

QUABOAG CURRENT

WEST BROOKFIELD

Dance studio marks 50 years Page 2

EAST BROOKFIELD

Summer Eats at library Page 2

STURBRIDGE

Vacation Bible Camp Page 3

Volume 18, Number 31

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

Friday July 4, 2025



TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA QUIMETTE
Magi Bish (center) is shown with her daughter Heather and son John Jr. during the 25th anniversary vigil of 16-year-old Molly Bish's abduction from her life-guarding job at Comins Pond on June 27, 2000.

Because of Molly

Community marks 25 years since Bish's abduction

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – This past Saturday, the common was filled with community members, legislators and law enforcement officials to support the family of 16-year-old Molly Bish, who was abducted from her life-guarding job 25 years ago on June 27, 2000.

Her remains were found three years later in a wooded area on Whiskey Hill in Palmer. In 2021, investigators named the late Francis “Frank” P. Sumner Sr. as a person of interest in her murder.

But on this day, the focus would be on Molly, and the changes made to protect children and get justice for



This banner featured pins from the annual Ride for Molly charity motorcycle ride.

the victims of crimes since her disappearance.

“We gather today to remember Molly,” her mother Magi Bish said. “It’s been 25 years of great sadness, but remarkable love.”

Magi said that her youngest daughter was a “simple, silly, sweet 16-year-old.”

See MOLLY PAGE 3

A day of fun and service



Tim was at the Headquarters Tent at the Amateur Radio Field Day held on June 28.

Amateur Radio Field Day held on West Brookfield Common

By Richard Murphy,
KC1EZH
Correspondent

WEST BROOKFIELD – Where the West Brookfield Common fronts North Main Street there was an information tent set up with two banners.

The one hanging from the table announced an Amateur Radio Field Day. The one on the tent bore the words, Ask Me About Ham Radio!

So, what is Ham Radio and thus, one might ask, why an Amateur Radio Field Day?

Ham Radio is amateur radio, and Amateur Radio is non-commercial radio communication service on radio frequencies assigned by the Federal Communications Commission in the U.S. Worldwide, The International Telecommunication Union assigns frequencies.

Originally, professional telegraph operators called amateurs “hams” as sort of an insult, amateurs embraced it, “transforming it into a badge of pride.”

Now that we know what Hams are i.e. non-commercial radio, the field day was the place to meet hams and find out who they are.

Why a field day on Saturday, June 28? The goal was to set up temporary stations using off-grid power to demonstrate ham radio’s ability to provide vital communications during natural disasters, power outages, and other emergencies.

The Field Day is the largest emergency communications exercise in North America, and is sponsored by the American Radio Relay League. The ARRL is

the national amateur radio association in the U.S.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued a proclamation, signed by the governor, Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of State, recognizing the field days.

There are radio associations regionally across the country. The Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club is the club in this area and was the local field day sponsor.

Many members participated in the field day and it was a more than welcome

See FIELD DAY PAGE 5

Relay for Life hosts craft fair and raffle

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
epappas@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – Relay for Life, a walk created by the American Cancer Society, was created to end cancer for everyone, everywhere.

The poor weather didn’t stop the Quaboag Valley Relay for Life teams as they worked to hold their craft fair last weekend, and welcomed the people onto the common, which was full with tents pitched of items.

The Relay is community-driven and volunteer-run, with fundraisers and more being put together to raise funds for those who have struggled with cancer, as family and friends come together to honor those who battled or are battling cancer.

For the past four years, members of the Relay have come together to host a craft fair and giant raffle in Belchertown in order to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

The craft fair, directed by Victoria McAndrews, was out together by dedicated volunteers, and several people worked alongside her to organize the 60 vendors, food truck, face painting, balloons, and more.

The fair was packed with people shopping and finding treasures like the



Debora Rivera with her beautiful epoxy creations a part of Eternal Creations Co.

most intricate macrame knotwork, sea glass window hangings, crocheted stuffies, blankets, treats, and more in all kinds of art mediums and beyond.

The money raised from the vendor spots, raffles, and other donations will all go to the American Cancer Society as it continues its work to find a cure, and end cancer once and for all.

This year, they hosted their giant raffle inside the Old Town House that had over 100 items to be raffled off, all donated baskets and gift cards, and more.

“It means a lot to me because we’re spreading the word about cancer, and so that others don’t have to deal with what we did,” said Eleanore Gray, who hosted her team in memory of her daughter, Lynn, who passed from uterine cancer in 2014.

Since then, Gray and her team of Lynn’s close family and friends have worked hard to do the walk every year, and take part in raising awareness and funds to donate to the American Cancer Society.

The craft fair and raffle

is one of Relay for Life’s biggest fundraisers, helping to bring in lots of funds after the walk that usually takes place earlier in the year. They will also be hosting another, smaller fair in Chicopee this October.

Gray has been a part of the “Relay for Life Family” for the past 15 years, volunteering and organizing her team in memory of her daughter.

“It’s really a family, and a lot of them have

See RELAY FOR LIFE PAGE 6



Never Say Never will perform an acoustic set at the Summer Concert Series on Sunday, July 6.

Concert series features three acoustic acts

SPENCER – The Spencer Parks & Recreation Commission’s 2025 Summer Concert Series continues on Sunday, July 6 from 2-5 p.m. at Powder Mill Park, corner Smithville and Meadow Roads, Spencer with an Acoustic Sunday featuring Adams & Perry, Never Say Never and special guest Kylie Harris.

Harris is a country artist originally from New Zealand who spent years performing and hosting her own television show in Nashville, Tennessee. She was inducted into the Gold Guitar Hands of Fame, Jan. 4, 2023, at a ceremony held at NZ’s Capital of Country Music in Gore.

Harris won the Gold Guitar in 1990 and 1992, and the induction is recognition of her contribution to coun-

try music in her native land. In addition to the Gold Guitar, she is a four-time winner of New Zealand’s Tui, including Country Music Album of the Year, Song of the Year and the Rising Star Award.

Rob Adams and Jim Perry have a special musical bond that captivates the listeners. Their soaring harmonies and intricate finger-picking combine to form one beautiful sound. Adams spent many years in She’s Busy, and continues to perform solo and duo shows all around Massachusetts. Beginning in the 1970s, Perry has been in various bands, including Albatross, Down East, The Ed Sullivans and The Silverbacks.

Never Say Never is a

See CONCERT PAGE 8

- community -

Gundersen Studio of Dance celebrated 50th anniversary

Submitted Article

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Betty Gundersen Studio of Dance, celebrated its 50th anniversary over Father's Day weekend with a Golden Jubilee recital at the Cultural Center at Eagle Hill, in Hardwick.

The recital included more than 40 dance routines choreographed by the studio's accomplished faculty at both an afternoon and evening performance to a capacity crowd of family, friends, and studio alumni.

During the recital, a series of short videos were shown in which founder and director Betty Gundersen, affectionately known as "Miss Betty" by her students, and her husband, Larry, reflected on their journey in building the studio from the ground up over the last fifty years.

"I've always just wanted to pass along to my students the joy you get from dancing," Betty remembered. "It doesn't matter what's going on in your life, but, boy, you get in that dance class and life is good."

"One thing with the studio, when I think back," she continued, "it has brought so many beautiful people into my life that I never would have met, and friendships that I treasure. And the kids! Oh my gosh. How many hugs have I gotten through the years?!"

Hugs were in generous supply a week before the recital when about 60 former students and alumni parents arrived from around the country for a surprise lawn party in Betty's honor. Many of those alumni



There were thank you's all around from Betty Gundersen and her granddaughter, Avree at the recital's finale. This year, the Better Gundersen Studio of Dance celebrated its 50th anniversary.

now enjoy successful careers throughout the industry – teaching, performing, and choreographing.

The gathering was arranged by Miss Betty's grandchildren, Avree, Simone, and Raphael, each of whom grew up in and around the studio and have now pursued careers in dance and music.

Simone lives in New York where she works as a creative producer for live events. Raffi lives in Los Angeles where he is pursuing his passion for film, sound mixing, and live music performance. Avree is a member of a professional dance troupe, an instructor at the studio where she also helps with the management of the studio.

Building and maintaining the studio, along with many recital props throughout the years, has been a labor of

love for Larry.

"At first, it was just a small studio in a converted garage," he recalled. "Before that, we rented the school, then the church, and later we rented the town hall." He remembered Betty saying, "you've got to build me a bigger studio."

"We were standing out in the yard, and I said, 'I'll walk out this way and you tell me when to stop. That'll be the end of the building.' So, I kept walking," he joked. "And I said to myself, maybe she didn't see me. How far are we going?"

Larry, who had a lengthy career of his own as a member of the Massachusetts State Police, says there have been many occasions across the years when studio commitments took priority over their social lives, "but, I've had a good life being mar-

ried to a dance teacher."

And Miss Betty says she has no plans to retire anytime soon.

"The children are what keep me going," she smiled.

"I don't know a life without them, and I don't ever want to. I've been so blessed with great kids, and wonderful dance parents."

Each year, the studio awards two scholarships to deserving students. This year's recipient of the Kerri Ann Coleman Memorial Scholarship is Nora Burgess. Recipient of the Louise C. Gundersen Scholarship given by the Gundersen children in memory of their mother is Lauren Tutlis.

Five graduating seniors were also recognized during the recital: Ellen Barkoskie, who will be attending Quinsigamond Community College, Morgan McNally, who will be attending Bridgewater State University, Samantha Hoyle, who will be attending Springfield Technical Community College, and Grace Kates and Morgan Kates, who will both be attending Boston College.

The Betty Gundersen Studio of Dance competition team will be competing

at the Sheer Elite Nationals in Nashua, New Hampshire in July, supported by a very active Parent Dance Association. Competition team dancers include Violet Atwood, Lilly Bachand, Mallo-ry Bachand, Lilian Benkert, Addison Bibinski, Emerson Blount, Ellie Blount, Vivien Burch, Samantha Carr, Bella Dixon, Emma Louis, Ellie Matt, Aspen-Rose Marshall, Sedona Marshall, Andrea Nzouda, Nora Roth, Alexis Savary, Bennett Skowrya, Caroline Stevens, Lauren Tutlis, and Emmaly Waugh.

The studio will be offering a series of summer classes for four levels of students from June 24 through Aug. 21. Details are available on the studio website at bettygundersendance.com.

Registration for fall classes will be held at the studio on Tuesday, Aug. 12, from 4-8 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 16, from 10 a.m.-noon. Classes resume on Monday, Sept. 8.



Miss Betty is shown with some of her early students. "I've always just wanted to pass along to my students the joy you get from dancing," Betty remembered.

Thrift Store at Methodist Church open on select Saturdays

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Thrift Store of the George Whitefield United Methodist Church is open the first and third Saturdays of each month, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at 33 West Main St.

Many lovely summer wardrobe selections are now available for women, men and children, as well as other seasonal updates to inventory. The Thrift

Store offers quality used clothing, shoes, accessories, household goods, décor, picture frames, children's toys, books and DVDs at bargain prices.

Donations of gently used items are appreciated and may be arranged by contacting Jane Dolan at 508-867-5571. Proceeds from sales support the church's ministries and missions.

Concerts on the Common held monthly in North Brookfield

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Concerts on the Common will be held on select Saturdays on the town common from 6-8 p.m.

Upcoming dates and performers include July 26, Stan Matthews and the Rough Riders; and Aug. 30, Superchargers.

These concerts are free, but tips for the band and free will donations toward future events are appreci-

ated. Food trucks will be available, or people are welcome to bring their own.

Chairs, blankets or something to sit on are encouraged, as well as insect, sun and weather protection.

The Concerts on the Common series is made possible by the North Brookfield Parks and Recreation and the North Brookfield Cultural Council.

West Brookfield Farmers Market is held on Wednesdays

WEST BROOKFIELD – The West Brookfield Farmers Market has returned on the beautiful West Brookfield Common for its 15th consecutive season.

The market is held on Wednesdays from 3-6 p.m., rain or shine, throughout the spring, summer and early fall.

The 2025 season the market will feature 17 vendors with a wide array of locally grown and made goods including three new vendors sure to please the palate. The West Brookfield Farmers Market is held every Wednesday afternoon from 3-6 p.m. on the common starting on June 4 through Oct. 8, rain or shine.

Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church clothing drive

BROOKFIELD – The Committee for Ecology and Social Action of the Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church is sponsoring a clothing drive through Helpsy, the largest clothing collector in the Northeast.

Textile waste is a fast-growing problem and

occupies nearly 5% of all landfill space, but 95% of unwanted clothing can be reused, repurposed, or recycled. Only 15% currently is.

On July 12-19, the church will be open between 3-7 p.m. so you can bring your old clothing (including slips, bras, underwear, socks) and certain other acceptable items, such as shoes, accessories (including hats, bags, belts, scarves and jewelry), luggage, stuffed animals and linens (including sheets, blankets, curtains, table linens and quilts).

All items in any condition are acceptable if they are clean, dry, and odorless.

The Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church is located at 9 Upper River St. on the Brookfield Common, near the junction of Route 9 and Route 148.

For more information, contact Barbara Hale at blh.buuc@gmail.com.

Library hosts Summer Eats food program for children

EAST BROOKFIELD – The Summer Eats breakfast and lunch program will be available at the East Brookfield Public Library, 122 Connie Mack Drive, Monday through Thurs-

day from 11 a.m.-noon beginning Monday, June 30 and running through Aug. 14.

All children are welcome to pick up a free bagged breakfast and lunch.

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.



Professional - Reliable - Fully Insured

Tree Trimming and Removal
Emergency Tree Work • Stump Grinding
Crane Service • Firewood Delivery

All Major Credit Cards Accepted
100% Financing Available

162 Sturbridge Road, Brimfield, MA 01010
508-641-5249 • office@robinsontreeservice.net
www.robinsontreeservice.net

"Join the team that does more by 9am than some do all day!"

Train now to a new career in 6 weeks. High hourly wages and generous bonus program. Van work available too!

Call or text 774-200-6762 or email jobs@mccarthybus.com to apply

J.P. McCarthy & Sons
WWW.MCCARTHYBUS.COM



- community -

Federated Church announces Vacation Bible Camp

STURBRIDGE – The Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale has announced it will once again offer its popular Vacation Bible Camp this summer, July 21-25 from 9 a.m.-noon, on church property at 8 Maple St., between Town Hall and the Joshua Hyde Public Library.

The theme for this year's camp is "Live it Out." Participating children will have an opportunity to focus on five key aspects of faith – love, live, share, forgiveness, and service – each rooted in a Bible story that encourages them to embody these values in their daily lives. This emphasizes practical appli-

cation, guiding children to live out their faith through tangible actions that reflect Christ's teachings.

The program, which will involve storytelling, games, crafts, and snacks, will be run by CORI-certified teachers who practice SafeChurch policy.

The Federated Church Vacation Bible Camp is open free of charge to all children in the community, ages 6-12, but pre-registration is requested. Please call the Church Office at 774-304-1021 or email them at churchoffice@sturfed.org. The office is also open Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m.-noon.

Venture Community Services celebrated 50 years



Mike Hyland (left), Venture Community Services President & CEO, and Donna Peters, Venture board president, commemorate Venture's 50 years of service to the community at Oakholm Farm Estate in Brookfield on June 26. Venture staff, family and friends gathered for live music by The Wallpapers, food trucks, lawn games and a photo booth by the lake to celebrate this five-decade milestone. Venture is a human services pioneer in the region, opening the first residential programs in Worcester County for people with disabilities in 1975.



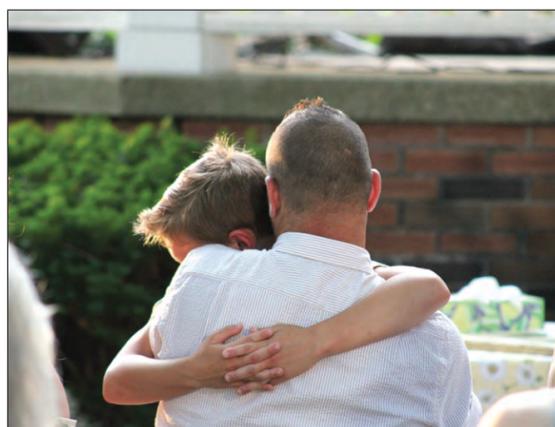
Kerrie Mason (from left), Venture Community Services Vice President of Advancement & Marketing, Mike Hyland, Venture Community Services President & CEO, and Kelsey Mondor, Director of Community Engagement, celebrate five decades of Venture.



Heather Bish talked about all of the changes made to protect children and get justice for victims of crime since her sister Molly's abduction and murder.



State Rep. Todd Smola presented a citation from the House and Senate to Magi and John Bish.



John Bish Jr. gets a hug from his son during the vigil.

MOLLY FROM PAGE 1

"Her joyfulness will not be forgotten," Magi said. "I believe Molly's love and light have guided us these 25 years...because of Molly, we have conquered what evil could not."

The theme of this year's vigil was "Because of Molly," and each speaker shared the impact Molly's life has had on both the community and beyond.

"Molly transformed us into doers of good," Magi said.

This included establishing the Molly Bish Foundation in her memory, which has provided victim advocacy services, support and promoted legislative actions since it was formed.

Molly's older sister, Heather, said while time at the vigil could be spent talking about the person suspected of Molly's abduction and murder; they weren't going to give him that power.

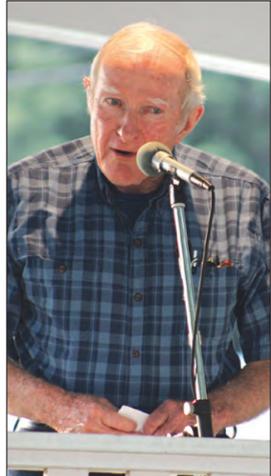
"Tonight is 'Because of Molly,'" Heather said. "I've come to see the beauty in the pain...because of Molly, I have hope her legacy lives on in all of us."

Heather invited people attending the vigil to sign a book placed on a table in front of the gazebo on the common, sharing their "Because of Molly" experiences with the family.

Retired state Sen. Stephen Brewer, who was serving the region at the time of Molly's disappearance, said it was initially thought that she may have drowned at Comins Pond, where she was working as a lifeguard. This ultimately led to the commonwealth getting a side scan sonar device to search bodies of water, after investigators had to borrow one from the state of Connecticut to search the pond.

Brewer said the commonwealth also didn't have an Amber Alert system at the time of Molly's disappearance, but now it does. He said Molly's sister Heather has worked tirelessly on improving legislation, including anti-stalking laws.

"This was a different



Retired state Sen. Stephen Brewer spoke about the Bish family.

world 25 years ago and we all came together to support this beautiful girl and her family," he said. "We will never forget Molly Bish."

Former state senator and current Director of Rural Affairs Anne Gobi said she never met Molly, but has come to know her through her family.

"Because of you, I know Molly," Gobi said to the Bish family.

She spoke about each family member, and how John Jr. grew up to be a wonderful father, and how passionate Heather is. She said she has shared "a lot of tears," and "a lot of laughs" with Magi and John Sr.

"A couple who have taken grief and turned it into action," Gobi said.

State Rep. Todd Smola, a resident of Warren for the past 14 years, said that change happens in the legislature through the "gut and determination of people who lead the charge," like the Bish family.

"To make sure that these terrible tragedies don't happen again," he said. "These things would not have happened if it was not for the Bish family."

The emcee for the vigil was a former state representative and retired State Trooper, Reed Hillman, who first became close to the Bish family through his work in law enforcement, when he met John Sr. Hillman said he even served as the officiant for John Jr.'s



Rev. Fr. Christopher Nerreau from Emmanuel Orthodox Church in Brookfield led the prayers.

wedding.

Hillman spoke about the family's continuous efforts to protect missing children and seek justice.

"There are children here today who are here because of your efforts," he said to the Bish family.

Hillman said while this may be the last vigil the family holds for Molly, her abduction and murder are still an active investigation, and he encouraged anyone with information to contact the Worcester County District Attorney's tip line by calling 508-453-7575.

District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr. said State Police investigators continue to work on Molly's case and he said tips still come in every week.

Early said forensic science has gotten better since Molly's disappearance, and they will continue to seek answers.

"This case has a special place in everyone's heart," Early said.

After the vigil, Hillman invited everyone present to grab a candle and join the Bish family at Comins Pond, where the Quaboag Highlanders Pipes & Drums performed a tribute to Molly on the bagpipes.

Hillman thanked everyone for attending the vigil and for remembering Molly after all of these years.

"We just wanted to make sure Molly was remembered by all who love her," Hillman said.



State Sen. Jake Oliveira's District Director Jennifer Pickering presented a citation to Magi and John Bish.

W.R. ROBINSON LUMBER HARDWICK

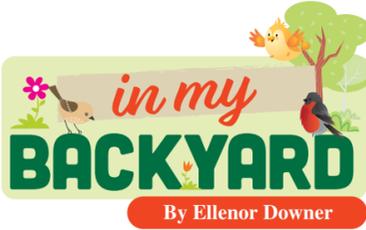
Tel **413.477.6050** • Fax **413.477.6554**
www.wrrobinsonlumber.com

W.R. Robinson Lumber Co., Inc.

EASTERN WHITE PINE
 Wide Pine Flooring • Beams & Timbers
 Paneling & Siding • Bark Mulch

**P.O. Box 223 • 145 Cleveland Road
 Wheelwright, MA 01094-0223**

- opinion -



What are biennials exactly?

Right now, many of our favorite “cottage-garden” flowers are beginning to put on a summer show.

Most of these fall into the category of plants known as biennials. From the towering pastel spikes of the beloved hollyhock, to the tattered, clove-scented sweet William and the mysterious and dangerous foxglove, each share the same life cycle.

try to manipulate the outcome of your “volunteers” somewhat.

For notorious self-sowing biennials like rampion, rose campion, and foxglove, deadhead all but a few seed pods. You will reduce the population and there won't be as many to thin out.

You can also watch the seed pods carefully, and when they are ripe sprinkle them where you want them to come up—this works especially well for hollyhock and sweet William—both of which I'd call reluctant self-sowers. Work I know, but still far easier than setting up the grow lights and heat cables and starting your seedlings indoors!

Remember to give your little volunteers lots of TLC in the way of food (a top dressing of compost and a sprinkling of organic fertilizer) and water (a drink during droughty periods) if you want them to compare to their parents.

Speaking of parents, what happens when the older plant survives into year three? This happens to me periodically, especially with hollyhock, foxglove and sweet William. Certainly not every plant in the clump comes back, but perhaps one out of three do.

Sometimes they look okay, while other times the crown is woody or the flowers aren't quite as tall. Oftentimes diseases can take their toll. Be your own judge here— if you want to gamble, leave the plants in place.

Presently I am doing just that with an amazing stand of hollyhocks that bloomed ever so beautifully near my lamppost last summer. So far, so good. But, to be on the safe side, I do have a couple of self sowers waiting in the wings for next year, since a third year of blooming is highly unlikely.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 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.



Unfortunately, however, here is where lots of gardeners get confused. So then, what exactly are biennials? Do they bloom every other year or just during the second growing season? Is a “short-lived perennial” the same as a biennial?

Let's take a closer look. Merriam-Webster defines biennial as “continuing or lasting for two years; specifically: growing vegetatively during the first year and fruiting and dying during the second.” In other words, if you started a hollyhock plant from seed in the spring expect it to put on a lot of green growth this season.

Next spring (year two) the plant will send up a flower stalk. The flowers will eventually die and seeds will form and drop from the plant.

Usually, the mother plant will not return for a third season. If all goes as Nature intended though, a percentage of her seeds will germinate the following spring, starting the two year process to flower all over again.

I encourage gardeners to have fresh green plants growing alongside blooming biennials—that way they will end up with flowers every year, at least hypothetically. Keep in mind that self-sown seedlings are not without work.

Oftentimes they come up too close to one another and must be thinned. Or they germinate in an inappropriate spot and likewise need to be moved. You can



Osprey

Last week on a trip to Rhode Island with my brother and cousin, we saw two osprey when we stopped by Point Judith Lighthouse.

We watched them as they flew over the ocean and hovered as they looked for fish. One got ready to dive as it tucked in its wings, but then stopped and flew to another spot to hover.

The osprey, also known as the fish hawk, eats a diet of live fish, has the ability to hover and dives into the water to catch them. They are often seen soaring over shorelines.

Ospreys are brown birds with a white head and a brown stripe through its eye. Underparts are grayish. They are over 24 inches long and have a wingspan of 71 inches. They are the only raptor whose outer toe is reversible, allowing it to grasp its prey with two toes in front and two behind.

Ospreys are very successful in catching fish. According to a study at least one out of every four dives results in catching fish. The average time ospreys spend hunting before making a catch was about 12 minutes.

Ospreys often build large stick nests on manmade structures such as telephone poles, channel markers, and

nest platforms designed for their use. Their eggs do not hatch all at once with the first chick emerging about five days before the last one. The oldest chick dominates the younger ones. When food is scarce, the younger chicks may starve to death.

A Brimfield resident, who likes to visit inland ponds, often watches osprey nesting. Ospreys migrate and this resident reports their return in the spring. An osprey, equipped with a tracking device, flew 2,700 miles from Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts to French Guiana South America during 13 days in 2008.

Other seashore birds

In addition, to the osprey we saw cormorants, seagulls, bank swallows, grackles and even a redwing blackbird whose epaulets were bright red. There were new benches installed along the cliff bank. When we stopped there last year, the benches were in poor condition.

Birds in Sutton

My brother lives in Sutton. He sets out grape jelly and a hummingbird feeder. The Baltimore orioles, catbirds, red bellied woodpeckers and even house finches come for the jelly. The ruby throated hummingbirds come for the sugar water.

Mass Audubon Society sightings

The Massachusetts Audubon Society reports several unusual bird sightings. They included swallow-tailed kites in Mashpee, a Mississippi kite in Har-

wich, a Franklin's gull and two royal terns in Provincetown, a continuing prothonotary warbler in Concord, a Wilson's phalarope at Belle Marsh Reservation in Boston and a Brewster's warbler in Amherst.

Berkshire County sightings were a worm-eating warbler on Mt. Washington Road in Egremont, a least bittern in the Post Farm Marsh in Lenox, an Acadian flycatcher at the Jug End Reservation in Egremont and six red crossbills at the summit of Mt. Greylock in Adams.

In Franklin County, there were four sandhill cranes on Plainfield Road in Ashfield and two hooded warblers on Falls Road in Sunderland.

Hampshire County highlights were a Brewster's warbler on the Narwottuck Rail Trail in Amherst and a least bittern near Station Road on the Narwottuck Rail Trail also in Amherst, three purple martins and four blue grosbeaks in the Honey Pot on Moody Bridge Road in Hadley and a common goldeneye on the Quabbin Reservoir off the Windsor Dam in Belchertown.

Hampden County notables were two upland sandpipers on the Perimeter Road in Ludlow and two blue grosbeaks at the Southwick Wildlife Management Area in Southwick. Worcester County had an Acadian flycatcher near the Uxbridge Rice City Pond in Uxbridge and five evening grosbeaks at a private residence in Royalston.

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.



I'm a retired veteran; why must I pay for Medicare?

Dear Rusty:
I'm a retired Navy veteran, who is going to be turning 65 years old this year.

My question is concerning mandatory Medicare sign-up requirements. Why do I have to sign up for Medicare coverage at 65 when I can't start collecting full Social Security benefits until I turn 67? My Social Security benefits will not pay for my mandatory Medicare because I can't start collecting full Social Security benefits until I'm 67.

I currently pay for Tricare and utilize my local Veterans Administration medical facilities and referrals for my healthcare. With me turning 65 and having to wait until I'm 67 for my full Social Security benefits, it just seems unfair that I'll have to pay out of pocket Medicare monthly expenses for two years. Is there any way to



avoid this unfair penalty?
Signed: Retired Navy Vet

Dear Retired Navy Vet:
First, I want to thank you for your military service to our country. Please know that here at the AMAC Foundation we care a lot about our veterans and you may find the “For Veterans” section of our Foundation website interesting—visit www.amacfoundation.org.

Regarding your question, you should be aware that enrolling in Medicare is not mandatory, but there are consequences if you do not enroll when you become eligible, normally at age 65). For one thing, if you are a retired veteran on military TriCare, you will lose your TriCare benefits if you don't

enroll in Medicare when you are eligible.

TriCare requires that you enroll in Medicare when eligible. And, since you are not yet collecting Social Security, you will be required to separately pay the Medicare Part B premium directly to Medicare; they will bill you when you enroll in Medicare. Another potential consequence is that if you do not enroll in Medicare Part B when you are first eligible, you may incur a lifetime late enrollment penalty for enrolling in Part B later.

Something else to keep in mind is that there are two “parts” to Medicare—Part A, which is coverage for inpatient hospitalization services and Part B, which is coverage for outpatient healthcare services—doctors, medical

See **SOCIAL SECURITY** PAGE 10

QUABOAG CURRENT TEAM



EDITOR
Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
dfflynn@turley.com



STAFF WRITER
Ryan Drago
rdrago@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

THE QUABOAG CURRENT (USPS# 10860) is published weekly (every Friday) by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069. Telephone at 413-283-8393 or fax at 413-289-1977. Periodical Postage Prices are Paid at Palmer, MA. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to: Quaboag Current, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.



@QuaboagCurrent



www.quaboagcurrent.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President



www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500 and 800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Send opinions to:
Letters to the Editor, 80 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082 OR e-mail to pouimette@turley.com. Deadline for submission is Monday at noon for the following week's edition.

Our advertisers make this publication possible.

Let them know you saw their ad in the

Quaboag Current

Tell Us What You Think

Share your thoughts and suggestions with our staff and your fellow readers. Participate in our opinion pages, or contact us anytime with your feedback!

Quaboag Current
Your Community Newspaper

www.quaboagcurrent.turley.com
pouimette@turley.com • 413.967.3505

- community -

FIELD DAY FROM PAGE 1

ing event. At the information tent, Tim, KCIRZE (KCIRZE is Tim's call sign, a call sign is how stations, amateur or commercial, are identified) was there to greet visitors and answer question as well as provide literature from the well-stocked table.

There were several other tables in tents for Field Day goes to visit. Most would first visit the GOTA tent. GOTA, stands for Get On The Air. The tent had equipment set up so that people who were not hams could make a contact. The table staff was Dennis, KC1LNL, and Dan W1DPN, who were guiding someone in making a contact with a ham in the Mid-Atlantic region.

In a demo tent near Main Street, Peter, WB1QGY and Ed, WB2ESF were making contacts on 2 meters.

Amateur radio has been around long before the digital era, but the computer was destined to interact with the ham world. Mert, KC1KVA and Steve, KC1SZP were speaking to the world digitally with a computer feed that is known as FT8.

The husband, and wife team, Ken, KB1HXO and Deb, KC1RDH had been working the 10-meter band, and were leaving and would be replaced in the tent by three members of the same family, Pete KC1TDO, Chris, KC1RZL, and another Pete, KC1SAB.

Bill, KC1WGM and Ken WB1DX were active on 20 meters.

Ken's wife, Michele, KC1TIW was indispensable in answering the reporter's questions.

Two officials of the ARRL came to the field day at different times, Ray Lajoie and Sierra Harrop. Ray is the Western Mass Section Manager and Sierra is the Public Relations and Outreach Manager.

An interesting bit of history was brought to the information table by West Brookfield resident Barbara Rossman. She left a Health-Kit manual. HealthKit, as the name implies, made kits for generations of amateurs.

Rossman also left off a number of transistors which were once as high tech as could be back in the day, but are now obsolete. History never stops.

So, what is it that draws the members participating in the field day and others to become hams? Certainly,



Michele and Dennis were at the GOTA (Get On The Air) tent at the Amateur Radio Field Day.



Steve and Mert and a digital Ham radio.



Ken and Deb after their shift.



Three Hams from one family.

motivations are personal, but the ARRL has literature suggesting reasons. One can make global connections, and compete in events.

If there is an interest in tech, Amateur Radio has a lot of that.

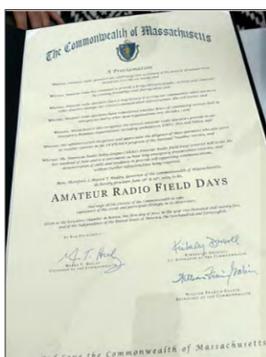
Hams get involved in public service, sometimes crucially.

If you remember the famous Hurricane Sandy, it just about closed much of the Northeast. Amateur Radio was open, and vital.

If your interest is piqued, the place to learn about ham radio locally, is the aforementioned Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club. The website is qvarc.com/

The excellent website has information on what the hobby is and how to become one. Periodically, the club hosts examination sessions so one can pass a test and get on the air.

Other than July and Au-



The Commonwealth recognized Field Day with a citation.

Center, 73 Central St., at 6:30 p.m.

Every Wednesday, the club hosts a weather net where hams (not just members) share weather info from where they live. It's a fun on air meet up.

If interested, contact QVARC on the form in the website, or see you in September. The membership is more than welcoming.



Peter and Ed at the 2-meter demo station.

FOR RENT
Quabbin Estates
 41 Church Lane, Wheelwright, MA 01094
 Accepting applications for wait list.
 The apartment features - w/w carpeting, kitchen appliances, maintenance coverage, laundry facilities. We specialize in Senior Housing and "Barrier Free" accessible units. Rent is \$810/mo. or 30% of income, whichever is lower. RD regulations. Handicap Accessible apartments when available.
CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT
 413-477-6496
 TDD (800)439-2379

THE CENTERED PLACE
 SINCE 1988
 Yoga & Meditation Classes
 Offering both onsite and online classes
 Voted Best Yoga in the region by Town & Country Living Magazine
 Yoga leaves you more relaxed, centered, open and energized. Come experience this for yourself.
 413 436 7374
 286 BRIDGE ST, WARREN MA
 WWW.THECENTEREDPLACE.COM

3 EASY WAYS TO REACH US

PHONE
 413.967.3505
 Fax: 413.967.6009
 Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL
 Advertising Sales
 Dan Flynn
 dflynn@turley.com
 Tim Mara
 tmara@turley.com
 Editor
 Paula Ouimette
 pouimette@turley.com

WEB
 www.quaboagcurrent.turley.com
 @QuaboagCurrent

The Quaboag Current newspaper is published by Turley Publications, Inc. • www.turley.com

JULY 4TH APPLIANCE SALE! OPEN JULY 4th! 10:00am-7:00PM

INSTANT FINANCING - HUGE REBATE PACKAGES AVAILABLE! GET THE BEST PRICE AT WHITCO!

WE INSTALL TV'S, MICROWAVES AND DISHWASHERS!

HYBRID WATER HEATERS \$750 Rebate - Details In-Store

A/C SALE! **MATTRESS SALE!** **WE SELL E-BIKES!** (\$1200 Rebate Available - See Salesperson!) **BIKE SALE!** WE REPAIR BIKES!

43" Smart TV.....\$199.99 Regularly \$249.99	50" HDTV Television..\$229.99 Regularly \$269.99	55" Samsung HDTV ..\$299.99 Regularly \$349.99	65" HDTV.....\$399.99 Regularly \$599.99	70" Samsung 4k TV ..\$499.99 Regularly \$599.99	75" Samsung HDTV ..\$599.99 Regularly \$699.99
LG 20 CU. FT. BOTTOM FRENCH REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$1499.99 \$1299.99	G.E. DELUXE AIR FRY GAS RANGE Reg. \$899.99 \$699.99	FRIGIDAIRE DISHWASHER Reg. \$399.99 \$299.99	SAMSUNG WASHER & DRYER #46300 Reg. \$1599.99 \$1299.99 AFTER REBATE!	DELUXE FRIGIDAIRE INDUCTION STOVE Reg. \$1299.99 \$999.99	GE DELUXE DISHWASHER Reg. \$499.99 \$399.99
WHIRLPOOL 21 CU. FT. TOP MOUNT REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$899.99 \$749.99	FRIGIDAIRE 18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$699.99 \$599.99	FAMOUS MAKER OVER THE STOVE MICROWAVE Reg. \$249.99 \$199.99	SAMSUNG TOP LOAD WASHER & DRYER Pair - Reg. \$1199.99 \$1099.99 AFTER REBATE!	G.E. 27 CU. FT. FRENCH DOOR REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$1999.99 \$1499.99	5 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER Reg. \$1499.99 \$189.99
			LG #3400 WASHER & DRYER Front Load, Reg. \$1599.99 \$1399.99	MAYTAG DELUXE WASHER OR DRYER Reg. \$699.99 \$549.99	WHIRLPOOL SIDE BY SIDE Reg. \$1499.99 \$1099.99
					10 CU. FT. FREEZER Reg. \$459.99 \$399.99

INSTANT FINANCING UP TO \$10,000!

WHITCO

140 MAIN STREET, SPENCER, MA
 508.885.9343
 SEE WHITCOSALES.COM
 FOR 100'S OF DEALS!

Store Hours: Mon. through Fri: 10am-9pm • Sat: 9am-8pm • Sun: 10am-7pm

- community -



Johanna with her balloon made by Jim, and Kimberly and Tiffany, is shown enjoying the fair.



Stunning macrame creations by Melissa Molyneux from her small business, Serenity Crafted.



Stephanie Martinelli's adorable crocheted friends from Imagination Creation Crafts.



Leah Swords stunning creations using vintage brooches.

RELAY FOR LIFE FROM PAGE 1

gone through or are going through this together, and we are a big family here to support one another because we get it," said Gray. Gray's team is looking to add in more members to her team, and there are always

ways to join in and donate and support the team, and many others, who come together for Relay for Life.

To join Gray's team, or to learn more about Relay for Life, Eleanore is happy to answer your questions through email at ctellie@juno.com.



A good cup of tea can be found made by Christina Larpino and Sandeep Hazarka with Pretty Good Tea.



Brett Hickey with his gorgeous wood carvings a part of Chainsaw Carvings by Brett.



Ellen and Brad Hendricks with their beautiful art pieces, and Brad's chainmaille jewelry from Chainmaille by Brad.



Guitars and more chainmaille jewelry made by Brad Hendricks



Soaps and body care items from Nicole Shaughnessy's small business, purr.fect beauty.

All of us at Bell & Hudson wish you a Happy & Safe Summer!



Companies We Represent:
MAPFRE / Hanover / Safety / Quincy / Concord / and more!

Two Convenient Locations:
19 N. Main Street, Belchertown, MA 01007
(413) 323-9611 – info@bellandhudson.com

15 Central Street, West Brookfield, MA 01585
(508) 867-4646 – info@bellandhudson.com



BELL & HUDSON
 Insurance Agency, Inc.

www.bellandhudson.com

Our advertisers make this publication possible.
 Let them know you saw their ad in the
Quaboag Current

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12						13	14				15
16		17									18
19		20			21			22			23
24		25			26			27		28	29
	30			31			32	33		34	
		35	36				37	38			
	39							40			
41				42			43				
44			45		46		47			48	49
50		51		52		53			54		55
56		57	58		59			60			61
62		63		64				65			66
67		68								69	
	70							71			

CLUES ACROSS

- Notes
- Long-haired dog breed
- ESPN's nickname
- Spanish be
- Disadvantage
- Of I
- Actor Pacino
- On your way: ___ route
- Fifth note of a major scale
- Companies need it
- News agency
- Faces of an organization
- Ponds
- Samoa's capital
- Partner to "Pa"
- Adult male
- Cool!
- Used of a number or amount not specified
- No No No
- Hosts film festival
- British place to house convicts

CLUES DOWN

- Follower of Islam
- Trauma center
- French young women
- Norse god
- U.S. commercial flyer (abbr.)
- Merchant
- Peyton's younger brother
- Jungle planet in "Star Wars" galaxy
- Tree-dwelling animal of C. and S. America
- "Pollack" actor Harris
- Stuck around
- Put on
- Influential Norwegian playwright
- Christian ___, designer
- Fulfills a debt
- Style
- More (Spanish)
- A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- Remedy
- Disturbance

CLUES ACROSS

- Made of fermented honey and water
- Chief
- College army
- Thyroid-stimulating hormone
- Consume
- One point north of due east
- For instance
- Brews
- Alaskan river
- Not soft
- Atomic #22
- "The Golden State"
- "The world's most famous arena"
- Larry and Curly's pal
- One billion gigabytes
- Conducts inspections
- Malaria mosquitoes
- Unit to measure width
- Features
- Affairs
- Letter of Semitic abjads

CLUES DOWN

- "The Martian" actor Matt
- Express delight
- Brooklyn hoopster
- 1900 lamp
- Motionless
- One's mother (Brit.)
- Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- Compels to act
- Gardening tool
- Ancient country
- Frightening
- Wimbledon champion Arthur
- Popular plant
- Database management system
- Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- Where soldiers eat
- Tenth month (abbr.)
- Illuminated
- Atomic #18
- Adults need one to travel

ANSWERS ON PAGE 9

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

Monson falls to Belchertown Post 239

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—A fielding error by Belchertown short-stop Ian McDonald allowed Monson Post 241 to score an unearned run with two outs in the bottom of the first inning.

McDonald redeemed himself two innings later.

After Belchertown loaded the bases with no outs in the third inning, McDonald brought home the tying run with an infield hit. The visiting team scored four more

runs in that inning and added two more in the fourth leading to a 7-1 victory over Monson at Legion Field in Palmer on June 18.

"I was mad after making the error, but it was still early in the game," said McDonald, who's a third-year member of the Belchertown Senior Legion Baseball Team. "I knew that we would be able to make a comeback in tonight's game, and we did."

McDonald, who has one more year of eligibility remaining to play for the Legion team, graduated from

Belchertown High School on June 5. His father, Todd, is the Belchertown manager.

"It's very special to be wearing this baseball uniform and playing for my dad," said Ian McDonald, who'll be playing college baseball for the Rivier University Raiders. "I'm also looking forward to playing college baseball next year."

The road victory improved Belchertown's overall record to 4-1 and they were sitting in second place in the Senior Division standings. They lost, 6-1, at home to

Northampton Post 28 on June 13.

Monson, who hasn't won a game since defeating Aldenville Post 337 in the season opener, fell to 1-3.

"It's another frustrating loss," said Monson manager Steve Tripp. "We made a base running blunder in the first inning, which probably cost us three runs. We also didn't have very many base hits after the first inning. We just need to start scoring runs and winning games."

The bottom of the first inning started off very well for

the home team.

Left fielder Brayden Mega was hit by a pitch thrown by righthander Jake Waller leading off the frame. Then centerfielder Jason Mumper lined a double to the gap in left center.

Waller almost escaped the jam without allowing any runs. He recorded the first out by throwing the ball to third baseman Josh Misiasek, who tagged Mega before he could get back to the bag.

Waller and Misiasek also graduated from Belchertown

High School a couple of weeks ago

"The pickoff play in the first inning turned out to be a very important play in the game," Todd McDonald said. "It wasn't a design play. Those two guys have been playing baseball together for a long time and they just made eye contact with each other."

Second baseman Miguel Velasquez hit a one hopper to the second baseman for the second out, which moved

See LEGION PAGE 8

Mutiny drills Fuel to clinch playoff spot

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Back on June 8, the New England Mutiny scored a season-high six goals during a road victory against the New Jersey Alliance. The Alliance were scheduled to make their first ever visit to Lusitano Stadium last Sunday afternoon, but they didn't have enough players to fill out their roster.

Instead of taking the weekend off like the Western Mass. Pioneers were forced to do 24 hours earlier, the Mutiny were able to find another opponent on short notice. The Worcester Fuel made the 45-minute trek west on the Mass. Pike to Ludlow.

It wasn't a very competitive match, as the Mutiny posted a 12-0 shutout victory in what was most likely their final home game of the season.

The Mutiny and Fuel were originally scheduled to face each other at Millbury High School on July 6.

"New Jersey indicated to us that they were having roster issues for this weekend, so we decided to switch our game with Worcester," said Joe Ferrara, who's the Owner/Managing Director of the Mutiny. "We'll try to reschedule the game with New Jersey or find another opponent to fill out our regular season schedule."

Because Mutiny head coach Federico Molinari was unavailable to coach last Sunday's home match, Ferrara took over the coaching duties.

The Worcester team used to be in the same Division as the Mutiny, but they were moved down to the second Division this year. They've played a couple of other games against First Division clubs this season.

The victory improved the Mutiny's record to a perfect 7-0

Racing Power, who are from Baltimore, lost to the Mutiny, 3-0, at Lusitano Stadium on June 14, but they'll most likely be hosting the playoff game on July 13 because of the goal differential. The margin is capped at five goals for each match.

The U.W.S. National semifinals and finals are scheduled to be held in Chicago, Illinois.

The Mutiny, who lost in last year's championship match, clinched a berth in the United Women's Soccer League playoffs for the fifth time since they moved to Lusitano in 2019.

"We've had a lot of success since we began playing our home matches here at Lusitano Stadium," Ferrara said. "We've had a dynamic group of players during the past couple of years. We are losing a couple of key players for the rest of the season."

Chioma Okafor was called up to play for the Nigerian Women's National Team in the African Nations Women's Cup. Cat Perez, who's a goalie, is playing for the Colombian National Team.

Kendall Bodak, who's from Monson, returned to Clemson University to start preparing for the college soccer season. Avery Galante also went back to the University of South Carolina.

While the Mutiny were missing a couple of players, Hope Santaniello played in her first match of the season against Worcester. She returned home to Agawam after playing for a professional soccer team in Iceland. She has been a member of the Mutiny since 2019.

"Playing soccer with this team is something that's very special to me," Santaniello said. "It was great to be back and see all the girls again. I've also really enjoyed playing for the professional soccer team in Iceland. I'm learning a lot of different things."

Santaniello scored the Mutiny's fifth goal of the first half and added three more during the final 20 minutes of the match.

"Hope just looks fantastic," Ferrara said. "She's been on our roster the whole season and is one of our all-time best players."

Hope's younger sister, Bella, was also scheduled to play for the Mutiny in last Sunday's match. However, because Worcester didn't have enough players show up for the match, she played for the visitors.

"My sister definitely has a lot of potential," Hope said. "I'm very glad that she's following in my footsteps. It was a lot of fun

See MUTINY PAGE 8

Bankers take second straight over Saints

HOLYOKE – Last week in Tri-County League action, PeoplesBank defeated St. Joe's 5-3 at Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke. Jovanni Merced got the win with Jack Feltovic taking the loss. Seth Allen had two hits and two RBI for the Bankers while Dave Clark turned in two hits. PeoplesBank is a perfect 6-0 so far this season while St. Joe's is 7-4.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Kyle Platner goes for a tag.



Dave Clark slings a throw to first.



Jack Feltovic fires a pitch home for St. Joe's.



Cam MacDonald gets an out.



Jack Feltovic fires a pitch home for St. Joe's.



Devin Slattery, of Ware, sends a throw to first.



Brandon Magni attempts to catch a pickoff throw.

- sports -

T-Birds recognized for multiple honors

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. - The Springfield Thunderbirds were recognized among their peers across multiple business areas during the American Hockey League's Team Business Meetings presented by Victory Live in Indianapolis. The team captured the following honors:

- AHL Marketing Department Benchmark Award for 600 New Full Season Equivalents
- AHL's Most Unique Social Media Content
- Matthew McRobbie: 3rd in Eastern Conference in corporate sales revenue generated
- Ticket Sales Department Benchmark Award for 600 New Full Season Equivalents
- Corporate Sales Department Benchmark Award for 90% Renewal in Corporate Cash

The highlight of this year's award recognition was the team's Marketing Department capturing top marks in the 32-team league with the title of AHL Marketing Department of the Year.

The department has excelled with a fully in-house strategy blending creativity, consistency, and a strong brand identity. Each of the team's 36 home games features a unique campaign built around a cohesive season-long look,

incorporating bold visuals and local imagery. Their efforts span digital, print, radio, billboards, and social media—reinforced by a revamped website and new mobile app—all designed to engage fans and drive recognition across every platform.

The Thunderbirds' Social Media Departments also earned league-wide recognition during the 2024-25 season, most noticeably by winning the award for Most Unique Social Media Content. The honor stemmed from the team's inventive response to a shipping mishap that sent their Teddy Bear Toss jerseys to Germany by mistake. Turning an unfortunate situation into an opportunity, the social media team showcased that agility and creativity are sometimes the most powerful tools in a successful strategy.

"As we look back on the 2024-25 season, we couldn't be prouder of our team's tireless effort and passion in delivering a first-class experience for our fans—both in the arena and through our marketing and social media content," said Thunderbirds President Na-

than Costa. "To see those efforts recognized at the league level is incredibly rewarding and reinforces the strong year-round engagement we strive for. When you pair that with another record-setting year at the Thunderdome—including new highs in attendance, season ticket membership, and corporate revenue—it's a testament to our entire organization. We're excited to raise the bar even higher in 2025-26."

In addition to team-wide awards, the Thunderbirds also saw Director of Business Development Matthew McRobbie recognized for finishing third among all Eastern Conference representatives in corporate sales revenue. This marks the second consecutive season that McRobbie finished in the top-3 in the conference in this category.

Continuing a trend established over the previous three seasons, the 2024-25 Thunderbirds once again set new Springfield hockey records in average attendance per game (6,369), season ticket members, and group sales revenue.



The ticket sales team also earned benchmark recognition with 600 new Full Season Equivalents (FSEs), the industry standard for measuring full- and partial-season ticket sales.

In another milestone year for the club's corporate sales team, the department was honored for achieving a renewal rate exceeding 90 percent in corporate cash accounts, helping drive a new single-season record in corporate revenue for the second straight year.

The Thunderbirds enjoyed another impactful season in the Springfield community, making over 400 appearances with mascot Boomer and players alike.

Their presence spanned everything from youth hockey practices to major charitable events, including the Rays of Hope Walk, annual Teddy Bear Toss deliveries, the Community Caravan (with support from MassMutual), and a variety of corporate-sponsored initiatives.

Altogether, the T-Birds Foundation raised more than \$100,000 in support of charitable causes across Western Massachusetts during the 2024-25 season.

LEGION FROM PAGE 7

Mumper over to third base. Then third baseman Nate Kaczuwka hit a grounder to McDonald, who misplayed the ball allowing the run to score. The inning continued with designated hitter Liam McGrath hitting a ground ball single into right field. Waller, who made his first start of the Legion season, retired the next batter on a ground ball for the third out.

Waller, who allowed the one unearned run on four hits in four innings, wasn't the winning pitcher because he didn't go the required five innings. He was relieved by righty Brodie Funk before the start of the fifth inning, who was credited with the win.

Righthander Austin Meacham, who'll be a senior at Monson High School in the fall, was the starting pitcher for Post 241. He retired six of the first seven Belchertown batters that he faced.

Things fell apart on him in the third inning when Belchertown sent eleven batters to the plate.

Belchertown leftfielder Edward Szostek began the inning with a leadoff walk. Centerfielder Spencer Waite followed with a bunt hit up the first base line and first baseman Thatcher Rudnik was hit with a pitch loading the bases. Kaczuwka made a diving stop on McDonald's ground ball, but he was unable to throw it to first which

scored the tying run. The infield hit opened the floodgates, as Misiaszek blasted a two run double to left field giving the visiting team the lead. Catcher Jacob Smith also had a run scoring double before second baseman Chace Earle capped off the rally with an RBI single to center making the score 5-1.

With one-out in the bottom of the third, Velasquez hit a flair single to right before stealing second and third. Waller retired the next two batters on a flyout and groundout.

Smith drove home another run in the fourth with an infield hit. McDonald, who fisted a single into right field, scored Belchertown's final run on the back end of a double steal play.

Meacham retired the side in order in the fifth before righty Grayson Griswold took over on the mound. Griswold retired nine of the ten batters that he faced.

Monson's only base hits against Funk, who was a junior on the Granby baseball team this past spring, were singles by Kaczuwka, Mega, and Mumper.

"This was the third game that we've used Brodie as a relief pitcher," Todd McDonald said. "He has done a very nice job for us so far."

While Monson entered this week's action looking to end their losing streak, Belchertown was looking to continue their winning ways.

MUTINY FROM PAGE 7

playing against her today."

Maddy Theriault, who graduated from Palmer High School, recorded a hat-trick during the first 15 minutes of the opening half.

Bella Meadows scored the other first half goal for the Mutiny. She also

scored the first goal of the second half.

Avery Klingensmith, who graduated from Belchertown High School, chipped in offensively with a pair of second half goals.

Mila Dillard, who's from Chicopee, also scored a goal during the

second half.

It was the Mutiny's fourth shutout of the regular season. The defense was anchored by Aida Name, who's from Chicopee, Kylie Ray, who graduated from Minnechaug Regional, Rachel Marchini, and Anna Carson.

CONCERT FROM PAGE 1

musical duo composed of married couple Jared Fiske and Jessica Adams. Their style draws from the harmony-rich, acoustic sounds of artists like Gillian Welch, Sturgill Simpson and Brandi Carlisle. Their renditions of popular and original songs have drawn praise across New England.

The concert series is proudly sponsored by Cornerstone Bank. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank's local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique



Adam & Perry will perform with Never Say Never and Kylie Harris.

ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone provides the highest level of service and expertise for

individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout central Massachusetts.

Digital Photos

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS, INC.

Purchase a photo that recently ran in one of our publications.

Go to newspapers.turley.com/photo-request

\$12.50
Each

REHABILITATION & SKILLED CARE CENTER

2
0
2
5

5 Stars

CMS
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

CELEBRATING OUR
DEFICIENCY FREE
STATE SURVEY

47 East Main Street
West Brookfield, MA 01585
508.867.7716
quaboagonthecommon.com

FIVE ISLANDS

Georgetown, Maine

2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom
Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped

- Walk to Five Islands Wharf and Ledgewood Preserve Beach
- Close to Reid State Park

\$1200/week

207-607-9333

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.

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET! **INFLATION** PRICE BUSTERS! PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN ASSORTED PORK LOIN CHOPS \$1.88 /lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF RIBEYE CUT FREE \$1.179 /lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SHOULDER LONDON BROIL \$5.55 /lb
USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS .. \$2.49 /lb	USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SHOULDER PICNIC, SLICED IN OUR DELI \$1.39 /lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN WINGS 10 LB BAG \$1.85 /lb
USDA INSP. TURKEY BREAST \$4.99 /lb	USDA INSP. FRESH KABOBS W/VEGGIES BEEF CHICKEN \$7.99 /lb \$6.99 /lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB BAG 77c /lb
USDA INSP. SWISS CHEESE \$4.77 /lb	USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF \$3.99 /lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN SARA LEE CLASSIC POUND CAKE 16 OZ. \$3.49 ea
USDA INSP. BEEF BACK RIBS \$2.99 /lb	USDA INSP. STOREMADE TERIYAKI MARINATED BEEF BLADE STEAKS \$6.99 /lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP 31/40 CT 1 LB. BAG \$5.99 ea
USDA INSP. STOREMADE LEMON PEPPER MARINATED BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST \$3.99 /lb	SALE DATES: 7/3/25-7/9/25	BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

90 Meat Outlet

90 Avocado St. Springfield
413-737-1288
www.90meat.com

We reserve the right to limit quantities.

- community -

Auditor's Medicaid audit identifies potential cost savings

BOSTON – State Auditor Diana DiZoglio's Office released an annual report of the recent work conducted by the office's Medicaid Audit Unit, from March 2, 2024, through Feb. 28, 2025.

Over the past year, the State Auditor's Office released three audit reports on the state's Medicaid program, known as MassHealth, and its compliance with state and federal laws, regulations, and other applicable authoritative guidance. Combined, these three reports identified an estimated \$27,259,164 in potential cost savings and provided several recommendations to strengthen internal controls and oversight in MassHealth's program administration.

MassHealth provides access to healthcare services annually to approximately two million eligible children, families, seniors, and people with disabilities, all with low and moderate incomes. In fiscal year 2024, MassHealth program expenditures totaled \$20.1 billion, of which approximately 39% was paid by the Com-

monwealth. Medicaid program expenditures represent approximately 33% of the Commonwealth's total annual budget.

The State Auditor's Office maintains ongoing independent oversight of the MassHealth program and its contracted service providers, with audit reports identifying ways MassHealth can strengthen its controls to prevent and detect fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement in the Massachusetts Medicaid program, as well as improper claims for Medicaid services.

The Office uses data analytics in all audits conducted by the Unit. By doing so, auditors can identify areas of high risk, isolate outlier providers, and in many cases perform reviews of 100% of the claims under audit, thus significantly improving the integrity, efficiency, and effectiveness of audits.

Moreover, in many cases, data analytics has enabled the Unit to fully quantify the financial effects of improper payments, whether they involve one claim or 10 million claims. The use of data

analytics techniques has enabled the Unit to identify greater cost recoveries and savings; isolate weaknesses in claim-processing systems; and make recommendations regarding MassHealth's system and program regulations to promote future cost savings, improve service delivery, and make government work better.

Released on Dec. 31, 2024, an audit of the Office of Medicaid (MassHealth) – Review of Capitation Payments with Multiple Identification Numbers revealed MassHealth made capitation payments on behalf of members with multiple IDs, with an estimated \$3,813,827 in improper billings.

The audit recommends MassHealth require that all members flagged by data matches submit documentation to confirm their identity. If the member does not provide documentation, then MassHealth should either pause the member's coverage or move the member to its fee-for-service model until it can determine whether the member's cov-

erage should be terminated.

MassHealth should also investigate and resolve all instances where its data matches indicate that a member has been assigned more than one member ID. Moreover, MassHealth should implement a match criterion that focuses solely on Social Security Numbers (SSNs). Because an SSN should be unique to each individual, a targeted match criterion that only includes an SSN would reduce the prevalence of multiple IDs by 19%, based on sample testing.

Released on Oct. 1, 2024, an audit of the Office of Medicaid (MassHealth) – Review of Payment for Telehealth Adult Day Health revealed MassHealth paid providers for ADH that it did not authorize and/or that did not have supporting documentation. MassHealth also paid providers for transportation to ADH that it did not authorize and/or that did not have supporting documentation.

Moreover, MassHealth paid providers \$11,797 for 109 claims for services al-

legedly rendered to 31 members who were proven to be deceased. In total, the audit identified \$465,683 in improper billings.

The audit recommends MassHealth should ensure system edits to prevent payments for ADH without prior authorization are properly implemented; investigate the paid claims identified by OSA and take corrective action as it deems appropriate; investigate for improper documentation of ADH claims from providers that OSA did not review; ensure that system edits to prevent payments for ADH without prior authorization are properly implemented; investigate the paid claims identified by OSA and take corrective action as it deems appropriate; investigate ADH claims from providers outside the five OSA reviewed for improper documentation; establish monitoring controls to ensure that ADH claims are documented; update its algorithms to cross-reference members' dates of death with additional data sources and not rely solely on

the Department of Public Health's Vital Statistics file when verifying members' dates of death; and establish a plan to recoup the \$11,797 in overpayments made on behalf of deceased members.

Finally, released on Sept. 4, 2024, an audit of the Office of Medicaid (MassHealth) – Review of Payment for Telehealth Adult Foster Care and Group Adult Foster Care revealed a total of \$22,979,654 in improper billings.

The report found MassHealth did not ensure that AFC and GAFC registered nurses/licensed practical nurses and care managers conducted required oversight visits.

MassHealth also paid AFC and GAFC providers for services that did not have supporting caregiver/direct care aide log documentation. Moreover, MassHealth paid for AFC and GAFC caregiver/direct care aide services that were incorrectly coded as telehealth.

The audit recommends

See MEDICAID PAGE 12

- public notices -

Town of North Brookfield Board of Selectmen Public Hearing Notice

The North Brookfield Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on the application of Bike House Brewing, LLC for a transfer of pouring license at 31 East Brookfield Road, North Brookfield, MA 01535. The hearing will be held at 6:15PM on Tuesday, July 8th, 2025 at the North Brookfield Police Department, located at 55 School Street, during the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen. All interested parties are urged to attend.

Jason Petraitis, Chairman Board of Selectmen 06/27, 07/04/2024

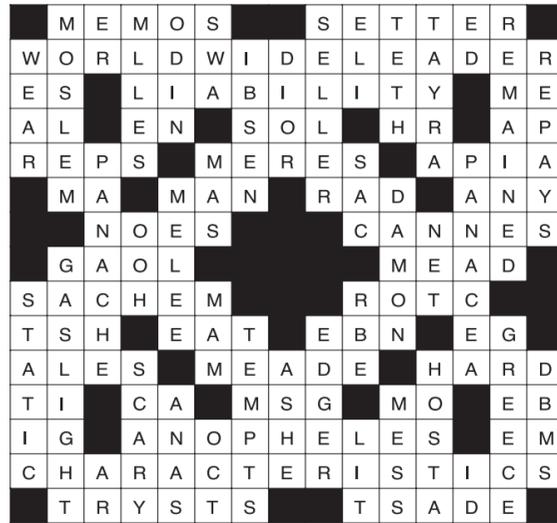
PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.



PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Monson Public Schools - School Choice

Grade Level	Number of Slots Available
Pre-K	0
Kindergarten	6
1st Grade	6
2nd Grade	2
3rd Grade	6
4th Grade	3
5th Grad	5
6th Grade	0
7th Grade	3
8th Grade	6
9th Grade	10
10th Grade	0
11th Grade	0
12th Grade	0

Monson Schools is proud to announce the offering of new and improved programs that have created a limited number of additional SCHOOL CHOICE opportunities in grades: kindergarten, first, second, third, fourth, fifth, seventh, eighth and ninth.

In addition to an already rigorous academic environment and successful athletic programs including lacrosse, swimming, and football, Monson Schools is proud to continue its commitment to excellence:

- ✓ Middle School STEM program and High School programs specializing in Engineering and Health Care
- ✓ Music K-12, including Chorus and Band in grades 4-12
- ✓ PreK-12 Technology Instruction
- ✓ Expanded High School Virtual Learning Opportunities
- ✓ Dual enrollment opportunities to earn college credit before graduation

Please call for more information! (413) 267-4150 Extension 4907

Visit our website to learn more about Monson Schools' dedication to continuous improvement at <http://www.monsonschools.com>

Send Us Your Community Autumn Events

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event FREE OF CHARGE in our Autumn Fest Supplement which will be published September 10, 2025. Total circulation of 85,000 which reaches over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley. Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

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

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____



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

- public safety -

East Brookfield Police Log

During the week of May 26-June 1, the East Brookfield Police Department responded to 148 building/property checks, 74 directed area patrols, seven traffic controls, 15 radar assignments, eight emergency 911 calls, 10 citizen assists, three assist other agencies, two complaints, three investigations, one motor vehicle investigation, two fires, one motor vehicle accident, one illegal dumping, two animal calls and 34 motor vehicle stops in the town of East Brookfield.

Monday, May 26
1:09 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Podunk Road, Services Rendered
Tuesday, May 27
3:18 a.m. Building/Property Check, West Main Street, Arrest(s) Made
4:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Cita-

tion Issued
5:15 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, Howe Street, Transported to Hospital
5:28 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Podunk Road, Merge
6:23 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled
9:06 p.m. Investigation, Jean Avenue, Officer Handled

Wednesday, May 28
10:25 a.m. 911 Fire/Auto, North Street, Extinguished
12:31 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Services Rendered
12:38 p.m. Investigation, East Main Street, Report Taken
1:48 p.m. Investigation, East Main Street, Officer Handled
2:18 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Ser-

vices Rendered
2:27 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Services Rendered
2:36 p.m. Assist Other Agency, East Main Street, Dispatch Handled
3:08 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled
3:26 p.m. Assist Citizen, South Pond, Officer Handled
6:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

Thursday, May 29
12:09 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, East Main Street, Transferred Call to C3
12:21 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Faith Drive, Transported to Hospital
12:57 p.m. Illegal Dumping, Flagg Road, Officer Handled
2:47 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Jean Avenue, Officer Handled
10:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued

Friday, May 30
4:20 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled
6:30 a.m. Disabled Motor Vehicle, North Brookfield Road, Vehicle Towed
8:19 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
8:32 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
11:04 a.m. Traffic Control, East Main Street, Citation Issued
11:08 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
4:14 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Flagg Road, Services

Rendered
5:03 p.m. Officer Initiated, Connie Mack Drive, Transported to Hospital
Saturday, May 31
10:19 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, No Action Required
11:30 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Dispatch Handled
6:27 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Faith Drive, Arrest(s) Made
7:25 p.m. Assist Other Agency, West Main Street, Dispatch Handled

Sunday, June 1
12:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, East Main Street, Officer Handled
6:05 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital
8:39 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Merge

tests, etc. Medicare Part A is free to you, but there is a premium for Medicare Part B (\$185/month for 2025).
Note that you will need to pay a Part B premium as long as you are enrolled in Medicare Part B (it doesn't go away after you are collecting Social Security, but it is taken from your Social Security payment). And there is no way for you to avoid the Part B premium after enrolling and enrolling in Part B is necessary for you to continue your military Tri-Care-for-life benefits. Note that Medicare Part A and Part B do not include prescription drug coverage, but your TriCare coverage usually does.
It's important to note that Medicare and Social Security are two independent senior programs with different eligibility rules. As you may know, you can collect early (reduced) Social Security at age 65 (and have your Medicare Part B premium deducted from your SS payment). But you would be collecting Social Security early and, in addition to a reduced benefit, you would also be subject to Social Security's annual earnings test if you are still working. The SS earnings test limits how much you can earn before some of your SS benefits are taken away if you exceed the earning limit prior to your full retirement age.

New Braintree Police Log

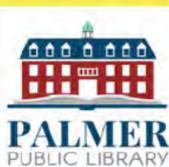
During the week of June 16-23, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 13 building/property checks, 19 directed area patrols, seven radar assignments, one emergency 911 call, two citizen assists, one motor vehicle investigation, one motor vehicle accident, one threat, one complaint, three safety hazards, one animal call and nine mo-

tor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.
Monday, June 16
3:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Gilbertville Road, Dispatch Handled
5:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ravine Road, Citation Issued
5:40 p.m. Assist Citizen, Ravine Road, Spoken To
Tuesday, June 17
9:17 a.m. 911 Motor Ve-

hicle Crash, West Brookfield Road, Report Taken
Wednesday, June 18
6:03 p.m. Safety Hazard, Worcester Road, Officer Handled
Thursday, June 19
2:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning
2:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning
3:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning
8:48 p.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Cut Off Road, Taken/ Referred to Other Agency
Friday, June 20
1:34 p.m. Safety Hazard, Dennis Whitney Road, Dispatch Handled
6:25 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Ravine Road, Negative Con-

tact
Saturday, June 21
6:45 p.m. Threat, Gilbertville Road, Officer Handled
10:39 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Worcester Road, Spoken To
Sunday, June 22
3:20 p.m. Gunshots, West Brookfield Road, Officer Handled
6:26 p.m. Assist Citizen, Ravine Road, Merge

tor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.
Monday, June 16
3:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Gilbertville Road, Dispatch Handled
5:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ravine Road, Citation Issued
5:40 p.m. Assist Citizen, Ravine Road, Spoken To
Tuesday, June 17
9:17 a.m. 911 Motor Ve-

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

SOCIAL SECURITY FROM PAGE 4

tests, etc. Medicare Part A is free to you, but there is a premium for Medicare Part B (\$185/month for 2025).
Note that you will need to pay a Part B premium as long as you are enrolled in Medicare Part B (it doesn't go away after you are collecting Social Security, but it is taken from your Social Security payment). And there is no way for you to avoid the Part B premium after enrolling and enrolling in Part B is necessary for you to continue your military Tri-Care-for-life benefits. Note that Medicare Part A and Part B do not include prescription drug coverage, but your TriCare coverage usually does.
It's important to note that Medicare and Social Security are two independent senior programs with different eligibility rules. As you may know, you can collect early (reduced) Social Security at age 65 (and have your Medicare Part B premium deducted from your SS payment). But you would be collecting Social Security early and, in addition to a reduced benefit, you would also be subject to Social Security's annual earnings test if you are still working. The SS earnings test limits how much you can earn before some of your SS benefits are taken away if you exceed the earning limit prior to your full retirement age.
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 ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.
So, is it unfair that you must pay for Medicare Part B before you are collecting Social Security? Well, I think not, because the two programs are completely independent benefits (the Social Security Administration merely administers Medicare payments as a convenience). Remember your Medicare Part A is free, but you must pay a premium for Part B, and you must take both to retain your military TriCare-for-Life benefits. You can visit this site to see how to pay your Medicare premiums until it is later deducted from your Social Security payment: www.medicare.gov/basics/costs/pay-premiums/online-bill-pay.
Once again, thank you for your service to our country.
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 ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

ELECTRIC MINI BIKE. New 2024 Greenworks, 60V with two 8.0 oh batteries, dual port, 128 lbs. 25 mph max, 20 mi. radius, 90 minute charge, black/green. \$1350. **413-575-6448.**

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD
Fresh cut & split \$200.00
Seasoned cut & split \$300.00
All hardwood.
Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products **(413)477-0083**

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. \$2K Tax Credit. Call **(508)882-0178.**

TAG SALE

221 BRECKENRIDGE STREET, PALMER. Holiday decorations, blow molds, Snow Buddies, household misc., tools, car parts, etc. **July 4th through July 13th, 8am-5pm.**

ESTATE SALE. 6 Wheeler Road, West Brookfield. Saturday-Sunday, July 12-13, 1pm-5pm. Old tools, refrigerator, furniture, rain or shine.

WANTED

OLD CARPENTER TOOLS wanted. Planes, chisels, axes, etc. Vintage hunting, camping, cast iron cookware, advertising, motorcycles, clothing. Call Ken **(413)433-2195.**

WANTED TO BUY

ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.
BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more.
Donald Roy **(860) 874-8396**

JUNK REMOVAL

A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL
Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
We load it & take it.
413-531-1936
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

JUNK REMOVAL

ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL
Full house cleanouts, attics, basements, garages, pools, hot tubs, sheds, decks. Same day service. 8am-9pm. Credit cards accepted. Free estimates on phone.
Fully insured.
Call Pete **413-433-0356.**

SERVICES

A B Hauling and Removal Service
2***A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE*******
Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. **(413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868.**

DRYWALL, PAINTING AND CEILINGS, plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. **(413)563-0487**

ELECTRICIAN

CHAMPAGNE ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS
Residential electrical service, mini splits, EV chargers, smoke detection. Fully insured. Licensed #22882A. Mike **413-210-9140.**

LICENSED ELECTRICIAN

I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small. Mini-splits, upgrades, pools, trustworthy & dependable.
Luis Arroyo #20773A.
Text or call **413-218-3301.**

ZEN ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC

Fully licensed and insured; Master Electrician on staff. Call for all your electrical needs. No job too small. Senior citizen and Veteran Discount. A veteran owned company. MA License #8101A1.
Call John at **(413)206-6509**

EXCAVATING

ELIOT STARBARD EXCAVATION
35+ yrs of happy customers.
508-882-0140

HOME IMPROVEMENT

HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. **(413)246-2783** Ron.

SERVICES

CHAMELEON PAINTING & REMODELING
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR
Remodeling & Deck Specialists
Residential/Commercial
Fully Insured • Free Estimates
413-351-1147

WALKER HOME IMPROVEMENT

Interior and exterior
Finish carpentry, framing, window & door replacement, drywall, painting and decks. Competitive pricing. Insured.
Call Brendan at **413-687-5552**

LANDSCAPING

A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE
Excavator Services
Overgrown property?
Extreme Brush Cutting!
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
Lawn/Arborvitae Installed
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand
Storm Clean-up
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal
Insured
Josh Rozell **413-636-5957**

****ALL SEASON**** Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe, insured. Professional. Please call Bob **(413)537-5789 (413)538-7954.**

MATT GUERTIN LANDSCAPING

Weekly Mowing
Landscape design and installation
Paver Patios, Walkways
For more services visit mattguertinlandscaping.com
Call or text **413-266-9975**
Insured - Commercial - Residential

LAWN & GARDEN

***COMPOSTED LOAM* 3/8"** screened, \$40/yd. deliv., 10 yd min.; No additives, fillers or by-products. Local deliv. to Oakham and surrounding towns only. Eliot Starbard **508-882-0140.**

MASONRY

STOP WET BASEMENTS
ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call **(413)569-1611, (413)374-5377**

SERVICES

PAINTING

DUTCH TOUCH PAINTING
Interior only \$199.00 for average 12x16 room. Very neat, references, prompt service. Serving Palmer, Barre and surrounding area. Call **(508)867-2550**

PLUMBING

GREG LAFOUNTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg **(413)592-1505**

TREE WORK

AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE. Residential removal of trees, Free estimates, Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call **413-283-6374.**

DL & G TREE SERVICE - Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate **(413)478-4212**

TUNE-UPS

LAWN TRACTOR & MOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR
A & M TUNE-UPS
Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers and Small Engine Repair.
Work done at your home.
STUMP GRINDING
FREE PICKUP OF UNWANTED LAWN EQUIPMENT
Call Mike **(413) 348-7967**

Advertise your **HOME IMPROVEMENT SERVICES** in our classifieds.
WE GET RESULTS!
Call **413-283-8393**



SERVICES

STUMP GRINDING

DL & G STUMP GRINDING Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave **413-478-4212**



SAW Stump Grinding
Call for a Free Estimate, Veteran Owned, Fully Insured
WWW.SAWSTUMPGRINDING.COM
413-213-5470

PETS

MINIATURE SCHNAUZER PUPPIES, AKC reg. Salt/ Pepper. Vet checked, first shot, non shedding. Ready now, \$1500. **413-782-2305**

AUTO

CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS
FREE TOWING FAST SERVICE CASH PAID AS IS
CALL OR TEXT **413-219-6839**

HELP WANTED

HAMPDEN POLICE DEPARTMENT is now accepting applications for a **FULL-TIME police officer.** Review of applications begins immediately. Visit www.hampdenpolice.com for more information. EOE

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Post your job openings in our classifieds.
We get results!
Call **413-283-8393**



TARGETED MARKETING LOCAL RESULTS



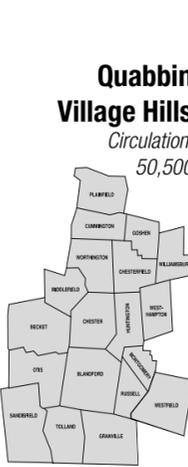
Turley Publications, Inc.
www.newspapers.turley.com

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: FRIDAY AT NOON
or call: 413-283-8393

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

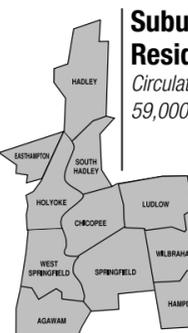
Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500



Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800



Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000



All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50c for each additional word.

GREAT VALUE!

ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

Make checks payable to **Turley Publications**

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____

Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____

Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____

Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

- AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS**
- BARRE GAZETTE
 - COUNTRY JOURNAL
 - CHICOPEE REGISTER
 - THE JOURNAL REGISTER
 - THE LUDLOW REGISTER
 - QUABOAG CURRENT
 - THE SENTINEL
 - THE SUN
 - WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES
 - TOWN REMINDER
 - WARE RIVER NEWS
-  turleynews
 TurleyPublications

MEDICAID
FROM PAGE 10

MassHealth establish effective monitoring controls to ensure that AFC and GAFC providers conduct the required oversight visits for MassHealth members and caregivers/direct care aides. To establish effective monitoring controls, MassHealth should establish a

goal for the number of AFC/GAFC providers it will audit each year. MassHealth should investigate and resolve all instances where its data matches indicate that a member is enrolled in another state's Medicaid program. MassHealth should also establish an effective monitoring process to ensure that caregivers/direct care aides of AFC and GAFC providers properly document

care in their logs. Moreover, MassHealth should add a system control in the Medicaid Management Information System to deny AFC and GAFC caregiver/direct care aide services in a telehealth setting. The State Auditor's Office is currently in the process of several more audits of MassHealth's adminis-

tration of the Medicaid program and Medicaid service providers' compliance with state and federal laws, regulations, and other authoritative guidance. This includes a review of MassHealth claims submitted by providers for durable medical equipment; a review of MassHealth claims submitted by Dental Arts; a review of MassHealth claims

submitted for non-emergency transportation; and a review of MassHealth reimbursements for inpatient maternity services provided by University of Massachusetts Memorial Healthcare. "Our MassHealth audits are designed to identify issues that will help improve programs, enhance delivery, and ensure taxpayer

dollars are spent properly," said DiZoglio. "These reports over the past year have identified a number of critical issues that need to be addressed. Accordingly, we urge the Administration to swiftly implement our recommendations and will be revisiting these findings, roughly six months from the audit issuance dates, to track progress."

Your BUYLINE CONNECTION

OPEN JULY 4TH 10AM-7PM

1000'S OF APPLIANCE DEALS!
E-BIKE SALE!!!
100'S OF A/C'S & HUMIDIFIERS!
GIANT BIKE SALE!!!

SEE AD INSIDE!

12 MONTHS 0% FINANCING

WHITCO
140 Main St., Spencer
www.whitcosales.com
508-885-9343
Open: Mon.-Fri. 10am-8:30pm, Sat. 9am-8pm, Sun. 12pm-7pm

POST ROAD REALTY
BUYING OR SELLING... WE HAVE THE PERFECT FIT FOR YOU!

www.PostRoadRealty.com

NEW LISTING - \$449,900
95 FOSTER HILL RD., WEST BROOKFIELD

Nestled in the heart of West Brookfield, this captivating Cape-style residence on Foster Hill Road presents four bedrooms and two bathrooms across two floors. The kitchen is fully applaned, with a central island, and a corner table, adjacent to a stunning cathedral-ceilinged family room with views of the beautiful, level lot surrounded by fields. Situated on 1.39 acres, the property showcases a large patio area with a fire pit, perfect for outdoor entertaining. A warm and inviting fireplace in the living room provides a cozy retreat during the cold New England winters. This home is ready for new owners, come take a look, it will not last long!

Cassie Paolucci
774-200-3523

Claim a **\$25 Prepaid Card** with purchase of AAA Battery

Claim a **\$20 Prepaid Card** with purchase of a Legend or Legend Premium AGM Battery

BUY 1 Legend, Legend Premium AGM, or AAA Battery and claim a Prepaid Card

Please see store associate for details. Redeem online at NAPAREbates.com by 9/15/2025. Terms & Conditions apply. Limit 2 per household.

NAPA AUTO PARTS
WARE • WEST BROOKFIELD

175 West St., Ware 413-967-5121 • 967-3184
116 Federal St. (Rt. 9) Belchertown 413-323-7661 • 323-9296
117 West Main St., W. Brookfield • 508-867-9947
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8-7, Sat. 8-3, Sun. 9-2

Your dream home is out there.
Summer is a Great Time to look for a New Home! Step one, find an agent who listens to what you want. I would like to be that AGENT! Call or email me and let's talk.

CENTURY 21
North East
Century 21 North East
160 Main St., Spencer
dorrinda@C21Lovett.com
1-978-434-1990

The Optical Shop
at Kelly & Velazquez Eye Center

"The Finest Quality at Reasonable Prices"

The Most Advanced Lens Designs Available
Frames to Fit Any Budget
Large Selection of Designer Frames For All Ages

SUNGLASSES
Maui Jim • Ray Ban

1504 N. Main St., Palmer, MA 413-283-3511
362 Sewall St., Ludlow, MA 413-589-1806
Expert guidance in selecting the right frame with the best fit & lenses for every lifestyle.

MS + NN PAINTING AND HOME MAINTENANCE
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR Home Painting & Maintenance
Residential/Commercial – Deck Specialists
NO JOB IS TOO SMALL – FREE ESTIMATES
Fully Insured – HIC License Holders
81 Jackson Lane, Barre, MA 01005
774-321-4509
Mmguzman.2011@yahoo.com

WHERE EVERYONE GOES FOR THEIR PIECE OF THE EARTH!
LANDSCAPE STONE
White • Blue • Purple • Red
Lt Gray • Dark Gray • Beige • Rip Rap

SCREENED LOAM STORED IN BUILDING
Construction Stone • Title V & Presby Septic Sand
Concrete Sand • Chicken Coop Sand • Utility Sand
Pool Liner Sand • Stone Dust • Silt • Crushed Gravel
Crushed Asphalt • Crushed Concrete • Cold Patch

Homeowner Friendly • No Minimums
PICK-UP OR CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR DELIVERY TODAY!

Bond
Sand, Gravel & Asphalt

98 North Spencer Rd., Spencer
bondsandandgravel.com
508-885-6100
508-885-2480

Support Your Hometown Businesses
SHOP LOCAL

Adventure tours of Warren
Share the Adventure with us!

2026 Norwegian Cruise Line Bermuda and Nova Scotia – Call Today

NCL NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE

July 12.....Escape to Rockport\$110
July 26.....Perkins Cove for a Day.....\$110
Oct. 4.....Stockbridge – Rockwell Museum.....\$120
Oct. 18.....Turkey Train.....\$175
May 2026.....8-Day Bermuda & Halifax Cruis.....from \$1699

Share the Adventure with us soon!
For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357 or email adventuretours@att.net or go to www.adventuretoursofwarren.com

JARS Caffe & Bakery

In-House Fresh Bakery
All Occasion Cake
Cupcakes and Cookies

Every Month Special Treat Box Available For Sale at the Cafe

Future Events
Contact us to plan your next private event.
508-637-1577

23 Summer Street
North Brookfield
MA 01535

- ❖ COFFEE
- ❖ GLUTEN FREE OPTIONS
- ❖ BREAKFAST SANDWICHES
- ❖ SOUPS
- ❖ COOKIES
- ❖ MUFFINS
- ❖ PASTRIES

508-637-1577
Tues.-Sat. 8am-2pm
Sun. 9am-2pm

Bring in entire ad for one FREE Beverage with purchase of a baked good. Tues.-Thurs. 8am-10am

BUYLINE CONNECTION
3 Ads for 1 Low Price!!!
Ware River News, Barre Gazette & Quaboag Current
Over 16,000 copies • Prints every Thursday

Special Ad Size Pricing
3" x 1" ... only \$33
3" x 1.5" ... only \$48
3" x 2" ... only \$66
3" x 2.5" ... only \$82
3" x 3" ... only \$99

Full Color Included!

Contact Dan Flynn
413-297-5886
dfflynn@turley.com

WE WILL BE CLOSED FROM JUNE 30 - JULY 15

Ladd's RESTAURANT & LOUNGE
64 Barre-Paxton Road, Route 122, Rutland

Daily \$14.99 Home Cooked Specials!

6 Big Screen TVs To Watch!
508-886-4771 **KENO**

RESTAURANT & LOUNGE HOURS:
WED & THURS 4:00-9:00 PM; FRI 2:00-9:00 PM; SAT 11:30 AM-9:30 PM; SUN 11:30 AM-9:00 PM

Prime Rib & Fresh Seafood Best Pizza In Town!

CATERING & EVENT AVAILABLE BOOK YOUR PARTY NOW!!!
Check Out Our Specials at www.laddsrestaurant.net