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Meet Lucifur Biscuits

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COMMUNITY

Wales food pantry seeks donations

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SPORTS

Mustangs edge Rams in rematch

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SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

The Journal Register

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MONSON

Clarke announces retirement at School Committee meeting

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – At last week’s School Committee meeting, prior to the public session, the superintendent announced that she will be retiring after this year.

At the Oct. 23 meeting, after receiving the student reports and voting to approve the minutes for several previous meetings, the committee was informed by Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Clarke that she will be retiring, effective in June of next year.

“It has been an honor to serve the students, staff, and families of the Monson Public Schools for 20 years,” Clarke said. “I am proud of the work that we have accomplished during the 12 years of my superintendency.”

Clarke listed some of these accomplishments, including moving Quarry Hill School out of DESE’s Level Three designation, bridging gaps between the community and the schools, maintaining and expanding programming on a limited budget, and serving as an exemplar to surrounding districts during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The administrative team that I have put in place is one of the best,” Clarke said. “They’re dedicated, knowledgeable, committed to the town, and most importantly, truly care about our staff, students, and their families.”

“There is much more work to be done, and I am confident that this team, along with our exempla-

SCHOOL | page 2

Trunk or Treat

Old Mill Pond PTO holds annual Halloween event

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – This past weekend, families were invited to gather around Converse Middle School for the Old Mill Pond annual Trunk-or-Treat.

On Friday, Oct. 25, community members gathered at the closed school for the PTO Trunk-or-Treat. Cars were lined up in the parking lot and decorated with lights, streamers, and mannequins that wowed children and families alike.

In addition to volunteers from local businesses around the community, school staff and



Turley photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Principal Holly Riopel and her family dressed up as Beetlejuice characters for the Trunk-or-Treat.

administration and excited parents also set up trunks to hand out candy to local trick-or-treaters. All night, a crowd of people in costumes lined up around the Converse building to pick up candy. The cost for each child to participate in the Trunk-or-Treat was \$5, with a maximum of \$15 per family.

Highlights at the event included Principal Holly Riopel’s Beetlejuice booth, a group of students dressed as hippies from the ‘60s, and a massive skeleton hanging out of a trunk. There were also a number of impressive costumes among the

HALLOWEEN | page 6

Melinda Darby had a whole barn set up in her trunk last Friday.



MONSON

Adult Prom held as local fundraiser

Second Time’s A Charm and Miss America partner

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – This past weekend, Second Time’s A Charm held an

adult prom fundraiser at the Ludlow Country Club.

Second Time’s A Charm is an affordable alternative to dress-shopping, based out of the Palmer Technology Center and run by friends Michelle Anecchiarico and Natalina Tulik. On Saturday, Oct. 26, the shop held its fifth annual Adult Prom.

“The reason the prom happened was to raise money for the Ludlow Country Club.”

PROM | page 16



Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Second Time’s A Charm owners Michelle Anecchiarico and Natalina Tulik started the adult prom to give families an opportunity to attend a prom

SPORTS



Turley Staff Photo

Rivalry football game challenge

With the 100th year of the Palmer and Ware high schools’ football rivalry being celebrated at the Saturday, Nov. 2 game being held in Palmer, a friendly wager has been made between Matt Lemieux, president of Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce and Dan Flynn, president of the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond. The losing team’s supporting president will be at Rondeau’s scooping ice cream on Sunday, Nov. 3. Best of luck to both teams!



MONSON

Tri-Board discusses Siemens contract and school budget

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – Last week, members of the School Committee, Finance Committee, and Select Board held a Tri-Board Committee meeting to discuss the contract with Siemens Energy and the school’s end-of-year budget.

Greenblat said that the first option would be to “stay the course,” with no renegotiation, though the town would still need to address the underbudgeted amount along with budgeting for annual amounts. Finance Director Jamie Farnum added that there was a prior year option to address that bill, and that the funds have been budgeted for Fiscal Year 2025.

“If we stay the course and we don’t change or renegotiate our current contract in place, it would be \$850,000 over the life of this,”

Farnum said.

Greenblat presented a second option, which would modify the program through scope reduction.

“The stream of costs over the term is about \$350,000 in total,” Greenblat said. “Siemens would continue to provide an annual performance report reflecting the stipulated values.”

Farnum added that an advantage of this option would be that the town would not need the additional \$12,000 because of the reduction, so available funds would already have been appropriated from fiscal year 2024 and 2025.

Greenblat said that under this option, the guarantee will be met annually regardless of annual performance.

“How do you know that this stuff is working?” Greenblat said. “You know by using tools that are available to you to see how the

TRI-BOARD | page 11

PALMER



Derek Thomas and his son Oliver of West Brookfield take a photo in front of their 2017 Ford Fusion Sport with a “Terrifier” theme.

Trunk or Treat car show benefits local food pantries

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

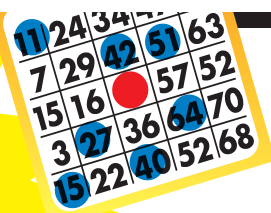
PALMER – Palmer Motorsports Park and the Springfield to Boston Education Foundation teamed up for another car show this season, this time adding in some Halloween fun with a trunk or treat

event. This past Sunday, over 250 show cars arrived at the track, representing makes and models from various decades, from the 1930s to modern day.

Keeping with its tradition of giving back to the community, Halloween fun with a trunk or treat

CAR SHOW | page 8

BINGO IS BACK!!!



Doors Open 4:30 p.m.
Early Bird 6:25 p.m.

Games Begin 6:30 p.m. Regular.
Kitchen Open at 5 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 4th.

2150 Main St.
Three Rivers



LUCIFUR BISCUITS

This is Lucifur Biscuits, who lives with Sherri Bacon in Monson.

Lucifur turned a year old in April. He has an amazing vocabulary; he walks around the house blabbing all day. Sherri thinks he actually has conversations with his human family!

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.

QVFPC reviews community food access assessment

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

WARE—The Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council welcomed new Coordinator Sawyer Blake at its general body meeting held on Oct. 23.

Blake is a 2021 graduate of Smith College, having studied food sustainability and biology. They interned with local food nonprofits Grow Food Northampton and Pioneer Valley Workers Center.

"My senior capstone project was studying HIP [Healthy Incentives Program] usage and comparing it to SNAP [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program] usage," Blake said.

They also worked directly in the western Massachusetts food system as a farm worker, butcher and farm store clerk.

Blake said they love cooking, eating and spending time with their partner and cats.

Community Food Access Assessment

Nisha Humayun, Project Coordinator for Community Health with Healthy Quaboag

and the Town of Ware, presented the findings of the council's Community Food Access Assessment which was conducted in conjunction with the Collaborative for Educational Services.

"Our purpose was to get firsthand accounts from community members," Humayun said.

Humayun said this included conducting individual and community interviews with various community members, including local veterans. The interviews also helped to strengthen connections with food policy council members.

She said the purpose of the assessment was obtain firsthand accounts from community members and using the results to supplement a study conducted by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission.

Blake said key findings from the assessment include community assets, access barriers, priority needs and opportunities.

For community assets, they said there was a strong appreci-

ation for living in a rural, small-town environment from residents, which still offers multiple grocery store options as well as local agriculture.

Blake said public transportation is also available through the Quaboag Connector, and there is also access to local resources including food banks, senior centers and churches.

Access barriers include distance and time, quality and availability of food, benefit programs, transportation, food costs and technology and delivery.

Distance, transportation and technology were some of the biggest barriers preventing residents from having access to nutritious food, Blake said.

The rising cost of food was the biggest concern of all interviewees. Those interviewed said monthly SNAP benefits were not keeping up with this cost, and farmers markets were expensive.

Senior Outreach Coordinator Carol Zins said many of her clients don't use their SNAP benefits due to the small amount of food they can buy for \$23-30

a month.

Blake said while most people interviewed were aware of SNAP benefits and seniors centers and other services available to them, but not as many were familiar with HIP.

"HIP is a complicated process and it's hard to understand," Blake said.

HIP allows SNAP recipients to purchase fresh produce directly from local participating farmers, many of whom set-up at local farmers markets in Belchertown and West Brookfield. The HIP program will reimburse the SNAP user's electronic benefits card dollar to dollar up to a monthly cap of \$40, \$60 or \$80.

Priority needs of Quaboag Valley

Blake said priority needs of the Quaboag Valley include access to local agriculture, improvements to food pantries, improvements to SNAP/HIP, discount offers and nutrition education

QVFPC Dashboard

Another outcome of the assessment is a dashboard made by CMRPC that shows all of the farms in the region that are available and that accept SNAP and HIP benefits.

"It would be a great resource to share out with our community," Sawyer said.

To access the dashboard, visit <https://cmrpc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/fee2d96f3e424316a71bb-2c4e63c0c4>.

About QVFPC

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

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

Join us for the Palmer Veterans Day Parade



PALMER—Let's come together to honor and celebrate brave men and women who have served in our nation's military. The parade will be held on Nov. 11, 2024 at 10:45 a.m. starting at Amvets, 2150 Main St., Three Rivers and culminating at Hryniewicz Park.

Enjoy a patriotic procession of local Veterans, the Palmer High School band and more.

A special ceremony will take place after the parade at Hryniewicz Park to honor our local heroes.

Bring your family, friends, and neighbors to show our veterans the appreciation they deserve.

If you are interested in marching in the parade contact Tina Brohman at 413-283-2610.

Birds of prey presentation at Keep

MONSON—Tom Ricardi of the Birds of Prey Rehabilitation Center in Conway is often called when an injured bird is found. Ricardi cares for dozens of falcons, owls, eagles, and other raptors that have been injured in some way.

Ricardi does a lot of work with local animal control and the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. He rescues an average of 125 to 150 birds a year. A bird that is rehabilitated, recovers, and is able to fly is released back into the wild. Those that are permanently disabled remain at the Center for the rest of their life. Ricardi uses some of these birds as part of his traveling educational programs.

Come meet Ricardi and some of his birds on Sunday, Nov. 3, at 1:30 p.m. at the Keep Homestead Museum on 35 Ely Road. All are welcome to this free program, but donations are accepted.

The museum will be open from 1 to 3:30 p.m. to view displays and have light refreshments. New note cards featuring buttons will be available in the gift shop. Visit www.KeepHomesteadMuseum.org for information.

Veterans Breakfast honoring those who served

PALMER—A Veterans Breakfast will be held on Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024 at 9 a.m. The Breakfast is free to all Palmer Veterans or surviving spouses and one guest. The breakfast will be held at the St. Thomas Parish Center, 1076 Thorndike St., Palmer.

The menu will be scrambled eggs, waffles, biscuits, gravy, hashbrown casserole, bacon, ham and fruit.

Please register by Nov. 7 by calling 413-283-2610.

Corrections

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

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SCHOOL | from page 1

ry staff, will continue to do all they can to support their new superintendent in continuing to move the Monson Public Schools forward," Clarke said.

Clarke said that though she's made mistakes along the way and had to make difficult decisions at times, she always kept the faces of the members of the community in her mind.

"I would ask each staff member to look inside their hearts and remember an interaction we may have had, a laugh or a cry, and know that my intentions were always positive and true," Clarke said. "All of us here have navigated through times of uncertainty, negativity, and heartbreak and come out the other side together."

Clarke described the decision as "bittersweet," as she loves coming to work every day, regardless of the challenges, and will miss the connections she's made with people in the community.

"However, I look forward to spending more time with my husband, my children, my granddaughter, and my

new grandchild who will be arriving in April," Clarke said.

Clarke said that she feels she is leaving the schools in a better place than when she began, and that she is grateful for the experiences and challenges she's faced as superintendent. Clarke pledged to continue to work diligently and faithfully until June 30 and offered to assist in the transition process as needed.

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the opportunity to serve the Monson Public Schools," Clarke said. "Each student, staff member, and family with whom I have been fortunate to work will always hold a special place in my heart."

School Committee Chair Alison Morgan noted that Clarke has been superintendent longer than she has lived in town, and thanked Clarke for her service on behalf of the committee.

"We are appreciative of everything you've done for the town since you've been here," Morgan said.

PALMER PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS:

PALMER FOR TOMORROW

Gathering

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN!

WHAT IS IT?

Palmer has received funding in a settlement between Massachusetts and pharmaceutical companies, placing them at blame for the current opioid crisis.

Now we must decide how to best use the money to support our community, and we want to hear from YOU!

COME JOIN US TO DISCUSS THE NEXT STEPS IN THE PROCESS AS WE TALK ABOUT:

- Creating a Community Survey
- How to Support Those With Substance Use
- Preventative Measures
- After Care

FREE FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

- People with lived experience
- Individuals in recovery
- Family/friends of those with substance use disorder

To Join Our Group!

WHEN & WHERE
The Second Wednesday of Every Month
3:00pm-4:30pm
at The Palmer Public Library

For any questions reach out to:
(413)283-2606 or ngauthier@townofpalmer.com

*You will always be able to stay completely anonymous at Palmer for Tomorrow, we will never ask or share your name or your story.

Adult Only HALLOWEEN PARTY!!

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November 2nd, 2024

\$20 Per Ticket

**Amvets, 2150 Main St.
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5PM - 11PM**

All Proceeds will be going to Christmas Care packages for our soldiers. You can purchase tickets in advance at the bar or door. Denise 413-668-7324.

The Journal Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

DEADLINE

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

Palmer property taxes due

PALMER—The Palmer Town Collector would like to remind all taxpayers of the following:

Fiscal Year 2025 second quarter real estate and personal property tax bills are due and payable by Nov. 1.

The Tax Collector's office is accepting credit and debit card payments for property taxes either on the town website at www.townofpalmer.com or at the tax office. There is a sliding scale fee for each bill paid which is passed on to the taxpayer. The fee structure can be viewed on the town website.

If you are making on-line payments through your bank (EFT's), please set it up to have the check mailed directly to our office, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069. Do not use the lockbox address for this type of payment as no bill is included for processing.

Please call the Collector's office at (413) 283-2601 with any questions pertaining to tax payments. Office hours: Monday 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday - Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday the office is closed.

Artist fall exhibition this weekend

MONSON—The Monson Arts Council is pleased to present its 4th annual Artist's Fall Exhibition. This show features a variety of art works in multiple genres by MAC artist members. This year's presentation brings together more than thirty-five artists showing a multitude of original works of art. The two-day show is open to the public at the House of Art at 200 Main St., on Saturday, Nov. 2 and Sunday, Nov. 3 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days.

A reception featuring food and beverages will be available to all friends, family, patrons, artists and art lovers on both days. Look us up at www.monsonartscouncil.org. Enjoy all of the beauty this tremendous organization has to offer.

Rummage sale at St. Cecilia

WILBRAHAM—The annual Rummage Sale sponsored by the St. Cecilia Women's Club is being held in the St. Cecilia Parish Center, 42 Main St., Friday, Nov. 1, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Saturday, Nov. 2, 8:30 a.m. to noon. Children and adult clothing, toys, puzzles, games, linens of all kinds, household items, jewelry, holiday decorations, pictures, and more are sold at very reasonable prices. Saturday is Bag Day. Fill a provided bag for a special price.

Election Preview

MASSACHUSETTS – The federal election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

Voters throughout the state will vote for the next President of the United States of America. The candidates on the ticket are as follows:

Shiva Ayyadurai and Crystal Ellis, of the Independent Party

Claudia De La Cruz and Karina Garcia, of the Party for Socialism and Liberation

Kamala Harris and Tim Walz, of the Democratic Party

Chase Oliver and Mike ter Maat, of the Libertarian Party

Jill Stein and Gloria Caballero-Roca, of the Green-Rainbow Party

Donald Trump and J.D. Vance, of the Republican Party

Senate

Democratic Senator Elizabeth Warren is also running for her third six-year term in the Senate, against Republican challenger John Deaton.

Though all the state's members of the House of Representatives are up for re-election this year, fewer than half of them are facing challengers to their seats.

House of Representatives

First District Representative Richard Neal is being challenged by Independent Nadia Milleron. Second District Representative Jim McGovern is facing off against independent Cornelius Shea.

Eighth District Representative Stephen Lynch of South Boston is being challenged by Republican Rob Burke, a videographer from Dedham. Ninth District Representative Bill Keating of Bourne is being challenged by Republican Dan Sullivan, a nurse from Plymouth.

There are five questions that voters will vote on in this election.

1. State Auditor's Authority to Audit the Legislature: A "yes" vote would allow the state Auditor to audit the Massachusetts Senate and House of Representatives, and a "no" vote would make no changes to the Auditor's authority.

2. Elimination of MCAS as High School Graduation Requirement: A "yes" vote would end the mandate requiring students to pass the 10th grade MCAS test in order to graduate, and a "no" vote would not change the graduation requirement.

3. Unionization for Transportation Network Drivers: A "yes" vote would let rideshare drivers form unions to collectively bargain with transportation companies for better pay and benefits, and a "no" vote would make no changes to the law.

4. Limited Legalization and Regulation of Certain Natural Psychedelic Substances: A "yes" vote would let people over the age of 21 grow and use some psychedelic substances, and a "no" vote would not change the current law and certain psychedelic substances would stay illegal.

5. Minimum Wage for Tipped Workers: A "yes" vote would gradually increase the minimum wage for tipped workers to \$15 an hour by 2029 and distribute pooled tips evenly among staff, and a "no" vote means tipped workers would still make at least \$6.75 as long as total earnings with tips reach \$15 an hour.

Every state representative and senate seat is on the ballot for election to a two-year term. Other local races being contested this November include candidates for Clerk of Courts, Register of Deeds, County Commissioner and Governor's Council.

Audiology Program Offers Free Hearing Screenings

PALMER—October is National Audiology Awareness Month a time to be aware of the importance of good hearing health.

Hearing loss is one of the most common conditions affecting older adults. The National Institutes of Health's National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders states that approximately 28.8 million Americans could benefit from using hearing aids. While age is often cited as a factor, there are growing numbers of younger people reporting hearing difficulties.

"Hearing is one of the most important aspects of our health—it connects us to people, keeps us vital in the workplace as we age, and when left untreated it is often associated with other health issues," said Jeanne Coburn, Au.D., CCC-A/SLP, Audiologist at Baystate Rehabilitation Care at Baystate Wing Hospital in Palmer. "In recognition of Audiology Awareness Month, we are offering free hearing screenings to our

community members through November.

"Even with the obvious signs, it still can be difficult to admit a change in one's hearing," said Coburn. "When seniors experience hearing loss, they sometimes feel embarrassed, afraid, and left out. When you have trouble hearing, it can impact nearly every aspect of your daily life. Those with hearing impairment face troubles with work, personal relationships, and even their favorite pastimes."

For patients of all ages, Baystate Wing Hospital's Audiology and Hearing Services and team are located in the Griswold Center, 42 Wright Street in Palmer, and offer routine hearing tests, specialized audiological testing, and a comprehensive hearing-aid program providing hearing-aid evaluations, demonstrations, purchases, fittings, adjustments, and cleanings. For more information or to book an appointment call 413-370-5254.



VOTING BY TOWN

MONSON

MONSON—All Early Voting will take place at Town Office Building in the Public Meeting Room, 110 Main St. Monson. The hours will be:

Friday, Nov. 1, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.- Last day for early voting.

The polling location for Nov. 5 is Quarry Hill Community School, 43 Margaret St., the polling hours are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

WALES

WALES—On Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 5, Polls are open from 7 a.m. through 8 p.m. at Wales Senior Center.

BRIMFIELD

BRIMFIELD—On Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 5, please come to the Senior Center, 20 Main St. to vote. Polls are open from 7 am through 8 p.m.

PALMER

PALMER—Early voting will take place at the Palmer Town Clerk's Office, 4417 Main St., at the following times:

Thursday, Oct. 31, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

On Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 5, polls are open from 7 a.m. through 8 p.m.

Polling locations are as follows: Precinct 1 & 4 - Devine Mercy Parish Center, 2267 Main Street, Three Rivers.

Precinct 2 & 3 - St. Thomas Parish Center, 1076 Thorndike Street, Palmer.

If you are unsure of your voting location go on to the town of Palmer website under voting or go to <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/WhereDoIVoteMA/WhereDoIVote>

FCC has opportunities for youth in Monson

MONSON—The First Congregational Church of Monson has two upcoming opportunities for youths in local communities. The community faith-based youth group, Youth United is hosting, Red Carpet Dance at the First Church, 5 High St., Friday Nov. 1, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

This event is just like any other kick-butt dance, except attendees should come dressed to impress. There will be a request list upon arrival so attendees can have their favorite songs played, along with the opportunity to vote on the theme for the next dance. Admission is \$7 which includes one free snack. This dance is for grades 7-12. Never fear, younger ones, there will be another dance opportunity occurring in the winter which will include 4-6th graders.

Starting Nov. 3, the First Congregational Church of Monson is hosting "Community Choir" for youths grades 6-12. Participants will have 5-6 performance opportunities including an end of

the year showcase in May.

This isn't just any choir. Alison Weber, Youth Music director and Erin Wallace assistant strive to inspire and empower participants through relevant, current, and positive music. Participants do not need to have any musical background.

Learning basics is built into the program. "We have a chance to be creative and offer a unique opportunity for kids' voices to be heard. We really want the kids to be a part of the creative process and to help build beautiful moments for listeners," said Wallace.

To register or ask questions about this program call or text Erin Wallace 413-668-7284 or the First Church Office at 413-267-3312. Register using the link <https://forms.gle/sxXaWhGysKLx591z9> On-going regular rehearsals are Sundays 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Participants will receive a schedule with performance dates at the first rehearsal.

journalregister.turley.com

COLORBLINDGUY APPLAUDS Workshop 13



Workshop 13 10 years and counting!

Workshop 13 has thrived as the premier local artist venue, thanks to the fantastic leadership of Marie Lauderdale, the technical expertise of Brian Jyringi and a team of volunteers. Workshop 13 has become a vibrant hub for creativity, encouraging artists to excel and inviting music and art fans to get involved. Their dedication has fueled growth and inspired a dynamic community where art and music flourish.

Expect more great things at Workshop 13 in *Ware—the colorblind capital of the world!*



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EMAIL
Advertising Sales
Dan Flynn
dflynn@turley.com

Staff Writer
Marcello Gusmao
mgusmao@turley.com

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Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

Worried has question about Taxation of Social Security benefits

Dear Rusty

I am past my Social Security full retirement age, and I am still working. I am married and we file our income tax jointly. My husband is 64 and is not working now, but he may or may not, be able to work in the next year or so. At what point will my Social Security benefits be taxed, if I decide to take them now?

Signed Worried About Taxes

Dear Worried

Many Social Security recipients are surprised to find that their benefits may be considered taxable by the IRS, so I welcome the opportunity to clarify this topic for you.

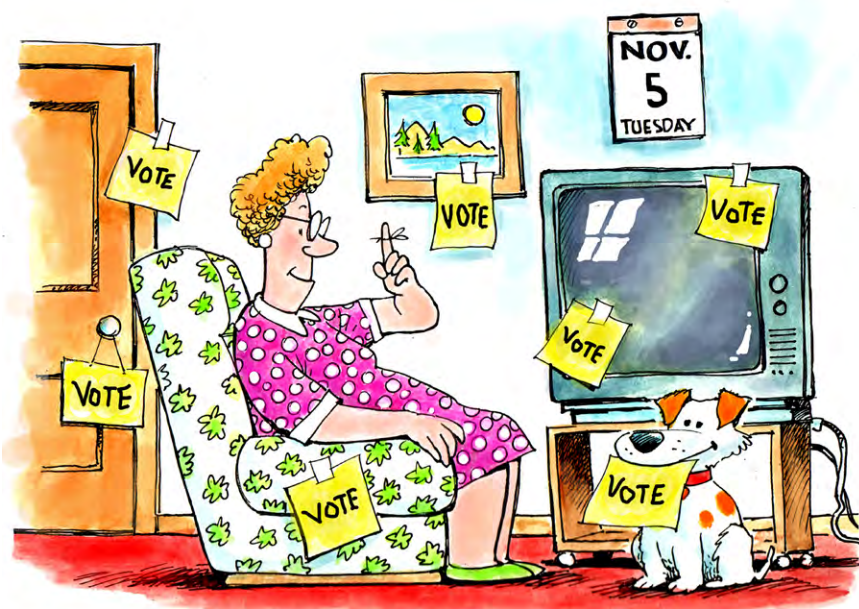
Whether or not your Social Security benefits are taxable depends on your overall combined taxable income for your IRS tax filing status. Taxation of Social Security benefits for a married couple (filing jointly) depends on your combined income as a couple, which is called your "Modified Adjusted Gross Income" by the IRS. Your MAGI consists of your normal Adjusted Gross Income on your IRS tax return, plus 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year, plus any non-taxable interest you may have had.

If your MAGI, filing jointly, exceeds \$32,000, then 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year becomes taxable, but if your MAGI as a couple exceeds \$44,000 then up to 85% of your received SS benefits becomes taxable (at your standard IRS tax rate). Note that these tax thresholds are less for those who file their taxes as a single – e.g., for someone whose IRS filing status is "single," half of their Social Security benefits become part of their taxable income if their personal MAGI is over \$25,000 and up to 85% of their SS benefits are taxable if their individual MAGI is over \$34,000.

Another factor often misunderstood is that only a portion of SS benefits are added to your income amount taxed by the IRS. The amount added, somewhere between 50% and 85% of the SS benefits received during the tax year depending on your MAGI, becomes taxable income at your normal IRS tax rate.

So, in your case, if you claim your SS benefits now and your combined income your MAGI exceeds the above levels for a married couple, then a portion either 50% or up to 85% of your SS benefits received during the tax year will be included in your income taxable by the IRS. Note, too, that it is possible to have income tax withheld from your Social Security benefits by submitting IRS form W-4V to your local Social Security office. You can download this IRS form at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw4v.pdf.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

Cross garlic off the list

It was a productive weekend "back at the ranch."

I had a very long list of things to get caught up on in and around the garden. For the most part I completed everything on the list, although a new list has started. Doesn't it always?

The last task I completed was planting garlic.

I got started growing garlic because of my Uncle Tony. He always planted his garlic cloves in the spring. I think he was under the impression that garlic wasn't hardy and wouldn't survive the winter if you planted it in the fall.

It could very well have been the type he grew. As soon as the ground had thawed, I'd get out there and plant the cloves he'd given me and in just about three months I'd harvest the fists comprised of seven or eight teeny tiny cloves.

Since then, I've gone on to plant my bulbs in the fall and again, it's probably a variety thing, but my cloves are two or three times the size of those I planted in the spring those many years ago. I have a pretty good system going that I've shared with my readers a few times over the years.

Read on for a refresher on garlic planting.

Garlic should be planted four to six weeks prior to the ground freezing, much like you would daffodils or tulips. The time is now!

Your goal is to have a well developed root system to anchor the plant through the winter. Because garlic prefers a pH of 6.5 (6.0-7 is OK), a sprinkling of lime won't hurt.

Mix in a couple of inches of aged manure or compost to planting bed. I use a pitchfork to loosen and mix the soil with the manure and lime so that it's incorporated well.

Over the years I've learned that the secret to big bulbs has a lot to do with spacing. Space individual cloves eight-10 inches apart pointed side up and plant two-three inches deep (up to the knuckle if you are pushing them into the soil by hand) and firm down.

If rain has been scarce, water the planting well. A friend who attending one of my gardening talks a few years

back, shared that she places a sheet of cardboard over the bed, and then applies mulch on top of that.

For the last few years, I have done this and it has worked out great to keep the weeds down. Garlic abhors weed competition.

One year, though, I had a problem. I didn't see my garlic sprouting in the spring, so I lifted the cardboard, and the top growth was stuck underneath! I made holes for it to grow through and all was well.

Last year I made sure I watered the bed a lot so that the cardboard would soften and this wouldn't be a problem ever again.

Garlic loves fertile soil, so top dress with more aged manure/compost in the spring, about the time when daffodils are up two inches. I slide back the mulch/softened cardboard and add the compost then replace it for continued weed suppression and moisture retention.

Repeat this process once per month in May and June.

If rain is scarce, make sure that your garlic beds get about one inch of water a week. Stop additional watering one month prior to harvest and cut off curly "scapes" (immature flower heads) as they form.

Garlic is ready to harvest when one third of the leaves have yellowed/browned. Don't wait much past this time, or bulbs will separate within the soil and length of storage could be affected. Cure in an airy location, free of humidity and moisture.

I get excited planting garlic. It's the first installation of the "new year!" Funny, how just three weeks ago I was almost sick of the garden, now it's all new again.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



White-throated sparrow, white and tan striped morphs

A Brimfield resident reported white-throated sparrows in his yard.

He said, "Adult white-throated sparrows are polymorphic, occurring in two plumage types or forms: white striped (bright) or tan striped (dull). Almost all of the white-throated sparrows I see are the tan striped morph." I also saw white-throated sparrows, but they are mostly the white striped morph.

I put a small amount of bird seed and shelled peanuts in my feeders in the morning. I do not fill them as there are many black bears in my area. With this wonderful Indian summer weather, I have been working outside since I use a laptop computer. Besides working on the two papers I edit, Barre Gazette and Country Journal, I enjoy the weather, and get to see birds coming and going at the feeders.

The white-throated sparrow is 6 1/2 inches long with a dark crown with a buff or tan central stripe and white throat. Depending on which morph, they have either white or tan eyebrows with a yellow mark before the eye. Their breast is gray with a few, faint streaks.

The female has a less bold pattern on the head, duller yellow by eye, more streaking on the breast and grayer. The immature of either sex looks like the female. Immature plumage is kept through their first winter. Breeding pair usually contains one bird from each morph, either a tan female and white male or white female and tan male.

The female lays four to six light blue-green eggs with dark marks in a nest of grasses lined with hairs and rootlets. It is placed on the ground or under a small tree or shrub.

For many years, my family and I had horses. Their hair was a popular nesting material for the birds in our yard. Nests often had horse hair woven into them. After grooming the horses, birds would often come and fly away with strands of horse hair especially from the horses' mane or tail.

White throated sparrows summer in Canada and winter in the northeastern and part of the southern United States. They feed on the ground eating weed seeds, grain, fruit and insects. They come to tray type feeders or scattered on the ground. They like cracked corn, sunflower seeds and millet.

Their song is two long whistled notes followed by three or four higher, quivering notes. It sounds like "sweet sweet Canada Canada Canada." Calls are "tseet" when birds are in flocks and "pink" in alarm. They inhabit coniferous and mixed woods and brushy areas.

Brimfield birds

The Brimfield resident reported not much happening at the Warren ponds. In his yard, he saw a male eastern towhee, a couple of ruby-crowned kinglets, five goldfinches, a chipping sparrow, song sparrow and white-throated sparrows.

Black swallow tail caterpillars

The Brimfield resident also said in an email, "Over a week ago we found a couple of black swallowtail caterpillars on a volunteer 12" tall fennel plant growing out of the space between pavers in our walkway. I collected the caterpillars and put them in the house in a small aquarium with fennel leaves. Last year we found three black swallowtail caterpillars chrysalises in the garden, kept them inside a shed over the winter and in the spring tied the chrysalises to tree branches. All three hatched and flew away."

Fun facts about Canada geese

The Brimfield resident also offered some facts about Canada geese he got from MassWildlife. Human intervention radically altered the status of this species within the Bay State. Before the 1930s, these geese rarely nested here, today many Canada geese are in this state year round.

The migratory population still pass through in the spring and fall and stop to rest during migration. Resident population are descendants of captive geese used by waterfowl hunters; live decoys were outlawed in the 1930s and captive birds were released. With no pattern of migration, these geese began nesting in Massachusetts. In the 1960s and early 1970s, MassWildlife moved geese from the coast into central and western Massachusetts to the applause of both hunters and non-hunters. A population explosion followed.

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

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EDITORIAL

journalregister@turley.comSTAFF WRITER
Marcelo Gusmao
mgusmao@turley.comADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
dlynn@turley.comSPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

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CEOKEITH TURLEY
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Please send opinions to:
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The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters to the editor welcome

The Journal Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to journalregister@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news
As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Journal Register.

your health

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN

Guest Column



How to tell if you're being gaslighted

cian assistant may be doing it unintentionally, or they may even be unconscious of their behavior. The effect is the same: You're not being listened to.

Studies have shown that women and people of color experience gaslighting more frequently. There's something called "unconscious bias," which leads some to make assumptions and draw conclusions about people without realizing that their assumptions and conclusions are rooted in deep-seated beliefs and biases. Medical professionals are humans who, even with all of their education and experience, may bring their existing beliefs and biases into the exam room with them.

That's not the only thing at play. The health care system itself, which sometimes leaves only a precious few minutes for a doctor to spend with a patient, is part of the problem. The thing about making assumptions is that it does save a lot of time – but at what cost?

What are some of the signs of medical gaslighting? They're not all that different from what someone may experience in a personal relationship.

Shifting blame: "It's not me, it's you." In a medical setting, this may look like the health-care provider telling you that you'd feel better if only you did ... something (sleep better, eat better, exercise more). While those things may be true, it doesn't mean you're to blame for your condition.

Interrupting: This is one of those things that happens during rushed appointments. On average, doctors spend between 12 and 15 minutes with a patient. In an effort to speed things along, the provider interrupts what you're saying to ask questions.

Dismissing symptoms: It's maddening when someone tells you you're not feeling something that you're feeling, right? Or worse, "it's all in your head." That's what Charles Boyer told Ingrid Bergman.

What can you do if you suspect your health-care provider is gaslighting you? Not surprisingly, these are some of the same recommendations I make in order for you to get the most out of a doctor appointment.

Call them out: Being direct is the best approach, but use "I" language: "You know, I don't feel like you're listening to me." It may be uncomfortable, but if the provider is unaware of how they're coming across, you may be helping them improve their bedside manner.

Keep a record of your symptoms: It can be very helpful to keep a log of the symptoms you want to discuss. For example, if you get dizzy periodically, it would help the doctor to know how frequently it happens, how long it lasts and how you feel afterward.

Write everything down: Come to your appointment prepared with a written list of things you want to discuss, and move through your list efficiently. Write down

THIS WEEK IN History

Week History
Nov. 4

Howard Carter, a British archaeologist, and an unidentified companion uncovered the tomb of Tutankhamun on Nov. 4, 1922



Public Domain

REGION – A look back through history at the momentous anniversaries this week.

On Oct. 30, in 2018, American crime boss Whitey Bulger, head of the Boston-based Winter Hill Gang, was beaten to death in jail.

On Oct. 31, in 1517, Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on a church door in Wittenberg, Germany, that would lead to the Protestant Reformation.

On Nov. 1, in 1765, the Stamp Act, Britain's first parliamentary attempt to raise revenue through taxes on American commercial and legal papers, went into effect.

On Nov. 2, in 2000, the first resi-

dent crew, which included one American and two Russians, arrived at the International Space Station.

On Nov. 3, in 1793, Olympe de Gouges, a French social reformer and feminist known for challenging conventional views on a number of matters, such as the role of women as citizens, was executed by guillotine.

On Nov. 4, in 1922, a British archaeologist named Howard Carter discovered the tomb of the Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamun.

Finally, on Nov. 5, in 1605, Roman Catholics led by Robert Catesby tried to blow up Parliament and the king as part of the Gunpowder Plot.



Palmer Senior Center

PALMER— The Palmer Senior Center, 1029 Central St., has many activities for seniors Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information or to reserve a meal please call 413-283-2670.

November events always on Mondays- Zumba at 8:30 a.m., Chair Yoga at 10 a.m., Lunch 11:30 and Pool table at 12:15 p.m. **Always on Tuesdays-** Knit/crochet group at 9 a.m., walking group at 9 a.m., Breakfast at 9:30 a.m. Arthritis/ROM at 10 a.m. and painting group at 1 p.m. **Always on Wednesdays-** Strength training at 10 a.m., Reiki by appt. is canceled and 11:30 a.m. Lunch. **Always on Thursdays-** Walking group at 9 a.m., breakfast at 9:30 a.m., Tai Chi at 10 a.m., pool table at 12:15 p.m. and Big Y at 1 p.m. **Always on Fridays -** Gentle stretch at 10 a.m., Dancing mind body and soul at 10 a.m. and Lunch at 11:30 a.m.

Special events NOVEMBER

Monday, Nov. 4 10:30- 11:30 a.m. Therapy dog, 5:30 p.m. dinner to celebrate Veterans,* evening outreach by appt. only, call Cindy
Tuesday, Nov. 5 10:30 a.m. Trip to McKinstry Market Garden, they accept snap Wednesday, Nov. 6- 9 a.m. Hockey Game, Springfield Thunderbirds
Thursday, Nov. 7 10 a.m. Tai Chi, 1 p.m. Sunshine Village Craft
Friday, Nov. 8 1-3 p.m. Brown bag pick-up, 1 p.m. build a birdhouse or feeder with Justin. Space is limited
Monday, Nov. 11- Closed for Veterans Day
Tuesday, Nov. 12- 11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch Farmer Matt (outside subject to change

for weather)

Wednesday, Nov. 13- 11:30 a.m. Lunch and learn with Lusio Federal Credit Union, 1 p.m. Wii bowling

Thursday, Nov. 14- 1 p.m. Greeting cards with Marlene

Friday, Nov. 15- Noon Trip to the Springfield Armory National Historic site with Justin

Monday, Nov. 18- 10:30 a.m. Marathon Bingo, 5:30 p.m. craft puzzle wreath

Wednesday, Nov. 19- 11 a.m. Thanksgiving Celebration

Thursday, Nov. 20- 10 a.m. Tai Chi, 11:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m. memory café, 1 p.m. Sunshine village paint

Friday, Nov. 21- 12:30 p.m. showing movie "A Good Person"

Monday, Nov. 25- 1 p.m. take and bake

Thursday, Nov. 28 and Friday, Nov. 29- Closed for Thanksgiving

MENUS

Breakfast is served every Tuesday and Thursday at 9:15 a.m. and is \$3. Lunch is served every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon and a suggested donation is \$2. Please call before 10 a.m. the day before to reserve a meal at 413-283-2670. Individuals must sign up for breakfast, otherwise a meal will not be ordered for them.

Friday, Nov. 1- Chicken Pot pie, California blend veggies, biscuit topping and pear crisp

Monday, Nov. 4- Creamy roasted pepper pasta, with chicken, steamed broccoli, WW bread and chilled applesauce.

Tuesday, Nov. 5- Bacon, egg and cheese croissant.

Wednesday, Nov. 6- Chicken Fajitas, fajitas blend veggies, yellow rice, flour tortilla,

sour cream and fresh fruit.

Thursday, Nov. 7- Sausage, egg and cheese biscuit.

Friday, Nov. 8- Beef stew with carrots and peas, mashed potatoes, wheat roll, Jello with topping.

Monday, Nov. 11- Closed for Veterans Day.

Tuesday, Nov. 12- French toast and sausage.

Wednesday, Nov. 13- Hamburger with cheese, onions and mushrooms, roasted red potatoes, wheat burger bun and mandarin oranges.

Thursday, Nov. 14- Waffle and Sausage.

Friday, Nov. 15- Breakfast sausage, scrambled eggs, syrup, potatoes O'Brien, snack loaf and spiced apples.

Monday, Nov. 18- Lazy stuffed cabbage, peas and onions, WW bread, Jello with topping

Tuesday, Nov. 19- Ham, egg and cheese croissant

Wednesday, Nov. 20- Turkey with gravy, steamed peas, mashed potatoes, cranberry stuffing and pumpkin pie

Thursday, Nov. 21- Cinnamon buns

Friday, Nov. 22- Chicken Marsala, tossed salad with Italian, penne noodles, garlic bread and mixed fruit.

Monday, Nov. 25- Mac and Cheese, stewed tomatoes, WW bread, cranberry juice and Jello with topping.

Tuesday, Nov. 26- Egg, bacon and cheese croissant.

Wednesday, Nov. 27- Birthday meal, BBQ pulled pork, broccoli slaw, half a baked sweet potato, WW burger bun and birthday cake.

Thursday, Nov. 28 and Friday, Nov. 29 will be closed for Thanksgiving.

YOUR HEALTH | from page 4

what the provider says, including if they're prescribing a new medication or ordering a test.

Take someone with you: An advocate, whether it's a family member or a private patient advocate, is a valuable resource at any medical appointment, but especially those where you're dealing with a potential case of gaslighting. They can confirm what you and the doctor are saying and (not incidentally) witness the provider's behavior.

Find a new doctor: As a last resort, find someone you trust who listens to you. Ask friends and neighbors for recommendations and look at their social media reviews on Yelp and Google. But don't leave without telling the provider why you're going.

Gaslighting is troubling behavior, but if Ingrid Bergman could figure it out, so can you. Next week, I'll take a look at another behavior that's fitting to discuss during the spooky season: Ghosting. What does it mean when your doctor "ghosts" you, or you "ghost" your doctor?

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

State Awards \$2.4 Million to support culvert replacement and restoration projects

Monson's will receive \$83,500 in funding

BOSTON—The Healey-Driscoll Administration today announced over \$2.4 million to support ecological restoration projects across Massachusetts. These projects, funded by the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) Division of Ecological Restoration (DER), will strengthen community resilience to climate change, reduce flood risks, improve infrastructure and public safety, and restore crucial wildlife habitat and water quality.

"Funding restoration projects is key to building a climate-ready future," said EEA Secretary Rebecca Tepper. "These awards will support municipalities and partners in restoring healthy waterways and enhancing resilience against increased precipitation and extreme weather. For residents, that means cleaner water, lower flood risks, and safer communities ready to withstand the challenges ahead."

Municipalities were awarded funding through DER's CRMA Grant Program among



them was the Town of Monson with funding for Twelve-mile Brook Culvert Replacements in the amount of \$83,500. The Town of Monson will conduct field data collection and design/engineering work to replace two undersized culverts on Nieske Road and Reimers Road over Twelve-mile Brook and a tributary, where flooding has been an issue. The stream has also been identified.

"Ecological restoration is a crucial piece of the puzzle for solving the interconnected crises

of biodiversity loss and climate change," said DFG Commissioner Tom O'Shea. "By partnering with communities to upgrade culverts, we will reconnect habitats for fish and wildlife and boost public safety. These projects are a win-win for people and nature—we are proud to be ushering them along."

DER's Stream Continuity Program is awarding over \$2 million to 17 municipalities through the Culvert Re-

placement Municipal Assistance (CRMA) Grant Program and the Culvert Replacement Training Site Initiative. This funding will help municipalities replace outdated culverts with new, improved crossings. These upgrades will improve fish and wildlife passage, reduce flood risks, and improve public safety. The funding will also support DER's Culvert Replacement Training Site Initiative, which aims to build a network of road managers skilled in replacing culverts that meet the Massachusetts Stream Crossing Standards. This will include training opportunities, site visits, and technical assistance. In August, DER awarded \$2.1 million to communities. Together, this amounts to nearly \$4.2 million invested in culvert replacement, small bridge improvements, and technical assistance in 2024.

DER is also awarding \$344,000 to two restoration proj-

ects through its Priority Projects Program. This program supports wetland and river restoration that will have the greatest benefit to the state ecologically, socially, and economically. Priority Projects underway include removal of aging, unsafe dams; restoration of freshwater wetlands in former cranberry farmlands; replacement and removal of undersized and degrading culverts; and restoration of tidal flow to degraded coastal habitats.

"We are proud to support these projects and work hand-in-hand with partners to achieve our shared restoration goals," said DER Director Beth Lambert. "We are excited to see communities tackle these much-needed projects and look forward to the many benefits ecological restoration will bring to Massachusetts' people and environment."

Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?

We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.

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Trunk or Treat



Trunk-or-treaters August and Oliver held up the baskets they had filled with candy.



Victor, Andrew, Hunter, Sophia, Juliet, and Logan dressed as Godzilla, Mario, a princess, and Spider-Man to get candy from volunteers.



Ali Dugre and Nikki Caco handed out candies at Converse Middle School.



A blow-up ghost beckoned trick-or-treaters to the truck from the fire department.



Theresa Hayden and Sally Nay had a trunk set up for American Legion.



Volunteering from behind glowing blocks at their Mario-themed trunk, (from left) Nell Wood, Kayla Bluteau, and Mike Kapust from the Learning Factory.



Skeletons and farm workers teamed up to create the Bone Barn for this year's Trunk-or-Treat.




Trunk-or-treating as Toy Story aliens and in South Park costumes visible from the street, (from left) Emma and Lexi Gomes, Megan Galarneau, Zoey Murphy, and Madison Lizak.


HALLOWEEN | from page 1

trick-or-treaters, who went all-out to create costumes that were funny, scary, or otherwise iconic.

"Thank you to our Old Mill Pond Parent/Teacher Organization, the busi-

nesses and families that had trunks, our DJ, and all the volunteers that made tonight so much fun," said Riopel. "We had such a blast, we belong right here."





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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

AMVETS POST 74 will sponsor the annual Three Rivers Halloween Parade on Thursday Oct. 31 at 6pm. The parade will start at Hryniewicz Park and proceed up Main St. to the Post, where the Halloween Party will be held. For more info call the Post at 413-283-4518.

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 - Nov. 13 K & H Jewelry
 - Nov. 19 Wicked Good Treats
 - Nov. 21 Crystal Clear Emotions
 - Nov. 25 Generations of Cookies
 - Nov. 26 Generations of Cookies
- Shop for the Holidays or Just shop for Fun!

December Vendor Sales

- Dec. 3 Hobbit Hollow Herbs
- Dec. 6 Therafest
- Dec. 9 Generations of Cookies
- Dec. 10 Generations of Cookies
- Dec. 11 Crystal Clear Emotions
- Dec. 12 Jewelry by Diane
- Dec. 17 Nails on You
- Dec. 19 Sweets and Treats
- Dec. 23 Wicked Good Treats

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.

INTERESTS

PIONEER VALLEY QUILTERS Guild meets at the Elks Lodge #61 at 440 Tiffany St., Springfield. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. and all are welcome. The mission of the guild is two-fold: to share the joy of quilting with others and to work for the betterment of the community. Monies raised (as in the biannual quilt show) support various workshops and speakers for the meetings, as well as allow the guild to buy materials that are then used to create donated items. The guild has donated quilts, baby bibs, cardiac pillows, and Christmas stockings for veterans to a variety of community agencies, including but not limited to the Springfield Rescue Mission and the Gray House.

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

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

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

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: Qi Gong at Monson Free Library with Randy Emerson. Every Tuesday 5:45 to 6:45 p.m.

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage. For more information on news or community features for The Journal Register, please email journalregister@turley.com.

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Trunk or Treat



Devon Kennedy brought his 2019 Dodge Challenger to the track.



Casey Westcott of Woburn brought his 2001 Pontiac Trans Am WS6.



Scott Wrzesien of Ware stands with "The Boss," a 1934 Chevy-powered Ford sedan.



Jennifer and Calvin Therkelsen dressed as Cruella de Vil and a Dalmatian.



Paul and Dimitri Dellas of Millbury stand next to Paul's 1969 Chevrolet Chevelle.



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimet
Corey Duncan of Worcester also brought a 1969 Chevrolet Chevelle.



Food donations filled a van to be donated to both the Palmer Food Share and the Jubilee Cupboard in Ware.



Chloe McGrath, from Monson, was dressed as the Grim Reaper and Jude McGrath was dressed a character from Minecraft.



Jen Adams sits in her 2019 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray.



Gabriel Balsler, Zaylee Brodeur, Ray Brodeur and Sue Brodeur showed off their costumes.

CAR SHOW | from page 1

Palmer Motorsports Park collected non-perishable food items to donate to the Jubilee Cupboard in Ware and the Palmer Food Share. A steady stream of attendees helped to fill a van supplied by Sarat Ford Lincoln.

For many, this event was a chance to spend time with their families, either dressing up in costumes, or sharing their passion for horsepower.

Scott Wrzesien of Ware brought his Chevy-powered, 1934 Ford sedan "The Boss," taking a break from his usual Sunday races up in Lebanon Valley.

"It's a big part of my life," Wrzesien said of his sedan. "It gives us time to have fun."

Wrzesien said the Ford belonged to his dad, Stan, who purchased it when he was in the U.S. Navy. The car originally was owned by one of Stan's close friends, who passed away from an aneurysm.

"He's had it since," Wrzesien said. "My father and friends raced it as teens."

The car has a gangster theme, as it was the same type of car driven by the infamous duo of Bonnie and Clyde (although with two less doors).

The McGrath family from Monson brought two cars with them to the event, an Audi S4 and an Audi TT. The family has attended events at the track before and all agreed that they love it here.

Jude McGrath said he's rode 11 parade laps on the track.

Traveling from Millbury were Jen Adams, Paul Dellas and Dimitri Dellas.

Adams, who has always been part of a "Chevy family," arrived in her 2019 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray, experiencing Palmer Motorsports Park for the first time.

"I can't even believe this exists," she said.

The Stingray is her 20th Corvette, she said.

Paul Dellas drove his 1969 Chevrolet Chevelle, which he's had for about a year. He bought it because he was looking for a black car with "red gut."

"I had a '69 Camaro all set up and had to get rid of it," Dellas said. "This is my second choice."

Also driving a 1969 Chevrolet Chevelle was Corey Duncan of Worcester who was also enjoying his first time at the track.

"I did three laps," he said.

Duncan has had the car for five years, after inheriting it from his late father.

"He had it my whole life," Duncan

said. "It was my Pop's car."

Duncan said his father was the second owner of the car, and he remembers helping him pick it out when he was just 4 years old.

"This would be my dream car. I fell in love with this when he got it," Duncan said.

Duncan was joined by his friend Casey Westcott of Woburn, who celebrated his birthday just the day before. Westcott drove his 2001 Pontiac Trans Am WS6.

"I've had it since August," he said. "It's actually completely stock," he said.

Westcott said he decided to buy the car after being involved in a bad accident, when he was hit riding his motorcycle. He's the third owner of the car, which came from New York before he bought it in New Hampshire, and it's always been garage-kept with just under 80,000 miles on the odometer.

He said this car has the same drive train as a Camaro or Corvette.

"It's just different," he said.

Westcott said he was able to take the Trans Am out on the track for three parade laps.

"It was a fun experience," he said.

Another one Duncan and Westcott's friends brought his 2012 Mitsubishi Evolution GSE, which he bought brand new. He said he's completed 90% of the upgrades to the car, with the tune done by Cosmic motorsports.

"Her name is Sasha," he said of the car. "A name that fits."

Driving the car on the track has "been a heck of a time," he said.

Joined by his son Oliver, Derek Thomas (lightfury_fusion on TikTok) brought his 2017 Ford Fusion Sport to the track for the first time.

Thomas has spent a lot of time and money to add upgrades to the car, including adding a 2005 Dodge Neon SRT spoiler to it.

"There's like \$10,000 worth of mods in it," he said.

Thomas said he chose the Fusion because he could use it as his daily driver, and still having fun with it.

Also joining him was his friend Devon Kennedy (barn_find_generally on TikTok) with his 2019 Dodge Challenger RT.

Kennedy said he normally drag races his car all over New England and decided to enjoy the picturesque fall day from the top of Whiskey Hill.

"I just drive it everywhere," he said.

About Palmer Motorsports Park Palmer Motorsports Park has been

rated "One of the top 10 road courses in North America" by Road & Track Magazine. Its unique setting and challenging road course draw club members and visitors from New England and beyond for racing, research, recreational, and business-related activities.

For more information, visit palmermotorsportspark.com or find them on Facebook.

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FOOTBALL

Palmer wins, heads into big matchup 5-2

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

GREENFIELD—Following back-to-back home losses to Intercounty North Division foes Franklin County Tech and Athol, the Palmer football team made the long bus ride to Greenfield High School looking to get back into the win column.

Junior Dylan Doherty scored three second half touchdowns as the Panthers pulled away for a 28-12 victory over the Green Wave in a league contest held at Veterans' Memorial Field, last Thursday night.

"We've lost our last two games at home, and this win should give us some momentum heading into Ware week," Doherty said. "We're also undefeated on the road, which is very special."

Two years ago, the Green Wave celebrated a 22-12 home win over the Panthers. They also squeaked out a 14-7 victory at historic Legion Field last year.

The Panthers (5-2, 2-2), who only had 15 players in uniform during last Thursday's game, outscored Pathfinder Tech and Mahar Regional, 76-13, in their first two road games of the 2024 regular season. They have a 2-2 home record.

"It's always very important to play well both at home and on the road," said Palmer head coach Matt Marciniac. "I gave the guys a speech in the locker room at half-time and we pretty much controlled the second half of tonight's game."

While Marciniac downplayed the halftime speech following the game, Doherty said it was some-

PALMER | page 11

SOCCER

Mustangs edge rival Rams in rematch

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

MONSON—Hannah Murphy is the only junior listed on the Monson girls' varsity soccer roster.

Unless one of her classmates decides to join the varsity team next year, Murphy will have the spotlight all to herself during the Lady Mustangs 2025 senior day celebration.

Murphy made sure that the four current seniors had a very enjoyable experience on their senior day.

The Central Division contest versus Granby was tied 1-1



Natalie Hull battles for possession of the ball.

when Murphy scored a goal with a minute remaining in regulation. It wound up giving her team an exciting 2-1 victory on a warm and sunny fall afternoon at Larry Tassinari Field, last Monday (Oct. 21).

"Hannah is a very special soccer player and she's an extension of me," said Monson first-year head coach Larry Pagliaro, who was previously an assistant coach under Eric Degnan. "Whenever we're huddled in a circle, she's already talking with the other players before I do. She's going to be



Avery Beaudoin kicks the ball away.

Emma Maziarz pivots to get the loose ball.

lot more games this season. We're not the favorites in every game anymore."

Corthell and Hull are starting defenders while Peterson is a midfielder.

"Emily is a fantastic goalie. Ella is a little more aggressive defensively than Natalie is, but they both do a very good job back there," Pagliaro added. "Addison is a very fast midfielder."

The Lady Mustangs, who

MUSTANGS | page 10

SOCCER



Neila Lachance is pressured by a Quaboag defender.

Panthers lose to Quaboag

WARREN – Last Wednesday was defeated at Quaboag 4-0. The afternoon, Palmer field hockey Panthers are 0-12-1 for the season.



Hannah Roy attempts to keep possession.



Eldi Arroyo makes a play on defense for the Panthers.



Goalie Scarlett Larose looks to make a save.



Camden Kimball heads up the field with the ball.

SOCCER

Pioneers shut out Sizer

PALMER – Last Monday afternoon, Pathfinder girls soccer picked up a 10-0 shutout of Sizer School, a Central Mass. school. The Pioneers scored early and often and were in control of the game throughout. The Pioneers improved to 2-10-1 and were scheduled to have non-playoff games earlier this week.



Autumn Doktor traps the ball for the Pioneers.



Samantha Lowe goes after the loose ball.



Danielle Croteau nearly collides with an opponent.



Taylor Allen turns play around.



Hannah Mellor makes a stop on defense.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

PVPA to hold supplemental lottery to fill second semester openings

SOUTH HADLEY – Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School has reopened the application for the current 2024/2025 school year for grades seven, nine, 10 and 11.

A special lottery will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 17, with accepted students beginning to attend PVPA at the beginning of the second semester, on or around Jan. 23, 2025.

PVPA offers an arts-focused, college preparatory education, with over 70 arts classes in dance, music, theater and visual arts available to students in grades seven-12. As a public charter school, enrollment in PVPA is free and open to all Massachusetts students, no audition is required.

If more applications are received than spaces available, admission will be determined by the lottery on Dec. 17.

Applications can be submitted until the deadline on Dec. 15 at 11:59 p.m. Applications are available at www.pvpa.org/admissions.org.

The lottery will be open to the public via a Zoom link that will be shared on the PVPA website, and emailed to all applicants.

While most grades are currently full, PVPA has identified openings in grades seven and nine. Applicants for grades 10 and 11 will be included in the lottery if

openings are available and the waitlists for those grades are exhausted.

All applicants will be notified by email at least a week prior to the lottery.

The applications for the 2025/2026 school year, open to all grades seven-12, will open Nov. 1.

All interested families are welcome to visit the school for a tour. Available dates and registration can be found at www.pvpa.org/admissions.

PVPA is a publicly funded charter school authorized by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, enrolling students in grades seven-12. PVPA offers a college preparatory curriculum that provides all students with a broad exposure to the performing arts programs.

Per MA General Laws, Chapter 76: Section 5, shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, creed, sex, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental or physical disability, age, ancestry, athletic performance, special need, proficiency in the English language or academic achievement.

Please contact PVPA by emailing admissions@pvpa.org with any further questions.

Senator Oliveira nominates Juan Latorre II for 2024 Latino Excellence Award

SPRINGFIELD – Senator Jake Oliveira welcomed Springfield's Juan "Jay" Latorre III to Beacon Hill to award him with The Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus's 2024 Latino Excellence Award. Every year, the 40 Senators serving in the Legislature nominate a recipient from their district to receive the award to be celebrated at a ceremony at the State House.

"Throughout his life, Jay has consistently demonstrated an unwavering dedication to his community, a commitment to making a difference in the lives of others, and a desire to advance professionally," said Senator Oliveira. "It was my honor to nominate him for the award for 2024."

Jay's commitment to the community began early as an Eagle Scout and has continued throughout his life. He has served in numerous leadership roles, including as an Executive Board Member of the Western Massachusetts Council for the Boy Scouts of America, Vice President of the Sixteen Acres Civic Association, Chair of the Springfield Restaurant Week Committee, and Committee Chair of the City of Springfield's Young Professionals Sub-Committee. Recently, Jay also joined the boards of the Springfield Library Foundation and

Revitalize CDC.

"I am beyond grateful to be honored in such a meaningful way. I have striven my entire life to work in the service of others for the benefit of our entire community. I thank Senator Oliveira and the entire Massachusetts State Senate for their unwavering commitment to highlight ordinary citizens who are pursuing extraordinary work to move our Commonwealth forward," said Latorre.

"Jay leaves every professional and volunteer effort better than he found it," said Oliveira. "I am proud to celebrate his leadership and dedication as this year's Latino Excellence Awardee for the Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District and couldn't think of a more deserving candidate."

Jay was born and raised in Springfield and is a proud graduate of the University of Massachusetts, where he earned a degree in Computer Systems Engineering. He then received a Master of Science in Engineering with a focus on Electrical and Management Engineering from Western New England University. Professionally, Jay has excelled as a Principal Engineer with Verizon, where he has enjoyed a successful 15-year career.

Christmas by Candlelight returns to OSV

STURBRIDGE – Old Sturbridge Village is pleased to announce the return of Christmas by Candlelight, a cherished holiday celebration of New England's festive traditions.

Tickets are now on sale to the public for select dates in November and December.

The Village will transform into a stunning winter wonderland beginning Nov. 29, featuring over 85 beautifully decorated trees on the Christmas Tree Trail, over 80 wreaths, hundreds of candles illuminating the pathways, and 5,625 feet of garland adorning historic buildings. Each evening of the program will kick off at 4:30 p.m. with a magical lighting ceremony.

Visitors can experience a variety of activities, including knitting Christmas stockings and baking traditional holiday

treats. Guests can stroll through the picturesque village and cross the enchanting Christmas Wish Bridge, a scenic path lined with trees along the Quinebaug River. Children will have the chance to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus in their new cabin, where they can share their holiday wishes.

Visitors are also encouraged to participate in the annual Gingerbread House contest, where creative entries will be displayed for public voting.

"Christmas by Candlelight is a celebration of the cherished traditions that make the season truly special," said Rhys Simmons, Director of Interpretation at Old Sturbridge Village in a press release. "Our goal is to transport you back in time with an experience that delights all the senses. Picture twinkling lights adorning the trees, the

enticing aromas and flavors of mulled cider and freshly baked gingerbread, and the familiar sounds of holiday carols echoing all around."

This year's Christmas by Candlelight will feature an array of live entertainment, including historical performances and readings of Christmas tales for children. New this year is "Upon a Midnight Clear – An Acoustic New England Christmas," a musical journey showcasing local artists reinterpreting classic carols.

In addition to the festivities, guests can explore the origins of classic traditions such as nutcrackers and gingerbread, along with a remarkable miniature nativity scene featuring over 600 pieces. The Richardson House will showcase Italian Christmas customs.

There will also be plenty of opportunities for holiday shopping at the Miner Grant Store and the Ox & Yoke Mercantile.

"This event has become a tradition for so many guests year after year, and many families look forward to it as the highlight of their holiday season," continued Simmons. "We invite everyone to experience the joy of the season, relish in classic traditions, and create new memories with loved ones this winter at Christmas by Candlelight."

Christmas by Candlelight is made possible by our generous sponsors: Cornerstone Bank, Country Bank, G&F Precision Molding, and Southbridge Credit Union.

For more information on tickets and full event details, visit the Old Sturbridge Village website.

Christmas Fair in Belchertown

BELCHERTOWN— Mark a calendar, the St. Francis Christmas Fair is back. On Saturday, Nov. 2, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., the St. Francis of Assisi Annual Christmas Fair will return to 10

Park St. in Belchertown. The fair includes a giant basket raffle, a holiday crafts and gift bazaar, and a bakery featuring homemade goodies and gourmet coffee served in take-home holiday

mugs. The Pine Room Café is serving lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The menu will include homemade soups, sandwiches, burgers, hot dogs, chips, and a variety of beverages. Make a day

of it, buy some raffle chances and select gifts from an assortment of offerings, join family and friends at this traditional Belchertown event.



Representatives from the Miss Western Massachusetts Scholarship Organization worked the table at the event, (from left) Faith Ramos, Madelynn Hardtke, and Katie Collins-Kalbaugh.



People lined up for food from the buffet at the Ludlow Country Club. Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

PROM | from page 1

opened is parents were coming in with young ladies for dresses, and a lot of them would say, 'I never got to go to my prom,'" Annecciarico said. "We said, why don't we hold an adult prom every year, and make it an affordable fundraiser for our shop? So that's what we do every year."

Annecciarico said that the response to the event has been fabulous, and that despite having to make adjustments this year, she

was very happy with the turnout. "We have 90% of the dresses in here, people came in and took them out of our shop," said Tulik. "They rented a dress for tonight and then they bring it back when they're done."

The event is made possible through a partnership with Miss Western Massachusetts Scholarship Organization, under the Miss America umbrella.

"Since day one of our prom, they come in, they do the raffle table for us, and they work at the front desk for us," Annecciarico said.

Annecciarico said that representatives from Miss Western MA take care of the things that would take she and Tulik away

from meeting and mingling with people at the prom.

"They are literally queens, in every sense of the word," Annecciarico said.

Executive Director Kensi Riley said that her organization is happy to partner with Second Time's A Charm, noting that the cost of dresses can be a barrier for people interested in competing in Miss America pageants.

"We're a scholarship organization, we don't need girls spending thousands and thousands of dollars on gowns – it's, quite frankly, silly," Riley said.

Second Time's A Charm is run as a charitable non-profit on an entirely volunteer basis. People looking to buy prom dresses

are encouraged to visit the store, are given a tour, and then get to try on their dresses, which they can then take for free, with the option of leaving a \$20 donation.

Riley shared that a woman wore a gown from Second Time's A Charm for a competition this year and won.

"It's a great way to grow this partnership," Riley said.

Second Time's A Charm is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Jan. 13 to May 11. If you'd like to see about getting a dress from them, give them a call at 413-530-5966, or send an email to NTulik@AOL.com.

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