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Panthers tie with Agawam

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SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

The Journal Register

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PALMER

Town Council votes on finalized budget, raises Senior Property Tax

By Marcelo Gusmão
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PALMER – The Town Council met last Monday to vote on a series of finalized budget items.

Council Member Mark Caci read the resolution concerning the budget to the assembled members.

“The Town Council conducted a public hearing on the fiscal year

2025 budget on June 10, 2024, after due notice was given,” Caci stated. “The Town Council considered the 2025 budget on an organizational basis and by vote, so determined the size of appropriations for each department on June 24.”

The Council held a vote to increase the Senior Property Tax from \$500 to \$1,000. Though the vote was initially only for a \$100 increase, Council Member Phillip He-

bert asked why the town wouldn’t raise it to the maximum allowable limit.

“Every year we raise our taxes to the limit,” Hebert said. “The state allows us to go to \$1,000, so that would be my motion, to show the love to the elderly and raise it to the limit, just as we do taxes and help them out.”

Town Manager Brad Brothers invited the town’s Principal Asses-

sor, Rachael Carney, to provide details on the program.

“The 41c program is for those aged 70 and older who qualify through income and through asset limitations, they have to apply annually to the program,” Carney said. “We currently have 13 people enrolled in the program.”

Carney explained that a single applicant can have a maximum income of \$20,000, and maximum

assets amounting to \$31,000, not including their home and vehicle. For married couples, the maximum income is \$25,000 and assets can amount to no more than \$34,000.

Carney also specified that the applicants must live in the home by a certain date, and it has to be their primary residence and not a vacation home.

“It’s the one program that I think is the most beneficial to the

most in need in the community,” Carney said. “We have many other programs, but this is the one that I really feel like has impacted those that need it the most.”

Brothers explained that it was recommended to increase by \$100 because the town doesn’t know how many people who weren’t aware of the program will now be applying

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Eddie (center) rode a sit-ski while volunteers from the Water Ski Collective rode alongside him.

By Marcelo Gusmão
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HOLLAND – Last week, the Webster Water Ski Collective, the Aqua Riders of Holland Water Ski Show Team and Team Hoyt New England partnered to hold the summer’s first Adaptive Ski Day.

On Wednesday, June 26, participants arrived at the Aqua Riders’ home ski site on the Hamilton Reservoir on Mashapaug Road for eight hours of water-skiing. The participants, many of whom displayed a

range of physical disabilities, were able to water ski through the use of adaptive equipment and volunteers who rode alongside them.

This event was dedicated to Lisa Fracalosi, who was a long-dedicated member of Team Hoyt New England and became involved with Adaptive Water Skiing last year. “Lisa will be skiing with all of us in spirit this summer,” the Facebook page said.

Water-skiing can be difficult for people with mobility and phys-

ADAPTIVE SKI | page 5



Eddie gives a thumbs up as he’s helped into the sit-ski in the water by water-ski volunteers.

Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

PALMER

Doug Danger mesmerizes sold-out crowd

By Scott Senecal
Correspondent

PALMER - Palmer Public Library hosted an event celebrating the history of Palmer and its residents this past Saturday where daredevil and former Palmer resident, Doug Danger, took the stage giving a speech about his life growing up in

Palmer Voices.” “The idea came when we were talking to members of the community and they said they had items, photos, and newspaper clippings they were going to throw away,” said O’Connor, “we told them ‘no, no, no, bring them to us, we’ll scan them and record their history for the town.’” So far the project has 15 episodes on You-



Doug Danger signs autographs for local fans.

Turley Publications staff photo by Scott Senecal

the town and becoming a world-record-holding stuntman. The Event was organized by the library’s collection development librarian, Helene O’Connor, and the adult services librarian, Amy Golenksi.

The event was to show the new web series produced by the two librarians called “Palmer Villages,

Tube bringing the history of Palmer to life.

Each episode focuses on a specific person or event from Palmer or a single aspect of life in Palmer. One such episode tells the story of Ignacy Pobieglo, who served his country in WWII and died on the

DOUG DANGER | page 12

BUSINESS

WB&CA and Beyond welcomes new members at Palmer Motorsports Park

June meeting toured Motorsports Park facility

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

PALMER – The Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond held its monthly meeting last week at Palmer Motorsports Park, welcoming several new businesses to the organization.

New members include the Town of Warren represented by Town Administrator James Ferrera, Dhillon Family & Cosmetic Dentistry in Ware, Canna Retreat in Palmer, Sunny Side Storage in Ware and Palmer Motorsports Park.

For the June 26 meeting, WB&CA and Beyond members toured Palmer Motorsports Park, enjoying



Submitted Photo

Palmer Motorsports Park Club Director Al Sandy talks about the track during the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond’s June membership meeting.

a view from the top of the steepest vertical grade track in North America. On a clear day, you can see four

states from its peak. Palmer Motorsports Park’s

WB&CA | page 5

TOWN HALL

Morrell becomes next chair of Monson Select Board

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
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MONSON – The Select Board reorganized last week following the town election, and the former Chair noted a few issues that have been developing in town.

At its meeting on June 25, the board was reorganized by unanimous vote, with John Morrell being named Chair, Peter Warren becoming Vice Chair, and Pat Oney taking over as Clerk.

“Thank you, Pat, for the work you’ve done in the last two years as Chair,” said Morrell, “And congratulations on your re-election.”

As then-current Chair, Oney opened the meeting by thanking the town for re-electing her to the board.

“I appreciate all the support,” Oney said, adding, “please feel free to contact any of the three

of us, either by email through the town’s website, or leaving a message at the Select Board Office.”

Oney then provided a numbered list of comments on issues that have been discussed at previous meetings.

“We have had new counsel for the past two months, and that’s been a really great opportunity to review some of our past practices with a new perspective,” Oney said, before launching into the list.

Human Resources Director

Oney recommended that the board revisit the combination of the Town Administrator and Human Resources Director duties.

“I mentioned two meetings ago that this position was not working as well as we had hoped,” Oney said. “We understood the potential conflicts in having the Town Administrator act as Director, even on a temporary basis, but the board

was not monitoring this situation closely enough and it’s become clear that while some of the more financially related aspects of a Human Resources Department can be successfully subsumed into the Finance Department, we still need a dedicated HR person.”

Oney suggested that the board schedule a discussion on how to move forward on this issue.

Conservation Grants

Oney announced that Conservation Agent Toni Uliana had obtained the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant for the town.

“Our Conservation Agent has obtained and is working on using this grant money for climate issue preparedness and also for specific projects in town, including those related to issues on Bunyan Road and the Chicopee Brook,” Oney

SELECT BOARD | page 12



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POSIEPURRS JACARANDA

This is Posiepurrs Jacaranda, a.k.a. Jack. Jack is a 13-year-old shaded golden Persian, and twice a regional winner, though he's now retired from showing. 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.

Chamber of Commerce's Summer Festivals start in July

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

THREE RIVERS – The Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce that it will be hosting a series of artisan markets over the summer.

"It's something fun and free for the community," said Carol Seaver, Vice Chair of the Chamber. "We hire a band for the afternoon and we get the food trucks and permits and all the vendors. Then we set up the park on the day of the event and make sure everything's taken down that night."

The first of these summer markets will be held on Friday, July 12 at 3 p.m. at Hryniewicz Park, rain or shine. Seaver said that vendors and eight food trucks are expected to attend, there will be a pottery demonstration, and that there will be live entertainment for all ages, including a performance by The Geezers.

"They're a very popular local band," Seaver said. "The other entertainment we have is Maggie the

Clown, she's coming for the kids." Seaver shared that of the food trucks, one of them will be the local traveling pizza vendor, Tony's Happy Valley Pizza, a member of the Chamber. To prepare for the weather, there will be tents set up, as well as a water station in case it gets too hot.

The second event will be held on August 9, and will feature a different set of live entertainment and some different vendors.

"This is our fourth year," Seaver said. "We started this during COVID to try to get the community together in an outside area where they felt comfortable and it was safe enough for nobody to get sick. Obviously, it was very much different then. We encourage people to have hand sanitizer, but then it was a priority."

The event turned out to be very successful, according to Seaver.

Seaver shared that many of the vendors have attended the event "since the beginning," having built a connection with the Chamber for a while, and that she's looking forward

to seeing those that are returning. Of the 50 vendors participating in the event, 10 of them are current members of the Chamber.

"Some vendors only sign up for one, some sign up for both," Seaver said.

The Chamber has been approached to hold more events like this, which Seaver described as a "daunting task."

"It's grown every single year, we normally get a very good turnout. It's a free event for the community, where they can come in and browse the eclectic mix of vendors," Seaver said. "It's not just about businesses, but all about connecting with the community, because if you don't have a healthy community, you have nothing."

In addition to the Summer Artisan Festivals, the Chamber is also holding an event at Pathfinder with 90 vendors, and will hold its largest festival in the fall.

If you'd like to attend the first of the Chamber's Summer Festivals, stop by Hryniewicz Park on Friday, July 12, at 3 p.m.

CAMPUS NOTES

Elms College Spring 2024 Commencement

College of Our Lady of the Elms congratulates more than 400 students who received their degrees during its 93rd Commencement held on May 18, 2024 at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Hailey Magierowski of Brimfield, Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice

Camryn Orszulak of Bondsville, Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing

Darius Taylor of Monson, Graduate Certificate in Adult Gerontology Acute Care

Levesque Graduates from the University of Mississippi

Madelyn Levesque, of Monson, MA, is among the more than 3,100 students who earned their degrees from the University of Mississippi in May 2024.

Levesque, who majored in Business Administration, received a Master of Business Administration from the Graduate School.

Nichols College President's List Spring 2024

Nichols College is proud to recognize the academic accomplishments of students on the Spring 2024 President's List.

President's List recognizes those students who achieve high grades during a single semester. Students whose semester average is 3.85 or higher for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and no grades below B- will receive President's List honors.

The following local students have achieved President's List honors:

Michael Pelozo of Brimfield
Karissa Wood of Three Rivers

Nichols College Dean's List for spring 2024

Lydia Julian of Holland, MA, has achieved Dean's List honors for the spring 2024 semester at Nichols College.

Dean's List recognizes those students who achieve high grades during a single semester. In order to be included on the Dean's List, a student must have a minimum average of 3.5 for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and must have received no grades below B- during the semester.

State Rep. Ashe's office hours

MONSON— A staff member from State Rep. Brian Ashe's office will be available to meet with residents at the following locations:

Monson Library on July 17, Aug. 21, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11, from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Monson Senior Center every third Wednesday of the month from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

If any citizens are not able to attend and have an issue or concern, please contact Chief of Staff, Robin Frechette, at 413-272-3922 for assistance.

Baystate Wing Hospital Embraces Spiritual Healing

Reopening Our Interfaith Chapel and Spiritual Space

PALMER —In the hospital setting where the primary focus is often on physical healing, the significance of spiritual and emotional well-being is considered just as important. At Baystate Wing Hospital, the care team understands that healing is a holistic process that encompasses the mind, body, and spirit.

"It is with great excitement we announce the reopening of our interfaith chapel and spiritual space. A sanctuary dedicated to nurturing the spiritual and emotional health of our patients, their families, and our staff," said Michele LaPrade, volunteer coordinator for Baystate Wing Hospital. "For years our Chapel has offered a quiet space for our caregivers, patients, and visitors but it was showing its age and needed to be refreshed."

Located on the first floor of the hospital, the newly refreshed space



Submitted photo

Michele LaPrade, volunteer coordinator at Baystate Wing Hospital, and Reverend Ute Schmidt, manager of Spiritual Services at Baystate Medical Center.

is open to all faiths, cultures, and spiritual beings. It features a beautiful stained glass-looking Tree of Life, which symbolizes love, gratitude, and protection. The furnishings for the chapel were made possible through the generous support of The Baystate Health Foundation.

The Baystate Wing chapel and

spiritual space embodies the hospital's commitment to providing comprehensive care that respects and honors the diverse spiritual needs of our community. Designed to be inclusive and welcoming, the chapel offers a tranquil environment where individuals can find solace, meditate, pray, or simply reflect.

"We understand the importance of meeting the spiritual and emotional needs of our patients and their families. It is a key part of caring for the whole person," said Karli Barrett, chief nursing officer/chief administrative officer for Baystate Wing Hospital.

Volunteers are currently being sought to fill positions in various departments, including greeters and patient-care areas. If you are interested in being an Interfaith Spiritual Care volunteer or other type of volunteer, please contact Michele LaPrade at 413-370-5295 or michele.laprade@baystatehealth.org. An online application is available at www.baystatehealth.org/aboutus/volunteer.com.

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Brenda Mayhew found guilty in 2021 homicide in Palmer

SPRINGFIELD – On June 26, a Hampden County Superior Court Jury found Brenda Mayhew guilty of first degree murder for her role in the February 2021 death of Marcia Wilson, 68, in Palmer.

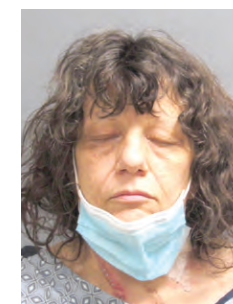
The penalty for first degree murder is life without parole.

Hampden District Attorney Anthony Gulluni stated in a press release, "I am hopeful that this verdict provides a measure of justice for Ms. Wilson's family as they continue to grieve the loss of their loved one. I appreciate the diligent work of the detectives from the Palmer Police Department and the Massachusetts State Police in my office throughout this complicated investigation. My gratitude also extends to my prosecution team: lead trial counsel Assistant District Attorney Dana Parsons, appellate

counsel Assistant District Attorney David Sheppard-Brick, and Chief Victim Witness Advocate Jane Chevalier, for their dedicated efforts on this matter."

On Monday, Feb. 8, 2021, uniformed members of the Palmer Police Department responded to 15 Fox St. at 8:08 a.m., after receiving a 911 call reporting an incident that has left two people injured and one deceased. Responding officers had to force entry into the residence after attempting to gain entrance into the home via the front door but were obstructed from doing so.

After gaining entry, officers discovered Wilson deceased, and were not able to render aid due to signs of death from multiple stab wounds. They then checked the residence for additional victims or suspects.



Brenda Mayhew

During their search in and around the residence they discovered two other individuals, Wilson's husband and the defendant, Brenda Mayhew. Both were transported from the scene with various injuries.

On Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021, detectives from the Massachusetts State Police Detective assigned to the Hampden District Attorney's Office and Palmer Police Department arrested Mayhew, 58, of Palmer on a charge of murder for her responsibility in the death of Wilson.

Mayhew's sentencing is expected to occur in early July.

Assistant District Attorney Dana Parsons represented the Commonwealth in this case.



Dr. Christopher J. Root
DMD MAGD



Dr. Mary Chalino
DMD

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The Journal Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

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.

COUNCIL | from page 1

for it. "If this all of a sudden doubles or triples and we're at \$1,000 rather than just going to \$600 this year," Brothers said, "we don't have the funding."

Hebert suggested that the town appropriate funds from another source, such as Free Cash, in that event.

"Everything has doubled, tripled, in their lives," Hebert said. "The requirement is to make only \$20,000, to me, I'm not worried about the safety of it, quite frankly. I say buckle up and do what you can do for them."

This prompted Councillor Matthew Lemieux to ask about the Overlay Fund, which Council Chair Barbara Barry said "is not built up," and so the amount is comparable to the \$100 increase, plus abatements and exemptions issued over the course of the year.

"In FY25, we're recommending \$150,000 (for Overlay)," Brothers said, "which actually was approved through the budget process tonight."

Council Vice President Jessica Sizer noted that these seniors are also eligible for the tax work-off program. Brothers agreed with Hebert that the elders in town deserve as much as the town can afford, and recommended looking into adding onto the increase in future years.

"Just to give us a safety blanket, we felt \$600 was adequate," Brothers said.

At the end of the discussion, the Council voted unanimously to raise the limit to \$1,000.

The Council voted to raise and appropriate \$42,281,522 to pay town charges for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023. This included, through the collection of sewer fees, \$4,449,490 for the Wastewater Treatment Plant budget.

This vote included raising \$15,000 for the Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund, \$150,000 for the Capital Stabilization Fund, \$115,500 for track stabilization, \$52,500 for the Tree Removal and Trimming Capital Projects Fund, and \$33,000 for the Re-evaluation Special Revenue Fund.

The Council then voted on the spending limits for the Revolving Fund for fiscal year 2025. The individual line items were as follows: electrical inspections: \$120,000; EV charging station: \$15,000; gas inspections: \$30,000; Legion Field: \$5,000; plumbing inspections: \$30,000; Recreation Fund: \$30,000; Sealer of Weights and Measures: 15000; and Senior Center: \$30,000

The Council voted to accept these limits to the Revolving Fund.

The next vote was to transfer \$2166,187 from Free Cash to the Capital Stabilization Fund, which passed unanimously.

Two items were tabled, due to not having enough members present to attain the 9/10 vote needed to pass.

Food policy council learns about SNAP benefits

By Paula Ouimette
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WARE – The Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council welcomed Mary Loughlin, SNAP Outreach Coordinator for the Department of Transitional Assistance, to its June meeting to discuss the program and its benefits.

At the June 27 meeting, Loughlin said SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) is a federal program that provides food-purchasing assistance to people with low income. One in seven people receive benefits.

"When it comes to food security, the programs DTA offers are SNAP, which includes HIP and SNAP Nutrition Education," she said.

HIP and RMP

The Healthy Incentive Program was originally started with a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant to help bring money back into the local economy, supporting local farmers, while also giving SNAP recipients access to the freshest produce at farmers' markets.

All SNAP recipients automatically qualify for and receive HIP.

"They can get an additional \$40, 60, 80 a month in HIP," Loughlin said when an electronic benefit transfer card is used at a participating farmers' market. "The money goes right back on the card as long as they spend it on fruits and veggies."

HIP eligible foods include fresh, frozen, canned or dried fruits and vegetables with no added salt, sugar, fat or oil. Seeds and seedlings also qualify for HIP reimbursement.

Money that is spent on qualifying produce using an EBT card is instantly reloaded on the card up to the maximum amount allowed per month.

Loughlin said HIP became so popular that the commonwealth decided to fund it when the USDA grant ran out.

Participating farmers and markets can be found on dtafinder.com.

Local vendors that accept HIP include Flourish Farm, 59 Tower Hill Road, Brimfield; Growing Places, 40 West St., Barre; Hunt Road Berry Farm, 96 Hunt Road, West Brookfield; Many Hands Organic Farm, 411 Sheldon Road, Barre;

Mycoterra Farm/Mass Food, Belchertown; Still Life Farm, 1643 Petersham Road, Hardwick; Stillman's Farm, 1205 Barre Road, New Braintree; Wildberry Acres Farm, 135 Town Farm Road, Brookfield; West Brookfield Farmers' Market, West Brookfield; Hardwick Farmers Market, Hardwick; Brimfield/Hitchcock Academy Farmers' Market, Brimfield; and the Belchertown Farmers and Artisans Market, Belchertown.

DTA also offers a Restaurant Meals Program, which allows people ages 60+, homeless and disabled to use their EBT cards at select restaurants to purchase meals.

There are 15 restaurants approved by DTA for this program, with the closest in proximity to the Quaboag Valley being in Worcester.

The RMP allows people to purchase a meal in a participating restaurant and it is not subject to meal tax. The program does not cover tips for servers.

Currently, the commonwealth is one of nine states offering this program.

"Much like the HIP program has grown, I hope the RMP will grow," Loughlin said.

Eligibility and applying

Loughlin said there are many ways people can apply to receive SNAP benefits, including online at dtacconnect.com, by fax or by mail. People can also call DTA or visit an office.

"Outreach partners can also help with applications," Loughlin said, and can be found locally at the Ware Senior Center.

Paper applications are available in 13 languages.

Loughlin said there is also an app called DTA Connect, which helps people manage their SNAP benefits and check their balance. In order to use this app, people need to have an email address.

She said the outreach workers can help those who do not have an email address to create one.

Eligibility is based on who is in the household, earned income and unearned income, disability, child support, certain expenses like rent and mortgage, utilities and medical expenses. Countable unearned income includes Social Security and child support.

Loughlin said it takes about 30 days to complete the SNAP application process, which requires a mandatory interview. If this interview is not completed in that time frame, the applicant will be denied, but is able to reapply.

Loughlin said many SNAP users cycle on and off the program.

After the interview is completed, applicants will typically have another 30 days to provide proof of eligibility and mandatory verifications including identification, proof of Massachusetts residency, unearned income, two- to four- consecutive pay stubs for earned income and Social Security number.

"The more deductions you have... can result in a higher award," she said.

Optional verifications include shelter costs, costs of utilities, dependent care costs and medical costs that total more than \$35 a month for elderly and disabled people.

Help for senior citizens

Loughlin said the standard medical deduction range is \$35-190 per month, and that seniors and disabled people can self-declare up to four items to get into that range.

This includes co-pays and any out-of-pocket pharmacy costs for prescriptions. She said people can ask their pharmacy for a one-year "look back" to view these expenses.

"The client should tell us about all of their expenses," Loughlin said. "The amount awarded is based on your income and your deductions."

Loughlin said many seniors have low shelter costs, due to their homes being paid off, which can lower their SNAP benefits.

"Seniors may not have a lot of income coming in, but they have low expenses," she said.

In addition to working with outreach partners, seniors can receive application assistance through the Senior Assistance Office.

"A lot of seniors don't want to apply because they're afraid to take benefits from others," Loughlin said. "There's enough money in the program to take care of everybody."

Monthly benefits

Loughlin said SNAP benefits will be awarded on the same day each month, and any unused balance will roll over month to month. HIP benefits do not roll over, and will re-set each month.

Once a person applies for SNAP benefits, they will automatically be mailed an EBT card, prior to the application being processed. Once the process and mandatory interview and verifications are completed, the applicant will receive a pin number.

Those who have had SNAP benefits in the past and still have their EBT card, can note this on their application and use their existing card once the application process is complete.

EBT cards can also be used for online for food purchases from certain vendors.

Benefit protection

Loughlin said the DTA recommends re-pinning your EBT card prior to each monthly benefit being received, to help prevent theft of benefits. If theft is detected, notify the DTA immediately using the online form found at dtacconnect.com.

How to apply

For more information about the DTA and SNAP eligibility and benefits, visit dtacconnect.com or call 877-382-2363.

About QVFP

The Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council is funded through a grant received by the Town of Ware in partnership with Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation, covering the towns of Ware, Belchertown, Palmer, Monson, Wales, Holland, Brimfield, Warren, Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield and East Brookfield.

The Council is open to all, and everyone is welcome to join in the discussion.

The Monson Lions Club Congratulates Travis Rock

The Monson Lions Club is proud to announce and honor Travis Rock, a senior at Monson High School. Travis is our 2024 \$1000 recipient of our Harold Barkley Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to a well deserving senior that we see as a hard-working student, that's dedicated to his future goals, and who is kind, caring and compassionate. Travis will study at Springfield Technical Community College to be a Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Contractor. We love to award students who have a passion to be in a skilled trade profession. Congratulations Travis, be proud of your achievements, we are! You are a wonderful young man who will make a difference!

The Monson Lions Scholarship Committee

Paws 4 Blue K9 fundraiser

MONSON— The second annual Paws 4 Blue, police K9 fundraiser and craft fair will be held on Saturday, July 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Westview creamery, 109 Hill Road. There will be raffles, demos, vendors, food and drinks. Attendees will be able to meet local K9 heroes from Amherst police to Ware police. Admission will be free. The rain date will be July 27. For more information and a full list of K9 heroes that will be there please visit www.paws4blue.com.

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WB&CA | from page 1

Club Director Al Sandy said he grew up around cars, taking many trips to the track in Watkins Glen, New York.

He's been at the club since before it opened, which is now in its 10th season.

Sandy said the Palmer track is unique in its design, and is a challenging course that tests the technical skills of drivers.

"We pull people from all over the world to come here to drive," he said.

Palmer Motorsports Park is a private member's club, and also hosts track days for select vehicles including Miata, BMW and Porsche during Cars & Coffee events. The club also hosts events that benefit military servicemembers and veterans, as well as local food pantries.

Sandy shared some little known facts about the track, pointing out that it's not the American muscle car that is the most popular car to drive on the track, but rather the Mazda Miata, due to its affordability and handling.

"More often or not, the answer to driving the track: Miata, Miata, Miata," Sandy said. "It's what they call a momentum car."

The club also offers high performance driver's education courses. Helping drivers to navigate the track with precision.

"This is a driver's course and we're all about teaching," Sandy said.

Sandy said it's a different mindset being out on the track, and it takes a little while to get used to it. He encouraged the WB&CA and Beyond members to take one of the club's monthly courses, which he said fill up quickly.

Palmer Motorsports Park is a seasonal operation, with the track open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Members are able to select the days and times to take their cars to the track.

Sandy said the club has quite a few members who drive multiple cars at the track. The club also boasts a diverse international following, with drivers visiting from Germany, France, Japan, Czech Republic, China, Sweden and many more.

Safety and the rules of operation are strictly enforced, with 14 flaggers around the track and cameras. The club is the only facility in the U.S. to use a program called Flagged, which keeps drivers aware of other cars on the track at all times; and alerts them when a car is stopped.

"There's no other circuit that we know of that operates like this on club days," Sandy said.

The track is built less for speed and more for technical driving, winding 2.3 miles through the top of Whiskey Hill. The track was built into the environment, to disturb as little of the natural surroundings as possible.

"It's that much of a gemstone. It's good for the community and good for all of us," he said.

Civic updates

Ware Town Manager Stuart Beckley said there is a lot going on, as the town prepares for the end of the fiscal year.

He said the town has applied for a large grant to cover the cost of replacing the town pool and adjacent playground. The grant totals \$7 million, and if awarded, it would also cover the purchase of electric vehicles for the Quaboag Connector and improvements to accessibility throughout town.

Beckley said the Massachusetts Department of Transportation bridge repairs on Route 32 are progressing and that it is expected to be a two- to three-year project.

Ferrera introduced himself to WB&CA and Beyond members and said the town of Warren is a great town that is willing to hear any business ideas and plans.

"We're open for business...we'd love to have your business in town," he said.

Ferrera said Warren is also working to secure grants, including a federal grant that will help a potential developer restart the Wrights Mill complex in West Warren. The grant can be used to identify weaknesses in the infrastructure around the mill.

"We're keen on looking at ways to help bring businesses in town," he said.

WB&CA and Beyond President Dan Flynn said the new Town Administrator for Hardwick, Justine Caggiano, and Town Manager for Palmer, Brad Brothers, have also been invited to join the organization and share updates from their towns.

Upcoming event

The WB&CA and Beyond's next event, the Summer Sizzler presented by J. Stolar Insurance Agency, will be held on Wednesday, July 17 from 5-7 p.m. at AMVETS Post 74, 2150 Main St., Three Rivers.

There will be horseshoes and cornhole; and members, employees and "plus 1's" are welcome to attend. The cost is \$10 per person, and includes burgers, hot dogs and sides.

Toss a horseshoe to win the \$100 Golden Ring prize, sponsored by ColorBlindGuy.

Reservations are required by July 15.

About WB&CA and Beyond

The WB&CA and Beyond membership consists of businesses and organizations from Ware, Palmer, Belchertown, Hardwick, Warren and West Brookfield. The monthly meetings are open to any business or organization within those towns interested in joining the association.

For information about joining the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond, visit ware-bca.com, contact ware-bca@gmail.com or call Flynn at 413-297-5886.



Water Ski volunteers held onto the sit-skier to keep her steady and prevent her falling out.



Volunteers for the Webster Water Ski Collective helped to push the sit-ski out onto the water.

ADAPTIVE SKI | from page 1

ical disabilities, but the attendees of the Adaptive Ski Day were able to use a special type of ski, called a sit-ski, which the Aqua Riders volunteers explained how it worked.

"The sit-skier is tied to the boat, they're not holding onto anything," explained the boat driver, Benny. "We have what we call a release. If something goes wrong, we can disconnect from the boat really quick."

Benny's rope-puller explained that she was there to provide a second set of eyes, and to ensure the safety of the skier. "They're tied to a rope that, if I release, will release the rope," she said. "If she falls out, or if something happens, the ski is going to keep getting dragged. She can't let go on her own, so I'm basically letting go for her."

One volunteer, Chris Polkowski, said he enjoyed teaming up with the Ski Collective.

"It's nice to team up with the Webster people and be able to volunteer our time," Polkowski said. "It's good to get the two teams together, working together side by side. The participants love it — you saw Eddie, he's having a blast, he's

jumping in the water — and it's great to see that."

Webster Collective President Reanna Kudzal said that the Adaptive Ski Day shows how water-skiing is all about community.

"It really shows what the true meaning of water-skiing can be," Reanna Kudzal said. "To be in a position where we have so many people willing and able to come together and create this opportunity, it's a great day for everybody."

The Webster Collective will be holding Adaptive Ski Days four more times this summer.

"The next one's a veteran's event out in Shrewsbury," Kudzal said. "Then we're doing one specifically for folks with spinal cord injuries in Webster. We'll do one more that we call 'Any Age, Any Disability,' in Springfield, and then we're doing a half-day up in Tyngsborough. I believe that's also under Team Hoyt Partnership."

For more information about Team Hoyt New England, the Aqua Riders of Holland, or the Webster Water Ski Collective, visit their Facebook pages.



Boats pulled skiers of varying physical capabilities all over the Hamilton Reservoir.

Photos by Marcelo Gusmão



As one volunteer Benny, drives the boat, a second volunteer rides with him to ensure the skier's safety.



The Water Ski Club members gathered along the shore of the Hamilton Reservoir to help attach people to the boat.



As volunteers help a sit-skier into the water, the rope had to be reeled back into the boat.



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Volunteers helped a participant into the water to attach a rope to a boat.



Chris Poklowski hangs onto Eddie to keep him steady while water-skiing.



The motorboat takes off into the Reservoir, pulling along Eddie in the sit-ski.



Volunteers rode along on either side of the sit-ski to prevent them from capsizing or getting hurt.



Volunteers set up on the dock to load into motorboats and assist the water-skiers.



Skiers enjoyed their time on the lake.



Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

A boat along the water sets up for the next group of adaptive water skiers and volunteers.



Volunteers kept their eyes on the skiers from the boat.

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SOCCER

Panthers tie with Agawam

AGAWAM – Last Tuesday evening, Agawam B girls soccer faced off with Palmer and went to a 1-1 draw. Agawam B consist of JV and some incoming freshmen players while Palmer's team includes players from both levels of its high school program. Agawam is 0-1-1 while Palmer is 2-0-3 on the summer.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Palmer girls soccer visited Agawam last Tuesday evening.



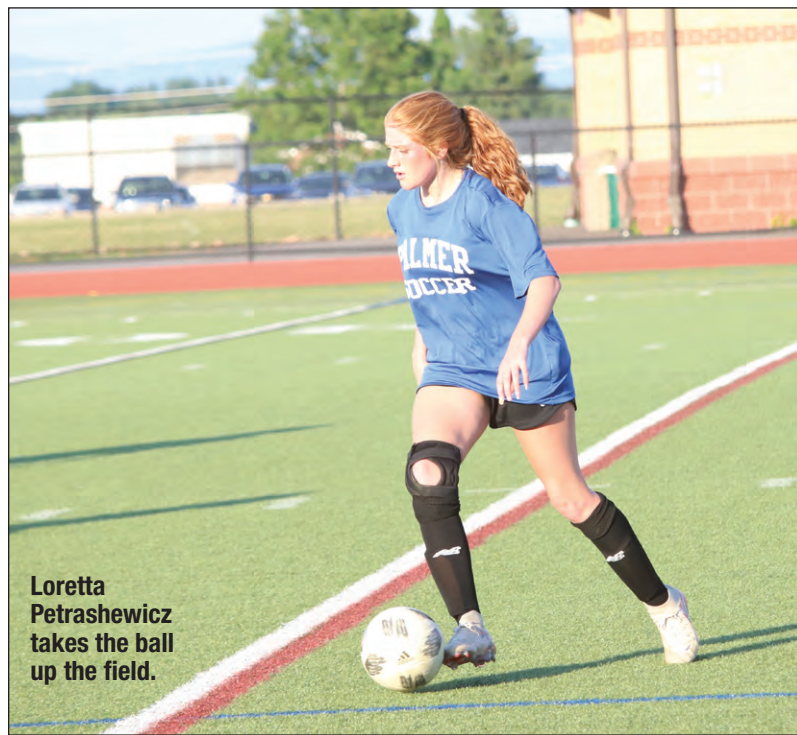
Addyson Petraszewicz stops the ball to change direction.



The girls are training for what they hope is a deep run this fall.



After taking this week off, the Panthers will resume play early next week.



Loretta Petraszewicz takes the ball up the field.

BASEBALL

Post 241 evens record with win over Aldenville

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY—Because of a couple of postponements, the Monson Post 241 Legion baseball team had only played three games during the first 18 days of the regular season.

Monson evened its overall record to 2-2 following a 6-1 win against Aldenville Post 337, at Thomas B. Landers Baseball Diamond in South Hadley, last Friday night.

“This was only our fourth game since the Legion season began on June 10. We’re still trying to figure things out,” said Monson manager Steve Tripp. “We did play very well defensively, and we also had a couple of timely base hits. I’m very happy with the way that we played in tonight’s game.”

The winning pitcher was righthander Brayden Mega, who was a junior on the Pathfinder Tech varsity baseball team this past spring. He allowed one run on three hits with four walks and four strikeouts in 5 1/3 innings. Righty James Delaney, who graduated from Belchertown High School in 2023, only allowed one hit over the final 1 2/3 innings.

“Mega pitched an outstanding game,” Tripp said. “He kept the Aldenville batters at bay. He threw around 80 pitches and just kept throwing strikes.”

Aldenville, who normally plays their home games at Szot Park in Chicopee, had a 3-3 record following the loss to Monson.

“We were missing five starters tonight and we found enough players together to play the game. We didn’t want to forfeit tonight’s game,” said Aldenville assistant coach Steve Burnett. “I think they only scored one earned run against us. We just made a couple of costly mistakes.”

Aldenville manager Mason Scott also didn’t attend last Friday’s game against Monson because he was on vacation.

Aldenville did take a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning.

With one-out in the frame, shortstop Nathan Carillon, who graduated from South Hadley High School a year ago, hit a chopper off the pitcher’s glove for an infield hit. He advanced to second base on a wild pitch before Brady Burnett, who was Aldenville’s starting pitcher, drew a walk. Then another infield hit by second baseman Zach Oldenburg

loaded the bases. Left fielder Ryan Netkovick, who was a sophomore on this year’s South Hadley varsity baseball team, drove home the game’s first run with a groundball out to third.

Aldenville managed to hold onto the one run lead until the third inning.

That’s when Monson took advantage of a couple of errors to take a 3-1 lead against lefty Brady Burnett.

Monson shortstop John Mumper was safe at first base following a fielding error by the third baseman leading off the inning. His younger brother, Jason, who started in center field, followed with an infield hit. John Mumper scored the tying run on the play following a throwing error.

After a line-drive single to left field by first baseman Dylan Sutkaitis, designated hitter Dom Allen blasted a double to deep left field scoring two more runs.

Monson also had scoring chances in their next two at-bats. They left a runner at third base in the fourth and the bases loaded in the fifth.

Meanwhile, Mega retired ten batters in a row before walking both first baseman Justin Moskal and right fielder Noah Carillon with one-out in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Mega was able to retire the next two batters rather easily ending Aldenville’s threat.

After walking Netkovick with one-out in the sixth, Delaney replaced Mega on the mound.

The Monson relief pitcher did receive some help from his defense when left fielder Austin Meachum made an outstanding diving catch.

“Austin is the starting shortstop for the Monson varsity baseball team and he’s a star in the making,” Tripp said. “His outstanding diving catch helped us get out of that inning.”

The next batter grounded out which ended the threat.

Monson scored three more runs in the top of the seventh inning. The biggest hit of that inning was an RBI single by right fielder Shane Szado, who also plays baseball at Monson High School.

Monson made a couple of errors in the bottom of the seventh, but Delaney got out of the jam without giving up any runs.

It was the only meeting of the regular season between the two squads.

LITTLE LEAGUE

Extra innings decide minor division championship

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

STURBRIDGE—The Sturbridge Little League Minor Division championship game featured the top-seeded Mariner’s and the second-seeded Red Sox.

Grayson Tavares, who’s one of the players listed on the Mariners’ roster, probably never thought he would be the hero of the June 18 game.

With the score tied with one-

LITTLE LEAGUE | page 8



Michael O'Connor enters the field.



John Kwitkowski delivers a pitch for the Blue Sox.



Jonathan Hogart swings and connects.



Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande
Andrew Estrella slides safely into second.

Blue Sox continue season

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox are the local attraction for college baseball. The Blue Sox have played about half its schedule and continue their 42-game slate into July. Home games are played at Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke. There are numerous promotions and fun deals for individuals and families. The Blue Sox have several home games throughout July and hopefully beyond with the New England Collegiate Baseball League playoffs.

CALENDAR | from page 4

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.

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.

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.

SELECT BOARD | from page 1

said. "Uliana is working with Hope Bodwell and Denise Newland at the library to offer climate and ecology programming directed to kids and also environmental protection."

Uliana and Conservation Commission Chair Glenn Colburn were at the meeting, accompanied by Ed Hood, Executive Director of Norcross Wildlife Foundation, to seek the support of the board for the application of a grant next year.

"We are a charitable organization, we own land in several towns, including here in Monson," Hood said. "We have about 4,000 visitors a year come to our school programs and our trails, and we like to think we're a good neighbor with our local towns. Our main mission is to protect land for wildlife."

Hood explained that of the 8,000 acres the organization owns, about 2,000 are in Monson, and there

is concern that a director might at one point try to sell the land.

"We are seeking to actually put a permanent conservation easement on our property, which will restrict us from selling the land for development in the future," Hood said.

The method to prevent this that Norcross and Conservation are exploring is the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program, which is a federal grant to protect privately-owned forests. Norcross is currently applying for this grant for a block of land in Wales, and is interested in applying for between 500-1,000 acres of land in Monson next year.

"The main thing we need to have is either a state agency or the local municipality hold a conservation easement, and that would be a way for us to partner with that organization," Hood said.

The board expressed misgivings about how the program would affect the taxes, but agreed to continue having conversations with Norcross as the application is prepared.

Veterans Services

Oney then announced that the Veterans Services Officer has been appointed and is expected to start on Monday, July 1.

"After determining that a veterans service district with Monson and Wilbraham was not feasible for either town due to the cost involved, Monson veterans received service coverage through Jared Sasson from Wilbraham and part-time coverage by Tina Brohman from Palmer," Oney explained.

The town received several applications for the po-

sition, and a panel consisting of the Finance Director, the Director of the Council on Aging and the Town Clerk interviewed the candidates earlier this month, and unanimously appointed Michelle Murdoch, "citing her positive attitude, extensive knowledge, and experience working as a Veterans Service Officer for other communities," according to Oney.

Housing Protection Plan

"Under MA general laws chapter 40B, towns are encouraged to insure that at least 10% of their total housing stock qualifies as affordable to individuals and families who earn up to 80% of the area median income. In communities that have not reached this 10% goal, a developer who proposes a significant number of affordable units is allowed to override most local zoning and wetlands laws and regulations by applying for a comprehensive permit, which the Zoning Board of Appeals is obligated by state law to issue. If a town has an approved and certified housing protection plan, it is given preference for certain state grant funds, but more importantly can avoid issuing a comprehensive permit as long as the town is making progress toward the 10% goal at a rate of at least half a percent per year.

"Specifically with regard to Monson, we received a grant in early 2021 from the state in the amount of \$60,000 to work with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. The plan requires approval from the Planning Board and the Select Board. The Planning Board has been reviewing the plan at its last few meetings and has asked for an additional extension to the next meeting. The Select Board will be attending that meeting to understand what the Planning Board's concerns are and then put the issue on a Select Board agenda."

Board of Health

As of June 30, due to term expirations and resignations, there are no members on the Board of Health, according to Oney.

"By law, the Select Board will be temporarily acting as the Board of Health until a new Board of Health is constituted," Oney said.

Oney said that this would not have an effect on inspections or the issuance of permits, which are provided through a regional health services organization.

Other business

Oney talked about the town's use of ad hoc committees, which have been preferred for their flexibility, and the convenience of not being subject to Open Meeting Law.

"In speaking with counsel, she agrees that it's preferable to use Open Meetings as much as possible," Oney said. "To that end, I would ask the board in the future to review existing ad hoc committees, and generally not rely on them so much moving forward."

Oney also announced that the Wage and Compensation Study is in its final stages, and that the report and recommendations are expected to be presented at the Select Board in July.



Doug Danger remembers his time jumping bicycles as a kid.



Turley Publications staff photos by Scott Senecal
Steve Hall talks about his cousin, Doug Danger, before introducing the daredevil.

DOUG DANGER | from page 1

frontlines. Pobieglow will have a bridge dedicated to him later this month in Three Rivers. Another episode will focus on the historic Day and Night Diner which sits across the street from the Palmer Library.

The latest episode of the web show focuses on Doug Danger, a local legend of Palmer who holds several world records for motorcycle jumping. The episode highlights his childhood in Palmer and shows photos and videos of jumps performed in town. "We were going to focus on the world record holder Doug Danger," said Golenski about the episode, "but the more we talked to people and gathered more photos, everyone kept talking about the Doug they grew up with."

Danger was invited to give a speech at the event which hosted more than 120 attendees. He was introduced by his cousin and the author of his Biography, Steve Hall.

Danger opened his speech saying, "this is the story of a little boy from Palmer who followed his dreams," opened Danger, "and the courage it took to make it to the top." He regaled stories of his youth in Palmer, from riding his dirt bike through the high school to his jump over the roller-skating rink into Forest Lake. "That was the first time I made it on the news. They ran it locally but soon they were running it nationwide."

Danger made sure to focus on those who helped him when he was starting out, from his teachers at Pathfinder who helped him by building his first ramps, to those that allowed him to practice his jumping in their yards. "I think the reason I was successful was because I was from Palmer," Danger said. "There's great people. So many of them believed in my dream as much as, or maybe even more than me... There's always people in the background who help you become who you are, no one becomes successful on their own."

Of the event's turnout Danger said, "Who would've thought that this kid, who always got in trouble, would be asked to come back to give a speech to a whole library filled with people?" The crowd was filled with those who grew up with Danger and those that helped him in his early years, including former teachers and community members.

Danger's biography "Doug Danger: Dare to Dream" is available on Amazon. The first 15 episodes of "Palmer Villages, Palmer Voices" are available on YouTube and on the library website, www.palmerlibrary.org/palmer-voices.

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