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SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

The Journal Register

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TRANSPORTATION

Citizens for a Palmer Rail Stop provides timeline for East/West rail

"We still want to be as close to downtown as possible to bring economic development and housing opportunities to the downtown area"

— Benjamin Hood

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – The Citizens for a Palmer Rail Stop organization has provided updates on the development of a train station in town.

Things have been moving steadily in the mission to create an East/West passenger rail to connect the two ends of the state. Citizen Benjamin Hood was very optimistic about the ways that the state government has been supporting this effort.

"Governor (Maura) Healey,

in spite of every setback along the way, managed to put money aside with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation," Hood said.

The Department of Transportation and Governor Healey set aside \$4.5 million to plan for a Palmer station. Still more money was set aside for Pittsfield, which Hood said was the boost the project needed to move forward.

Hood said that the Citizens for a Palmer Rail Stop group, led by Andy Koziol, has been working with Town Manager Brad Brothers and Town Planner Heidi Mannarino to organize meetings with the DOT.

Vanasse Hangen Brustlin formed a Master Plan for the project to undergo the initial siting and conceptual design.

"Even though there's this group, with the state DOT leading it and working with municipal stakeholders and the public and deciding where Palmer's platform will be, we still have to get funding," Hood said. "So another element is how much it will cost and what kind of funding is available."

Hood said that the goal of the Citizens for a Palmer Rail Stop is to make sure this project is something that can be built affordably.

"We don't want to have a design we can't build," Hood said. "We want them to be able to do trackwork between Worcester and Springfield so that when the trains start running they'll be stopping there and won't have lag time."

Hood added, "it will make for a great celebration for The Town of Seven Railroads."

According to Hood, DOT is hoping to start running trains along this new line by 2029, which will mean track work will begin around 2027. The current state of designs will seek to accommodate long freight trains and the round trip

passenger trains that need to be able to pass each other easily while maneuvering around Boston-New Hampshire and Springfield-Hartford routes.

"We, as advocates, had never considered Steaming Tender to be the only possibility," Hood said. "If you talk to Blake Lamothe, he always wanted it to be at that historic location, but we didn't know if it would be possible, that's a crucial element."

"We worked with Palmer Re-development Authority to identify

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COMMUNITY



Turley Photo by Marcelo Gusmão

Julia Taylor (right) and Recreational Director Andrew St. George had a stand with information about Lemonade Day at National Night Out.

Lemonade Day coming to town with classes at the library

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
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PALMER – Make sure to set aside a couple bucks on Aug. 24 so that you can help support the many local kids participating in Lemonade Day.

Lemonade Day is an entrepreneurial learning program for youths, designed to teach the basics about money and how to run a successful business by means of having a fun lemonade stand in the summer. Julia Taylor has been coordinating with the town to bring this program to fruition this month.

"I helped do this when I worked for a non-profit when I lived in Alaska," Taylor said. "I love this program and I love volunteering in the community, so we're starting from scratch."

The program centers around a series of weekly classes held at the

library on Thursday, August 8, 15, and 22, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, to teach those participating in the town's First Annual Lemonade Day, which will be held on Aug. 24 from 12 to 3 p.m.

Country Bank has teamed up with the town and LemonadeDay.org, and will be teaching their money management program along with the Lemonade Day program, with a focus on the "Spend, Save, Share" philosophy of money management.

There will also be short presentations about marketing, technology, safe food handling, entrepreneurship, volunteering, and other important skills of the trade. Though the program is designed for children, parents are invited to stay for the classes.

"To be completely honest, I don't know many people that wouldn't be able to learn some-

LEMONADE DAY | page 3

COMMUNITY

Palmer residents enjoy National Night Out



Turley photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Alexis Joyce and John Pecoy brought Charlie, age 6, and Jax, age 8 to National Night Out for some shaved ice.

Weather holds out for event at Town Hall

By Marcelo Gusmão
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PALMER – On Tuesday, town officials, residents, and first responders gathered in front of Town Hall for National Night Out.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign to promote partnerships between the police and the community, as well as neighborhood camaraderie. First introduced in August of 1984 through a network of law enforcement agencies, neighborhood watch groups, civic groups, state and regional crime prevention associations and volunteers across the nation, the first event involved



Town Manager Brad Brothers (right) caught up with Mike Young and four-month-old Landon.

2.5 million residents across 400 communities in 23 states.

Town Manager Brad Brothers described the event as "exciting," and that he hopes to hold the event in town every year.

"Thankfully the weather cooperated with us," Brothers said. "A couple other towns canceled. Guys, if you ride the line...I haven't looked at the forecast besides Palmer, but it really worked out,

we had a really nice two-hour window."

Numerous town organizations, ranging from the library, the Chamber of Commerce, Pathfinder Tech, to many local businesses came out to support the event. Members of the fire and police departments were available to provide information for residents.

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COMMUNITY

Good Times Festival raises money for community education and organizing

By Marcelo Gusmão
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BRIMFIELD – This weekend, New England Motel hosted the Good Times Festival to raise money for the Hitchcock Academy.

The Hitchcock Free Academy is a public nonprofit community center, dedicated to enriching the lives of area residents of all ages by providing educational, recreational, and cultural programming. It was established in 1956, following a century-long tenure as a free public high school founded by Samuel

Austin Hitchcock in 1855.

Cindy Skowrya, the Executive Director at Hitchcock, described the event as "a pleasant surprise."

"We were very grateful that they thought of us when they first began to put this event together," Skowrya said. "As a local non-profit community center, we work hard to provide what we can to the community at lower costs. Events and sponsorships like this support our bottom line."

The event was put together by Matthew Skowrya, who is coincidentally a distant relative of Cindy's.

"This whole thing was his idea," Skowrya said. "He approached New England Motels, who jumped on board to hold it there, and we were just the lucky beneficiaries."



Turley photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Kristen Ott, Jacqueline Cunningham, Griffin Ott, and Makayla Ott came from Myrtle Beach to enjoy the Good Times Festival.

Matthew Skowrya said that he loves planning events that bring the community together.

"I was looking for a perfect venue and ended up finding one at New England Motel," Skowrya said. "I thought a great community organization to support would be Hitchcock Academy."

Cindy Skowrya described the academy as providing events, not just for the town, but several surrounding communities.

"It's open to everyone," Skowrya said. "We have all types of exercise classes, we put on the Concerts on the Commons, music classes, art classes, Tuesday mornings for adults, and we're in the midst of our summer program."

The event featured live music, lots of food from food trucks and lo-

cal vendors, and a number of crafters and artisans with tables set up all over the property.

"It was great," said Matthew Skowrya. "I actually got to meet and become acquaintances with many vendors of all kinds, including food, arts and crafts, musicians. I got to work with the town of Brimfield, which was very easy and helpful, and got to learn a lot by engaging with the Select Board. We all learned a lot, and we're very excited to do it again next year."

The organizers are still tallying up how much money was raised for Hitchcock Academy, but Skowrya has started talking about holding the event again next year.

"We were really happy with

GOOD TIMES | page 12



Pot of the Week



PEANUT & KORA

This is Peanut and Kora, who live with Jamie in Monson. 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.

Palmer early voting notice

PALMER— Early voting for the Sept. 3 State Primary will take place at the Palmer Town Clerk's office, 4417 Main St., at the following times:
 Saturday, Aug. 24, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Monday, Aug. 26, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Tuesday, Aug. 27, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Wednesday, Aug. 28, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Thursday, Aug. 29, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Election day is Tuesday, Sept. 3, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the usual polling location.

Local veteran opens cannabis shop to immortalize his son



Mark Harris and his daughter Michaela have worked to open this shop in memory of Matthew Harris.



Canna Retreat is located at the corner of the plaza on Park Street. Turley Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – The new cannabis dispensary, Canna Retreat, will be holding its grand opening next Thursday, August 15, at 1 p.m.

Mike Harris has lived in town for 35 years, and raised his four children through the school system. He's proud to say that his store is the only locally-owned, veteran-owned cannabis dispensary in town.

Harris shared that he got into the cannabis business after the loss of his son, Matthew Harris, who served as a marine from 2012 to 2017. The elder Harris served in the military as a paratrooper from 1979 to 1982, and was prescribed sleeping pills and antidepressants after his son's death.

"They had me on so much medication, it felt like I was in a different world," Harris said. "A friend said cannabis would help me, so I started using it for that reason, and

I was off all my medication in a week." Harris said he found he didn't need his medication because cannabis was helping him, and decided to open a business in the interest of helping other people.

"I found I was better off using cannabis than swallowing pills that made me feel dreary during the day," Harris said. "Running a business, it's not good to be feeling like that."

After two years of filing paperwork with the town and an arduous process involving attorneys, accountants, surveyors, consultants, and architects, Harris was finally able to open his business five weeks ago. Helping to run his shop are Darren Driscoll, and Harris's daughter, Michaela Harris.

"It's been great to see this finally come together for him," Michaela said. "He worked very hard for it for a very long time, met a lot of obstacles along the way and overcame them. I'm just very proud of him."

Though Harris has her own full-time job, she helps out at her father's shop approximately every other week.

"I'm trying to help anyway that I can," Harris said. "Just seeing it come to fruition has been awesome from the very beginning."

Employee Darren

Driscoll was also enthusiastic about the work Harris has done to get the shop started. He said that painting the shop and installing the screens and counters was all done by he and Harris.

"I'd like to see a local man make it to the top," Driscoll said. "I know Mike, we've known each other for years and he was talking about this years ago. He's been through everything to get the license."

Though Harris refused to speak ill of his competitors in the area, he did note that unlike other developers, he knows that the money made from Canna Retreat will be funneled back into the community.

"The other dispensaries, I won't talk badly about them, they're all good people, all trying to make a good living," Harris said, "but we're from town. Most of our money is going to stay in here. Most of our money's going to be reinvested in this town, compared to, if you're owning one from Maine, the money's going to Maine, or if you're from New York, it's going to go to New York."

Driscoll added that Harris spends his money by supporting the schools and other businesses in town. One example was that, after Matthew Harris's passing, his family donated a security system to the High School and Old Mill Pond School.

"Matt's last post on Facebook was about school shootings. He just couldn't understand why we can't protect our children," Harris said. "So in his memory, the

family donated a security system to both schools. When you walk into the schools you have to show your ID. They call it the MATT system at the school."

In his shop, Harris created a memorial for his son, which includes his portrait from the Marine Corps. and some Cheech and Chong memorabilia, including a picture Harris took with Cheech Marin at a convention.

"I have a big album collection at home," Harris said. "I thought, 'I think I have some Cheech and Chong.' So I found some and I brought them and when I was shaking his hand, I said, 'I want to show you, I've had these for 45 years.'"

Harris shared that Marin was impressed, and offered to sign the albums for free.

"The guy behind him, running the show, said 'no, he didn't pay,' but Cheech said, 'if this guy's had them for 45 years, I'm gonna sign them,'" Harris said.

But the story didn't end there; the very next day, Harris was cleaning out the basement of the dispensary he is opening in Ware, where his kids had stored some of their stuff.

"I'm going down there cleaning it out, and I found Matt's skateboard," Harris said. "I flipped it over and Cheech and Chong was on it."

The skateboard and signed albums are also hanging in the dispensary.

Canna Retreat has partnered with 15 different companies throughout to purchase their product. Harris said that he hopes to partner with local organizations for fundraising and community organizing opportunities.

A grand opening is scheduled to be held on August 15 at 1 p.m., with Town Manager Brad Brothers, members of the Chamber of Commerce, and a State Representative expected to attend.

If you'd like to check out visit Harris's shop, it's open every day at 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (7 p.m. on Sundays) at 1240 Park St.



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for questions, please email Arianna Palano at apalano@townofware.com





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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.

LEMONADE | from page 1

thing," Taylor said. "Children being able to learn it at an earlier age helps the youth of the future."

The classes will also be available through Zoom, and will be recorded for later viewings. Taylor praised Tween Services Librarian Olivia Chartrand and Recreational Director Andrew St. George for their work to support this event.

"Olivia is on a cloud with me," Taylor said, "as is Country Bank and Andrew St. George."

In addition to the classes at the library, there will be workshops for building lemonade stands at Pulaski Park.

"Part of the program is the kids designing and painting their own stand," Taylor said. "Kits can be picked up to put together at home, or families can join us during one of two on-site build events."

Taylor said that if a family is worried about taking a stand home from the event, there will be methods to deliver the stand to them.

"I'm trying to build what it was where I came from," Taylor said. "We approached Palmer to ask about this program, and have been working together to get it started by reinventing the wheel."

Taylor said that it's been moving somewhat slowly, and noted that the state's regulations when it comes to food preparation are "pretty stringent." "We're doing this as a blueprint that will hopefully enable us to send it to other towns," Taylor said, and indicated an interest in expanding it to Belchertown and Ware.

A map will be provided to show the locations where stands will be set up, which Taylor said are primarily at businesses. She said that the map will be posted online.

"We'll release the map the week of the event," Taylor said. "We're just asking the community to come out and celebrate these kids' accomplishments of hosting their own business by means of lemonade stand."

Taylor named a number of sponsors already associated with the event, including Country Bank, St. Stanislaus Polish Club and Pulaski Park, the Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force, and G Labier Home Improvements.

The classes will be held at the library on Aug. 8, 15, and 22 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. A date is still being set for the Lemonade Stand Building workshop at Pulaski Park.

Lemonade Day will be held all over town on Aug. 24. If you'd like to learn more about the program, visit LemonadeDay.org.

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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Delta Dental makes generous donation

MONSON— Delta Dental is proud to announce a donation to the Monson Substance Use Community Partnership, supporting the expansion of the wellness cart. This contribution marks a pivotal step in enhancing the resources available to Monson High School students, aiming to promote wellness and reduce substance use.

The wellness cart has been an essential resource for students, providing access to wellness items and basic needs. With Delta Dental's donation, the wellness cart will expand its offerings in the upcoming year and continue to accept donations of wellness items. This expansion underscores the critical role of providing students with the necessary resources to foster a healthy and supportive environment, ultimately making them less likely to engage in substance use.

Since its inception in 2017, the

Monson Substance Use Community Partnership has been dedicated to driving positive change within the community. The partnership recently received the prestigious Drug-Free Communities Grant, a CDC-funded program aimed at reducing substance use among youth in Monson. This grant will further empower the MSUCP to implement effective strategies and initiatives to support the well-being of local youth.

This generous donation was facilitated by Dodie Carpentier and Joe Lawler. Carpentier serves as FVP Human Resources at Monson Savings Bank and chairperson of the Monson Substance Use Community Partnership. Lawler is a partner and SVP Employee Benefits at USI Insurance Services.

In addition to the expansion of the wellness cart, the Monson Substance Use Community Partnership

is sponsoring this year's Summer Bus Tour for Monson residents, Tuesday, Aug. 20. This initiative involves a bus traveling around town, distributing free school supplies to families. This year's supply bags will include valuable information on youth substance use, ensuring that families are equipped with the knowledge and resources to support their children's health and safety.

Delta Dental's donation is a testament to their commitment to community wellness and youth development. For more information about the Monson Substance Use Community Partnership and their initiatives, please visit drugfreemonson.com or contact Rachel McRobbie at 413-351-6505.

Submitted photo

The wellness cart has been an essential resource for students, providing access to wellness items and basic needs.



Monson Community Preservation Committee accepting applications

MONSON—The Monson Community Preservation Committee is now accepting applications for 2024 projects. If people have a community-based project relating to Historical Preservation, Open Space, Recreation, or Community Housing, we encourage them to apply for funding. The deadline for applications is Aug. 28.

Interested applicants can refer to the town website at www.monson-ma.gov for the CPC guidelines, the application, and qualifications. Applicants are reminded that prior to submitting their applications they must get approval from the appropriate Town committee for their project. This contact information can be found on the first page of the application.

Although the Committee vets the projects, the residents of the Town of Monson make the ultimate funding decisions regarding CPC funds at the Town Meeting. The committee also welcomes voter participation and inquiries during its process of evaluating projects to be voted on at the Town Meeting.

For any questions, please feel free to attend a CPC meeting, which normally commences at 5:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in the small meeting room of the Town Administration Building at 110 Main Street.

The Committee would prefer that an application be e-mailed to us up to two weeks prior to the deadline at: monsoncommunitypreservation@gmail.com. In addition, 8 copies of the proposal must be mailed to (or dropped off either inside or outside the building): Monson Community Preservation, 110 Main Street, Monson, MA 01057.

EAST/WEST RAIL

| from page 1

fythe need to have the stop be downtown for the big economic boost it would give to Main Street businesses, but there are a number of options surrounding the diamond junction where the tracks meet," Hood said.

Hood said that there have been as many as 11 sites identified, and the group is not pushing for any particular location, and these are going to be narrowed down based on the criteria needed from the station's design.

"We still want to be as close to downtown as possible to bring economic development and housing opportunities to

the downtown area," Hood said, "and to reinforce that Palmer is not going to be just a stop, but also bring people on foot into downtown that will create a more vibrant residential and business district."

Hood noted that the state should look to the success of Connecticut's rail system, and that he "can't imagine this won't be as big as that."

One consideration has been the environmental impact of cutting down pollution from traffic on the MassPike. Hood said that the project is taking electric fuel into consideration.

"Mass transit is just a better way than everybody in their individual cars," Hood said. "We're at the point where mass

Cruise for Critters is coming back

MONSON— Cruise for Critters is coming back to Westview Farms Creamery on Saturday, Sept. 21. Now in its 12th year, this beloved car show, proudly presented by Al Widlan, owner of Service Connection, is set to once again make a meaningful impact on the lives of pets in need at Second Chance Animal Services.

The festivities starts 10 a.m. and ends 3 p.m., featuring great food and ice cream and an assortment of fall attractions that Westview Farms Creamery is renowned for. From pumpkin picking to navigating through a corn maze, a delightful autumn adventure awaits. Live music by the Barberic Band will provide the perfect soundtrack for the day, which will also include raffle and more.

The event will welcome spec-

tators free of charge. Car enthusiasts are encouraged to take part in the show by contributing a \$20 entry fee per vehicle, with every dollar earmarked for the betterment of pets' lives. A rain date has been set for Saturday, Sept. 28.

This year's Cruise for Critters promises an array of fall-themed activities for attendees of all ages. A captivating vendor fair will offer unique items of all kinds, and the much-loved Halloween Barktaacular kids' games will be back, thanks to dedicated Second Chance volunteers who are gearing up to provide an unforgettable experience for children and families alike.

Lindsay Doray, chief development officer of Second Chance, extends her heartfelt gratitude to Al Widlan and Westview Farms

Creamery for their unwavering commitment to the welfare of pets.

2024 has been a challenging year for Second Chance, and funds raised through this event directly contribute to vital programs that make a real difference for pets in the community.

The event is sponsored in part by Ted & Barbara Hebert of Teddy Bear Pools & Spas and by Joe Campisi, a longtime friend of Second Chance. Organizers extend a warm invitation to local businesses and vendors, calling upon them to unite in support of pets in need. Information on sponsorship opportunities, item donations, and becoming a vendor can be found at secondchanceanimals.org/events/cruise.

Recycled puppets workshop to be held in Ware

WARE— The recycled puppet workshop will be on Saturdays, Sept. 14 through Oct. 5, from 1 to 3 p.m. In this four week Workshop, create a recycled puppet and discover characters, stories and scenes through the magic

of animating crumpled paper, an old baby blanket, a discarded umbrella. Engage with others in short scenes and discussions about objects that are precious and the cost of knick knacks on the planet. Explore sustainabil-

ity in a completely new creative hands on approach. Geared toward teens and adults. The fee is \$125. For more information or to register go to workshop13.org or call 413-277-6072.

meeting with the public in the fall.

"We're hoping people will be very involved at the public meeting," Hood said. "This is the biggest thing that's happened in the campaign to get the Palmer rail stop."



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Palmer National Night Out



The Boy Scouts had a table for National Night Out, (from left) Stephen Salmond, Logan Cussin, Stephen Salmond, Michael Roblinski, Jaycub Parker-Gregory, Adyen Nay, John and Sarah Dee, Matthew Nay, Garrett Lafond with Bob the dummy, Jaden Roblinski and Rora, and Bill Mullen.



Vocational Director Amy Skowyra spun Pathfinder Tech's wheel of prizes for the residents.



Standing in front of a fire truck from Three Rivers, (from left) Private Samantha Hoy, Private Lucas McDiarmid, Private Kaylee Robinson.



Firefighters in front of the Bondsville fire truck, (from left) McKinley and Shane Chase, Nicholas Mainville, and Brian Sullivan.



Margaret Sullivan and Janel Julien deserved a ribbon for the decorations at the Behavioral Health Network table.



Vicki Baldyga, Amber Messer, and Heather Dupuis ran a table for Monson Savings Bank.



Stephanie Sumwalt and Emily Geoffrion brought Elias, age 6, and Asher, age 4, to National Night Out.



Donna Wilson, Amanda Rodrigues, and Martyna Currie ran the table for the Trial Court.



Police officers with a K-9 unit, (from left) Mark Gee, William Kennedy, Ben Austin, and Richard Patry.



Residents crowded around the police department's tents, where police officers were handing out hot dogs.

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 6



Kaitlyn Madden, Eliana, age two, and Paul and Cindy Shepardson were happy to enjoy some shaved ice at National Night Out.

NNO | from page 1

"It's a pretty straightforward thing," said firefighter Ian Grimes. "We've got a couple things for the little ones, like helmets, a couple of goodie bags, coloring books. It's a great time to include fire prevention tips as well, so it includes cooking safety, and the usual advice, like don't play with matches."

Grimes said that the fire department rounds up firefighters and brings the truck out to let members of the community walk around and see the equipment.

"When you see the fire truck coming down, it might not always be just for fire," Grimes said. "We carry everything."

In addition to the Town Manager, numerous members of the Town Council also attended, including Vice Chair Jessica Sizer.

"I'm really proud of the police department and all of our emergency services pulling together their resources to put on a great event for the community," Sizer said. "It exposes our community to all of the great resources that we provide."

Recreational Director Andrew St. George also had a table to support the occasion, as well as to promote the upcoming art festival to be held on August 15.

"It's always awesome to be part of these events that bring the community together," St. George said.

For more information about National Night Out, visit NATW.org.

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Turley Photos by Marcelo Gasmão
Ian Grimes and Amber DUBY were available to answer questions about the fire department.



The J. Stolar Insurance Agency had a table, run by (from left) Rachael Slozak, Danielle Kowal, Chris Stolar, Blanca Carbajal-Gonzalez, and Denise Kokoszka.



Rich Clark and Stephanie Maher ran the table for the Palmer Public Library.



The Lemieux family at the table for the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce, (from left) Madison, Matthew, and Sharon.



Rachel and Joe Talbot and Ian, age 3, pictured in front of Palmer's Engine 1 fire truck.



Val Rodrigues and Town Councillor Mark Caci, pictured in front of Town Hall at National Night Out.



Professional magician Jonas Cain entertained the crowd with magic tricks.



Lieutenant Erin Sullivan and Janice Garabedian in front of the Paws 4 Blue tent.



Tween Services Librarian Olivia Chartrand (right) attended National Night Out with Chris Piros.



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SPORTS

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SOCCER

Palmer soccer gets upset on Ludlow in PVSSL quarterfinals

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Ludlow Ideal beat Palmer, 4-1, in a B-Division girls' match-up during the final week of the Pioneer Valley Summer League regular season. The two teams faced each other again in the quarterfinals eight days later.

This time, the fifth-seeded Palmer Lady Panthers celebrated a 4-1 victory over the fourth-seeded Ludlow Lady Lions in a hard fought battle at the Paul R. Baird Middle School soccer field in Ludlow, last Tuesday night.

"It feels really good to win a playoff game because we lost to Ludlow last week," said Palmer co-captain Loretta Petrashewicz. "We came into tonight's match knowing how they played. We played very well in tonight's game."

Palmer entered the summer league playoffs with a 5-3-3 record, while Ludlow had a 6-3-2 mark.

Palmer had several very good scoring chances during the first ten minutes of the contest.

Petrashewicz had two shots on goal, which were sandwiched



Loretta Petrashewicz tries to get around an opponent.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

SOCCER



Mackenzie Shean, of Agawam, fights to keep the ball.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Joanna Mull, of Belchertown, makes her way up the field.



Gwen Duggan, of Palmer, looks to get around a Monson player.



Paige Marjanski, of South Hadley goes for the header.



Kelly Callahan, of Monson, punts the ball away.

Here for Beer scores upset

MONSON – Facing the higher-seeded Monson Mustangs last Monday in the PVSSL Women's Division quarterfinals, Here for Beer scored a 4-3 upset at Rogers Field. They would make it all the way to the finals before falling to the Lusitano Women last Friday night. Highlights from that match-up will be in next week's edition.

PALMER | page 8



Lainey Haley makes a stop on the ball.



Addyson Petrashewicz follows through on a pass between two defenders.

BASEBALL

St. Joe's survives Teddy Bear Pools in quarterfinals

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

THORNDIKE — The best of three Tri-County League first round series between the fifth-seeded St. Joe's Saints and fourth-seeded Teddy Bear Pools & Spa was originally scheduled to take place on July 24, 25, and 26. Because of a couple of rain outs and a suspended game, it took them eight days to complete the series.

Teddy Bear won the first game of the series 1-0, which was held at Westfield State University.

St. Joe's kept their season alive the following night by squeaking out a 10-9 victory in an old fashion slugfest held at St. Joe's Park.

"I thought it would take us only three days to complete this series," said first-year St. Joe's manager Brian Hayes. "We dealt with some weather and a few other things that were out of our control."

At that point everything went wacky.

Game three was postponed due to an umpire shortage. The series was set to resume back at Westfield State on July 29, but that game was

ST.JOE'S | page 8



Emily Ottomaniello, of Agawam, makes her way up the field for the Heat.

Heat falls in semifinals

CHICOPEE – Last Wednesday evening, the Heat, which features players from throughout the region, fell in the semifinals to Luistano Women in the Women's Division playoffs of the PVSSL 3-1.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Samara Robles looks to make a save in goal.



Kassandra Liquori sends a pass away.

DEATH NOTICES

Rebecca Carr
Died July 27, 2024
Services are private
Lombard Funeral Home

Christine "Tina" Marie Skowrya
Died on July 29, 2024
Service August 7, 2024
Beers & Story Funeral Home

Sandra Jean Underwood
Died July 31, 2024
Services August 10, 2024
Beers & Story Funeral Home

Donna M. (Robert) Graveline
Died August 2, 2024
Lombard Funeral Home

Walter Joseph Zarenko
Died August 4, 2024
Services August 9, 2024
Beers & Story Funeral Home

O B I T U A R I E S

Rebecca Carr, 1951-2024

HOLLAND—Rebecca Carr, 72, born Rebecca Bradway on December 21, 1951, in Palmer, MA...

and Palmer. Rebecca dedicated her life to hard work, tending to her home and family.

her daughter, Kimberly Moore, and son-in-law Ken, as well as extended family members and friends.

All services are private and have been entrusted to Lombard Funeral Home of Monson.

Donna M. (Robert) Graveline ~1955-2024

WEST BROOKFIELD—Donna M. (Robert) Graveline, 69, of West Brookfield, MA passed away on August 2, 2024 after a long and spirited battle with ovarian cancer.

at the beach, building her rock wall, handing out Halloween candy, and doting on Jed and Gemma...



Mack (Barry Theodore) of Palmer, and Michael Robert (Karen) of Belchertown.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date this Fall. In lieu of flowers, please make a gift of gratitude to the Gynecological Oncology Department via the Baystate Hospital Health Fund or to Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Cat Sanctuary.

Lombard Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements. For online condolences please visit www.Lombardfuneralhome.com

Christine "Tina" Marie Skowrya

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Christine "Tina" Marie (Bovats) Skowrya, who departed this world on July 29, 2024, at the age of 61.

sister, Sheila Zajac (John), many nieces and nephews along with the Skowrya family. Tina was predeceased by her father, Ralph Bovat, and her brother, Scott Bovat.

husband's business, working diligently as a bookkeeper at Les's Auto in Palmer.

A graveside service to honor Tina's life was held on Wednesday, August 7, at Brimfield Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to the National Pancreas Foundation or a charity of your choice, in Tina's memory.

May Tina Marie Skowrya rest in eternal peace, forever remembered and cherished by those whose lives she touched.

O B I T U A R I E S

Sandra "Sandy" Jean Underwood

PALMER — Sandra "Sandy" Jean Underwood, 65, passed away July 31, 2024 at her home surrounded by her family.

by her faith, and received Jesus Christ as her Personal Lord and Savior early in her life. She had a deep appreciation for nature and loved visiting Forest Lake with her husband to watch the wildlife.



were her entire world.

Besides her parents, Sandra was predeceased in death by her brothers, John and Glenn McAdam. She leaves her loving husband of 44 years, Barry Underwood; son, Andrew Underwood; daughter, Sarah Dysart and her husband, James; son, Jonathan Underwood and his wife, Heather; grandchildren, Isaiah and Abigail Dysart, and Brooke Underwood; and her nephew, Brian Underwood and his wife Emily.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, Aug. 10 at 10 a.m. at the Faith Baptist Church of Palmer, MA. In lieu of flowers, donations in Sandra's name can be made to the Faith Baptist Church Missions Fund.

Walter Joseph Zarenko

THREE RIVERS — Walter Joseph Zarenko, a beloved husband, father, Papa, and a diehard fan of the Miami Dolphins, passed away peacefully on August 4, 2024, at the age of 61.

and Brady Ramondetta.

Walter was a hard worker who enjoyed his down time by walking Baxter at Legion Field, playing golf, watching his Dolphins and spending time with his best friend Dana. You could often find him watching his grandchildren play sports.



Grinch shirts at Christmas. Walter's true personality was never hidden. His legendary status and larger than life persona was one of a kind, and one that will live in our hearts forever.

Visitation hours will be held at the Beers and Story Palmer Funeral Home on Friday, Aug. 9 from 4 - 7 p.m. On Saturday, Aug. 10, friends and family are invited to honor Walter's life at Beers and Story at 10 a.m., followed by a graveside service at Oak Knoll Cemetery.

In Memory of Walter, the family is asking in lieu of flowers, donations be made to The Toys for Tots Foundation, which Walter participated in every year. Please visit www.beersandstory.com to extend online condolences.

Police/Fire

FIRE LOGS

MONSON

The Monson Fire Department responded to six fire calls and 17 emergency medical calls for the week of July 29-August 4.

June 29 at 2:31 p.m. Responded to Bliss Street for a structure collapse. Returned to service at 3:26 p.m.

June 29 at 9:55 p.m. Responded to Stebbins Road for an alarm sounding. Returned to service at 10:22 p.m.

June 31 at 1:09 a.m. Responded to Moulton Hill Road for a fire alarm. Returned to service at 1:41 a.m.

June 31 at 7:17 p.m. Responded to Bethany Road for a commercial fire alarm. Returned to service at 7:20 p.m.

August 2 at 3:01 p.m. Responded to Lower Hampden Road for alarms sounding. Returned to service at 3:23 p.m.

August 3 at 4:12 a.m. Responded to Ayers Road for alarms sounding. Returned to service at 4:43 a.m.

Three Rivers

The Three Rivers Fire Department responded to six calls for the week of July 28-August 3.

Sunday, July 28 - Meadowbrook Lane, Palmer, Smoke detector activation due to malfunction

Thursday, Aug. 1 - 2024 Sykes St., Three Rivers, Trash or rubbish fire, contained

Friday, Aug. 2 - Church St., Thorndike, Overpressure rupture of air or gas pipe/pipeline

Friday, Aug. 2 - Main St., Thorndike, Smoke detector activation due to malfunction

Saturday, Aug. 3 - Maple St., Three Rivers, Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional

Saturday, Aug. 3 - Main St., Three Rivers, Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional

CAMPUS NOTES

Western New England University Honors Class of 2024

Western New England University held its undergraduate commencement ceremony on May 19 at the MassMutual Center, celebrating the Class of 2024.

Congratulations and best wishes to the newest Golden Bear Alumni. WNE is proud of you!

Maxfield Wyatt Phaneuf of Brimfield, MA graduated Magna Cum Laude with a BSE in Civil Engineering/Environmental Engineering.

Adela C. Storey of Palmer, MA graduated Summa Cum Laude with a BS in Pharmacy Studies.

Brimfield resident named to Clark University's Spring Dean's List

Jaiden E. Gombos, of Brimfield, was named to second honors on the Clark University Dean's List.

Students must have a GPA of 3.8 or above for first honors or a GPA between 3.50 and 3.79 for second honors.

Molly Szado Receives Elmira College Key Award

Molly Szado of Monson, MA, received the Elmira College Key Award for academic and community leadership.



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<p>ESTATE SALE</p> <p>ESTATE SALE Aug 10 & 11 786 Old North Road, Worthington 8am - 3pm both days</p>	<p>TAG SALE</p> <p>AUG. 10 & 11, 8AM-1PM. 17 Church Road, Huntington. Entire contents of house. Huge selection of items - come see!</p>	<p>FIREWOOD</p> <p>Bundles - Kiln Dried Firewood Only \$5 per bundle! Pick up at Kilb's Firewood 229 Somers Rd, Hampden MA 01036</p>	<p>JUNK REMOVAL</p> <p>A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts. We load it & take it. 413-531-1936 CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST</p> <p>Decks, porches, repair service, roofing and siding contractor. Tim 413-563-2229. Licensed/insured. 35 year construction supervisor.</p>	<p>PAINTING</p> <p>DUTCH TOUCH PAINTING Interior only \$199.00 for average 12x16 room. Very neat, references, prompt service call (508)867-2550</p>	<p>PLUMBING</p> <p>GREG LAFOUNTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg (413)592-1505</p>	<p>AUTO</p> <p>CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS FREE TOWING FAST SERVICE CASH PAID AS IS CALL OR TEXT 413-219-6839</p>	<p>STUMP GRINDING</p> <p>DL & G STUMP GRINDING Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave 413-478-4212</p>	<p>PIONEER VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY CAREER OPPORTUNITIES</p> <p>Do You Want a Career and Not Just a Job? We have a variety of rewarding career options with opportunities for personal and professional growth. If you want to be part of a forward-thinking organization that helps drive the region, we have the opportunity you have been looking for. Current Career Opportunities are available at our various locations throughout the area.</p>
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Public notices

PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 11 M.G.L., the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, August 26th, 2024 at 7:45 PM** in the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, Double R Enterprises LLC., is seeking a Site Plan Approval as allowed under section 171.29 to construct a new parking lot, walkway to the adjacent parcel, repaving of existing parking area, and improvement of the Stormwater Management system on the property located at 15 Second Street, Palmer. This parcel is also known as Assessor's Map 34, Lot 15.

A copy of the application may be inspected at the Planning Department office in the Town Administration Building from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Thursday.

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

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

Michael Marciniac, Chairman
08/08, 08/15/2024

PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 11, M.G.L., the Palmer Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, August 26th, at 7:20 PM** in the Town Administrative Building, 4417 Main St, Palmer MA.

The applicant, JT Brown Nominee Trust, is seeking a Special Permit as required by section 171.73 of the Palmer Zoning Ordinance to remove Earth materials for a one-year term, on the property located off Ware St, Palmer MA, also known as Assessor's Map 37 Lot 15.

A copy of the application may be inspected at the Planning Department office in the Town Administrative Building Monday-Thursday 8:30am - 4:30pm.

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

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

Michael Marciniac, Chairman
08/08, 08/15/2024

Town of Wales Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearing

In accordance with the provisions of MGL Ch 40A §10 & §11, the Wales Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **August 29th, 2024, at the Wales Senior Center at 5:30 p.m.** on the application of Marron W. Smith Jr. regarding the property at 48 Main St. in Wales. The applicant has applied for a variance in terms of the Town of Wales Zoning By-Law Sec. 8.5. The Town of Wales Zoning By-Law Sec. 4.0.2 states "Not more than one principal building shall be erected on a lot unless otherwise specified in this bylaw". Specifically, the applicant wishes to convert the existing barn to an in-law suite. Any person interested and wishing to be heard on this application should refer to August 29th, 2024, agenda on the Zoning Board of Appeals page on the town website (www.townofwales.net). If you have any questions or concerns, please email planning@townofwales.net

08/08, 08/15/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD24C0170CA In the matter of: Brianna Lee Marcille CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Brianna Lee Marcille of Wales, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: FaegasiAurora Lee IMPORTANT NOTICE Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/19/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court. **Rosemary A Saccomani** Register of Probate
08/08/2024

Good Times Festival



The Skowyra family united for the Good Times Festival, (pictured) Josh, Rebecca, Norah, Lily, Emilia, Addison, Les, Jessica, Adam, and Amanda.



Tom Brown and two-and-a-half-year-old Finnegan played with giant Jenga blocks.



At the table for the Hitchcock Free Academy, (from left) Genise Jackson, Greg Majewski, and Cindy Skowyra shared information about the organization.



Brian Baird and Tyler Scott had a table at the festival where they sold their products.



King Saison played some covers and some original material for the crowd at the New England Motel.



Ryan Betronio and Davina Alejo had a table for their artwork, featuring recreations of recognizable cartoon characters.



James and Theresa Cofski had a tent to sell tie-dye T-shirts.



Wicked Potions owner Shannen Green, pictured with her table set up to sell her wares.



Rachel and Gabby debuted the new food truck for Cookies by Ray.



Emily Alexander and JT, age four, pose in front of the bounce house at New England Motel.



Nathan Fortune and Derek Belisle worked the Fry'd Guy food truck at the festival.



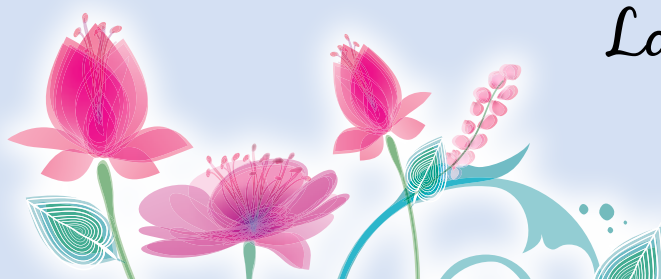
The Beer family shared lemonade at the Good Times Festival, Emily, Mike, Debbie, and Spencer.



Mister Brilliant played out the afternoon for the Good Times Festival.



Frank Marshall and Maverick, age three, played cornhole at the New England Motel.



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the turnout," Skowyra said. "Obviously we hope for more people next year, but for the first time we're really happy. I think everyone that ended up coming out had a great time, and it's great to see the children and the community playing and having a great time together."

Skowyra said that the event will probably be held in August again next year, but no dates have been set as of yet.

"I had a great time," said Cindy Skowyra. "I was really impressed with all he put into it, all the performers and the quality of everything they had. We look forward to seeing it grow."

"I would just like to say thank you to the community for coming out to celebrate the day with us," Skowyra said. "I hope everyone enjoyed themselves."

To learn more about Hitchcock Academy, you can send an email to ExecDirector@HitchcockAcademy.org. To learn more about the New England Motel, you can visit Antiques-Brimfield.com.

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