Gomez (D-Springfield). "Passing this bill is a step in the right direction towards transitioning these items out of our society, making them still available for those in need while encouraging the use of items that are reusable, safe and sustainable."

OS.2830, An Act to reduce plastic waste that is too often found in streets and waterways—and too often fills landfills and disposal sites—ultimately harming the environment in Massachusetts communities and contributing to global climate change. Plastics are also made using fossil fuels.

The legislation will prohibit carry-out plastic bags at retail stores statewide and require stores to charge 10 cents for recycled paper bags, five cents of which will be allocated to environmental protection measures. The bill provides a limited exemption from the requirement to collect 10 cents for small local retailers. As of May 2023, 162 Massachusetts cities and towns, making up nearly 70 per cent of the state's population, already regulated single-use plastic bags.

The bill will also prevent plastic utensils and straws from automatically being given to consumers, prohibit single-use plastic bottle purchases by state agencies, and create a statewide program for recycling large plastic objects such as car seats.

Further, it increases statewide bulk plastic recycling by creating a large plastic objects, such as car seats. In an effort to reduce the \$10 million annually in avoidable costs directly caused by the flushing of non-flushable wipes, the bill will require non-flushable wipes to be clearly labeled with "Do Not Flush" warnings to prevent disruptions to the commonwealth's sewer system.

The bill would boost composting, the natural recycling of organic food scraps and materials, by directing the Department of Environmental Protection to submit a report on the commonwealth's progress toward expanding access to composting. It also establishes a new commission to make recommendations on ways in which the state can encourage or require businesses to support recycling of efforts for the products that they produce.

It is the second time the Massachusetts Senate has taken action to prohibit single-use plastic bags in the commonwealth. Having passed the Senate, the legislation now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for The Journal Register, please email journalregister@turley.com.

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AUGUST 2024

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Summer Water Safety for Families

BAYSTATE— As temperatures rise, families may be looking for fun ways to cool off and stay active. Water activities like swimming, diving, canoeing, boating, and water skiing, offer relief during these hot summer months, but it's important to remember many injuries can happen during recreational water activities.

"When we think of water safety, we generally think of swimming pools," said Dr. Joe Sills, chief of Emergency Medicine at Baystate Wing Hospital. "But there are many other places where water safety should be practiced. It's important to remember that drowning can happen anywhere there is water, including swimming pools, ponds, and lakes, and even in the presence of lifeguards."

Many local communities are seeing a shift in who applies for lifeguard positions if any do at all, and it's a concern. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more children ages 1-4 die from drowning than any other cause of death and it's the second leading cause of unintentional injury death for children ages 5-14.

"Drowning is a quick and silent killer," said Sills. "The majority of children who drown in swimming pools were last seen in the home, had been out of sight for less than five minutes, and were in the care of one or both parents at the time of the drowning. In the time it takes to cross the room for a towel (10 seconds), a child in the bathtub can become submerged. In the time it takes to answer the phone (2 minutes), that child can lose consciousness. In the time it takes to sign for a package at your front door (4 to 6 minutes), a child submerged in the bathtub or pool can sustain permanent brain damage. A child that's drowning, is not going to be yelling for help. They are typically going to be struggling to keep their face above water level. You might see their face kind of going up and down above the water level, and it really can only take 30 to 60 seconds before they're completely submerged."

"The best way to prevent drowning is through the 'touch supervision' technique, which means being within an arm's length of the child at all times, able to reach them and pull them from the water immediately," said Sills.

Children are not the only ones that need to practice water safety, adolescents and adults do too. According to the CDC, drowning is the third most common cause of accidental death among those under age 16.

"Young people who drown are often victims of their own misjudgment of their swimming ability. They may view a river or a lake as a tempting means of cooling off in a hot spell but fail to appreciate the harmful effects that the cold water can have on stamina and strength," noted Sills. "Learning how to swim is important for folks of all ages. Those who don't know how to swim can very easily find

WATER SAFETY | page 2



Heather Kofke-Egger and Crystal Kofke sat with Maxwell, age seven, and Maya, who recently turned nine.



Rebecca Sawyer, Sarah Thomas, and Denise Newland were on hand to provide information about the Summer Reading Program.



Gabby Nasiatka and Christine Ferretti brought their respective families to the library for the kick-off, including Benny, age four, Gia, age three, one-year-old Rowan, Logan, age two, and Liam, who is five-and-a-half.

ICE CREAM

from page 1

our special event is next Friday, June 28."

Newland was referring to Rona Leventhal's upcoming visit to Veterans Field, where she will share Stories and Songs for Our Planet. This event was put together through a partnership with the Conservation Commission, and funded by the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant.

For teens and tweens, there is also a Bingo sheet to track reading as well as event participation.

"It comprises both things that you might be reading as well as activities that we're doing," said Sarah Thomas. "Every time you get a Bingo, you can turn it in for a prize, and you can do as many Bingos as you want, all summer."

"We also have a full schedule of events all summer all around the theme of 'Read, Renew, Repeat,'" said Thomas.

Thomas said to look out for the Summer Book Swap, which will be held on July 3, as well as board game and video game days, a tie-dye party, a nature walk, a murder mystery party, and other events that are listed on the library's calendar.

"We're also inviting kids to take the survey on libraries, so we can make sure we're improving our programs and offering what's really of interest," Thomas said. "They're also welcome to join our Discord, we have a channel for Summer Reading 2024."

For the adult division, in addition to the traditional print materials, there is a digital option that focuses on digital materials.

"We have a regular BINGO for regular resources, and then we also have a digital one that focuses on our digital resources, like eBooks and audiobooks," said Circulation Supervisor Rebecca Sawyer. "They will get en-



Sarah McNamara Pedder attended the Ice Cream Social with her daughter.

tered into a drawing for every box that they fill, so you don't have to actually get a B-I-N-G-O."

"Summer reading is an important tradition at every library, it makes reading fun for all ages," said Library Director Hope Bodwell.

"We continue our long-standing tradition of Story Time on the Go where the littles get introduced to town departments and businesses, to a variety of fun programs for tweens and teens and a Bingo challenge for adults that hopefully encourages them to try something out of their comfort zone," Bodwell said.

"If you missed the party, you can register any time you come to the library throughout the summer," Bodwell said.



Debbie and Emily Harris and Tara Hengeveld volunteered to serve ice cream at the library.

Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

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BASEBALL

Post 241 falls to Belchertown

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—The first four innings of last Monday’s Senior Division Legion baseball game between Belchertown Post 239 and Monson Post 241 was very close.

Belchertown scored four runs in the fifth inning enroute to a 6-3 victory at Legion Field in Palmer.

“I’m very proud of the way my players played against a very good Monson team,” said Belchertown manager Todd McDonald. “We had a little bit of trouble against their starting pitcher early in the game, but we were able to get the job done.”

The come-from-behind victory improved Belchertown’s early season record to a perfect 3-0.

A year ago, the Post 239 squad represented District 3 in the Senior Division Legion state tournament.

Monson (1-1) began the legion season with a walk-off victory against North Adams Post 12 a week earlier.

“We just made a couple of costly errors, which you couldn’t afford to do, especially against the district champions,” said Monson manager Steve Tripp. “We’re capable of beating any team in this



Hunter Griswold makes a play to his left.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

SOCCER



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Grace Berry advances up the field during recent action.

Mustang girls suffer rare loss

MONSON – Last Monday evening, Monson girls summer soccer was defeated by Pope Francis 3-1. The Mustangs have rarely lost during summer soccer, and have been competing in the A Division against larger schools for the past few years. Monson was also scheduled to face Wilbraham, but thunderstorms rained out the game. Monson was back in action this week, and will be off next week for the Fourth of July holiday.



Addison Peterson chases after a loose ball.



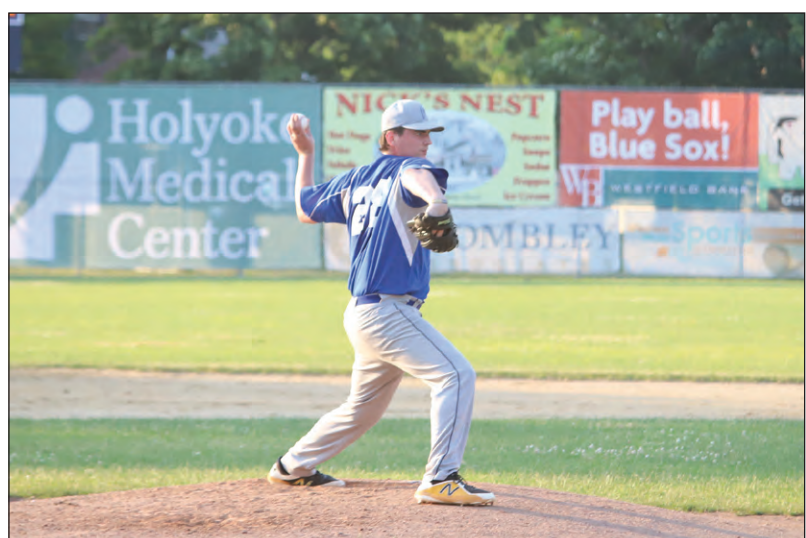
Austin Meacham slides into second base.



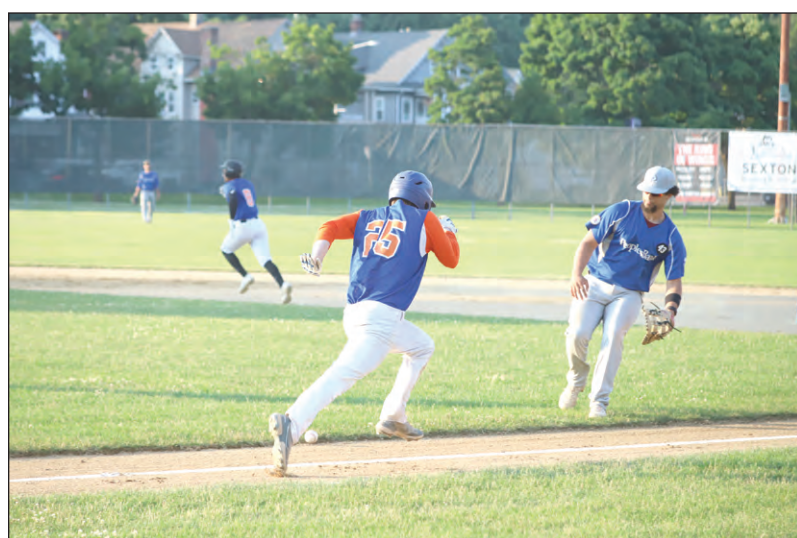
James Delaney pitches for Monson Post 241

BASEBALL

Bankers out to 3-2 start



PeoplesBank pitcher Jimmy Flahive makes a pickoff throw to first.



First baseman Carlos Pena attempts to field a slow roller.



Sam Allen connects to drive in a run.



Pete Hogan tries to get out of the way, but is drilled by a pitch.



Cam Rivest, of Agawam, leads off first.

HOLYOKE – Last week, PeoplesBank was in action in the Tri-County Baseball League. The Bankers faced Chicopee and BankESB during

the week. The Bankers narrowly defeated ESB to improved to 3-2 on the young season. The Bankers are in the middle of the pack currently

with Hilltown Tents holding an 5-2 record for first place. Chicopee and Teddy Bear Pools have second place with four wins each.



Emily Provost sends a kick away.

BASEBALL

Sturbridge Little League holds division championship

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

STURBRIDGE— In game one of the Sturbridge Little League Major Division championship series, the top-seeded Red Sox held a three run lead against the second-seeded Yankees entering the sixth inning.

The Yankees, who had lost to the Red Sox four times during the regular season, scored a total of seven runs in their final at-bats. The Red Sox battled back in the bottom half of the sixth inning, but the Yankees managed to escape with an exciting 9-8 victory at Town Barn Field, last Tuesday night.

“The Red Sox are a great baseball team and they beat us four times during the regular season,” said Yankees manager Sean Bucenec. “My players worked very hard in tonight’s game, and this is a very good win for them. This is my first year coaching this baseball team and it has been a ton of fun.”

The Yankees wound up capturing the 2024 Major Division championship title with a 3-1 victory in game two of the best of three series twenty four hours later.

The players listed on the Yankees roster are Sam Gilbert, Lukas

DEATH NOTICES

Francis H. Beaulieu
Died June 5, 2024
Services were June 15, 2024
Lombard Funeral Home

Katherine M. Karpinski
Died on June 22, 2024
Services July 3, 2024
Beers and Story Funeral Home

Robert Laviolette
Died June 24, 2024
Visitation July 1, 2024, Funeral July 2, 2024
Beers and Story Funeral Home

The Journal Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

Police/Fire

Fire Logs

MONSON

The Monson Fire Department responded to five fire calls and 22 emergency medical calls for the week of June 17-23.

June 17 at 2:10 p.m. Responded to Elm Street for a residential lock-out. Returned to service at 2:35 p.m.

June 18 at 2:11 p.m. Responded to Pine Street for a fire alarm activation. Returned to service at 2:28 p.m.

June 20 at 9:06 p.m. Responded with mutual aid to Palmer. Returned to service at 9:47 p.m.

June 22 at 8:08 p.m. Responded to Lower Hampden Road for a generator on fire in a yard. Returned to service at 9:11 p.m.

June 22 at 11:44 p.m. Responded to Wait Road for a fire alarm activation. Returned to service at 12:19 a.m. on June 23.

Three Rivers

The Three Rivers Fire Department responded to four calls for the week of June 16-22.

Wed. June 19 - N Main St, Palmer (Town of), Public service

Wed. June 19 - Front St, Three Rivers, Public service

Wed. June 19 - Pineview St, Three Rivers, Medical assist, assist EMS crew

Wed. June 19 - Bourne St, Three Rivers, Medical assist, assist EMS crew

OBITUARIES

Francis H. Beaulieu, 1929-2024



MONSON—Francis H. Beaulieu, 94, a lifelong resident of Monson, passed away Wed., June 5, 2024. Francis was born in Palmer, Oct. 21, 1929 to the late Harold L. and Melvina M. (Proulx) Beaulieu.

He attended Monson High School and Springfield Trade until he left his junior year to help raise his brother's Robert and Neil, helping them to continue their education. During that time, he found his lifelong partner Barbara.

Francis retired from Construction Services in Wilbraham in 1992 after 37 years. He was a member of the Teamster's local 404, a former member of the Knights of Columbus and a communicant of St. Patrick's Church in Monson.

Francis leaves his loving wife Barbara L. (Francis) Beaulieu and their children, Guy P. Beaulieu and his wife Sandra Crowley of Ware, Gail Beach and her husband Kenneth of Deland, FL, Diana Beaulieu of Charlton and Kimberly Wales of Monson; daughter-in-law, Ginger Beaulieu of Monson; a brother, Neil Beaulieu and his wife Leann of Enfield, CT; two grandsons, Eric J. Beaulieu of



Three Rivers and Max I Arnold of Boyton Beach, FL. Along with many nieces, nephews and friends. Francis was predeceased by a son, Michael F. Beaulieu and a brother, Robert Beaulieu.

Services have been entrusted to Lombard Funeral Home of Monson. Visitation was held Saturday, June 15 at the funeral home. There was a Funeral Liturgy at St. Patrick's Church with burial at Bethany Cemetery in Monson. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Monson Free Library 2 High St., Monson MA 01057 or to Wounded Warrior Project PO Box 758516, Topeka, KS 66675-8516.

Wilbraham United Church Offers Vacation Bible Camp

WILBRAHAM - Wilbraham United Church is offering a Vacation Bible Camp for children ages four through entering sixth grade in the fall. Camp is held July 29 through Aug. 2 from 9 a.m. to Noon. The theme this summer is "All Creatures Great and Small". Children will have activities in music, arts and crafts, service projects, games and bible stories featuring live animals!



The Ware Library is hiring for 2 positions:

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- issuing library cards
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- pulling books for holds and to send to other libraries
- assisting with computers, printers and fax machine
- processing materials for the library collection

LIBRARY CLEANER-PART TIME

Hours for this position are flexible but work will be completed when the library is closed.

Duties include but are not limited to:

- sweeping and mopping hard floors
- vacuuming rugs and carpets
- cleaning the bathroom
- dusting furniture and bookshelves

Please ask Library staff for full job descriptions, or see our website at www.warelibrary.org. Applicants for either position may submit a resume or fill out an employment application, available at the Checkout Desk. Resumes can be mailed to 37 Main St., Ware 01082, or emailed to hreed@cwmmars.org. Call Heidi Reed at 413-967-5491 with any questions. Both positions will be open until filled, but applications and resumes received by July 12th will be considered first.

Katherine M. Karpinski

THREE RIVERS—Katherine M. Karpinski, age 83, passed away June 22, 2024 with her loving family by her side.

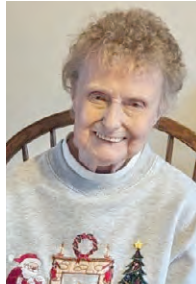
Katherine, also known as "Kitty", was born in Palmer on March 20, 1941 to the late Stella (Domoslowski) Nevue and Merrill Nevue. After high school, she began working at Tambrands Corporation from which she retired many years later.

Katherine was pre-deceased by her parents, her brothers and sisters, Raymond, Robert, Ben, Patrick, Francis, Charles, Irene,

Liz, Marion and Loretta, and a son Anthony.

She leaves her son David and Lori, a grandson Dakota, as well as several nieces and nephews. Katherine was a member of the Red Hat Society as well as a communicant of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Palmer. She loved to laugh and family was the center of her life.

Visitation will be held Wed., July 3, 2024 from 9:30-10:30



a.m. at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home. A Mass will be held at 11 a.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle. Burial will immediately follow in St. Anne's Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations in Katherine's memory can be made to the American Cancer Society by visiting donate.cancer.org. Please visit www.beersandstory.com to extend online condolences.

Highly anticipated local film opens June 27

AMHERST—Amherst Cinema is thrilled to announce the release of Janet Planet, a film by Pulitzer-Prize winning playwright and Amherst native Annie Baker.

Renowned for her evocative storytelling in theatre, Baker transitions to the silver screen with Janet Planet. Her directorial debut captures a child's experience of time passing, and the ineffability of a daughter falling out of love with her mother.

Janet Planet was shot entirely in Western Massachusetts and features significant contributions from area communities—such as Double Edge Theatre in Ashfield and with many residents participating as cast and crew. Including a few of Amherst Cinema's very own staff.

"For months, we've fielded calls from so many folks eager to share their stories and ready for their big screen debut. That day has finally come," said Amherst Cinema Executive Director Yasmin Chin Eisenhauer. "Janet Planet has arrived with critical acclaim and lots of buzz. We're excited to celebrate with neighborhood friends and filmmakers and look forward to a successful run at the Cinema."

Set in rural Western Massachusetts, Janet Planet transports viewers to the summer of 1991, where 11-year-old Lacy (Zoe Ziegler) spends her days at home, enthralled by her own imagination and the attention of her mother, Janet (Julianne Nicholson). As the months pass, three visitors enter their orbit, all captivated by Janet and her spellbinding nature. In her solitary moments, Lacy inhabits an inner world so extraordinarily detailed that it begins to seep into the outside world.

Tickets are now available online and at the Box Office. For more information, visit: www.amherstcinema.org/films-and-events/janet-planet.

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Crossword puzzle grid with numbered squares.

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Volunteer school groups
5. Cash machine
8. Title of various Muslim rulers
12. Indian hand clash cymbals
14. Scarf
15. Easily manageable
16. Cry
18. Financial term
19. Reactive structure in organic chemistry (abbr.)
20. Clean out a riverbed
21. Seaport (abbr.)
22. English seascape painter
23. Bring back again
26. Subtracted from
30. Related on the mother's side
31. Mooches
32. Commotion
33. Boer War general
34. Silklike nylon fabric

CLUES DOWN

- 39. CNN's founder
42. Sarcastic in a bitter way
44. Minute reproductive unit
46. Nourishment
47. Large predatory tropical fish
49. Small, rich sponge cake
50. Drink a small amount
51. Golfer Rodriguez
56. Norse personification of old age
57. Large flightless bird
58. Capsized
59. Convicted American spy
60. Music genre
61. Makes tractors
62. Undergo cell disintegration
63. Patti Hearst's captors
64. Selfs

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Post-traumatic stress disorder
2. Goat-like mammal
3. Swiss river
4. Slithered
5. Humiliate
6. Tumbled
7. Popular alcoholic drink
8. Small round hole in a leather cloth
9. Fertilizer
10. State of affairs that seems deliberately contrary
11. Count on
13. One who discriminates against
17. New Hampshire city
24. One who cares for teeth
25. Sent off
26. Mutual savings bank
27. Initial public offering

- 28. Denial
29. Northeastern institution of higher learning (abbr.)
35. A doctrine
36. Consumed
37. Trent Reznor's band
38. Perform in a movie
40. Schoolhouse implements
41. Mathematical term
42. Man who behaves dishonorably
43. Expression of regret
44. Martens
45. Approval
47. Pleasantly warm
48. The Eurasian hoopoe
49. NBAer Bradley
52. Engineering organization
53. Horsely
54. Type of sandwich
55. A day in the middle of the month

The Library Loft

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Turley Publications will print your Autumn event FREE OF CHARGE in our Autumn Fest Supplement which will be published September 11, 2024. Total circulation of 85,000 which reaches over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley. Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

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



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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

UPCOMING

BINGO AT AMVETS POST 74 will be suspended for the summer starting Memorial Day weekend. Bingo is scheduled to resume the Monday following Labor Day. For more info contact the Post at 413-283-4518.

SUMMER DRAMA & DANCE PROGRAM BEGINNING JUNE 18 AND ENDING AUGUST 25 Do you love dancing and acting? Have you always been interested but never tried? All levels and ages 5-18 welcome. (Drama students must be able to read). Contact: trulytorie2000@gmail.com for more info and to register.

PINE VALLEY ANNUAL TAG SALE: SATURDAY, July 13, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., at 281 Chauncey Walker St. Welcome station with maps, burgers/dogs/snacks/cold drinks. Restrooms. Huge variety of items.

PATHFINDER 40TH CLASS REUNION The event will be at Pulaski Park, on Saturday, Sept. 28, from noon to 5 p.m.

ONGOING

FARMER'S MARKETS: The Brimfield Farmers Market at Hitchcock Academy is a fun place to find cool, unique products, plants and seasonal produce every Saturday while you meet your neighbors and support Hitchcock and local businesses. The market starts on April 13, and runs from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

WALES FARMER'S MARKET - Baked goods, honey, antiques, plants, tag sale and craft items, every Saturday at 9 a.m. until noon from May 25, 2024, until Labor Day weekend at the Wales Baptist Church pavilion on Route 19. There will be fresh vegetables when in season. Vendor spots are available.

INTERESTS

PIONEER VALLEY QUILTERS Guild meets at the Elks Lodge #61 at 440 Tiffany St., Springfield. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. and all are welcome. The mission of the guild is two-fold: to share the joy of quilting with others and to work for the betterment

of the community. Monies raised (as in the biannual quilt show) support various workshops and speakers for the meetings, as well as allow the guild to buy materials that are then used to create donated items. The guild has donated quilts, baby bibs, cardiac pillows, and Christmas stockings for veterans to a variety of community agencies, including but not limited to the Springfield Rescue Mission and the Gray House.

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

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

QUABOAG VALLEY QUILTERS

GUILD: Members meet at 1 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month in the Amvets post at 2150 Main St., Three Rivers. The Guild is a no-pressure group with varying degrees of accomplishments, from novice to Big E "Best In Show" winners. Dues are \$55 a year. For more information, contact Barbara Beaulieu at 267-4044 or Merry Mombourquette at 283-7577. Follow them on Facebook for more.

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

BINGO AT AMVETS POST 74 will be suspended for the summer starting Memorial Day weekend. Bingo is scheduled to resume the Monday following Labor Day. For more info contact the Post at 413-283-4518.

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

\$10 per class. Please wear comfortable footwear, no sandals.

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

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

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



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WATER SAFETY

from page 8

themselves in water over their heads with little time to call for help and they can submerge and drown very quickly.

"Alcohol reduces body temperature and impairs swimming ability, balance, coordination, and judgment and its effects are heightened by sun exposure and heat," said Dr. Sills offering these additional water safety tips:

- Water safety tips:**
- Never swim alone.
 - Take swimming lessons.
 - Make sure you are ready to respond in case of an emergency: have an emergency phone near the body of water and learn how to perform CPR.
 - Have a pool fence and keep toys away from the pool. Toys can attract young children into the pool.
 - Know the depth of the water and the water temperature before swimming. Cold water can tax the body and make it difficult to swim well.
 - Do not swim if you have been drinking or if you have taken medication that alters your medical status.
 - Toddlers should wear proper swim diapers designed to contain urine and feces.
 - Empty all buckets, containers, and wading pools immediately after use. Store them upside-down and out of children's reach.
 - Know the local weather conditions and forecast before swimming or boating.
 - What to do if you see someone drowning?
 - Call 9-1-1 immediately.

If the victim is within throwing distance, throw a floatable object to them. This includes a life jacket, kickboard, or even an empty gallon jug.

If the victim is within reaching distance, assist them by extending something long, such as a rope, pole, ring buoy, or a tree branch.

If you must enter the water to assist someone, take a flotation device large enough to carry two adults safely. Keep the device between you and the person in distress; even a child can put an adult at risk in deep water.

"Taking the right precautions, summer can be a safe and enjoyable time for the whole family," noted Sills.

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



Conductor/Music Director Alexandria Black provides an introduction for one of the songs performed by the Old Post Road Orchestra at their concert on June 14.



The Old Post Road Orchestra performs a number as Conductor/Music Director Alexandria Black leads the group during their June 14 concert at Memorial Hall in Monson.



From the left, Justin Kellner on guitar and Ryan Schneider on percussion perform their parts during the June 14 Old Post Road Orchestra concert at Memorial Hall in Monson.



From the left, Sara Melikian on bassoon, Ashlee Fillion on bassoon and Maria Thomson on trombone perform. Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

OPRO '70s and '80s Pop and Rock Classics' unforgettable triumph

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

MONSON - Old Post Road Orchestra brought the house down with one of their final two shows of the 2023-2024 season on June 14.

The Old Post Road Orchestra, founded by Malita Brown in 1986 and located in Wilbraham, is a multi-generation community group performing engaging, symphonic music to delight, educate and entertain all ages and, I would add, with a twist as the songs they perform are ones you love but with an orchestra flair that makes you appreciate each chord and note strummed or played.

Today, OPRO remains an active, volunteer community orchestra with a mission of enriching the cultural vitality of Western Massachusetts.

The show took place at Memorial Hall and featured a mix of orchestra and soloists performing pop and rock music from the 1970s and 1980s, with show-stopping numbers from start to finish.

It was sponsored by the Monson Cultural Council, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

It is also Conductor/Music Director Alexandria Black's second season with the orchestra, who introduced each song and featured soloist and led the orchestra with a mix of passion, enthusiasm and grace.

The orchestra's final show took place on June 16 at Loomis Lakeside at Reed's Landing in Springfield.

For this concert, which the Times had the opportunity to attend, the show kicked off with a bang thanks to a show-stopping number of the classic "I Will Survive" from Gloria Gaynor, mixing sass, motivation, fun and an addicting beat that made you want to get up and dance. Black and the orchestra tapping into the core of the song's message of perseverance and getting back on your feet had the audience hooked for the start and ready for a night of memories, surprises and all-around fun.

Next, "99 Red Balloons" by Nena with Deb Alm, who plays the clarinet and serves as section leader for the clarinet players, as soloist for the number. With a tenderness filled with fire and excitement, Alm's clarinet solo guided the audience through a beautiful rendition, culminating with a single red balloon suddenly rising in the air as the final notes played.

The red balloon's appearance brought a sense of awe and smiles to the packed audience.

After this, it was time to rock out with Joan Jett's "I Love Rock n' Roll" and Sara Melikian on bassoon serving as soloist, bringing on a foot-tapping rendition that encouraged the audience to interact, clapping their hands along to the beats and nodding along to the earworm sounds. It was here I felt a growing crescendo and the orchestra's passion, digging deep to connect and be in tune--literally--with the song while having a head-banging good time.

"Heart of Glass" by Blondie with Denise Pashko on the flute as soloist soon followed, a number like night and day with a colorful performance that was delicate and crowd-pleasing while turning the song on its head, with moments leaving the audience in disbelief and hooked on every note to see what would be heard next.

Pashko also deserves particular praise for capturing the song's soul through the flute, with the orchestra working alongside her to bring it all home with a seamless touch.

After the intermission, "Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!" from ABBA transported the audience back to the 70s with suspense and flairs of drama mixed with fun and playfulness. It was this rendition that made me see the song in a different light and wanting more, feeling it ended way too soon and needed an encore.

"Barracuda" by Nancy Wilson of Heart had Karen Lafayette on trumpet as soloist, bringing a dramatic, suspenseful, entertaining and intense rendition of the 1977 classic, with the higher notes making my eyebrows raise in awe, being left with a memorable impression from start to finish.

"Space Oddity" by David Bowie was a unique and enchanting experience thanks, in part, to the vocals of Lorie Banks and Erik Valdes, with Valdes strumming the guitar throughout the performance. Haunting, enthralling and, at times, moving, you came to appreciate and love the Space Oddity in its entirety, encouraging him to reach for the stars and aim high.

"Rasputin" by Boney M with Tom Greene on the tuba as soloist stole the show too, with Greene at one point gesturing with his hands to get the audience amped up during

the final notes, which brought an opportunity for audience interaction and connection. This piece was also filled with drama and suspense, bringing an enthralling hush through the audience as the orchestra got lost in the notes.

The final number, "Bohemian Rhapsody" from Queen with Karen Pery as soloist with the viola was a perfect

bookend to a rousing, powerful and energetic night of art. With Pery at the helm, the orchestra hit each note with a careful, precise touch, creating a crescendo of joy and sadness that never lost its step during the six-minute runtime of the song. A grand finale worthy of the standing ovation and raucous applause it received.

If you haven't caught a show from Old Post Road Orchestra, you might need to when their 2024-2025 concert season rolls around. Their first show for the upcoming season is on October 18, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. at Bethlehem Church in Hampden.

Cheers to the orchestra for a job well done!



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Deb Alm performs the clarinet as Conductor/Music Director Alexandria Black leads the Old Post Road Orchestra in a performance of "99 Red Balloons" by Nena. The red balloon rising at the end of the performance was a crowd-pleaser.

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Hills of East Quabbin Ride to benefit East Quabbin Land Trust



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
 The Pumpkin Heads were one of the road biking clubs that participated in the East Quabbin Land Trust's inaugural Hills of East Quabbin Ride held this past Saturday. Shown from left are Randy Thomas of Belchertown, Jen Ayre of Belchertown, Marcy Thomas of Belchertown, Karen Davis of Palmer, Lloyd Ortman of Belchertown, Jim Davis of Palmer, Melinda Rigney of Belchertown, Brad Hoffman of East Longmeadow, Moe Esposito of Lakewood Ranch, Florida and David Casey of South Hadley.



A biker takes off on the 50-mile course.



Bikers wave as they make their way to the start.



Patrick Brandon of Killingworth, Connecticut sets out on the 50-mile course.



Seventy-one bikers participated in the Hills of East Quabbin Ride.



Bikers leave Farmer Matt's on Saturday morning for the Hills of East Quabbin Ride.

By Paula Ouimette
 pouimette@turley.com

NEW BRAINTREE – This past Saturday morning, 71 cyclists took to the road to conquer the rolling hills of the region, with the goal of raising money to benefit the East Quabbin Land Trust.

EQLT Executive Director Cynthia Henshaw said the Hills of the East Quabbin Ride was the idea of Ware resident and avid cyclist John Hogan, who helped lay out two courses, a 25-mile and a 50-mile, through the towns of New Braintree, North Brookfield, West Brookfield, Hardwick, Barre and Oakham. The ride started and ended at Farmer Matt's.

Hogan said he has attended a few events sponsored by EQLT, but this was his first time being an active participant in organizing one.

"It really just came about because as far as cycling, there's several nice cycling events in the area. Two of the ones I really enjoy have been fundraisers for land trusts," Hogan said.

Hogan has been cycling as his primary form of exercise for about 10 years, joining his friends and fellow cyclists The Pumpkin Heads for rides

around the region every Sunday. Many of The Pumpkin Heads signed up for the ride, ready to take on the 25-mile course.

The Pumpkin Heads hailed from Belchertown, Palmer, South Hadley, East Longmeadow and even Florida.

One of The Pumpkin Heads, so named because of his bright orange helmet, is Belchertown resident (and former North Brookfield Public Schools teacher) Lloyd Ortman. Hogan said Ortman was very instrumental in building this event and mapping out the courses using an app.

"Lloyd was essentially the brains of the project. I know these roads well, but Lloyd knows how to do apps...It worked fantastically," Hogan said.

Ortman was one of two tandem bike teams that participated in the Hills of East Quabbin Ride, partnered with his wife, Melinda Rigney.

"John and I designed the course, with Melinda's help," Ortman said.

The biggest challenge on both courses, Hogan said, is the degree of climbing, which he said is reflective of this area.

"Both really had respectable elevation for those distances...this area is just loaded with gorgeous back roads most

of which are in really good shape and do not have a lot of traffic."

These two things combined make the roads of the East Quabbin region especially appealing to cyclists.

"You just get a chance to put your head up and breathe the air and look around," Hogan said.

Ortman and Rigney are now on their third tandem bike, and they have traveled roads near and far for adventures, including Sicily, France, Netherlands, Majorca and more.

"It's the most fun you'll ever have on a bicycle," Rigney said of the tandem.

Rigney said at first, she was opposed to riding on the tandem but now it has been a bonding experience for her and her husband.

Another cycling club, the Seven Hills Wheelmen, also had a strong showing, including member and past president, Bill Dobson of Spencer. Dobson has been a member of the club for 25 years.

Dobson, a regular customer at Farmer Matt's, said he rides for six hours a week and also enjoys mountain biking.

Dobson said he "blames the bikes" for helping him overcome the side effects of his cancer treatment following his diagnosis two years ago. He is now cancer-free and enjoying the challenge the hills of East Quabbin and Worcester give him every time his tires meet pave-

ment. "It's been great," Dobson said of the ride. "This is the time of year you want to do this."

Matt Koziol of Farmer Matt co-hosted the ride on his farm located at 860 West Brookfield Road, offering barbecue food options while Lost Towns Brewing brought cool, refreshing brews. Live music was provided by Serena Mae of Mama Kilsmith and Andrew Paulin.

"I'm an avid supporter of the East Quabbin Land Trust," Koziol said, adding that one of its kestrel nesting boxes is located on his farm.

Koziol said he saw a lot of his regular customers as well as new faces at the ride.

Hogan said the feedback he received following the event from cyclists was overwhelmingly positive.

"The feedback was good, and people were happy. We were lucky, too, the weather was decent. Considering how the weather was a couple of days before," he said.

Hogan and others are already looking forward to next year's event after the success of Saturday's ride.

"It was really just the idea to do something that I think would be nice locally for an annual event," Hogan said. "It's a win-win. Helping the land trust is something I feel strongly about...it's just what I had hoped it would be."

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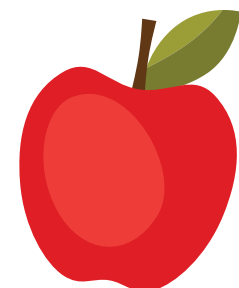
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Questions?

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