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PALMER

New Town Manager shares vision for economic growth

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Staff Writer
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PALMER – Since earlier this year, the new Town Manager has been working with town departments and local businesses to help shape a prosperous and vibrant future for the community he grew up in.



Brad Brothers was appointed Town Manager by the Town Council back in February.

Brad Brothers was raised in town and graduated from the High School in 2008. He started his professional career in municipal administration in town from 2012-16. "I'm pleased to say it's been a seamless transition into the position of Town Manager over my first four full months," Brothers said. Brothers said that his history in town has provided him with "a home field advantage."

"It allowed me to hit the ground

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Palmer goes



BACK TO SCHOOL

Students wave from the windows of the bus as they wait to get off the bus.



Friends Mido and Anna rode the bus together to school.

Jenna, age 7, waits for school to open with Kevin Brooke, dressed as the elusive Waldo.

The students arrived at Old Mill Pond on the morning of Aug. 28. More photos from the first day on pages 6,7,11.



Turley Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

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MONSON

New admin. emphasizes community partnerships and dialogue

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Staff Writer
 mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – This semester, students at the high school will be introduced to the new administrative team of Principal Chris Fontaine and Dean of Students and Director of Counseling Maria Barnes. Born and raised in Holyoke, Chris Fontaine has been working as a principal since 2014. He spent three years as a principal in Leicester before deciding to move back to the western part of the state to spend a few years in South Hadley.

"My family moved out to Monson to look for a quiet community when this position became available," Fontaine said.

Barnes, meanwhile, is a resident of the town, now on her 15th year working for the district since



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COMMUNITY



Nate Letendre gives a high five to a basketball camp participant.

Basketball camp teaches kids essential life skills

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Staff Writer
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PALMER – The Rising Stars basketball camp that concluded a few weeks ago offers a great opportunity for local students to get to-

gether and train essential life skills while improving their game on the court.

Nate Letendre graduated from the high school in 2020, and as soon as he graduated, he came back to the high school to coach. During his time at Springfield College, he volunteered to coach for the junior varsity and girls' varsity programs,

ENTREPRENEURS

LEMONADE DAY

a sweet treat, thanks to support from town

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Staff Writer
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PALMER – This weekend, the town celebrated Lemonade Day with lemonade stands that popped up all over town, as part of a community-building effort and to teach kids entrepreneurial skills.

Lemonade Day is an entrepreneurial learning program for youths that was designed to teach the basics of money and how to run a business through running a lemonade stand. Julia Taylor coordinated 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."

Taylor has said that volunteering is her biggest passion, and admitted that she was very touched by the amount of support she saw from town officials.

"I am so very thankful to all of the community support shown on Lemonade Day," Taylor said. "It was a super successful event for the youth and honestly the town in gen-



Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Tyron Edmonds, Linea Lamothe, Crystal Rondeau, Christina Hazzard, Andrew St. George, Julia Taylor, Marc Caci, Beth O'Keefe, David O'Keefe

eral."

Taylor was thankful to the many residents who came out, and mentioned members of the local fire departments who visited the lemonade stands, "which the chil-

dren absolutely loved."

"Being our pilot year, we weren't sure of the turnout to expect, but it was phenomenal," Taylor said. "My heart is beyond thrilled to be able to bring our

communities together, one stand at a time."

Taylor said that she is already looking forward to next year's

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Pet of the Week



KARMA

This is Karma, eating her birthday cake. She lives with her brother and Maryann Carter-Laventure in Palmer. 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.

Residents to participate in Jimmy Fund Walk

PALMER— Four residents from Palmer will participate in the Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk on Sunday, Oct. 6.

Karen Oliveira, Sandra Noonan, Sheila Browne, and Kristen Contois, along with thousands of other walkers, will participate in the iconic annual event that will unite the community to raise funds to support all forms of adult and pediatric care and research at the nation's premier cancer center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The Jimmy Fund Walk has raised more than \$176 million for Dana-Farber in its 35-year history, raising a record-breaking \$9.4 million in 2023.

"For 35 years, the Jimmy Fund Walk has continuously supported lifesaving research and cancer care at Dana-Farber. Our goal is to build off of the momentum we've established throughout that history, and in 2024, aim to surpass our total from last year by raising \$9.5 million," says Caitlin Fink, assistant vice president of event fundraising. "Fighting cancer is what we do. The Walk unites our community under a common goal -to defy cancer together."

To register for the Walk (#JimmyFundWalk) or to support a walker, visit www.JimmyFundWalk.org or call (866) 531-9255. Registrants can enter the promo code NEWS for \$5 off the registration fee. All registered walkers will receive a bib, medal, and Jimmy Fund Walk T-shirt.

Monson Cultural picnic this weekend

Join us for our 6th annual Monson Cultural Picnic. This is a free event taking place on Saturday, August 31, 2024 from 1 to 5 p.m. Performances, songs and dances celebrating people of all different cultures.

This event will be held at Veterans Field in Monson (right next to the town offices and Police Station).

Free cookout at the park. Proceeds of this event supports the works of Afri(K)que Limited a 501(c) (3) organization that continues to fight for women and girls who are hungry, homeless and poor.

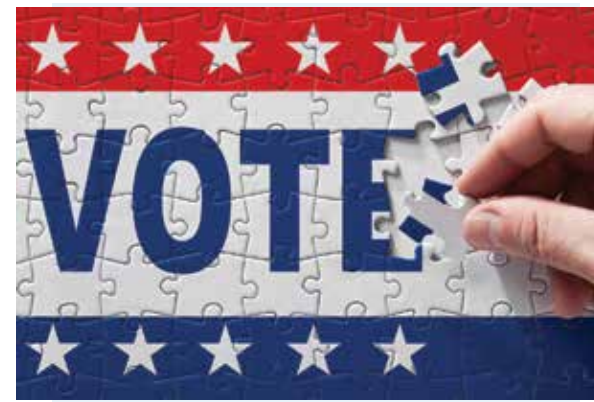
We are pleased to announce that this event is partially funded by the Town of Monson's REDO grant! Thank you for all you do for the development of events in Monson!

Money collection on display

MONSON— The Keep Homestead Museum welcomes Russell Bressette on Sunday, Sept. 1 at 1:30 p.m. when he shares his lifelong adventures of collecting coins and paper money.

Russell began his collection about age 9, but in the 1960's he seriously began going to auctions and tag sales to add to it. His earliest money is from the 1800's and includes paper money that was issued by banks including Monson Savings Bank. Coins and paper money from his collection will be on display in the barn for this free program which is open to the public.

The museum will be open from 1 to 3:30 p.m. to view new displays, have refreshments, and visit the gift shop where new handmade note cards featuring buttons are for sale. For more information about the museum visit www.KeepHomesteadMuseum.org.



Early voting notice for Palmer residents

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:

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.

Town of Monson voting information

MONSON— State Primary election will be on Sept. 3. Early voting will begin on Saturday, Aug. 24 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The schedule will be as follows:

Thursday, Aug. 29: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 30: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (last day for early voting).

Early voting will take place at the Town Office Building, Public Meeting Room located at 110 Main St.

Voting on Sept. 3 will take place at Quarry Hill Community School located at 43 Margaret St. in the Pool Entrance.

For inquiries please contact the Monson Town Clerk's office at 413-267-4115 or email us at townclerk@monson-ma.gov.

St. Paul's Church welcomes new minister of music

PALMER— St. Paul's Church of Palmer warmly welcomes Wes Hunter as its new Minister of Music. Hunter, who is also full-time music teacher at Berkshire Hills Music Academy in South Hadley, begins his ministry at St. Paul's on Sept. 8 at its Sunday Morning worship service. Barbara Stone, long time St. Paul's organist, passes on her eighteen yearlong role to Hunter. Hunter and his husband Marc reside in Western Massachusetts.

Under Hunter's leadership, music at St. Paul's church promises to feature a unique combination of hymns, folk and popular music, classical pieces as well as contemporary worship songs. St. Paul's choir will reconvene after its cessation during the Covid 19 years. Performances and concerts by students from Berkshire Hills Music Academy, as well as special concerts will round out the music ministry at the church. On Dec. 1 a Brass Fanfare Concert will be hosted by St. Paul's.

Hunter is a gifted tenor, and pianist. Originating his musical journey on the French horn and piano, Hunter ultimately established himself as a sought-after soloist, choral/ensemble singer, and church musician in the Washington, D.C. and Boston areas. He studied voice at both the University of Maryland, Col-



Submitted photo

St. Paul's Church of Palmer warmly welcomes Wes Hunter as its new Minister of Music.

lege Park and The Boston Conservatory where he received a BM and MM in voice and opera, respectively. Career highlights include being an ongoing featured soloist in The Boston Pops, The National Symphony Orchestra, Sarasota Opera, and Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras. Hunter is a member of the Berkshire Hills Music Academy in South Hadley. A unique college-like, residential program for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Hunter has had extensive experience in church music as well in the Boston and greater DC Metropolitan area. He most recently led worship music at St. Ignatius Parish, Chestnut Hill for nine years.

Alternative criteria for lung cancer screening

BOSTON— A researcher at VA Boston, Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine and Boston Medical Center helped develop alternative lung cancer screening criteria to identify people who would benefit significantly from screening, but are excluded by current criteria, according to research published Aug. 20, in "Annals of Internal Medicine".

"We found these high-benefit groups include those who smoked for a long duration, but at a lower intensity, those with heavy smoking who quit more than 15 years ago, and those from some racial and ethnic minority groups," said Dr. Lauren Kearney, lead author of the study, research fellow at VA Boston's Center for Healthcare Organization & Implementation Research, pulmonary and critical care fellow at Boston Medical Center, and instructor at Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine.

Researchers used responses to the National Health Interview Survey from more than 58 million smoking adults from 1997 to 2018, to study whether alternative criteria could better identify high-benefit persons and whom this would include. They used fast and frugal tree algorithms to develop an alternative set of simple criteria.

The researchers then compared the alternative criteria with U.S. Preventative Services Task Force, or USPSTF, criteria, evaluating their ability to identify high-benefit people. They also looked for where the selected populations overlapped and where the alternative criteria overcame USPSTF criteria limitations.

Results suggest that the alternative criteria have higher sensitivity and specificity in identifying high-benefit people, and is substantially more sensitive in identifying high-benefit people in racial and ethnic minority populations than the USPSTF criteria. Analysis showed inequity in current USPSTF criteria, which has poor sensitivity for identifying high-benefit Black people for lung cancer screening.

The researchers also believe that, beyond the lung cancer screening context, their approach could be useful for other cancer screening and prevention modalities.

"The alternative criteria produced more effective screening, led to better support of ethical risk management, and substantially reduced racial disparities in lung cancer screening eligibility," explained Kearney. "The alternative criteria are also easy to remember and represent a feasible way to improve current lung cancer screening eligibility criteria."

The research is available at <https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/M23-3250>.

LIGHTS OF HOPE

Come support and spread awareness, compassion, to those who have struggled, who are struggling now and who will struggle with

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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.

Lights of Hope to Illuminate Monson on Sept. 8

MONSON—The community of Monson is invited to come together for a heartfelt and inspiring event, Lights of Hope, on September 8th from 3 to 7:30 p.m. This event promises to be an evening filled with hope, remembrance, and unity.

Lights of Hope will be a special opportunity for residents to honor and remember those affected by substance use and to support those in recovery. The event will feature a series of activities, including a candlelight vigil, guest speakers, and community resource tables, all aimed at raising awareness and providing support to those impacted by substance use.

Pam West, a dedicated member of the Monson Substance Use Community Partnership, has played a crucial role in organizing this event. Her passion and commitment to the cause have been instrumental in bringing Lights of Hope to life.

The Monson Substance Use Community Partnership is proud to sponsor this event, reflecting its ongoing mission to promote substance use prevention, education, and support within the community. Attendees will have the opportunity to connect with local organizations and learn more about the resources available to them.

Mark your calendars for September 8 and join us at Lights of Hope. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those affected by substance use and continue to build a stronger, more supportive Monson community.

Water skiing show comes to Lake Wickaboag

WEST BROOKFIELD – On Saturday, Aug. 31, the Lake Wickaboag Preservation Association in conjunction with The Lake Wickaboag Boat Club will be hosting a water ski show.

The Aqua Riders of Holland will be performing on the south end of Lake Wickaboag in West Brookfield from 11 a.m.-noon. Admission is free, lake merchandise and raffle tickets will be available.

Viewing will be from the town beach on Cottage Street in West Brookfield, The Lake Wickaboag Boat Club or from your anchored boat on the lake in the designated area. All are welcome.

Please visit www.lakewickaboag.com for more information.

Monson to host special presentation by Stephen Hill on Mental Health and Substance Use Prevention

MONSON – The Substance Use Community Partnership is excited to announce a special presentation for parents and guardians featuring Stephen Hill, a nationally acclaimed speaker on mental health promotion and substance use prevention.

The event will take place on Monday, Sept. 23, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Granite Valley School at 21 Thompson St. in Monson.

Stephen Hill is the founder of Speak Sobriety, a young person in recovery, bestselling author, recovery coach, and defense attorney. With over 750 presentations in schools and coalitions across the country,

Stephen's inspiring comeback story and cautionary tale of addiction to recovery have touched the lives of thousands.

His message empowers parents to guide their children in leading healthy, substance-free lives by demonstrating the importance of building a life worth defending.

This presentation is a unique opportunity for parents and guardians to hear Stephen's powerful message, which focuses on educating the community about mental health and substance use, providing practical tools and coping skills to navigate challenges, and fostering a deeper understanding of how our ac-

tions can influence and impact the well-being of others.

"We are thrilled to have Stephen Hill speak with our community," said Rachel McRobbie, Drug-Free Communities Project Coordinator. "His story is not just about overcoming addiction but also about the importance of resilience, mental health, and making positive choices. We believe his message will resonate deeply with both parents and students."

In addition to the evening event for parents, Stephen will also be addressing all high school students during the school day. This gives parents the perfect opportunity to en-

gage in meaningful conversations with their children about substance use prevention and mental health, using Stephen's story as a platform.

This event, sponsored by Monson Substance Use Community Partnership and Monson PTSA, is free and open to the public. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m., with pizza and refreshments available before the presentation begins.

The school district encourages all parents, guardians, and community members to attend this important event.

For more information, please contact Rachel McRobbie at McRobbieR@Monson-Schools.com.

Monson Public Schools is dedicated to fostering a safe, supportive, and collaborative learning environment where every student is encouraged to achieve their full potential. The district is committed to providing our students and community with the resources and knowledge needed to lead healthy, successful lives.

Stephen Hill is the founder of Speak Sobriety, a young person in recovery, bestselling author, recovery coach, and defense attorney. He has shared his powerful story with thousands across the country, offering a message of hope, resilience, and the importance of making healthy choices.

American Legion announces 9/11 Remembrance and Dedication

PALMER – The American Legion's Post 130, is inviting the community to its annual 9/11 Remembrance and Dedication.

The ceremony is to be held

on Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024 at 6 p.m. at the Fire Service Group location at 1010 Thorndike St.

At this time, the American Legion will continue to honor the

soldiers who lost their lives on that fateful day, to honor our fallen from Western Massachusetts since 9/11, and dedicate our newest pavers received since the last ceremony.

Monson Schools offers meals at no cost

MONSON— Monson Public Schools participates the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. As part of this program, all schools offer healthy meals every school day at no cost to the students due to the implementation of the Community Eligibility Provision for school year 2024-2025.

Students receive breakfast and lunch at school without having to pay a fee or submit a household application. Non-Discrimination Statement: In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877- 8339.

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plaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged

discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or email: program.intake@usda.gov This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Monson Town Wide Tag Sale and Picnic

MONSON— This year, the 24th Annual Monson Town Wide Tag Sale will be held on Saturday, Aug 31. Throughout the beautiful town of Monson, over 100 individual and multi-family tag sale sites will be open.

Individuals that participated in last year's tag sale and provided an email address have received an email to sign up for a site this year. If you would like to sign up for a site, you may visit our website www.firstchurchmonson.org and click on the Town Wide Tag Sale logo. You may also fill out a form which are located at the post office, the town hall, the bank, the library, and Adams. You may also contact the church office at office@firstchurchmonson.org.

The official town map will be available Saturday, Aug.31, from 8 a.m. to noon for a \$5 donation at Memorial Hall, Main Street, Triune Wellness, Main Street, and First Church parking lot, 5 High Street. The guide will have all the tag sale locations and a detailed description of items for sale at each location.

At the First Church parking lot, there will be a Town Wide barbecue lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. hosted by First Church of Monson and Adams Market.

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DELUXE WHIRLPOOL WASHER \$499⁹⁹ WAS \$699.95	AMANA GAS RANGE #AGR1530CBAS • Stainless Steel \$599⁹⁹ WAS \$699.99	GE FRONT LOAD WASHER #GFWS00SNWW \$749⁹⁹ WAS \$999.99
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PALMER | from page 1

running and address some of the immediate needs of the town," Brothers said.

Brothers' experience working in the communities of Plymouth and Carver has provided him with extensive hands-on experience working through complex municipal challenges. In addition, though many of the town's department heads have been in their role for less than two years, Brothers described them as "extremely knowledgeable," and credited them with bringing him up to date on items requiring the Town Manager's immediate attention.

"The number one rule I highlighted with all department heads in my first week, and continue to reinforce, is to challenge the saying 'we've always done it this way,'" Brothers said. "While having a general sense of the history and background knowledge of a practice is certainly helpful, I want us to continuously ask ourselves if we are using best practice. Is there a better process we can put in place? Is there a way to streamline and reduce department touchpoints?"

Brothers said that he used this approach while working in Plymouth to relative success, finding efficiencies that are beneficial to both the end user – usually town residents – and the town departments. Brothers said that in a town where some departments are made up of only a department head with no administrative help, it can be essential to continuously improve operations, and try to free up the department's time from daily tasks to allow for more focus on implementing organizational and departmental goals.

"I encourage and welcome community feedback on all interactions with the town," Brothers said, "and, more importantly, ideas on how we can improve and better serve our community."

Brothers praised the "great work going on behind the scenes" in town, and said that improvements are being made every day. In the interest of highlighting the departments, Brothers said that he intends to have each department, including the schools, present at a Town Council meeting every year.

"This will allow the departments to provide updates on process changes, Massachusetts General Law changes, capital projects, community events, departmental goals, and highlight major accomplishments," Brothers said. "Another small thing you will see going forward is all Police Officer appointments and promotions will be sworn in by the Town Clerk at live Council meetings. This practice provides the community a nice opportunity to learn about our Officers protecting our town."

Brothers said the town has started to include upcoming community events at the bottom of all regular Town Council agendas as well. He mentioned that the town is seeking to highlight the work done by highlighting local businesses.

"As we close out Fiscal Year 2024 and begin 2025, one target area that I anticipate playing a major role in is highlighting our business community and strengthening its partnership with the town," Brothers said. "I intend to expand the Town Manager's role and involvement with the multiple Chambers of Commerce and business associations we have locally and work collectively with them on expanding media coverage for grand openings and major celebrations/milestones within our business community."

Brothers said that one of the biggest challenges is attracting businesses to vacant properties around town. Brothers said that he hopes to address this by highlighting what the town can bring to the table as a partner.

"We have all seen many vacant commercial properties that have become an eyesore in town over the last few years," Brothers said.

"While some are starting to change hands with new businesses coming in, we still have a lot of work to do.

In working with the Building Department, I'm very pleased to say we have worked collectively with many of these vacant property owners to ensure parcels are maintained to a reasonable standard."

Brothers said that the town faces certain challenges each budget season in maximizing services to the town due to the confines of Proposition 2 1/2, which limits how much the tax levy can be increased each year.

"This is a common theme for all small rural communities, especially in Western Massachusetts," Brothers said. "We combat this by consistently reviewing how service is delivered to ensure efficiency, working closely with our state legislators on funding opportunities to maximize fundings sources, and continuing to explore regional and shared service opportunities with neighboring towns."

The number one rule I highlighted with all department heads in my first week, and continue to reinforce, is to challenge the saying 'we've always done it this way,'

— Town Manager Brad Brothers

Brothers added that there has been development near the exits to the Mass Pike, and that the town has significant build-out potential that will provide opportunities for grants to potentially improve traffic, sidewalks, public utilities, and more, while increasing the town's tax base.

Of course, talking about transportation across the state leads the Town Manager to mention the much-lauded East/West Rail Project.

"Ben Hood from the Citizens Group and the Palmer Rail Steering Committee highlighted the project status very well in the Aug. 8 edition of the Journal Register," Brothers said. "At this time, six of the 11 sites initially reviewed are being proposed to move forward to the next project phase."

Brothers said that of the remaining six, one downtown location, the current site for the Department of Public Works, is noted to provide the most economic development out of the six and would present an opportunity to continue revitalization of our downtown.

"It's important we work closely with the Department of Transportation on ensuring a rail stop finds a home in Palmer," Brothers said. "While it is anticipated to open with only two daily runs into Boston, it's a nice amenity to have in town for either

those needing to commute for work, or for families taking a day trip into the city."

Brothers said that the target date for rail to become operational is in 2029, and that he looks forward to continuing to work with DOT to ensure the stop is placed in town.

Problems with local water have been plaguing the town for some time, and Brothers said that he was unaware of the complexities of the water departments in the village until he started the position.

"I can understand how this has been a topic of discussion for many years, and I would suggest an outside consultant come in and provide an assessment of the existing department structure, including the pros and cons of potentially merging all districts under one," Brothers said.

Brothers said that the state has offered grant funds for the review of shared services and regionalization efforts.

"Assuming this would qualify, the departments could submit a funding request for this type of assessment," Brothers said. "From an economies of scale perspective, consolidating would provide some cost savings measures in addition to giving town residents one voice when attempting to secure available state and federal grants for capital project costs."

"I understand and respect the deep-rooted history of the villages, but I would like to explore alternative options for delivery of water service to town residents, regardless of which village you reside in," Brothers said.

In addition to these larger projects, Brothers said that he anticipates bringing forward a discussion with Town Council about upgrades to Legion Field's courts, financial policies, a Master Plan for Burleigh Park, sale of surplus and vacant town-owned properties, a five-year capital plan, and a financing tool to promote development in designated areas.

Brothers said that as he moves forward in his role, he hopes to reinforce a sense of community in the town.

"Palmer is a community where residents should feel safe residing and value all its offerings," Brothers said. "I look forward to working with the residents to enhance offerings and continue moving our community forward."



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MONSON | from page 1

becoming a District Social Worker in 2010. She described herself as "caring deeply about this community."

"I am excited to work with the students, I know many of their siblings and families," Barnes said. "I'm looking forward to this school year to help students achieve their potential, and strengthen our school community."

Barnes described her position at the school as a hybrid role, serving as both the Dean of Students from grades 7-12 and also the Director of Counseling for pre-kindergarten up to 12th grade.

Fontaine said that his leadership style is centered around listening and having conversations in the community, including the students and their families, about what it needs. From there, Fontaine tries to continuously grow, and to develop a vision and come up with a plan that works towards addressing the community's needs.

"School should be a foundational pillar of the community," Fontaine said. "If we can get all of our partners on board with that vision, we can help structure that pillar and make it the best that it can be for our students."

Fontaine said that the transition into the new role has gone very well for him since his official start date of July 1.

"I kind of started unofficially at the end of June," Fontaine said. "I've been making sure procedures are put in place, that the students are set up for success, and building on our work-based learning program to

ensure students have places to go in the community to do internships."

This work-based learning program is a feature of the school that seeks to pair students with potential careers by arranging internships with local businesses.

"We have juniors and seniors that participate in our school-to-career program," Fontaine explained. "They go out into the community and actually do the job-shadowing with various companies and organizations."

Fontaine said that there are students from the high school at a law firm in Springfield, while others work in area businesses and still more are at Town Hall here in town.

"They get to gain knowledge on their career," Fontaine said. "We're trying to build more partnerships, so that we have a broader array of things we can offer to the kids."

Fontaine said that, like any administrative position, the local schools are not without their challenges.

"One of the challenges right now is making sure we have a budget that supports the best possible education for our students," Fontaine said. "Money is always tight; the more you have, the more you still want. We're just trying to be sure we're not cutting programs and are still able to create new ones to serve the needs of our kids."

Fontaine had the opportunity

to meet parents in the community through a number of local events, citing the School Council, which many parents participated in. He said that he uses these forums with the public to listen to what parents' needs are, and has been attending School Committee meetings to make sure he and the committee are on the same page.

"I think one of the biggest concerns for the parents is consistency," Fontaine said. "Making sure whoever's here is out there supporting the students, whether that be at art programs, band concerts, or sports events."

Fontaine said that parents were also interested in expanding the school-to-career program.

"We're trying to grow our offerings," Fontaine said. "Being a small school, we're limited to what we can offer, so we like to ask how we can maximize the resources we have."

Fontaine said that from his work in other districts, he's found that the methods to establish himself are usually the same.

"It's about trying to get to understand the comm and making sure the school is an extension of those needs," Fontaine said. "I'm a member of the community, I've been here for four years, and I'm looking forward to making this school the best that it can be."

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A student shows a big smile as he turns up for his first day of first grade.



Adeline, age 8, was escorted to school by Erin Ayott.



Back to School



Two friends caught up as they walked through the doors to Old Mill Pond School.



The first students passed through the doors of the bus and stepped onto the school campus.



Teachers and the school district's staff wore brightly-colored vests to guide the students to the school.



Students carrying backpacks and bookbags were greeted by school administration for their first day of school.



The town's Public Relations Officer stood with members of the school administration to greet the students.

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Students waved to the camera as they got off the bus on Wednesday morning.



A student took the time to talk to paraprofessional Lauren Shaw as he arrived at school.

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Students from grades 1-6 stepped off the bus on the morning of Aug. 28.



Assistant Principal Penny Manterria, Principal Holly-Beth Riopel, and Assistant Principal Kerry Lynch welcome students for the first day.

First day of school



Kellan was smiling as he got off the bus to start the new semester.



A student with a big smile on his face gave a hug to art teacher Alissa Breyare when he saw her.



A student was excited to received a hug from his teacher as soon as he got off the bus.



Alissa Breyare gave a hug to a student as she arrived at the school.



Two friends smiled for a picture on their way to the third grade.



Paraprofessional Lauren Shaw and music teacher Sydney Andrews greeted students at the front doors on the first day.



Brie carried a bright backpack into school on her first day this Wednesday.

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LEMONADE DAY



Submitted photos Pam Prouty used a saw for the lemonade stand-building workshop.



Noah and Addy used a pallet of wood to build their lemonade stand.



A lemonade stand was placed at Depot Village Station Park on Main Street.



Noah and Addy stood up to see the fire truck that came to visit from the Bondsville Fire Department.



David and Beth O'Keefe helped Addy and Noah sell lemonade in Grammar Park.



James and Daisy Jiances converted wood pallets to lemonade stands at the workshop at Pulaski Park.



Nathan and Ethan Nay set up their Pokémon-themed "Pokénade" stand in front of the library.



James and Daisy Jiances decorated their lemonade stand with yellow paint and smiling cartoon lemons.



Emma LaBier (front) carries a solo cup of lemonade from the intricately decorated lemonade stand.



Addy, age 6, and Noah, age 12, worked the lemonade stand at Grammar Park in Bondsville.

and Beyond!
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Aerial pictures provided by Above the Law Imagery

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We're not just any organization - we're a community catalyst! Our mission is clear: foster camaraderie among local businesses, creating a vibrant hub that transforms our town into a must-visit destination for all. We're here to ignite connections, inspire growth, and spark innovation.

Why Join Us?

Referrals are just the beginning! As a member, you'll enjoy the spotlight on your business within our close-knit community. Think of us as your business's ultimate cheerleaders, making sure your unique offerings shine bright.

A Legacy of Achievement

Since 2011, our committee has been making waves. We're not just about meetings - we're about momentum. From securing endorsements for local businesses to orchestrating events that turn visitors into regulars, we've been shaping our towns' destiny, one success story at a time.

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Who says business can't be fun? Picture this: quarterly membership nights that blend networking with laughter. We're all about community, after all - and a little friendly competition in the bowling alley or at the axe throwing yard never hurt anyone.

Network that Expands

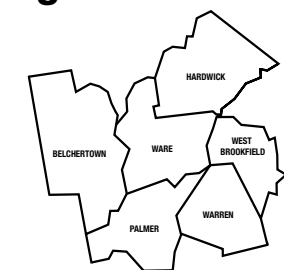
With a sprawling member base, joining us means getting in on the action. Your business won't just get noticed; it'll become a star in our constellation of local talent.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

The Journal Register encourages readers to contact event coordinators and organizers for updated event times. Have an event to promote? Email the information (in sentence form and as a Word doc or plain email text – no PDFs or flyers, please – to journalregister@turley.com.

UPCOMING

BRIMFIELD WINERY EVENTS:
HARVEST FESTIVAL by Autism in my pocket. Sept. 21, 70 + vendors, music, fun for whole family, from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

19TH NERVOUS BREAKDOWN-Rolling Stones Tribute playing from 2 – 5 p.m. Free to public Food truck onsite: Savage Wraps

PIONEER VALLEY'S "ROCK-TOBER" Featuring THE LEGENDS TOUR by Robert Black entertainment. Enjoy the most amazing tribute to Johnny Cash/ Creedence Clearwater Revival and Elvis Presley. Saturday Oct. 5 Gates open 4 p.m. Show starts 5 p.m. Tickets only \$35 a carload.

BRIMFIELD'S 16TH ANNUAL CAR SHOW benefiting Brimfield Firefighters Assoc & Hitchcock Free Academy. October 12, 10 a.m. Over 700 vehicles are going to be shown off for good causes.

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Aug. 29 SWEETS n TREATS (freeze dried fruit, veggies, candy)

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

60th REUNION PALMER HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1964
The event will be held at The Brimfield Winery on Saturday, Sept 14, from 1 to 5 p.m. Contact Carol at 413-283-9495 for more details.

ONGOING

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

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

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

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

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

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

LINE DANCING CLASS: 3-5 p.m. and/or 6:30-8:30 p.m., every Thursday at the Monson Polish Club, 7 Bliss St, Monson. Rose's line dancing classes include absolute beginners and beginners, and participants get to dance to all types of music. \$10 per class. Please wear comfortable footwear, no sandals.

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

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

QI GONG: 6 p.m., every Tuesday night at the library from 5:45 to 7 p.m. FREE, all levels welcome!



Marc Caci and Linea Lamothe stopped by the Grammar Park lemonade stand on Saturday.

LEMONADE DAY | from page 1

Lemonade Day, which will be in June. "It will be a two-week program on the weekend, so as to accommodate more families' schedule restrictions that might arise during the week," Taylor said. "Those involved, including the families, will also be working together as a team to help us make a blueprint for other towns to follow so they, too, can start their own Lemonade Day program." Taylor said she was thankful for the parental support that she saw for the children running the stands, as well as the support received from the program's sponsors.

"Without everyone working together, including the community coming out the day of and buying lemonade, this program doesn't succeed and our youth don't learn the financial literacy that is so vital to learn at a younger age," Taylor said. "The overwhelming support shown by the town for our youth is something to be very proud of."

If you're interested in becoming a sponsor or bringing this event to your town, you can send an email to Taylor at juliagulia2324@gmail.com. "Thank you so very much for a successful First Annual Lemonade Day in Palmer," Taylor said. "We look forward to seeing you next year."



Noah and Addy decorated their lemonade stand with paint and drawings at Pulaski Park.

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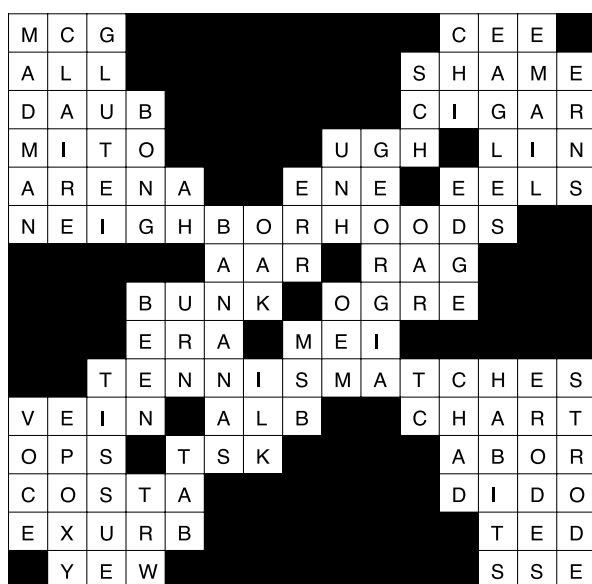
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Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley holds golf fundraiser

QUABOAG VALLEY— Join members of the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley on Sept. 7 for a fun day on the links at Cold Spring Country Club in Belchertown and be a champion for women and girls. The \$120 registration includes golf, cart, pastries/coffee, snacks, box lunch, beverages, prizes and more! If you aren't a golfer, you can donate a raffle prize or sponsor a hole. Registration starts at 7:30 a.m., with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m.

For more information contact Mary Knight at 413-219-8260 or info@zontaqv.org, or visit ZontaQV.org. The support directly funds scholarships and grants that empower women and girls to overcome challenges and achieve their full potential. We're working to end child marriage, domestic violence, and human trafficking, while also supporting climate justice, education equality and women in decision-making positions.

Sportsman's Club Hosts Annual BBQ Fundraiser

By Tessa Quinn
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – The Swift River Sportsman's Club was busy on Saturday, Aug. 24 for its annual Chicken Barbeque fundraiser.

The sportsman's club sits on 400 acres and has been a popular place for locals to hunt wild game including turkey and deer since the 1940s. The group also stocks pheasants and quail for local hunters.

According to the group's president, John Soja, there are currently about 300 senior members plus those who are considered lifetime members in the club.

This past weekend's barbeque brought in more than 200 people to Swift River. Tickets to the event sold for \$20, and anyone from the community was able to attend, not just club members.

Soja says funds from the event go towards keeping the club running, and hosting future events for members and their families.

"Our biggest expense is land management and upgrading our property and keeping it maintained," explains Soja.

Saturday's cookout kicked off at noon at Swift River's clubhouse and picnic area in Belchertown. People attending the event were treated to barbeque chicken, corn on the cob, and baked potato. Hamburgers, hotdogs, and a cash bar were also available before the main dinner, all while live music entertained the crowd.

Local band the Time Trippers played at the event from 1-5 p.m. They performed covers of popular songs

from the 1960s, '70s, and '80s.

The Club is currently busy getting ready for pheasant season which begins in the state in October. Swift River raises pheasants to stock the property for local hunters, and the money from the barbeque also goes towards raising those birds.

"Our pheasant committee will be kicking in gear with that," said Soja.

As with many activities, the pandemic changed the way Swift River hosted its summer fundraiser.

According to Soja, the club used to host a clambake every summer, "It was a traditional thing," he explained.

However, since the COVID-19 pandemic, the cost of bringing in the seafood was too great. So when members received permission to begin their fundraiser again, they switched to the chicken barbeque and it has been a success for four years now.

Planning for the event begins in January, and Soja says it's a long process between ticket sales, organizing the entertainment, and setting up tables, chairs, and the big tent. Soja said putting up the tent is an all day process and members make a day out of it, coming out to help set up.

Group members are kept busy throughout the year with different events including annual turkey shoots, a kids' Christmas party, and hosting multiple archery and shooting groups.

If you are interested in supporting the Swift River Sportsman's Club, their next event is the 100 Club Dinner, scheduled for Sept. 8. Tickets are on sale now. After that, the annual turkey shoots run on Sundays from Oct. 6 through Nov. 24.



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers
Dee Mitchell, corresponding secretary for the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors, calls Wayne Douillard, of Palmer, after he won \$500 in lottery tickets raffle prize.

Friends of Wilbraham Seniors announces lotto raffle winner

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The time finally arrived on Aug. 24 to announce the winner of the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors' \$500 in lottery tickets raffle.

The winner is Wayne Douillard of Palmer. The raffle, which went on for the past few months, had participants trying their luck for one chance for \$5, three chances for \$10, seven chances for \$20 and 25 chances for \$50.

All the proceeds from the fundraiser support the senior center.

On Aug. 24, members of the Friends gathered at the front porch of the senior center to welcome last-minute entries from 1 to 3 p.m. and at 3 p.m., the wheel was spun by Lisa Coolidge, Theresa Munn and Judy Godfrey to choose the lucky winner.

Then, after Coolidge chose the winner, Dee Mitchell, corresponding secretary for the Friends, called Douillard to let him know he had won, with him later arriving to pick up the prize.

Douillard was humbled and shocked at winning, sharing he took part to give back to the senior center.

"I don't believe I won. I never won anything that big. Never did. I never thought I'd win," Douillard said.

Douillard specifically credited Barbara Harrington, social services coordinator, for her support, adding, "I think the world of" her.

"She helped me out to guide me on back taxes on my house. She guided me along, talked to the manager of the town and we worked things out with Medicare, MassHealth and she's going to help me out again with social security," Douillard said. "She's been more than helpful. I can't say nothing bad about these people."

Douillard heard about the raffle two weeks before and submitted his entries right at the senior center, then returned on Aug. 23--last Friday--to submit more entries.

He also thanked Jen Finnigan, volunteer/activities coordinator, and Paula Dubord, director of elder affairs, for their support too, with what winnings he receives to go back to the senior center.

"I just wanted to give back to what the place had done for me over the years," Douillard said.

Chuck Pelouze, a member of the Friends, was at the drawing announcement and was excited to see the raffle go to someone who's benefited from the senior center.

"Now, he's won the top prize," Pelouze said. "He's hoping to win a few dollars along the way and give back to the senior center as a thank-you for what they have done for him. Very rewarding."

Pelouze reflected on the impact this fundraiser had, along with the Friends in bringing the new senior center to where it is now.

"As a result of their efforts, they have contributed over \$450,000 for purchases that they needed to supply the interior of the senior center. So, it's very rewarding," Pelouze said. "So many of us give our time and now we can see the results as to what they've achieved. It's very rewarding from my standpoint."

Pelouze added how Wilbraham is "a strong community" and also receives support from neighboring communities as well.

"In fact, now they've become members of the new Wilbraham Senior Center. Almost 40% of the population here in Wilbraham is made up of seniors," Pelouze said. "Paula, the director here of the senior center, has seen the attendance more than triple since they built the new senior center."

Pelouze thanked everyone for participating in the raffle fundraiser.

"We're very excited about the results. We'll have the final figures in the next five days," Pelouze said. "But we're very excited at this point in time how much money was raised, once again, by the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors."

Douillard encouraged people to take part in future raffles.

"Go for it! You never know," Douillard said.

He had this message for the Friends and the senior center staff.

"Damn good job! Keep it up," Douillard said. "I thank you all very much!"



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Three Rivers man dies after weekend crash

HADLEY - A man from Three Rivers died as a result of injuries sustained in a crash in Hadley around noon Saturday, Aug. 24.

The collision between a motorcycle and truck took place on East Street when a motorcycle travelling northbound and a truck heading southbound collided as the truck was turning left into a driveway.

The operator of the motorcycle, James Lis, 70, was transported to Bay-

state Medical Center, where he died.

The crash remains under investigation by Hadley Police, State Police detectives attached to the Northwestern District Attorney's Office, State Troopers with the Crime Scene Services Section and the Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section.

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will determine the cause of death.

Wales Cultural Council Grant applications open

WALES—The Wales Cultural Council has been awarded \$5,700 for the 2025 grant cycle. Applications are open Sept. 1 through Oct. 16. All applications are on line at : <https://massculturalcouncil.org/local-council/>

wales/. The council looks forward to bringing cultural, artistic, and educational programs to the town. The Wales Cultural Council Committee may be reached at lcc@townofwales.net.

Your guide to investing in an election year

Investing in an election year presents unique challenges due to increased market volatility and uncertainty surrounding policy changes. As November 2024 approaches, election noise will only increase, making it crucial for investors to maintain focus on their long-term goals.

Based on extensive research and analysis of the past 23 presidential election cycles, our Guide to investing in an election year offers a comprehensive look at how elections have influenced markets. It can help answer some of your most pressing questions, including:

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To discuss these insights, please join me at my next "investing in an election year" meeting.

Investing in an election year
Date: Tuesday, September 17th, 2024
Time: 5:30PM
Location: Palmer Public Library, 1455 N Main St, Palmer, MA 01069

RSVP:
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The school's Public Relations Officer helped a student in a wheelchair off the bus.



Principal Holly Riopel walked students who didn't know where to go to their classroom



Students file into the school to start a new year of learning. Turley Photos by Marcelo Gusmão



Young students waved to Lauren Shaw as they are welcomed to Old Mill Pond.

Back to School



Old Mill Pond is a fun place for Swifties and basketball fans alike to attend first to sixth grade.



It was a bright morning as students filed into Old Mill Pond to begin the new semester.



A student gave Principal Holly Riopel a hug when he got off the bus.



Students pass by the school's PRO and administrative staff on their way to their classroom.



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Muster Day & Marquis Commemorate American history with OSV

STURBRIDGE – Old Sturbridge Village invites the public to experience early American militia traditions during its annual Muster Day on Saturday, Aug. 31.

This year's event will showcase the historic military practices that shaped early New England and serve as the prelude to a significant mile-

stone: the Bicentennial of the Marquis de Lafayette's Farewell Tour of the United States.

Muster Day is a cherished tradition that dates to the early 19th century when farmers and craftsmen dutifully answered the call to supplement the modest armed forces by joining local militia units, which laid

the groundwork for today's National Guard. Twice a year, these citizen soldiers were "called to muster" for a day of intensive training in their town, preparing to defend their communities in times of need.

From 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., visitors will have the unique opportunity to witness firsthand the training and camaraderie of these citizen soldiers, from marching drills to musket and cannon firing and target practice. The day's activities will also include mock battles, known as "sham fights," all accompanied by martial music played on period instruments.

"Old Sturbridge Village is the only place in

New England where you can witness a recreated early 19th century militia muster. These were not only days for the militia to get out and practice drills and maneuvers, but they were often public spectacles that were treated like holidays," said Derek Heidemann, Director of Collections and Research at Old Sturbridge Village, in a press release.

This year's Muster Day is especially significant as it ties into the Bicentennial of Lafayette's Farewell Tour. In 1824, the beloved French General set out on a tour of the United States, visiting towns and cities across the nation to celebrate the enduring friendship between France and America.

In conjunction with the American Friends of Lafayette, the Vil-

lage has on display an exhibit that explores Lafayette's historic visit, including objects from the OSV Museum Collection. Visitors will also have the chance to make "Welcome Lafayette" ribbons and enjoy gingerbread made from Mary Washington's famous recipe – just as Lafayette may have tasted during his visit.


On Tuesday, Sept. 3 on Main Street in Sturbridge, beginning at 6 p.m. the American Friend of Lafayette's 2024-2025 Bicentennial Tour will be making a stop.

"We are thrilled to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Marquis de Lafayette's historic tour of the United States. In 1824, Lafayette was celebrated by massive crowds and his visit was a momentous event for every town he passed through,"

said Heidemann. "Old Sturbridge Village staff is excited to commemorate Lafayette's journey throughout Worcester County, with a special event on the evening of September 3 on the Sturbridge Common, marking the end of Lafayette's Massachusetts tour exactly as it happened in 1824."

To view the full Muster Day event schedule or purchase tickets, please visit <https://www.osv.org/event/muster-day>.

To learn more about the 200th Anniversary of Lafayette's Farewell Tour, please visit Commemoration of Lafayette's Farewell Tour - Sturbridge, MA - Old Sturbridge Village (osv.org).



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Vendors needed for Flea Market on the Common

WEST BROOKFIELD –The First Congregational Church, 36 North Main St. has been hosting its Flea Market on the town Common for more than 50 years and this year it will be held on Saturday, Sept. 14 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sellers of all kinds are welcome - flea folk,

antique dealers, crafters, product vendors, and those emptying out basements and attics. No food vendors, please.

Spaces are available for \$40 for a 20 by 20 grassy spot. Vendors must bring their own tables and tents.

The church will sponsor a food tent with grilled food, cold drinks and sweet treats. Email to fecofwbfleamarket@gmail.com for an application.

Three-day cycling event covers 104 miles of rail trail

NORTHAMPTON – A three-day cycling adventure will cover 104-miles of Mass Central Rail Trail Sept. 20-22, starting in Northampton and ending in Boston.

This historic rail corridor is becoming the longest rail trail in New England. Currently, the corridor is 60% finished and its completion is a state priority, expected to bring in over \$200 million in new revenue to cities and towns it passes through.

Once completed, the MCRT will span 120 miles across the commonwealth.

"Ride N2B on the MCRT" will make roughly 12 stops along the route with overnight stays in Ware and Hudson. Presentations by local advocates, community leaders and historians will be made at these stops to spread awareness about efforts to continue the MCRT.

The ride will have 12-15 riders for the whole route with other riders encouraged to join for parts of each day.

For information about the ride and joining a section, contact Della Penna at craigdp413@gmail.com.



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FIELD HOCKEY

Central Mass. wins Bay State Games

West team falls in bronze medal game

WALTHAM – The Central and West field hockey teams well-represented their regions in the Bay State Games held over the summer. The Central team won the gold while the West team made it to bronze game. Here are some highlights of the tournament.

Central won an early round game against Metro/Northeast 3-1. Central goals scored by juniors Katelynn Swistak (6) and Emma Huslander (2) as well as sophomore Elly Schofer (8). Metro/Northeast's lone goal was scored by sophomore Lia Arevalo (10) assisted by freshman Addison Aufiero (8).

West had a wild tie with Coastal 5-5. Sophomore Adeline Finlaw (3) scored 2 goals and had one assist for Coastal. Sophomore Paige Moreau (8) had both a goal and an assist. Other Coastal goals scored were from juniors Lilly Cook (9) and Summer Silverman (11). Junior Ellia Delisle (15) and sophomore Kelsey McCleary (5) each had an assist. Central goals scored by juniors Emma Huslander (2) and Katelynn Swistak (6), sophomore Elly Schofer (8), freshman Makenzie Casey (1), and 8th grader Isabelle Stanley (4).

West then lost the bronze game 3-1. West's lone goal scored by junior Grace Rajpold (13). Coastal's Goals scored by 8th grader Breanna Aveiro (6), sophomore Paige Moreau (8), and junior Ellia Delisle (15). Freshman Maura Kennedy (2) and sophomore Adeline Finlaw (3) each had an assist. Coastal won the bronze medal.

Central defeated Southeast for the gold 2-1. Southeast's lone goal was scored by freshman Ella Marzullo (8). Central's sophomore Elly Schofer (8) scored 2 goals in the final game, one unassisted and the other assisted by freshman Mackenzie Casey (1). Central took home the gold while Southeast settled for the silver.

BOWLING

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – The fall/winter leagues will be starting after Labor Day at Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes in Palmer.

The Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League will be the first league to begin the candlepin league season of 2024-2025. The league is looking to have a full league this season with eight four-person teams.

The defending champions are Life is Good, consisting of bowlers John Havens Sr, Paul Cyr, Jeff Knight, Scott Denault and Jim Plushner. Life is Good took the crown by defeating The Champs R Here and Compression in a three-way playoff battle for the season championship.

Life is Good is aiming to defend their championship in the up-

SOCCER



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Rain didn't hamper boys soccer practice on Monday afternoon.



Monson boys soccer is looking for another tourney run.



The Mustangs get their season going next week.



Monson boys soccer works out late Monday at Granite Valley School.

AUTO-RACING

Fanning captures win in Street Stocks

THOMPSON, CT — A perfect Wednesday, Aug. 14 afternoon in the quiet corner of Connecticut brought the fans in droves for the annual NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Wednesday night showcase at Thompson Speedway. The Thompson 150 presented by FloSports headlined a seven division card of racing on Wednesday night that also included a fan-favorite visit for the New England Supermodified Series and the five track championship divisions that call Thompson home throughout the season.

The Street Stocks started off the evening's feature racing with Scott Sundeen at the head of the pack. Sundeen powered up looking to nab his first win of the season followed by Al Stone III, 'Lead-foot' Larry Barnett and Corey Fanning nose-to-tail behind him.

The lone caution on lap 12 for the spinning Tim Poulin set up a final showdown between Sundeen and Fanning with Corey Fanning powering through to the win with Ryan Waterman making moves to take second and Al Stone III holding on for third.

Following NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour qualifying the Mini Stocks took on the highbanks with Steve Michalski and Rick LaFlesh. LaFlesh got the jump into the lead as heavy-hitters Jared Roy and Kevin Moore battled for second just inches off LaFlesh's back bumper. Roy sling-shot into the lead powering out of turn four under the halfway crossed-flags. Jared Roy would put the peddle down to return to his winning ways followed by Kevin Moore and Ryan Pomposelli.

Rookie Isaiah Newcomb

brought the Thompson Sunoco Modifieds to the green flag with Jon Puleo quickly launching the head of the pack. By lap five, Todd Owen had charged up to second and began stalking the youngster with a few love taps on the bumper. Owen would charge under Puleo to lead lap seven with Puleo left to fend off Keith Rocco for second. Puleo would use the cross-over to lead lap 13 with Rocco and Owen getting physical for second. Content to run 1-2-3, the leaders waited for laps to wind down in their 30-lap main event and took it right down to the checkered flags with Jon Puleo taking his fifth win of the season followed by Keith Rocco and Todd Owen in victory lane.

Bobby Timmons and Jim Storace brought the New England



Alex Nunlist fields a grounder.

BASEBALL

Former Red Sox prospect leads new baseball camp

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM — Many sports camps were held throughout Western Massachusetts during the past several months.

The Summer Sendoff Baseball Camp took place on the baseball fields at Spec Pond in Wilbraham from August 19-22. The camp was run by Dustin Brisson, who played Minor League Baseball for the Boston Red Sox.

"I held a couple of private baseball clinics with Doug Clark, who's the WooSox hitting coach, during the offseason," Brisson said. "I spoke with the Wilbraham Parks & Recreation Department about holding a baseball camp during the summertime. All these kids just love playing the game of baseball. I really wanted them to have high quality instruction and the resources to be successful."

Brisson was aided at the four day camp by Bryan Barnowski, Ace Adams, Gary Burnham, who was an All-American baseball player at Clemson University, and Dan Gomez, who's the head baseball coach at Western New England University. Minnechaug Regional varsity baseball coach Mike Netkovich worked at the camp for one day. Ray Fagnant, who's the Boston Red Sox Northeast Regional Scouting Supervisor, also attended the camp for a

day. Fagnant grew up in Chicopee. About 40 baseball players between the ages of 6-16 from Wilbraham and the surrounding communities attended the inaugural baseball camp.

"We have a few kids from South Hadley, Agawam, and East Longmeadow at this camp," Brisson added. "This is a very good group of kids to work with. All of them listen to us and they're having a lot of fun."

The players were split up into two groups.

"We play a lot more games with the younger kids, who are in grades 1-5," Brisson said. "We do more skills with the older kids."

Brisson, who was born in Florida, played college baseball at the University of Central Florida from 1997-2000. He also played baseball in the prestigious Cape Cod League and is a member of PeoplesBank, which captured another Tri-County League championship title this summer.

He was drafted by the New York Mets and the Miami Marlins before signing with the Red Sox.

He advanced to Double A before his professional baseball career came to an end due to an injury.

"I was blessed to have the opportunity to play professional baseball," Brisson said. "I'm now



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Catcher TJ Ryan catches a ball at the plate.

Warriors participate in play day

SOUTH HADLEY – Last Sunday on a sun-splashed day, Tantasqua girls soccer went to South Hadley and took on several Western Mass. teams in a play day held at the high school. The event featured Agawam, Chicopee Comprehensive, and Minnechaug as well as host South Hadley. The Warriors have one more scrimmage scheduled against Nipmuc Region on Friday morning, then turn their attention to their season opener at Marlborough on Tuesday afternoon at 4 p.m. The Warriors first home game will be held on Monday, Sept. 9 at 3:30 p.m.



Alise Quinn makes a run up the field.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Izzy Cox tries to head off the ball.



Kaydie O'Neill follows through on a pass forward.

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Maddie Dart makes her way up the field for the Warriors.



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Athlete of the Week

Sierra Martinson
Monson High School

After a great career at Monson High, Martinson joined up with the Monson Mustangs women's summer soccer team.
To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

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BOWLING | from page 13

coming season. The league consists of three separate rounds. Each round winner will advance to the playoffs at the end of the season. The opening league night of the season for the Commercial Elks League will begin the Tuesday right after Labor Day.

Visit Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes at 1446 North Main St. The lanes can be reached by calling 413-289-0013.

Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes also has leagues on the evenings of Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Fall leagues forming at Bogey Lanes

EAST BROOKFIELD – Bogey Lanes is preparing for their fall leagues of the 2024-2025 season.

The candlepin league season goes on from September and ends sometime in April or May. There are leagues available for adults, teens and youth

bowlers.

Bogey Lanes will be featuring weekly leagues on Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The Monday Doubles Mixed League will be a bi-weekly league. There is a senior league available for seniors on Thursdays in the afternoon at 1pm.

There are several leagues available for kids and teens. Kids will have a bumper league on Fridays as well be a non-bumper league for kids. There will be a teen league on Wednesday nights at 5 p.m. starting in late September.

For those new to the bowling game and looking for a night out, tryout for some of the leagues available at Bogey Lanes. Bogey Lanes is taking signups at their front desk or by email, info@bogeylanes.com.

For more information about fall leagues call Bogey Lanes at 508-867-6629. Visit Bogey Lanes at 199 North Brookfield Road.

RACING | from page 13

Supermodified Series to green for their 30-lap main event. The heart-stopping move of the race would come on lap 4 as Ben Seitz and Dan Bowes took Storage three-wide, shooting off turn two and down the back straightaway with Bowes coming out with the lead. Coming from mid-pack, Jon McKennedy also rounded Storage to take third, made the long march to take on Seitz and dove underneath to take position on lap 21. With a straightaway lead Dan Bowes took the win just nine lightning-fast laps later followed by McKennedy and Seitz at the line.

Fast time, Mayhew Tools polesitter Patrick Emerling brought the 26-car NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour field to green and quickly shot out front ahead of Craig Lutz. Dave 'Sap' Sapienza brought out the first caution on lap 20 with a flat right rear sending him in the spin-cycle in turn three. Emerling would maintain the lead under the return to green flag racing with a rear-view mirror full of Justin Bonsignore. The leaders would begin taking on lap traffic on lap 53 but remained settled in for the long-haul strategy. The second caution on lap 60 for the spinning Woody Pitkat off turn two saw the entire field jump pit-side for tires and adjustments in preparation for the second half of the Thompson 150 presented by FloSports.

Patrick Emerling again maintained

his lead position by an impatient Justin Bonsignore began to show his hand, diving under Emerling in a look to the near future. Jake Johnson would slam into the turn one wall on lap 76 from mid-pack with an apparent mechanical failure to rereck the field once more. The subsequent restart saw top-5 runner Chase Dowling quickly fall through the field with obvious issues under the hood to swamp a great day for the Tinio Motorsports group as Emerling continued to dominate at the front. The final stretch would see Patrick Emerling dominant the Thompson 150 presented by FloSports for his fifth career NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour win and first at Thompson Speedway followed by Justin Bonsignore and Craig Lutz.

The AZ Roofing SK Light Modifieds and the Late Models wrapped up the Wednesday night racing action at Thompson. Cautions plagued the opening circuits of the SK Light feature, taking out point leader Tyler Chapman and rookie Steve Midford, leaving Meghan Fuller to battle Nick Hovey and John O'Sullivan. Nick Hovey would motor around Fuller for his first win of the season with John O'Sullivan coming home third. The Late Model 25-lap sprint would see Derek Gluchacki charge ahead of the field to take back-to-back wins followed by Nick Johnson and Matt Lowinski-Loh.

BUSINESS

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

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

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



Parker Duquette dives for a barehanded catch.



Wesley Beer lunges for a catch.



The Summer Sendoff Baseball Camp was held last week in Wilbraham.

CAMP | from page 13

doing what I can to give back.”
 Brisson also owns Forge Athletics. “I started Forge Athletics back in May,” he said. “I want to run more baseball clinics in the future. I’m also looking forward to running this baseball camp again next year.”
 Barnowski, who lives in Southwick, was one of Brisson’s teammates at the Single A level.
 Bryan and I were teammates on a Single A team,” Brisson said. “His sister and my wife have been friends for 40 years. I met my wife when I went to visit him during the offseason, and we’ve been married for 22 years. My wife’s family is from Wilbraham, and we moved here in 2005. We love living in this community.”
 Because it rained on the first day, the camp was held indoors down the street at the Soccer City Sportscenter.
 “Soccer City isn’t really designed for baseball, but we made the best of it on the first day of the camp,” Brisson said. “The people there were very accommodating. We were able to use both of their soccer fields. We were able to have a full workout. The only thing that we didn’t do was to have a live batting practice. The baseball fields here at Spec Pond is one of the best in the area.”
 Brisson main goal was to teach the

players the fundamentals of baseball. He and his staff also held a meeting each morning to map out the schedule for that day.
 “My main goal is to teach the players the basic fundamentals of the game,” he said. “I also want to keep the kids active. I really don’t want them standing around doing nothing. We also talked to the kids about mental health.”
 Brayden Pacifico, who lives in Wilbraham, had a lot of fun at the baseball camp.
 “It’s awesome being here with my friends at this baseball camp,” said Pacifico, who’s a centerfielder. “I’ve learned a lot about baseball from the coaches, who have a lot of experience. Baseball is my favorite sport.”
 Baseball was also Brisson’s favorite sport growing up. He was also a swimmer and a wrestler.
 “I always tell kids to play multiple sports,” Brisson said. “My daughter, Natalie, who’s six years old, plays soccer and is a swimmer. We want her to experience everything. A lot of kids who only play one sport get burned out very quickly.”
 Brisson and his staff are already looking forward to holding the baseball camp again next summer.

Thunderbirds hockey announce series of front office promotions

SPRINGFIELD – With Opening Night less than two months away, the Springfield Thunderbirds proudly announced that six veteran front office staff members will take on promotions to their roles for the 2024-25 season.
 Last season, the team achieved multiple franchise milestones, including all-time Springfield hockey records in average attendance per game (6,321), sellout games (20), season ticket members, and group sales revenue. The team ended the 2023-24 season by posting an incredible 14 consecutive sellouts.
 Jessica Hansen has been promoted to Senior Director of Finance and Human Resources. Hansen, an alumna of Western New England University and a native of Feeding Hills, Mass., has been on the Thunderbirds staff since 2017. In addition to her finance and HR responsibilities, she has been integral in growing the team’s in-game charitable presence through 50/50, jersey raffle, and Chuck-

a-Puck sales. She has also served a supervisory role in the club’s charitable foundation matters and merchandise.
 Drew Supernor has been promoted to Senior Manager of Brand Development & Merchandise. A Springfield native and Springfield College alumnus, Supernor has grown the Thunderbirds’ merchandise revenues each season since the club’s inception in 2016 through many unique product lines, such as the team’s various specialty night rebrands throughout the year. In 2023-24, the team generated six times greater revenue in merchandise when compared to the final season of the Springfield Falcons in 2015-16. In recognition of his customer service and dedication, Supernor was honored with a 2024 Howdy Award for hospitality excellence this past May.
 Lauren Blanchard has been promoted to Senior Account Executive, Groups and Experiences. An Agawam, Mass. native, Blanchard joined the Thunderbirds in 2021 and has set mul-

tiplet team records for group tickets, including the most sold for a single game. Thanks to Blanchard’s efforts and the entirety of the ticket sales department, the Thunderbirds’ group sales revenue has grown 77% over the last six years. The department spearheaded the franchise to the 2021-22 President’s Award for AHL Team of the Year. Blanchard was also nominated for a 2024 Howdy Award for hospitality excellence.
 Shae Koharski has been promoted to Manager of Social Media & Digital Marketing. A Russell, Mass. native, Koharski has been with the Thunderbirds since 2021. She has exponentially grown Thunderbirds’ social media accounts, as the club has eclipsed 80,000 followers across X, Facebook, and Instagram. Her acumen for social media trends has allowed the Thunderbirds’ social media to not only provide fun content for fans, but grow the brand in the marketplace while evolving to current trends.
 Lucas Armstrong has been promoted to Art Director. An

East Amherst, N.Y. native, Armstrong has been instrumental in creating and implementing the Thunderbirds’ graphic design as a “keeper of the brand” since joining the organization in 2019. An industry veteran with over 20 years of experience across professional sports and nationally acclaimed brands, Armstrong’s work alongside his creative colleagues was recognized with the AHL’s Marketing Campaign of the Year award in 2022 for the club’s “We Are 413” tagline.
 Steve Brousseau has been promoted to Account Executive, Membership Sales & Service. A Springfield College alumnus and a native of Freeport, Maine, Brousseau joined the team full-time in 2021 after interning for the organization previously. An exemplary builder of relationships with his ticket members, Brousseau will specialize in servicing the Thunderbirds’ season ticket members throughout the 2024-25 season as the organization looks to break its season ticket holder record for a ninth consecutive season.

Quabbin League seeking to start fall league

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to start an eight-game fall program for the over-28 population. The league, which plays a spring/summer regular season with six teams for 15 games followed by playoffs, is hoping to continue the fun into the fall with a short eight-game schedule for interested players.
 Preliminary details are still being worked on, but the league is looking to have four teams with six “regular season” games followed by a semifinal in the seventh week, and a final/consolation game in the eighth week.
 The league will be a bit more informal than the regular spring/summer league with the goal being for players to have fun playing more baseball, work on field and batting skills through more innings in the field and extra at-bats, or potentially working on or trying out pitching.

As has been traditional in other fall leagues, the Quabbin League will likely be wood-bat only for the fall.
 There is an interest form and survey interested players can fill out at www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. The league is open to all current Quabbin league players as well as players from other leagues who are age 28 and over during the calendar year of 2024.
 The league will look to keep the cost very low for the league with preliminary indications having the league in the \$40-50 range to play eight games.
 Games will likely be held in the West Springfield, Agawam, Southwick area and are likely to be held on Sunday mornings, though a few games may be held at alternate times. Games are scheduled to begin in September after Labor Day.

WSU to hold swimming clinics

WESTFIELD – Westfield State swimming and diving coach Matt Nodell will host a Nike Swim Clinic at the Ely Pool on campus on Sept. 7 and 8.
 Saturday, Sept. 7 is for co-ed athletes aged 8-12 years old, while Sunday, Sept. 8 is for athletes in the 13-18 year old age groups.
 “Participants can expect to learn and practice drills to help them swim easier and faster,” said Nodell. “All is done in a fun and engaging environment with contests and competitions.”
 The clinics last from 9 a.m. to 12 noon each day, with check in at 8:45 a.m.
 The fee for the clinic is \$125 and includes the morning training session, a camp t-shirt and prizes.
 For more information or to register online, visit <https://www.ussportscamps.com/swim/nike/westfield-state-swim-clinic>
 Ely Pool is the home of the Westfield State University Owls women’s swimming and diving team. The pool has recently seen upgrades with new starting blocks, an updated team locker room and records board, and features 1 and 3 meter diving boards. Nodell is starting his second season as the head coach of the Owls. He led the team to a fifth-place finish at the Little East Conference championships and a 3-3 mark in dual meets.

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Police/Fire

Police Logs

Palmer

The Palmer Police Department reported 432 incidents on its logs for Aug. 13 – Aug. 19.

Aug. 13

At 9:20 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage.

At 10:15 a.m. police gave summons to June Rebecka Gouvin, 49, of 1090 S. Main St., Palmer, for vandalizing property, intimidate a witness/juror/police/ court official and assault.

At 9:26 p.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Andres Lorenzo Morales, 36, of 1077 Liberty St., Springfield, for failure to yield at an intersection, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and unregistered motor vehicle.

Aug. 14

At 6:46 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on the corner of N. Main Street and Wright Street.

At 5:22 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

Aug. 15

At 1:14 a.m. police arrested Luis Jose Rodriguez, 22, of 410 Walnut St., Springfield, for disorderly conduct.

derly conduct.

At 2:52 a.m. Izac Kevin Disley, 19, of 1303 S. Main St., Palmer, was arrested by police for disturbing the peace, OUI liquor, OUI while license suspended for an OUI and person under 21 possessing liquor.

At 10:30 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Thorndike Street.

At 12:30 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Fenton Street.

Aug. 16

At 10:46 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on the corner of Ware Street and Old Warren Road.

At 5:20 p.m. Palmer police assisted another police department on 190, mile marker 77. Angel Xavier Cintron, 32, of 152 Pineridge Road, Waterbury, CT, was given a summons for marked lanes violation, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, speeding, failure to stop for police, passing violation, number plate violation, traveling the wrong way on the Mass Pike, traveling too close on the Mass Pike, failure to stop or yield, disorderly conduct, reckless endangerment of a child and assault with a dangerous weapon.

At 6:06 p.m. police responded

to an accident on I90.

Aug. 17

At 5:42 a.m. police gave summons to Joshua Miguel Guzman, 24, of 182 Main St., Indian Orchard, for number plate violation to conceal ID, uninsured motor vehicle, unregistered motor vehicle and not in possession of license.

Aug. 18

At 8:29 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Emery Street.

At 4:57 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

Aug. 19

At 4:23 a.m. police gave summons to Christopher J. Kilpatrick, 40, of 1370 Worcester St., Indian Orchard, for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, no inspection sticker and number plate violation.

At 4:45 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on the corner of Gates Street and River Street.

At 6:23 p.m. police arrested Timothy Jerold Nicholls-Blackshear, 26, of 2011 Prospect St., Three Rivers on a warrant.

MSB donates to women's empowerment

MONSON — Monson Savings Bank recently provided a \$1,750 donation to The Women's Empowerment Scholarship as a part of their 2024 Community Giving Initiative. Dan Moriarty, president and CEO of Monson Savings Bank, and Michael Rouette, Monson Savings Bank EVP & COO, met with Bailey Medeiros, president & founder of The Women's Empowerment Scholarship, at the Bank's Loan and Operations Center to present the donation.



Submitted Photo
Dan Moriarty, Monson Savings Bank president and CEO (right), and Michael Rouette, Monson Savings Bank EVP & COO (left), met with Bailey Medeiros, president and founder of The Women's Empowerment Scholarship, at the Bank's Loan and Operations Center to present the donation.

"Once again, members of our community chose The Women's Empowerment Scholarship as a donation recipient through our Community Giving Initiative voting," said Moriarty. "Monson Savings is honored to support this organization year after year. We are excited to present Bailey with this donation knowing that it will be used to help support local women reach their education goals." As a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization, The Women's Empowerment Scholarship works to invest in the future of females in the Greater Springfield communities by encouraging and empowering them to pursue higher education.

The foundation provides educational grants to women while paying special attention to women entering one of many male-dominated career paths, including, but not limited to, science, technology, engineering, finance, and law. In aiding women financially, the Women's Empowerment Scholarship team aims to propel their careers and allow them to shatter stereotypes.

"The recurring support we have received from my hometown bank is so meaningful to me," said Medeiros "Our organization awards females educational grants so that they can further their education. This would not be possible without our supporters. I can't thank Monson Savings Bank enough for organizing their annual Community Giving Initiative."

Fire Logs

MONSON

The Monson Fire Department responded to three fire calls and 21 emergency medical calls for the week of August 19-25.

August 19 at 2:13 p.m. Responded to State Street for a furniture fire. Returned to service at 7:27 p.m.

August 21 at 7:50 p.m. Responded to Lower Hampden Road for a public assist. Returned to service at 8:15 p.m.

August 24 at 6:20 p.m. Responded to Bethany Road for a public assist. Returned to service at 6:31 p.m.

THREE RIVERS

The Three Rivers Fire Department responded to five incidents for the week of August 18-24.

Sunday, Aug. 18 - Burlingame Rd, Three Rivers, EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury

Sunday, Aug. 18 - Ford ST, Three Rivers, MA 01080 Medical assist, assist EMS crew

Thursday, Aug. 22 - Pineview St., Three Rivers, Lock-out

Friday, Aug. 23 - South St., Three Rivers, EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury

Friday, Aug. 23 - Palmer St., Three Rivers, Cooking fire, confined to container



Crimmins Graveline Insurance, located at 1382 Main St. in Palmer, has been in business since 1929, and is now owned by James Stochaj. It offers a wide range of services.

Crimmins - Graveline Insurance

One local insurance agency is offering an old-fashioned service using modern tools.

Crimmins-Graveline Insurance, founded in 1929 and now owned by James Stochaj, currently has eight employees with a wealth of experience.

"With that much experience, there is nothing we can't do," said Stochaj, owner and president of Crimmins-Graveline Insurance, the E.J. Stochaj Insurance Agency in Dudley and Hometown Insurance Center in Sturbridge.

Stochaj's agencies serve more than 10,000 clients comprised of families, individuals, and a wide variety of small- and medium-sized businesses.

"Many insurance agencies have merged in the past five to 10 years. Most merged agencies adopt the philosophy of "minimal insured contact drives profit" Stochaj said. "My philosophy is that our purchases have given us the tools and manpower to allow more time for insureds, making sure their needs are met, no matter how long it takes."

Stochaj said his family has operated the E.J. Stochaj Insurance Agency for more than 49 years. He acquired Hometown Insurance in 2008 and Crimmins-Graveline Insurance agency in late 2020.

Stochaj described the businesses as "traditional, Main Street" insurance agencies.

"We're pretty old school. People still talk to us and we talk back to them," Stochaj said. "This kind of communication is, unfortunately, pretty unique these days."

These are certainly very challenging times in the property-casualty insurance business across the United States. Insurers are increasing rates at a staggering rate. In addition, insurance companies are cancelling policies if they feel they can not make hefty profit on the account.

Each member of our teams understands the challenges our insureds, and prospective insureds face. We never shy away from a challenge and work diligently each and every day to bring the best coverage and price to the table. "We're looking to grow as a company and we constantly are looking for ways to improve," Stochaj said.

Crimmins-Graveline Insurance is located at 1382 Main St. The agency was established in 1929 by the late Daniel Crimmins, according to details from the agency's website. In 1980, it merged with the Robert Graveline Insurance Agency, which he founded in 1949.

For more information, visit www.cgins.com.

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Counselors toss a ball to students in the high school gym.



Counselors were all smiles as they addressed the campers together.



Counselor Shawn Troche sat with students to watch the camp participants play basketball.



Nate Letendre (center) spoke to the gathered basketball players seated in a circle on the basketball court.



Counselor Shawn Troche gave a high five to a student.



Even while seated on the sidelines, the students expressed enthusiastic support for each other.



Parents and families were seated on the bleachers to watch the campers play together.



Matthew Santos coached kids entering third to eighth grade over the summer.



Third- through eighth-graders ran around the gym and played basketball as part of the camp.



Submitted photos

BASKETBALL | from page 1

before going on to become the head coach of the girls' and then the boys' junior varsity teams. This year, he was accepted at Worcester Academy, and coached the Rising Stars basketball camp.

"It's something that was in the works for more than a year," Letendre said. "It was really important to me to bring something back to the town."

The Rising Stars program is a basketball camp for kids of all genders entering third through eighth grade. Letendre said that he advertised the program as being about more than just honing their skills on the court and having fun.

"It's also about implementing these skills outside of basketball and sports," Letendre said. "We had various skills of the day and themes of the day, which we made sure to emphasize working on each day."

The program would present themes such as "be courageous" or "be joyful" or energy days, and Letendre encouraged the participants to find ways to apply these themes outside the gym and school.

"It ended up being pretty contagious," Letendre said. "I would say it helped with the atmosphere for all the kids, especially some whose skill level was higher or lower than the majority."

Letendre said that he found it helpful to use the themes to emphasize that, beyond just working on concepts that will help with basketball, "what's really important is the stuff we can apply to life outside the court."

"At the end of every day, we handed out Rising Stars of the Day," Letendre said. "We talked with the coaches at the end of every day about who would get them. It was not always the most skilled players; a lot of the time it was the kids who exercised that day's theme, the kids that tried things that were new to them and were not afraid to make mistakes."

This allowed Letendre and his team to put emphasis on those elements that helped portray the program's goals and said it "had a pretty positive effect on kids overall."

Letendre said that it's been five or six years since a basketball camp like this has been available for the students, and so it was important to him to launch the program. Now that the program has ended, Letendre said

he's pretty happy with how it turned out, and described the experience as "awesome."

"I'm a basketball guy," Letendre said. "My dream is doing things like this, and eventually expand into doing bigger things, that was part of my goal."

Letendre said that it was a long process to get the process started with the school.

"I'm pretty lucky, because a lot of the parents I worked with and had communications with before were great," Letendre said. "It was pretty much put on by high school kids from Palmer. I had nine kids; eight of them had never worked at camp before, so it was a pretty new experience, they found out pretty quickly that it's exhausting, but really rewarding."

To put on the program, Letendre partnered with a number of volunteers who acted as the camp's counselors. Letendre thanked Shawn Troche, Vanessa Baer, Jordan Bigda, Matthew Santos, Rylee Ostiguy, Addyson and Loretta Petraszewicz, Isaac Cowher, and his brother, Jack Letendre, for their help with the program.

"I played all through high school, and I always wanted to get back to coaching there," Letendre said. "I wanted to get involved and help out how I can."

Letendre said his dream is to coach a high level of basketball, particularly at the college level.

"A lot of kids we recruit end up going to play Division I basketball," Letendre said. "My thing was always to play college hoop, but I'm really grateful for the opportunity to get to grow there."

Letendre added that he is in the process with coaches and the headmaster to get job with ResLife in order to be able to live on campus and be closer with the coaches.

"Eventually, getting a job there," Letendre said, "that would be a perfect world."

Letendre said that he intends to hold the basketball camp again next year, and is thinking about opening for as long as two weeks.

"I'm excited to get the chance to continue working with the kids that show up," Letendre said, "and to open doors for new kids and hopefully expand it outside of Palmer."



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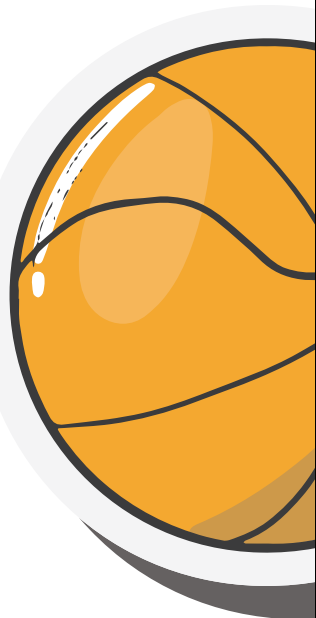
Basketball got intense as the students ran at Counselor Matthew Santos.



Two young players held basketballs to take a picture together.



Excited students swarmed around Counselor Matthew Santos.



Nate Letendre (right) said his dream is to coach basketball on the college level and beyond.



Two young Boston Celtics fans stopped for a picture on the basketball court.



Students and counselors huddle together to go all in for the Rising Stars program.

Submitted photos



Students and counselors showed support for their favorite basketball teams with different-colored jerseys.



A student jumps to take a shot at the basketball hoop.



A counselor and a group of players all shrugged in unison.



Counselor Matthew Santos signed a student's T-shirt.



Players got into blocking each other's shots and learned important basketball skills.



The Rising Stars basketball camp allowed students to practice their defensive tactics.



One player blocks another as they try to take a shot at the basketball hoop.



Basketball can be an intense game, and the Rising Stars program presented a great way to translate those skills to their lives.



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MORE LEGALS ON PAGE 22

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. HD24P1749EA Estate of: James Richard Hamilton Also known as: James R Hamilton Date of Death: 02/15/2024 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Kathryn A Wilson of Port Charlotte, FL requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Kathryn A Wilson of Port Charlotte, FL be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/24/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court. Date: August 19, 2024

Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 08/29/2024

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. HD24P1803EA Estate of: Mary Elizabeth Leonard Date of Death: 07/15/2024 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Gregory T Schubert of Brimfield, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Gregory T Schubert of Brimfield, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of

09/23/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court. Date: August 27, 2024

Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 08/29/2024

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NATIONAL GRID/VERIZON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024 AT 11:30 A.M.

In accordance with the provisions of Sections 22 Chapter 166 of the Massachusetts General Laws, you are hereby notified that a public hearing will be held at the Palmer Town Administration Building 4417 Main St. Palmer, MA on the 10th of September, 2024 at 11:30 A.M. on the petition of National Grid/Verizon New England request permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way: Center Street-National Grid to install 1 JO pole on Center Street beginning at a point approximately 575 feet East of the centerline of the intersection of Church Street Connector. National Grid proposes to install one new 40-foot class-2 pole and anchored guy wire labeled P5-84 on Center Street, Palmer, MA.

Brad Brothers, Town Manager 08/29/2024

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Richard D. Stred and Marilyn E. Stred to Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation, a Subsidiary of Lehman Brothers Bank, FSB, dated May 2, 2002 and registered at Hampden County Registry District of the Land Court as Document No. 144361 and noted on Certificate of Title No. 9004 (the "Mortgage") of which mortgage Mortgage Assets Management, LLC is the present holder by Assignment from Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation a Subsidiary of Lehman Brothers Bank FSB to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Financial Freedom Acquisition LLC, its successors and assigns dated October 28, 2009 and registered as Document No. 182935 and noted on Certificate of Title No. 9004, and Assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Financial Freedom Acquisition LLC, its successors and assigns to Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. as Trustee for Mortgage Assets Management Series I Trust dated March 22, 2022 and registered as Document No. 229986 and noted on Certificate of Title No. 9004, and Assignment from Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. as Trustee for Mortgage Assets Management Series I Trust to Mortgage Assets Management, LLC dated February 15, 2024 and

registered as Document No. 236037 and noted on Certificate of Title No. 9004, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 275 State Street, Palmer, MA 01069 will be sold at a Public Auction at 4:00 PM on September 17, 2024, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

a certain parcel of land situate in said Palmer, bounded and described as follows: NORTHEASTERLY by Summer Street four hundred fifty and 98/100 (450.98) feet;

SOUTHEASTERLY by the end of said Summer Street eight and 61/100 (8.61) feet;

NORTHEASTERLY by State Street about thirty-three (33) feet;

WESTERLY by Ware River;

SOUTHWESTERLY by land now or formerly of the Thorndike Company about sixteen (16) feet;

SOUTHEASTERLY four hundred eleven and 70/100 (411.70) feet;

SOUTHWESTERLY thirteen (13) feet; and

SOUTHEASTERLY five hundred twenty-two and 07/100 (522.07) feet by land now or formerly of Ware River Railroad Company.

Said land is shown as lot 6 on plan hereinafter mentioned.

All of said boundaries, except the water lines, are determined by the Court to be located as shown on plan numbered 5019-E, the same being compiled from

a plan drawn by Kenneth C. Sherman, Surveyor, dated December 12, 1956, and additional data on file in the Land Registration Office, all as modified and approved by the Court.

So much of said land as is included within the limits of Summer Street, formerly Palmer Center Road, as shown on said plan, is subject to the rights of all persons lawfully entitled thereto in and over the same. Said land is also subject to flowage rights as set forth in a deed given by B. Frank Emery to the Thorndike Company, dated May 2, duly recorded in Book 750, Page 500, and to any and all public rights in said river.

Being the same premises described in Transfer Certificate of Title No. 8351, registered in Book 42, Page 111, Registry District of Hampden County, Land Court of Massachusetts.

For mortgagor's title see deed registered at Hampden County Registry District of the Land Court as Document Number 24314 and Noted on Certificate of Title Number 9004.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at

the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

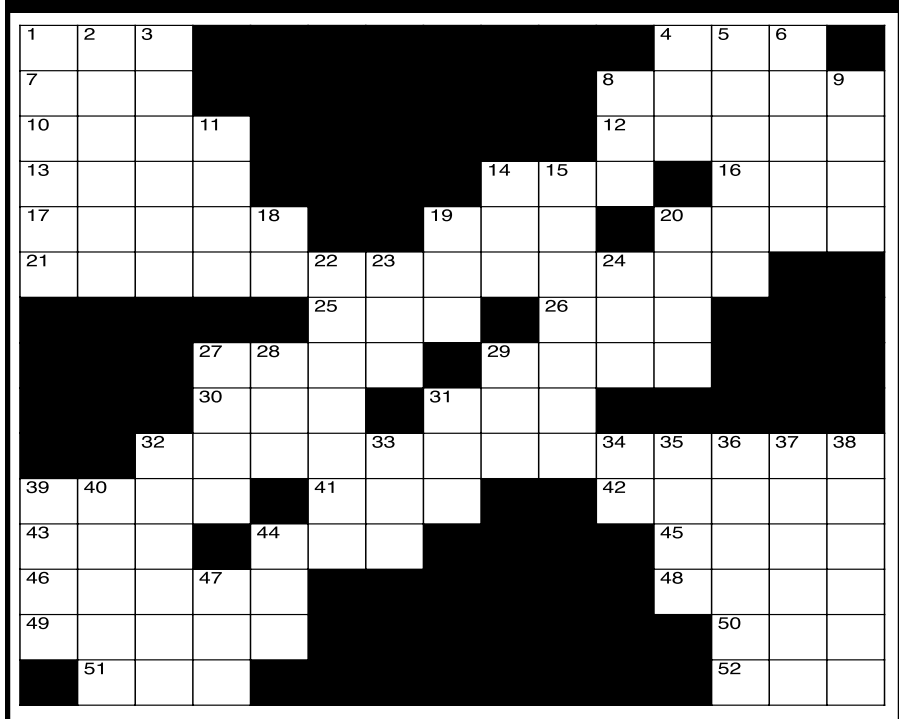
Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Mortgage Assets Management, LLC Korde & Associates, P.C. 900 Chelmsford Street Suite 3102 Lowell, MA 01851 (978) 256-1500

Stred, Richard D. and Estate of Marilyn E. Stred, 22-041356 08/22, 08/29, 09/05/2024

NOTICE ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

EARLY DEADLINES In observance of Labor Day, PUBLIC NOTICES EARLY AD DEADLINE Place your public notice no later than 12 noon Friday, August 30 - Thank you!



- CLUES ACROSS 1. Microgram 4. After B 7. Everything 8. An unfortunate development 10. Coat with sticky substance 12. Cylinder of tobacco for smoking 13. Minimum interval take off 14. Yuck! 16. NBA sensation Jeremy 17. Where some rockers work 19. Midway between northeast and east 20. Snake-like fishes 21. Groups of homes 25. Swiss river 26. Useful towel 27. "The Wire" character "Moreland" 29. Oafish creature 30. A major division of geological time 31. Bird-like Chinese dinosaur 32. Sporting events 39. Body part 41. Clerical vestment 42. Shows data 43. Some are "special" 44. Expression of disappointment 45. Students' rights document (abbr.) 46. Vacation locale Costa 48. Pop singer 49. Distract outside a city 50. Mark Wahlberg comedy 51. Coniferous tree 52. Midway between south and southeast CLUES DOWN 1. Lunatic 2. Actress Danes 3. Buttock muscles 4. The 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet 5. Popular 70s rockers 6. Electronic communication 8. Trigraph 9. Sea eagles 11. Low-pitched, resonant sound 14. Northeastern US university (abbr.) 15. Home of the Bulldogs 18. Exclamation of surprise 19. Make a mistake 20. Advantage 22. Monkeys love them 23. Wood 24. Paddle 27. Past participle of be 28. Tall, rounded vase 29. Device manufacturers 31. Financial institution (abbr.) 32. Paper product 33. A type 34. Atomic #43 35. Red Hot Chili Peppers' drummer 36. Behaviors 37. Decays 38. Walked confidently 39. Voice (Italian) 40. Class of adhesives 44. Bar bill 47. One-time aerospace firm

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

TOWN OF WARREN Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Mechanic Position JOB POSTING The Wastewater Treatment Plant is seeking a full-time Operator/Mechanic. This full-time position is five consecutive days a week which may include Saturdays and/or Sundays, overtime, holidays, and mandatory on-call. A generous benefit package is available including health insurance in which the Town pays 75% of the premium. Requirements: HS Graduate; preferably 3 years' experience in the operation and mechanic of a wastewater treatment facility or any equivalent combination of education and mechanical experience will be considered. Must obtain a Grade 4 or higher Massachusetts Wastewater Treatment Plant License within the first six months of employment. Must possess a valid driver's license and a clean driving record. Potential for advancement and growth. The pay scale ranges from \$23.28 to \$31.29/hour based on relative work experience, educational background, and professional licenses. Resumes and Cover letters will be accepted until the position is filled. Please forward your resume and cover letter to the Town Administrator, Jim Ferrera, townadministrator@warren-ma.gov or mail to 48 High Street, P.O. Box 609, Warren, MA 01083-0609. Town of Warren is an Equal Opportunity Employer

TOWN OF WARREN FIRE DEPARTMENT JOB POSTING Full-time Firefighter/EMT The Town of Warren Fire Department is accepting resumes and cover letters for the position of Full Time Firefighter/EMT. Minimum requirements include high school diploma or GED, non-smoker, valid MA driver's license, and certification as a National Registry or MA EMT. The ideal candidate for the position is progressive in the fire, rescue and EMS field and Firefighter I/II certified. Candidates should be customer service oriented. STARTING SALARY \$22.42 PER HOUR The employment application may be found on the Town website: www.warren-ma.gov under the volunteer and employment tab. Submit cover letter, resume, copies of all diplomas/certifications/licenses and mail the completed Town application to: Warren Fire Department PO Box 608, Warren, MA 01083 Application deadline is September 6, 2024 Successful candidates will be subject to C.O.R.I. check, Physical Ability Testing (PAT), Medical exam and character evaluation. The Town of Warren is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, sexual orientation or age.



VETERANS DAY SALUTE The Journal Register ~ November 7, 2024 The Journal Register will be saluting our local veterans (from all wars and branches, including honoring deceased veterans), reservists, active duty U.S. Military members. Please submit a photo of your veteran with his or her name, rank, branch of military and hometown by email to dflynn@turley.com or drop off a photo to The Journal Register, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 All photos will be returned. Please submit your photo no later than Monday, October 21, 2024. There is no cost to submit a photo. No photos will be accepted after deadline. If you would like to use a prior submitted photo, please contact before to October 10th.

Safe Neighborhood Initiative



Peter Izyk teaches a youth how to shoot an arrow



Cheryl Izyk helps a youth make a sail for her boat.



Cheryl helps at the Rain Gutter Regatta.

The Holyoke Safe Neighborhood Initiative put on their 2024 Back To School Event on Saturday, Aug. 24 at McNally Field. Western Massachusetts Council, BSA was at the event again this year with activities for youth. The council provided a resource tent, the Blow-Up Archery game, a tent with coloring and painting where youth could make a boat to sail down the blow up Rain Gutter Regatta.

Boy Scouts of America recognition awards



Submitted Photo

The General Knox District of Western Massachusetts Council, BSA held its annual Recognition Picnic Sunday, Aug. 25 at Szot Park in Chicopee. Heather MacInnes, the New Member Coordinator for Pack 164, Troop 64 and Troop 5164 received recognition awards for Unit Leader Award of Merit, Cub Scouter Training Award, Venture Training Award, Cub Masters Key, District Training Award and a 5 year Veterans Award. Fritz Schmidt, the District Commissioner, presents Heather with the awards.

200th anniversary of Lafayette's Farewell Tour is Sept. 3

STURBRIDGE – This year marks the bicentennial celebration of the Marquis de Lafayette's Farewell Tour of the United States in 1824.

Throughout that year-long tour of all 24 states, Americans honored Lafayette with a parade and great fanfare at almost every stop he made. Local craftspeople also produced many types of commemorative memorabilia, such as the pictured drum, baby shoes, and ribbons, now in the Old Sturbridge Village Museum Collection.

When Lafayette toured the state of Massachusetts in 1824 his final stop was in the Town of Sturbridge, where he was greeted by a martial band, the Town's artillery company, and thousands of civilians.

Commemorative ceremony

Join the Sturbridge Historical Society and Old Sturbridge Village on Sept. 3 at 6 p.m. for a commemorative event on the Sturbridge Town Common, the exact ground where Lafayette stopped. An actor portraying Lafayette will be greeted by costumed interpreters portraying veterans of the Revolution, members of the Sturbridge Artillery, who will stand by with their cannon, and the musicians from the Uxbridge Grenadiers.

There will be a triumphal arch, toasts by costumed interpreters from Old Sturbridge Village, fife and drum music, as well as performances by the OSV Singers and Dancers. Experience the closest thing to the actual events that took place in 1824 here in Sturbridge.

This ceremony is free and open to the public.

This commemorative event is part of The American Friends of Lafayette's 2024-2025 Bicentennial Tour, which will take place across the 24 states that Lafayette visited on his Farewell Tour. For more details about The American Friends of Lafayette and other Bicentennial Tour programming, please visit lafayette200.org.

Banquet at the Publick House

At 7:30 p.m., there will be a banquet commemorating Lafayette's visit to Massachusetts and New Hampshire at the Publick House, which is one of the buildings that Lafayette actually visited in 1824. The dinner is the Publick House's distinctive "Yankee Dinner Buffet."

Alan Hoffman, President of American Friends of Lafayette and translator of the account written by Lafayette's secretary, will reflect on the contrast between the original tour and its just completed recreation. There will be an additional discussion of Lafayette's human rights record.

Tickets are \$75 per person and pre-registration is required. Limited spaces are available.

To purchase tickets, go to the website for The American Friends of Lafayette, search under Events for Sturbridge Publick House Banquet.

For more information, visit the American Friends of Lafayette at www.friendsoflafayette.org or learn more about the planned 24-state bicentennial events at www.Lafayette200.org.

For a detailed summary of each city and town Lafayette visited in 1824, and speeches given, visit Peter Reilly's blog at www.lafayetteMA1824.org. Reilly is the Chairman of the Massachusetts committee organizing Lafayette's tour across the Commonwealth.

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Monson school holds barbecue event to kick off school year



MONSON – This week, a barbecue event was held at the high school to give students the opportunity to meet the staff.

On Tuesday evening, students gathered at the high school to share a dinner and play games and activities and to get information about the school.

“Students were able to learn about various clubs and activities, tour the school while completing a scavenger hunt, and enjoy an evening getting to know their teachers and the school staff,” said Principal Chris Fontaine.

This event was held ahead of the beginning of the school year.

For more information, visit the school’s website at Monson-Schools.com, or call the district’s business office at 413-267-4150.



Monson students played cornhole together on the school campus.



Students held up a “Future Graduate of Class of 2030” cutout to take pictures.

Submitted photos
Students sat together at the cafeteria to share a barbecue dinner.



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Future graduates of the Class of 2030 took a picture together at the event.



As the sun set, new students took pictures with a decorative cutout at the event.



Students took pictures in front of the school at the chicken barbecue.

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