



COMMUNITY

Pet of the week: meet Brady

Page 2



ADVENTURE

Mt. Washington winter hike

Page 4



SPORTS

Monson & Palmer pick up victories

Page 9

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

# The Journal Register

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PALMER

## Town Council reviews financial policies

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Editor  
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – At this week’s Town Council meeting, the town heard a presentation about a document on financial policies provided by the town’s Manager and Accountant.

On Jan. 13, Town Manager Brad Brothers and Town Accountant Gabriela Potter presented the Financial Policies Review to the council.

“When I started last April, I know one thing that was high on the council’s priority list was to have financial policies solidified,” Brothers said. “We went through everything, took what we felt was best practice and put into place for what fits Palmer.”

Brothers and Potter compared the guidelines provided by the Department of Local Services in 2017 and compared them with other local communities to provide an updated, clear, and concise document specific to the town’s current needs.

“The policies you have in front of you were developed to serve as guidelines and a point of reference when making financial decisions or developing long-term plans,” Potter said. “It is an important and useful tool when preparing annual budgets and capital plans, but also when facing unforeseen situations or emergencies requiring substantial amount of money. These policies will also help with prioritizing projects based on the financial conditions of the town.”

Potter listed the town’s reserve funds, including the General Stabilization Fund, Capital Improvement Stabilization Fund, Duke Track Stabilization Fund, Free Cash, General Fund, Reserve Fund, and Open Trust Fund.

“The policies also touch up on funding of operations of the wastewater treatment plant and its reserves, which is sewer surplus,”

TOWN COUNCIL | page 5

## Skating away the winter blues



J.J. Florio sizes up his shot on net while skating at Hamilton Reservoir on Sunday.



Talia Martel was definitely getting use to skating without assistance.

Turley photos by Deanna Sloat



Arlo Florio gets ready to shoot the puck at the net.

HOLLAND — This past Sunday quite a few people braved the chill and enjoyed the sun shining on Hamilton Reservoir in Holland.

Aria and Talia Martel enjoyed the sunshine and skating around the ice with family members. The family has a home on Hamilton and the children got to enjoy the winter season skating on the frozen lake.

“Aria is just learning how to skate and is a little leery, where Talia is more adventurous and isn’t afraid of falling,” said their mom.

J.J. and Arlo Florio, ages 7 and 4, who were visiting their Aunt and Uncles home, got to see what hockey and skating outdoors on a lake was all about.

J.J. who plays hockey was really enjoying skating around the shoveled off ice rink, shooting on the net.

Arlo was doing a great job skating around and moving the puck across the ice.

Surely these new outdoor winter skaters will be back on the ice soon.



Aria Martel was all smiles as she pushes the chair along for stability and enjoys her time learning to skate at Hamilton Reservoir.

PALMER

## School Comm. shares details of Monson High trip

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Editor  
mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – At its meeting last week, the School Committee welcomed its new Interim Superintendent, and heard updates on the upcoming trip to Disney World for the high school students.

The Jan. 8 meeting began with the committee welcoming Interim Superintendent Roland Joyal, who had started in the position just days prior.

“I’ve only been here a few (days), but I want to thank everybody for being so welcoming and helpful,” Joyal said, “all the workers here and everybody in Central Office, who I’ve seen a lot of in these few days. I’ll be getting out to the buildings pretty soon.”

Caitlin Walker spoke about the school’s upcoming Disney trip, which will leave on Jan. 23.

“As we continue to bring this incredible learning opportunity to Monson High School, it is so heartwarming to see how community members are willing and eager to help these deserving kids,” Walker said. “It’s been a really good process, between last spring through now, financially for them.”

Students are expected to arrive on Thursday, Jan. 23, at 2:30 a.m. at Springfield Central High School, to depart at 2:45 a.m. Walker said this departure time will be strictly adhered to. The students will then fly out from Bradley Airport at 6:15 a.m., and are scheduled to arrive in Orlando at 9:23 a.m.

The students will stay at Pop Century Resort in Disney World, and are signed up for four unique events, including the Disney Imagination Campus Workshop, where they will learn physics and storytelling.

“We are also doing the VIP dinner show with a private viewing for the fireworks at Epcot, and a VIP private dining experience for Fantasmic at Hollywood Studios,”

SCHOOLS | page 5

COMMUNITY

## GS raise funds for free libraries

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Editor  
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – This weekend, the Girl Scouts held a spaghetti dinner to

GIRL SCOUTS | page 3



Submitted Photos

Residents donated to the Girl Scout's Gold Award Project by purchasing tickets for the raffle.

COMMUNITY

## WBCA & Beyond enjoys winter pinball party

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

THREE RIVERS – Members of the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond arrived at the Western Mass Pinball Club for a fun party and gathering last Wednesday

PINBALL | page 7



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

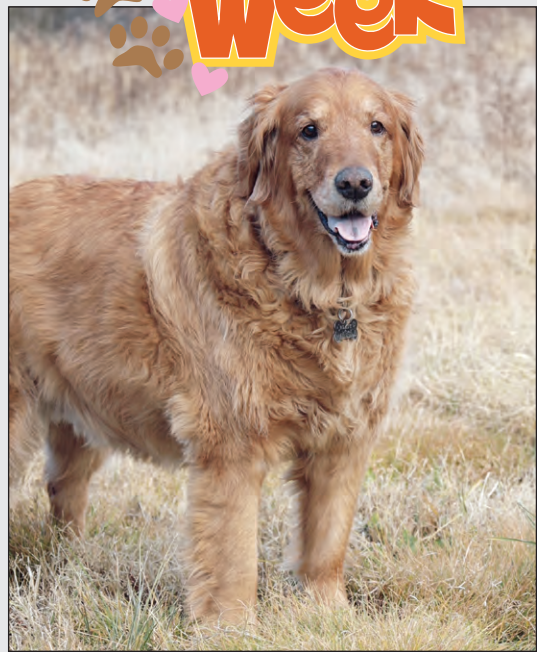
Jan McCoy participated in the Golden Flipper Challenge.

# Grand Opening! ~January 22~

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**BRADY**

This is Brady. He is a 12-year-old Golden Retriever who lives with his friend Julia. He is not up for adoption, but Julia wanted to share his cuteness with the paper. We feature your pets here. Is your fur friend a dog, cat, chicken, lizard, horse, bird, mouse... you get the point. Is there a pet you're fostering and trying to re-home? All pets are welcome! Email a high-resolution jpg of your pet with a little information to [journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@turley.com).

## St. Paul's present illusions and humor Jan. 25

PALMER— St. Paul's of Palmer is proud to present Illusions and Humor, a highly praised magic show by Jeff Kempton. This captivating performance will feature sleight-of-hand tricks, original magic, and comedy in an intimate setting. Join on Saturday, Jan. 25, at 2 p.m. for an unforgettable experience. Popcorn, drinks, and snacks will be provided by St. Paul's. Admission is children are free and adults are a suggested donation of \$5.

Kempton says "I fell in love with magic at a young age. At 34, I decided to pursue that passion and become a professional magician. I bring my personality into every show, filled with laughs, surprises, and memories that will last a lifetime. Throughout my career, I've had the privilege of performing for many, including Grammy award-winning bassist David Ellefson of Megadeth, ex-Guns N' Roses guitarist Ron 'Bumblefoot' Thal, and many others. In 2021, I completed 365 days of magic. You can find my performances on YouTube or Facebook under Jeff Kempton Magic."

Rev. Steven Sousa, minister of St. Paul's Church, adds, "Magic Time, is the perfect family-friendly event to brighten our spirits during the winter months. Come escape the harshness of the season and enjoy the warmth and joy of magic."

For more information, please call 413-283-8185 or visit [www.StPaulsPalmer.org](http://www.StPaulsPalmer.org).

## Free Girl Scout event Jan. 29

PALMER—Palmer and Ware area girls are invited to a free Girl Scout event Embrace Possibility on Wednesday, Jan. 29, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Girls and their guardians will sample Girl Scout badge projects, and take home their first Girl Scout patch. Girl Scout troops will be selling Girl Scout Cookies and answering any questions. Adults will discuss volunteering to form a new Girl Scout troop. Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts seeks volunteers to form a new leadership team (3-4 volunteers) so that the troop responsibilities are fun and can be shared. No previous Girl Scout experience is necessary. The event will take place at Second Congregational Church

1080 Pleasant St., Palmer This event is for girls entering grades K and 1, who are not currently Girl Scouts. RSVP by Jan. 25 <https://go.gscwm.org/EmbracePalmer>. For information contact Angie at [ardriguez@gscwm.org](mailto:ardriguez@gscwm.org) or call 413-584-2602 x4028.

## Palmer Cultural Council 2025 Grant Recipients

PALMER – These are the sixteen grant applicants which received funding from the Palmer Cultural Council for the FY'25 year. Congratulations on submitting a comprehensive grant application resulting in the following grant awards.

- Summer Kick-Off Community Fair - \$350
  - OMP Grade 1 Field trip to Worcester Ecotarium - \$1500
  - Palmer Public Library Summer Family Series - \$500
  - OMP Grade 2 Field Trip to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts - \$750
  - World Heritage Celebration at PHS - \$850
  - OMP Grade 4 Field Trip to Connecticut Science Center - \$1,000
  - OMP Multicultural Education/Awareness: Art, Nature and Horticulture - \$800
  - OMP Fifth Grade Ecology Field Trip to Saco, ME - \$3,688
  - PHS Seventh Grade Program – Wingmasters: Bird of Prey - \$750
  - PHS Community Garden - \$300
  - Pre-School Pumpkin Patch and Petting Zoo - \$375
  - PHS Eighth Grade Trip to Hanover Theater - \$900
  - OMP Third Grade Field Trip to Old Sturbridge Village - \$1,400
  - OMP Grade 2 Field Trip to the Springfield Science Museum - \$1,080
  - Pathfinder Tech Teen and Adult Zine Making Workshop - \$1,200
  - Council on Aging – Eclipsed! 2025 Program - \$300
- Information on the grant application process visit [massculturalcouncil.org](http://massculturalcouncil.org)  
If you're interested in learning more about the PCC, send an email to [PalmerCulturalCouncil@GMail.com](mailto:PalmerCulturalCouncil@GMail.com).

## Veterans eat lunch free at Ware Senior Center

WARE – Now through May 31, 2025, veterans of the U.S. armed services can enjoy a homemade lunch for free at the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road.

This meals are provided by the generosity of former Ware Selectboard member John Morrin, the Ware Veteran Fund and the Ware Veterans Carnival.

For veterans to take advantage of this offer they must call the Ware Senior Center 413-967-9645 by noon the business day before they wish to come for lunch and place their name on the list. Meals are served daily, Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m.-noon.

Menus and more information are available on the Council on Aging page of [townofware.com](http://townofware.com) or by stopping by the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

## Meeting to discuss East/West Rail at Steaming Tender

PALMER – A meeting will be held this month to discuss the future of the rail stop in the state's East/West Rail Project.

The meeting will be held at Steaming Tender Restaurant on Monday, Jan. 27, from 6 to 8 p.m. The public is invited to participate in the discussion while enjoying food and a cash bar provided by the restaurant.

## M-Pact Annual Meeting Feb. 10

The public is invited to attend the annual meeting of Municipal Public Access Cable Television (M-Pact) at 5 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 10.

All residents of Monson and Palmer are eligible to be members of the M-Pact Corporation.

Membership is for one year, renewable annually. Members elect the Board of M-Pact and only members are eligible for nomination to the Board of Directors. Two Directors, both from Palmer will be elected for three-year terms.

Please join us and add your ideas and energy to make our local Public Access Cable Station even more involved in the communities of Monson and Palmer.

For more information, please call (413) 283-7373.



## Railroad Hobby Show Jan. 25 and 26

PALMER – The Amherst Railway Society and CTrail are working together to provide train rides as part of the upcoming Railroad Hobby Show weekend, on Saturday, Jan. 25 and Sunday, Jan. 26.

Nicknamed the Railroad Hobby Show Rail-Pass, adults can ride all day on any CTrail trains between Springfield, Massachusetts and New Haven, Connecticut for just \$10 on either Saturday or Sunday. For children 12 and under, the pass is only \$5. Kids 2 and under, ride free.

The Rail-Pass can be purchased at the CTrail exhibit at the Railroad Hobby Show, located in the Better Living Center, section 15, or at Customer Service in either New Haven Union Station or Hartford Union Station.

In addition, the Railroad Hobby Show offers a FREE shuttle service between Springfield Union Station and the Eastern States Exposition fairgrounds on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 25-26.

Please note that Railroad Hobby Show special tickets are not valid on Amtrak trains.

The Amherst Railway Society is a community of people who share a fascination with railroads.

The society sponsors the annual Railroad Hobby Show, a model railroad club, and a philanthropy program that has donated \$830,000 to railroad preservation and restoration projects all over the country.

The society started in the mid-1950s on the campus of the University of Massachusetts in Amherst and is currently based in Palmer.

The CTrail Hartford Line is a regional rail service operating between New Haven, Connecticut and Springfield, Massachusetts. The Hartford Line connects with the New Haven Line, operated by Metro-North, at New Haven Union Station for travel to southwestern Connecticut and Grand Central Terminal in New York City.

### Corrections

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

### The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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

HEALTHY QUABOAG & THE TOWN OF WARE

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### DEADLINE

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

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# Health grants available to central Mass organizations

WORCESTER – The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts announced the opening of its 2025 Activation Fund grant opportunity, which provides capacity-building support for organizations working to address the community-identified health needs of central Massachusetts residents and workers.

With grants typically ranging between \$60,000 and \$125,000, the Activation Fund supports discrete, one-year projects in central Massachusetts aimed at helping organizations advance to their next level of capacity and effectiveness that can be sustained over time. The deadline for submission of a brief concept paper to express interest is Feb. 28.

Organizations invited to apply will be notified in April so that they can submit full applications; final funding decisions will be made in late June so that projects can launch in July.

“Through the Activation Fund, we seek to offer grants that enable organizations to seize strategic opportunities for growth, address emerging challenges, purchase equipment, or improve facilities, thereby facilitating activities and outcomes beyond the status quo” said Dr. Amie Shei, President and CEO of the Foundation. “Over the past 25 years, nearly \$12 million in Activation Fund grants has been awarded to 117 unique organizations with positive and lasting ripple effects on health throughout the region.”

Those interested in applying for an Activation Fund grant should visit the Foundation website at [www.thfcm.org](http://www.thfcm.org) to access information on the application guidelines and register for a virtual information session to learn about the geographic focus and other eligibility requirements, types of support considered, and examples of previous grants.

Examples of 2024 grant recipients include Growing Places, which received a \$110,000 grant for development of a customized IT solution to enhance efficiency and expand its capacity to serve local food consumers, buyers and small farmers in north central Massachusetts, and Quinsigamond Community College, which received a \$125,000 grant to replace outdated dental chairs and equipment stations at its Worcester-based dental clinic that prioritizes underserved patients.

For questions about the application process, please contact Vice President for Programs Jennie Blake at [jblake@thfcm.org](mailto:jblake@thfcm.org) or 508-438-0009 extension 6.

### About the Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts

The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts is dedicated to improving the health of those who live or work in central Massachusetts, with particular emphasis on vulnerable populations and unmet needs. Through its unique and impactful approach to grantmaking, The Health Foundation supports community-identified health issues, with health defined broadly to include social determinants of health and with a focus on promoting health equity.

As a health conversion foundation launched in 1999 following the sale of the not-for-profit HMO Central Massachusetts Health Care Inc., The Health Foundation’s grants have totaled over \$59 million to more than 230 unique organizations over its history. For more information, visit [www.thfcm.org](http://www.thfcm.org).



Kassandra and Deb Perry collected donations for the raffle at the fundraiser.



Residents lined up for a chance to participate in the Girl Scouts' raffle fundraiser.



Gold Award candidate Kassandra Perry oversaw the fundraiser dinner to benefit her project.



Baskets were raffled off to the attendees of the fundraiser, including baskets for kids and movie nights.



The hall of St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church was full of diners supporting the Gold Award Project.

Submitted Photos

### GIRL SCOUTS | from page 1

raise funds for Kassandra Perry’s Gold Award Project at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church.

Perry is pursuing her Gold Award, the highest rank in the Girl Scouts, which requires an 80-hour project that gives back to the community. Perry and her troop are working on a set of specially-designed Free Libraries that will be set up in the town’s parks.

On Saturday, Jan. 11, St. Thomas Church on Thorndike Street hosted a fundraiser for the project, serving spaghetti and meatballs with pasta sauce, salad, ice cream, cook-

ies, and brownies. The event included a 50/50 raffle and several raffle baskets that were donated by local businesses. The church donated the use of the hall for the fundraiser.

“I talked to people at my church who’ve done these fundraisers before to put it together and came up with ideas as we went,” Perry said. “I worked with some people at the church that had done spaghetti dinners for veterans and we decided it would be the easiest thing to do to help out my project.”

The free libraries will be located in parks in Bondsville, Thornd-

ike, Three Rivers, and Depot Village, as well as one in Burleigh Park that will move to Town Hall when the park is closed. In addition to encouraging kids to use the parks and enjoy the outdoors, Perry said she chose the locations for her free libraries to make sure that there wasn’t overlap between her book bins and the existing free libraries all over town.

“Reading is something kids should enjoy, not something they’re mandated to do,” Perry said.



HOLLAND—The stretch of frigid temperatures recently made for great conditions for ice fishermen at Hamilton Reservoir in Holland. This past weekend many fishing enthusiasts were seen setting up tip-ups and checking the ice during a sunny afternoon.



Submitted photos

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## COLORBLINDGUY APPLAUDS Don Swarts

Don Swarts has dedicated himself to the students and athletes at Ware public schools for 27 years. Don has coached youth soccer, baseball and softball and the WHS football and volleyball teams. Don works the scorer’s table for the girls and boys basketball teams and is a member of the Booster’s Club. He also runs the Wigwam and basketball concession stands. Don is ever-present on the school campus and hundreds of current and former Ware athletes remember Don fondly.



Don says, “The kids have kept me young and inspire me to keep volunteering” in Ware the colorblind capital of the world!



Don’s commitment to the students and athletes in Ware is unwavering.

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# Viewpoints

## SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

### Should Social Security money be invested in the Stock Market

**Dear Rusty**  
For most folks collecting Social Security, you get back what you put in within 3-5 years, so for those that scream - "SS is not an entitlement, it is my money"- that is not entirely accurate beyond 3-5 years. For me personally 4.4 years is the number. But had I been able to invest that money over the 43 years I worked at a modest 6% interest, I expect the amount would have been a lot more. And of course, the stock market averaged 9.5% over that time. Perhaps Social Security should invest in the stock market instead of U.S. Government treasury bonds.  
**Signed Interested Observer**

**Dear Observer**  
You bring up a point we frequently hear that if, instead of paying into Social Security, I had invested the same money in the stock market I would have gotten more.

That, of course, might be the case if you had the unwavering discipline to religiously invest the equivalent amount in the market, avoiding the temptation to use that investment for any other reason. And life is full of good reasons, financial emergencies, for example or the simple temptation to buy something desperately needed, or just occasionally skipping a month to pay bills. Also, the stock market is notoriously volatile, which can create substantial angst for investors, who are faint of heart.

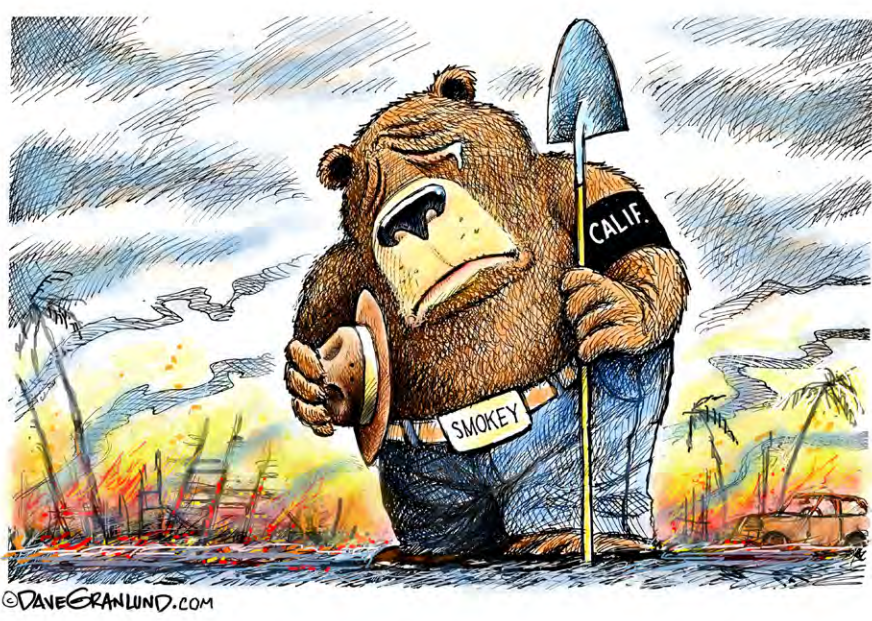
The fact is that Social Security provides guaranteed financial growth from the age of eligibility normally 62, up to age 70 when the maximum benefit is attained. Benefits claimed at one's full retirement age are about 24% - 32% more than if taken at age 62 depending on Full Retirement Age and benefits taken at age 70 are about 75% more than benefits taken at age 62. And that is guaranteed growth for those with the patience to wait longer to claim.

You may recall that the idea of investing Social Security reserves in the stock market has been floated a few times in previous years, but accompanying risks made Congress essentially unwilling to even entertain the idea. It has always been a political "hot potato" and those who suggest it are usually castigated for wanting to "give SS money to Wall Street," so I expect it is unlikely to happen.

Guess we'll need to be satisfied with the interest on those Special Issue Government Bonds, which, by the way, returned about \$67 billion to the Social Security Trust Fund in 2023. FYI, average interest rate for new deposits to the Trust Fund in 2023 was 4.1%, and the overall effective rate of return on all Trust Fund assets was 2.4%.

Social Security has some issues and will face some financial difficulty in less than a decade unless Congress enacts program reform soon. But it is a program, which most seniors rely on for a major part of their retirement income and one which keeps over 22 million Americans out of poverty. Here at the AMAC Foundation, we strongly advocate for sensible Social Security reform and we're very optimistic about the program's future. But Congress needs to act soon to avoid a cut to everyone's Social Security amount in about 2033.

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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadviser@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadviser@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



### Supplemental heat and light aid seed starting efforts

Last week we looked at the supplies needed to start seeds indoors. This week we will dive deeper.

If you have never tried indoor seed starting, it is a worthwhile endeavor for sure. You can grow exactly what you want instead of being defendant on what lines the shelves of local nurseries each May.

Furthermore, there is great satisfaction in having a part of the "miracle." No matter how many times I have witnessed the germination process, it still amazed me that a tiny seed has what it takes within to grow into a plant. All that is needed is heat, moisture and light.

Almost all bedding plants, as well as some vegetables and herbs need warmth to germinate. We provide bottom heat through the use of heating cables or mats set at temperatures between 70-75 degrees.

This poses the question of whether or not seeds will germinate at regular household temperatures of close to seventy degrees. Probably, but not to their fullest potential since ideal temperature is measured not by air temps but by the temperature of the growing medium.

A room set at 70 degrees is likely to have temperatures within the germinating flat five to 10 degrees cooler, due to evaporation at its surface. Invest in a heat mat - if used for a few weeks each season it will likely last a decade or two.

There are many types available to suit your own specific growing needs, even mini mats that are about the size of a standard flat. Perfect if all you are growing indoors are a pack or two of peppers and tomatoes!

Supplemental lighting comes into play at the instant your seeds have sprouted. Bottom heat is not necessary henceforth (it is even discouraged!).

Seedlings are removed from heat and placed within 3-6 inches of the light source. For short-term use, a shop light affixed with two cool fluorescent bulbs

has worked fine for me, although one cool and one warm bulb was recommended "back in the day" to better simulate the full spectrum of the sun's rays.

Now, LEDs are an energy conscious replacement; one I will make when my fluorescent bulbs give out. If you are using fluorescent bulbs, be sure to keep your seedlings away from the ends of the bulb where the lights wanes.

If you plan to use lights for long-term growth a "grow-light" may be a good, albeit more costly investment. Many duplicate the sun quite well, and some are tailored to meet the needs of specific plant types.

For example, some contain more orange and red hues to promote fruiting and budding. They are priced by life expectancy, output and light spectrum.

Installing the lights of your choice with reflectors or "mirrors" will maximize intensity, and suspending the whole system with chains from the ceiling will make for easy raising as your seedlings grow.

If you plan to grow just a few seedlings and don't want to invest in lights, try positioning them in front of an unshaded south window. Turn the seedling flats numerous times during the day to promote straight, stocky growth. Plants that are tall and spindly indicate light intensity is too low.

Please give heat mats and supplemental lights a try, especially if you haven't been successful with indoor seed sowing in the past. This could turn the page of a new chapter of growing for you!

*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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*



### in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer



**Carolina wren**

A Brimfield resident sent me a list of birds on Jan. 2 he saw in his yard.

On the list was a Carolina wren. He said in the email, "[The Carolina wren was] foraging in the leaves under shrubs and has been seen at the feeders more frequently recently."

The Carolina wren is six inches long and has brown feathers above with buff below. It has a distinct white eyebrow and white barring in the tail area. It often holds its tail in an upward position.

The female lays four to eight creamy or pink white eggs with brown marks in a nest of mosses, twigs, rootlets, bark and sometimes snakeskins lined with finer materials. They nest in tree holes and many other locations; they will use birdhouses.

The Carolina wren expanded its range into the northeast especially with

the milder winters. There song is a loud, repeated "tea kettle, tea kettle, tea kettle." They inhabit forest understorey, vines and woodlands in rural or suburban areas.

Other Brimfield birds  
Other birds seen by the Brimfield resident beside the Carolina wren were four mourning doves, 20 American robins, 12 dark eyed juncos, one white-throated sparrow and two Northern cardinals. He said of the robins, "I first noticed one bird on the ground in the yard and 3 in a crab apple tree eating fruit. More flew into the tree then four on the ground foraging. More perched in a nearby tree." He also said, "We have ten crab apple trees in the yard and several of them have small fruit that is held on the tree into the winter."

**Flocks of robins**  
In my travels last week, I saw flocks of robins on three occasions, twice in Barre and once in Oakham. The Oakham flock flew across the road and landed on the ground and in trees on the opposite side. The Brimfield resident reported his wife saw a flock of robins in the center of Brimfield eating crab apples near the post office twice in recent days. Christmas Bird Count

The Brimfield couple participated in the annual Christmas Bird Count in Ludlow. He said, "We had 31 species in Ludlow, lots fewer birds at the reservoir because there was about 90% ice coverage [Saturday] compared to 10% Friday."

**Suet cakes**  
I put out my suet feeder last month. I waited long enough because I did not have a bear either break or run off with the feeder. The birds are busy eating suet



Watching the sunrise from the summit of Mt. Jackson, NH.



Snuggled in our sleeping bags on our snowy perch.



A visit from the infamous Grey Jays, with Mt Washington in the distance.

### A starlit hike in the White Mountains

By Julie Midura  
Guest Columnist

This was our final hike of 2024. It was 5:15am, and we were lying on our backs staring up at the stars, cocooned in our bright green two-person down sleeping bag atop several feet of snow on the wide open summit of Mt. Jackson in NH. The sun was still 2 hours from cresting the distant horizon. It was dead calm, but bitterly cold.

In spite of donning every layer in my winter arsenal, I shivered and snuggled closer to Tom as I gathered the excess fabric of the bag as close to my body as I could.

We had arrived at the trailhead parking lot almost 3 hours before. It was 0 degrees when we stepped out of our SUV and opened the back hatch to retrieve our backpacks. In a split second of hesitation, I questioned our sanity. "Who in their right mind climbs a mountain in pitch black of night in these ungodly temperatures just to see the sun rise?" Then I immediately thought, "Too late now. We dropped the motel key in the drop box a half hour ago in the dead of night, so we'll be climbing this mountain whether I want to or not."

As we moved upward along the snaking path, the beams of light from our headlamps danced between the snow covered trees, creating an aura of mystery as the long shadows stretched deep into the blackened forest. Our headlamps ignited the untouched snow on the sides of the trail, giving the illusion of walking on a smooth white carpet of infinite shimmering diamonds.

When we finally broke tree line, the crescent moon and twinkling stars welcomed us to a dark and windless summit. I stood, unmoving, serenaded by the whisper of starlight in the heavens above me.

Eight years of hiking in every season. Numerous hiking lists. Thousands of miles. Climbing the second tallest mountain in the continental United States. Section hiking the Appalachian Trail.

Every hike. Every backpacking trip. Every footprint left on every mountain.

Each one propelling us forward to the next... eventually leading us to this singular unforgettable moment. A moment of being suspended in time, somewhere between our very first hike and what will someday be our very last. Suspended between the valley below and the heavens above while basking under the brilliance of a million twinkling stars against the backdrop of a black velvet sky, while waiting for the sun to awaken the earth in a blaze of fiery brilliance.

And although we hope that we'll have the opportunity to experience a moment like this again, we've

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The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

### Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

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

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

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## Boy Scout can and bottle drive

BELCHERTOWN— Belchertown Boy Scout Troop 507 is holding a can and bottle drive on Saturday, Jan. 25, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Pride Gas Station at the intersection of Rt. 21 and Rt 202, 165 State St. Gather up all of those unwanted returnable bottles and cans from holiday gatherings and help support the Scouts in Belchertown. Returnable water bottles are also welcomed. The money raised goes toward Scouting right here in Belchertown. Bring them to the Pride station where the Scouts will be collecting them to raise money to help make their scouting experience more meaningful by helping to defray the cost of summer camp and other outdoor camping activities.

### HIKING | from page 4

learned the hard way that there are no guarantees in this life.

So we settle in for however long it takes. We inhale the clean mountain air. We feel the cold kiss our cheeks and the silence fill our ears. We wait for the sun to silence the stars and breathe life onto the earth.

We remain snuggled in our lofty bright green sleeping bag on a snowy perch atop a 4,000-foot mountain for over four hours, unwilling to leave lest we miss one single minute of the magic that is unfolding in front of us.

And as we watch the black of night turn into the blazing red of dawn, we know that for the rest of our lives, for as long as there is breath in our lungs and blood running through our veins...

WE. WILL. NEVER. FORGET. THIS. MOMENT. See you in the wild places, my friends!

To read more about our hiking adventures, follow us on Instagram @morethanthemountain.

### SCHOOLS | from page 1

Walker said. The students are also signed up for a group dinner at Fort Wilderness's Hoop-Dee-Do Revue musical comedy show. The trip will also include daily educational tour groups to discuss how the themes of the parks integrate with the sciences and arts.

Walker thanked the town for its support of the students, as well as families and businesses in town that helped the students fundraise to lower the costs of the educational and unique experience.

"Thank you again for allowing and approving this opportunity for our students, they're all very excited for the Disney trip," Walker said. "Our students worked hard to reduce their ticket price, and we are proud to say that all of the students that are attending are paying well below the original \$1,500 that the trip cost."

The students will check out of Pop Century on Jan. 28 to catch their 1:55 p.m. flight home.

"A little bit better than the 2:30 a.m. leaving time," Walker said.

The students are expected to arrive at Bradley Airport at 7:33 p.m., and at Springfield Central High at approximately 9 p.m. The flight times are still subject to change at the behest of the airline.

Joyal announced that the IRS mileage rate was raised by three cents, and that the Police Department would be at Granite Valley Middle School for training that weekend. The superintendent's report was followed by the Student Representative Reports, which were presented by Julia Royce and Sophia Galerno.

Committee Vice Chair Jamie Murphy then spoke on the subcommittee and liaison reports, which included discussions about the district's therapy dog and MCAS graduation requirements.

"We want to keep Winnie positive, so I'm going to email our attorney for clarification on a few items," Murphy said.

As for the change in graduation requirements, Murphy said that there would be a new draft of the current policies, which would be presented to the committee at the next meeting.

## Psychic medium night Feb. 27

STURBRIDGE—Join the Chamber of Central Mass South and guests at The Barn at Wight Farm in Sturbridge for an inspiring night with Gary McKinstry, the Psychic Medium Entertainer, on Feb. 27, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Internationally known Psychic Medium Entertainer, McKinstry, will share his gift to connect with the spirit world and bring intuitive messages to guests of the Chamber's Medium Night. McKinstry's work as a psychic medium for over 30 years not only includes clients in the USA, but also Brazil, France, Australia, Germany and Canada. Whether one on one or in a large arena, McKinstry is dedicated to helping people in all walks of life and death and will deliver messages with style.

In this gallery reading, Gary randomly selects individuals from the audience to deliver messages, guided by spirits. Messages may be from the afterlife or pertain to the present. While not everyone gets a reading, all are encouraged to listen as the messages hold collective meaning. A psychic gallery reading elevates the group's consciousness, offering deep and transformative experiences, providing hope and inspiration.

Tickets are \$60 for CMS Chamber members and their employees, or \$65 for non-Members. Cash bar.

This intimate and enlightening evening with Gary is limited to 100 attendees, so get tickets now.

For Medium Night tickets and information give the Chamber a call at 508-347-2761 or email info@cmschamber.org.

### BACKYARD | from page 4

especially during this cold weather.

#### New Hampshire Loon Preservation Committee

The New Hampshire Loon Preservation Committee reported in 2024 they surveyed 498 occupied or potential loon territories on 327 lakes to assess presence/absence and breeding success of loons and the success of LPC's management to help them. They documented the presence of 359 loon pairs and 126 unpaired adult loons. They also floated a record 156 nest rafts to help loon pairs displaced from their traditional nest sites by shoreline development, recreational lake use and water level fluctuations. They also installed signs and rope lines at 135 nesting loon pair locations.

They banded 57 loons and rescued 38 loons in distress and a result of illness or injury. The Loon Preservation Committee continued to expand their lead tackle buyback program. Ingestion of lost lead tackle by fisherman remained the cause of lead poisoning in the loon population. There were six documented deaths due to lead poisoning, two loon deaths from trauma due to boat strikes and two loon deaths due to entanglement in fishing gear in 2024.

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.

## NAMI to host annual meeting

HOLYOKE— The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Western Massachusetts annual meeting will be held on Sunday, Jan. 19, beginning at 1 p.m. The special guest speaker will be Cristianna Borelli. Recently, she was invited to and competed at the National US/Woman of Achievement Pageant in Irvine, California this past November. She returned home with the national title of Ms US 2025, the first woman from New England to do so in the 10-year history of the pageant. She will present her dual platform of mental health advocacy, and suicide prevention to help, support, and empower people from all walks of life who have struggled with a mental health issue. Now, she is using her crown as a symbol and a tool to help others who struggle in silence regarding their mental health. Hear her inspiring words of hope.

This event is open to the public. Absentee ballots will be mailed only to NAMI-WM members who are eligible to vote. If the ballot has not been received by Jan. 13 please call the office. The ballots must be received in the office by Friday, Jan. 17. To register please go to namiwm.org/events and click on the registration link or go directly to Eventbrite.com and search for NAMI Western Mass. A Zoom link will be provided to those who are registered. For more information contact the office.

### TOWN COUNCIL | from page 1

Potter said. "A new initiative included in the policies is to set aside funds freed up from paying off a loan and reserving them to have available when a new borrowing is needed."

Potter gave an example of a loan being paid off in fiscal year 2025, saying that the money that would have been needed to pay the debt in fiscal year 2026 would be included in the budget in the General Fund Reserve, rather than debt service.

This prompted a discussion between councilors about the difference from debt exclusion.

"There's debt that's part of the levee and debt that's not part of the levee," Brothers said. "The levee is always the levee, there's money that decreases due to debt that's no longer needed."

"We don't want to then absorb it in our operating budgets, because when we need to borrow again for something else, then there's no money available," Brothers said. "It holds us accountable to make sure that we have available money for borrowing when needed in the levee."

Potter said that the document included an appendix of the town's different types of accounts and what they're used for.

"Capital planning and debt service management guidelines in the policies address the approach to short-term capital needs as well as long-term outlook," Potter said. "The appendix at the end of the document is a quick summary of the town's reserve accounts, their types, uses, and recommended balances in relation to the operating budget or minimum annual contributions."

Town Council will spend the next few weeks reviewing the document before voting on it at the February meeting.

## CAMPUS NOTES

### Husson University's dean's list for the spring 2024

BANGOR, ME— Congratulations to **Madison Griffin** of Brimfield, who has been named to Husson University's dean's list for the spring 2024 semester of the 2023-2024 academic year.

Griffin is studying toward a degree in BS Nursing at Husson.

### Resident a Presidential Scholar at Clarkson University

POTSDAM, NY— **Ty Morgan Sayball-Wimmer** of Bondsville, a junior majoring in business intelligence and data analytics, was named a Presidential Scholar for the fall 2024 semester at Clarkson University.

### WNE fall 2024 dean's list

SPRINGFIELD— Western New England University takes immense pride in recognizing the outstanding academic achievements of over 750 students who have been named to the dean's list for the Fall 2024 semester. The following local students were named to the dean's list:

**Roger Leland** of Brimfield, **Haley Bronson** of Monson, **Lauren Harris** of Monson, **Sarah Moore** of Monson, **Zackery Wysk** of Monson, **Austin Degnan** of Palmer, **Hannah Bissonnette** of Palmer, **Kevin Hess** of Palmer, **Madison Cole** of Palmer, **Taylor Browne** of Palmer, **William Partelo** of Palmer and **Evan Thomas** of Wales.

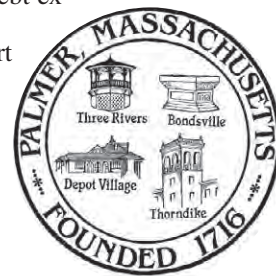
### MassBay Community College dean's list

WELLESLEY HILLS— The following local residents have been named to the MassBay Community College dean's list, achieving this outstanding academic honor for the fall 2024 semester.

**Kieran Talbert** of Monson, who studies Medical Coding and **Myanyeliz Quinones** of Warren, who studies General Studies.

### Curry College 2024 Dean's List

MILTON—Curry College congratulates **Isabella Leneau** of Brimfield, MA 01010 who was named to the Fall 2024 Dean's List.



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Pinball night had a fantastic turnout as many arrived at the Western Mass Pinball Club, which features dozens of vintage and modern pinball machines.



Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond members gathered for a fun night of pinball at the Western Mass Pinball Club in Three Rivers. Turley Photos by Ryan Drago



Ryan Sinclair of B'Leaf Wellness Centre was the winner of Golden Flipper Challenge. Sinclair stands with Mary Robidoux, Katie Gagner and Crystal Daniels.



The Pinball Party had a great turnout with many members of Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond attending.



Crystal Daniels enjoyed the X-Men-themed pinball machine at Western MA Pinball.



Chris Barnes from Monson Savings Bank faced off against zombies in the Walking Dead pinball machine.



Ware Director of Planning & Community Development Paralee Smith attempting to score high during the Golden Flipper Challenge. Katie Gagner writes down her score.



James Ferrera, the Town Administrator of Warren (left), hung out with Stuart Beckley, the Town Manager of Ware.

**PINBALL**  
I from page 1

evening. There was plenty of salad, wings, pizza, desserts and pinball machines to enjoy in a fun atmosphere featuring dozens of vintage and modern pinball machines and additional arcade games. WBCA & Beyond President Dan Flynn welcomed everyone who attended the pinball party and encouraged all the guests to enjoy the food and play some pinball.

Katie Gagner and Mary Robidoux from Moulton Insurance Agency were busy running the Golden Flipper Challenge during the pinball party. The challenge featured players competing in a pinball tournament playing two vintage pinball machines.

The highest scoring pinball player will leave with a nice cash prize of \$100. The winner of the Golden Flipper Challenge was Ryan Sinclair of B'Leaf Wellness Centre of Ware.

As many members enjoyed playing pinball, several participated in a raffle for an opportunity to win tickets to go see the Boston Bruins. In charge of the raffle tickets was Jan McCoy of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Realty Professionals.

The WBCA & Beyond helps transform Ware into a destination point for visitors and is a helpful resource to the residents. WBCA & Beyond has more information at warebca.com.

The Western Mass Pinball Club can be found at 4 Springfield St., inside the Palmer Technology Center. Learn more about the pinball club at westermasspinball.com.



Bobby Roy fought for the Iron Throne in the Game of Thrones pinball game.

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# Business

## Town welcomes new cannabis dispensary



Raphael Aronov (center) cuts the ribbon for his store's third location, held by Town Councilors Matthew Lemieux and Mark Caci.

Turley photos by Marcelo Gusmão

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Editor  
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – Last weekend was the official ribbon-cutting of the town's new cannabis dispensary, Green Gold.

On the morning of Friday, Jan. 10, Green Gold invited members of the community to a ceremonial ribbon-cutting. Town officials presented company owner Rafael Aronov with a certification, and were given a tour of the facility.

"We're open for business in Palmer and looking forward to being part of community," said James McMahon of McMahon Strategic Development.

Director of Retail Amanda Woodward has been with the company for six years and is in charge of overseeing the company's three stores. She said that the business was "welcomed with open arms" to the town, and that customers are very excited.

"James (McMahon) has to deal with all the legality more than I do, but once we met the licensing situation and figured out the special permit, it was easy breezy," said Woodward. "Everyone was very accepting."

Though the store has been open since Nov. 25, the company waited to schedule its ribbon-cutting until after the holidays. The event involved a food truck from Flippin' the Bird BBQ, goodie bags, raffles, and a wheel for customers to spin and win prizes.

"I think it's a good chance for people to come in and try a good variety of our stuff with our deals," Woodward said.

The store has started the process to offer medical marijuana to patrons with a medical card, and is currently waiting for the state's Cannabis Control Commission to approve it.

McMahon outlined the extensive testing process for the product, which include testing the product's potency as well as safety testing that checks for pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, mold or bacterial activity, heavy metals, residual solvents, and vitamin-E acetate.

"All of the product we produce is required to be independently lab-tested, there are about 11 labs across commonwealth now," McMahon said. "At multiple stages during production cycle, that product gets tested by independent labs, so everyone is on same page. No product is allowed to leave the building unless it passes all its tests."

As for opioids, such as fentanyl, McMahon said that the cultivation ecosystem is controlled so there's no opportunity for these substances to be added. He said that providing a non-opioid pain reliever was one of the



Making a donation to AmVets Post #74, (from left) Renee Niedziela, Ralph Aronov, and Mark Caci.



George Jones worked the grill for the food truck from Flippin' the Bird BBQ.

primary reasons that Raphael Aronov started Green Gold.

"(Aronov) had some friends prescribed opioids that ended up becoming addicted, and he saw how it ruined their lives and their family's and friends' lives," McMahon said. "So many people, including Green Gold, entered the cannabis business because of its success as a non-opioid pain reliever, so there's an extremely strong aversion to any type of opioids in cannabis industry."

In addition to its own retail locations, Green Gold's cultivation facility services 35% of the dispensaries in the commonwealth.

"What differs Green Gold from other businesses is," Woodward said, "a lot of places set up their retail locations first and then work in the cultivation, where we did the opposite. We had our cultivation and wholesale program established before our retail open, so we already had that brand presence, and the inventory to get the place up and running."

"I can't emphasize enough how great it's been coming into town," McMahon said. "The people at Town Hall have done a lot to welcome us as a new business. It's never easy to open a new business, and being a cannabis business is at least twice as difficult due to oversight, but it's been really fantastic."

McMahon praised the work of Town Manager Brad Brothers and Town Planner Heidi Mannarino, along with the Planning Board.

"They really did a lot to make sure we would have as low an impact as possible, it's been a great partnership with Palmer," Mc-



Joey DeCoff, Amber King, and Kaitlyn Adams helped to celebrate the business's opening.



Raphael Aronov and Amanda Woodward received a certification from the House of Representatives for Green Gold Group.



Paige Costa had a table with a display of gummies from Wyld Cannabis.

Mahon said. "We're really looking forward to coming into an area underserved by medical dispensaries and being the first one there."

Green Gold will be holding monthly raffles, including raffling off a television in February for the Super Bowl.

Green Gold can be found at 1140 Thorn-dike Street, exactly 420 feet from the turnpike exit.

## Hitchcock Brown Bag Speaker Series Reinstated

Kicking Off With a Talk about "Brimfield Heroine" and "Mother of Oregon" Tabitha Moffat



BRIMFIELD – Due to demand, Hitchcock is proud to announce the revival of a popular, long-missed series of Brown Bag speakers. The series kicks off at noon on Jan. 29 with a talk about "Brimfield Heroine" and "Mother of Oregon" Tabitha Moffat.

Join local historian and Hitchcock Trustee Mike Defalco for a talk about "Brimfield Heroine" Tabitha Moffat. Moffat was born in Brimfield in 1780 and later in life (in her 60s) journeyed with her children on the Oregon Trail. Once there, she started a school for children that later became Pacific University. She wrote a letter to her family back in Brimfield talking about her experiences on the Trail which became known as the "Brimfield Heroine Letter". It described attacks by Native Americans, near starvation and other assorted dangers. In the 1970s, the Oregon State Legislature proclaimed her the "Mother of Oregon".

The talk will also include the story of Moffat's husband Clark Brown who arrived in town in the 1790s to serve as the Congregational Church pastor and immediately became part of a major controversy which resulted in an ecclesiastical trial known as the Brown Church War.

These accounts are also mentioned in The Brimfield Historical Commission's "101 Things to Know About Brimfield."

Reservations are required (Registration closes Jan 27 at 6 p.m.) and there is a \$10 fee per person. Lunch begins at noon and the talk at 12:30 p.m. Registrants can choose to bring their own lunch or for an additional \$10 (includes half sandwich, soup, and beverage. The talk will run approximately an hour.

This program is presented with support from The Shirley Frye Memorial Fund.

Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Road in Brimfield serving the community with educational, recreational, and cultural programming. More information can be found at [www.hitchcock-academy.org](http://www.hitchcock-academy.org).

## DCR lists upcoming winter hybrid presentations

BELCHERTOWN – The Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, 100 Winsor Dam Road, announces the schedule for winter hybrid presentations.

All programs are scheduled for 2 p.m. In person seating is limited to 45 people.

In case of bad weather, the programs will only be held virtually. Please register for any of these events by visiting <https://www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events>.

### Prince Walker of Barre – From Enslaved to Landowner

Sunday, Jan. 19 from 2-3 p.m.

Born to an enslaved family in Barre in June 1774 Prince Walker spent much of his life on a homestead that is now part of the Ware River Watershed. Although known mainly as the much younger brother of Quock Walker (whose suit to attain personal freedom was instrumental in freeing all enslaved people in Massachusetts) Prince Walker led a remarkable life.

Join Lucy Allen from the Barre Historical Society as she presents on his trek to freedom and financial independence.

### Understanding Fish Species at Quabbin Reservoir

Sunday, Jan. 26 from 2-3 p.m.

Creel surveys are a common technique used by fisheries professionals to better understand waterbody specific catch and harvest trends. Creel data from Quabbin Reservoir were collected at each of the three boat launch areas during the 2024 fishing season.

The presentation will provide updates regarding participation, catch, harvest and species specific trends. These data will be compared to other statewide and waterbody specific creel data collected by MassWildlife and Department of Conservation and Recreation.

### The Mystery of Prescott Quilt of Names

Sunday, Feb. 2 from 2-3 p.m.

Step back in time and delve into

the intriguing story behind a remarkable artifact that has woven together generations—a quilt embroidered with fifty signatures from 1895, hailing from Prescott, Massachusetts. Who created this piece of history, and why? How did it make its way to the Hitchcock Chair Museum in Riverton, Connecticut, and who played a crucial role in returning it to the Swift River Valley Historical Society?

Join historical interpreter Karen Traub as she embarks on a fascinating journey to unravel the quilt's past.

### History of Rutland Prison Camp

Sunday, Feb. 16 from 2-3 p.m.

Fresh air, three home-cooked meals a day, comfortable sleeping quarters and a private hospital - sounds like a delightful retreat for a prison? Indeed, it was!

This presentation will tell the story of this surprisingly successful social experiment nestled within the Ware River Watershed.

### Microscopic world of the Quabbin Reservoir

Sunday, Feb. 23 from 2-3 p.m.

What's in the water? Learn about the microorganisms that live in the water, and how they can impact water quality.

This presentation will cover phytoplankton and zooplankton found in the Quabbin Reservoir with a live microscope demo.

### Quabbin Reservoir and Watershed Protection

Sunday, March 2 from 2-3 p.m.

Engineering, forestry, wildlife and aquatic biology, carpentry, mowing and snowplowing...how do all of these things combine to protect the water supply of over three million people in Massachusetts? How does they benefit the region around the reservoir?

This presentation from the Visitor Center staff explores how the many different goals of DCR staff all support one goal, Quabbin watershed protection.



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# SPORTS

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**BASKETBALL**

## Mustangs pick up first victory

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

GRANBY—After losing the first four games of the regular season by more than 10 points, the members of the Monson girls basketball team finally celebrated a victory.

The young Lady Mustangs, who only have one senior listed on their roster, overcame an eight-point deficit to defeat Granby, 44-40, in a non-league game held at Sullivan Gymnasium, last Tuesday night.

“The kids have been very



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Cali Zielinski holds back and looks to pass.

working hard, and it feels great to finally get a win. They really deserve it,” said first-year Monson head coach Alyssa Darling. “We did trail for most of the game, but we never gave up.”

Darling was a 1,000-point scorer during her outstanding high school basketball career at Palmer High School. She was also a member of the women’s basketball team at Westfield State University.

A couple of years ago, Darling won ten games in her first stint as a girls’ varsity basketball coach at Minnechaug Regional.

One of the eight Lady

Olivia Chrzan goes to the hoop.

Mustangs players is senior Olivia Chrzan, who’s also a member of the elite 1,000-point club. Chrzan scored a game-high 30 points against Granby (3-4). It pushed her career point total over the 1,700 mark. Chrzan has also scored 140 points in the seven basketball games that she has played against Granby.

“It’s a coach’s dream to coach a basketball player like Olivia,” said Darling, who also had the opportunity to coach Chrzan at the youth level. “The things that she does on the court is just amazing. She’s a great kid, a great teammate, and is very coachable. We’re hoping that she can reach 2,000 career points this season. She’s just an amazing athlete.”

The Lady Rams were led offensively by Kalli White, who’s one of the Lady Rams three sophomore starters. White finished the home contest with 27 points. Sophomore Brenna Moreno scored six points and senior Autumn Si-card added five points. Junior Kaitlyn Curran only scored two points, but she guarded Chrzan which isn’t a very easy task.

“We’re a young basketball team and the players are still learning a new system,” said first-year Granby head coach Dave Padavano. “I really enjoy coaching the Granby girls’ team. All of the players are great kids and I’m hoping they have a good experience playing

MUSTANGS | page 10



**BASKETBALL**

## Panthers pick up first win of the season



Maddy Rathbone goes for the hoop.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande



Harper Brouillette calls out a play as she crosses mid-court.

Jayda Pardo goes for the jump shot.

PALMER – After a tough start, Palmer High School girls basketball won its first game of the regular season in a defensive slugfest 32-27 against Hopkins Academy. In the victory, Palmer held a lead throughout the matchup, but Hopkins did keep it close. Loretta Petraszewicz had 10 points to lead the Panthers while Harper Brouillette had eight points. The Panthers are 1-5 on the regular season and next face Frontier Regional on Monday, Jan. 20 at 7 p.m.

Addyson Petraszewicz sends a pass over to Jayda Pardo



Lily Pronovost reaches out for the loose ball.



**RECOGNITION**

## Marciniec to receive Damko Award

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—Palmer Athletic Director Matt Marciniec was recently named as the 2024 MSSA-DA Theodore Damko award winner.

“It’s an honor just being nominated for the Damko award from District 1 (Western Mass. and the Berkshires). There are a group of amazing athletic directors from District 1, who go above and beyond for their school and interscholastic athletics as a whole,” Marciniec said. “(Ludlow AD) Tim Brillo was selected as the athletic director of the year winner last year. Hopefully, it will shed some light that there are some great things happening out here in the west.”

The recipient of the Damko Award is an athletic administrator having five or less years of experience in the field and have made significant contributions to his/her school, league, district and/or state. Damko was the longtime Athletic Director at Leominster High School.

Marciniec replaced Pete Farr as both an Athletic Director and football coach in 2019. He became a fulltime AD this past fall and is still coaching the Panthers football team.

“I’m so proud of Matt,” said Palmer High School Principal Sue North. “He very much deserves this prestigious award. He has brought

MARCINIEC | page 10

**BASKETBALL**

## Pioneers cruising toward state tourny



Addison Doktor goes for a shot.



Ciara Green keeps her dribble away from the opponent.



Megan Clark goes for the free throw.

PALMER –

Last week, Pathfinder girls basketball tacked on two more victories, scoring wins over St. Mary’s and Hampden Charter School of Science. The Pioneers defeated St. Mary’s at home 49-37 last Tuesday, then went on the road to Chicopee and beat Hampden Charter soundly 50-24. With the wins, Pathfinder is now 6-1 on the season and look to continue the momentum on Jan. 16 when they play at Westfield Technical Academy at 6 p.m.

Greenly Lagimoniere attempts a three-pointer.

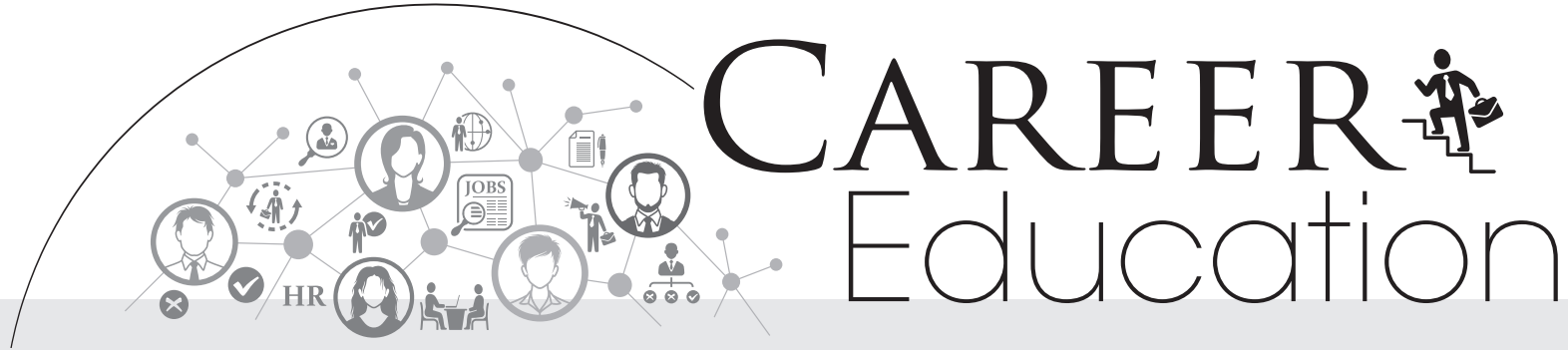


Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Taylor Allen starts her way down the court.





# CAREER Education

## Hampden Charter School of Science: Empowering Students for a Brighter Future

Are you searching for a school where academic excellence meets a supportive community? Hampden Charter School of Science (HCSS) is a top-ranked, tuition-free public charter school serving grades 6-12 in Western Massachusetts. Since its founding in 2009, HCSS has been dedicated to preparing students for college, careers, and a lifetime of success.

### Why Choose HCSS?

HCSS stands out as a premier choice for families because of its unique combination of academic rigor, personalized attention, and community spirit. Our two campuses—the Middle School in West Springfield (Grades 6-8) and the High School in Chicopee (Grades 9-12)—offer students a seamless

transition from middle school to high school and beyond. Here's what makes HCSS truly exceptional:

**Academic Excellence:** Our rigorous curriculum is guided by College Board AP standards and Common Core. With honors courses beginning in 7th grade, 14 AP offerings in high school, and innovative programs like Project Lead The

Way (PLTW), students are challenged to reach their full potential.

**Comprehensive College and Career Preparation:** HCSS begins college and career readiness as early as 6th grade, including early SAT/PSAT prep, dual enrollment opportunities, and experiential college campus visits. With a 100% college acceptance rate and over \$51M in scholarships awarded since 2013,

our graduates are set for success.

**State-of-the-Art Technology:** Students benefit from one-to-one Chromebook access, SMART Interactive Displays, and hands-on science labs, preparing them for a tech-driven world.

**Award-Winning Extracurriculars:** From robotics and science clubs to competitive athletics and social activities, students thrive outside the classroom as well.

school's commitment to diversity and inclusion fosters a vibrant community that celebrates different perspectives and cultures. Families also appreciate the convenience of free transportation and extensive tutoring services, ensuring all students have the tools they need to succeed.

### Student Success Stories

HCSS alumni have gone on to attend prestigious universities, including Ivy League institutions like Harvard, Columbia, and Dartmouth. Our students' achievements are a testament to the school's dedication to academic and personal growth. With a consistent college matriculation rate of over 95%, HCSS prepares students not just to attend college but to excel once they get there.

### How to Apply

Applications for the 2025-2026 school year are now open! Rising 6th-10th graders should apply no later than March 2, 2025, to secure a spot in our admission lottery. Visit [www.hampdencharter.org](http://www.hampdencharter.org) to apply and take the first step toward a brighter future.

At Hampden Charter School of Science, we believe every student deserves a world-class education. Join our community of learners, achievers, and leaders today—because your child's future begins here!

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APPLY NOW / DEADLINE **MARCH 2, 2025**

### Join Us for an Open House!

Explore what HCSS has to offer during our upcoming Welcome Saturday Open House events! Meet our dedicated staff, tour our campuses, and learn how HCSS can help your child achieve their dreams. Interested families can also join a Virtual Information Session for an in-depth look at our programs from the comfort of home.

### What Parents and Students Love About HCSS

Parents and students consistently praise HCSS for its nurturing environment, where every student feels valued and supported. The

## Dress for interview success

In his masterpiece "Crime and Punishment," author Fyodor Dostoevsky wrote, "We sometimes encounter people, even perfect strangers, who begin to interest us at first sight, somehow suddenly, all at once, before a word has been spoken." The great Russian novelist is referring to the fact that impressions can be made even before conversations begin. This is an important notion to grasp and can do a job seeker a world of good in every interaction during the hiring process, including the interview.

Recruiters may have an understanding of you as an applicant from your résumé and other correspondences, but it is during the interview — whether it's in person or remote — that a hiring manager can really get a sense of your energy and professionalism. While no one wants to be judged on appearance alone, what you look like and how you dress affect others' first impression of you. Doing all you can to tip the scales in your favor may lead to favorable job outcomes. The best outfit to wear on an interview varies depending on the company and the job, according to The Balance: Money. But there are some guidelines for dressing to make the best impression.

- Follow the employer's dress code. If you can gauge dress code in advance, dress to mirror what others are wearing and then take it up a slight notch. For example, while you wouldn't wear a suit if you're interviewing as a park ranger, you may eschew work boots and faded jeans for a collared polo shirt and khaki pants. For a tech start-up or creative company that favors casual wear, something that is more business casual may be appropriate for the interview.

- Err on the side of caution. If you do not know the company dress code, it is always better to be overdressed than underdressed. A sports jacket and a button-down shirt for gentlemen and tailored pants and blouse for women may fit the bill.

- Less is more. Distractions can derail an interview, and wearing too many accessories can be distracting to the interviewer and even candidates during the interview. Keep jewelry to a minimum and mute all alerts on a smartwatch and smartphone. If you have piercings, you may want to remove them until you learn more about which types of body art are acceptable at the company, which you should be able to discern when visiting the office. Distractions also can include heavy or drastic makeup and hair styles. Tone things down until you have a firm understanding of dress policies.

- Choose neutral colors. Wear neutral or classic colors over more flashy options. You want to be judged on your qualifications, and neon shirts or a busy print dress could cause an interviewer to lose focus. During a remote interview, choose a high-contrast interview outfit so that you don't blend in with your background.

- Wear clean, tidy clothes. No matter how formal or informal the attire, it should be freshly laundered, free from wrinkles or damage, and fit properly.

Interview attire can make or break first impressions, so attention should be placed on what to wear.



### Teaching the Next Generation

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# CAREER Education

## Come and see what great things are happening at St. Stanislaus School

This year the school's theme is "Many Gifts, One Spirit", which is our belief that every student has gifts to share with others towards the goal of making our world

a better place. Our school encourages our students to focus on a different Corporal Work of Mercy to help our greater community. Some of the outreach programs we

have participated in this year were: collection of canned goods for Lorraine's Soup Kitchen, for which our students collected 3,800 canned goods; and recently we

collected toiletries, diapers, and other personal items to support the wish lists of both The Gray House and Christina's House in Springfield. The Works of Mercy which have been covered are - Feeding the Hungry and Working for Peace.

Service projects are done throughout the year to help teach students the value of giving back.

The school will be holding an Open House on Sunday, Feb. 2 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. (no appointment needed). If you would like to schedule a private tour for another time, please call the school to schedule an appointment at (413) 592-5135.

St. Stanislaus School is a Roman Catholic, Franciscan, co-educational Pre-K through 8th grade school. Students are assisted in developing their potential spiritually, physically, and socially within a safe and diverse community. A foundation of academic excellence is created to prepare students to become contributing members of a global society. The school has a welcoming Franciscan environment, modern air-conditioned facility, strong core curriculum, enrichment classes, certified faculty, full-day preschool (PreK3 & 4) and Kindergarten, free breakfast and hot lunch, before & after school program, and one to one use and integration of iPads & Chromebooks into curriculum. Financial Aid is available. Interested students are invited to "spend a day with us". To learn more please visit [www.saintstansschool.org](http://www.saintstansschool.org). We can't wait to meet you!





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- Enrichment classes
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- Free breakfast and hot lunch
- Before & After school program
- One to one use and integration of iPads & Chromebooks into curriculum
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Call us for more information and to schedule a tour. We welcome the opportunity for you to experience St. Stanislaus School! Interested students are invited to "spend a day with us."



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for more information!



## Gateway Raises the Bar(r) for Students

The Gateway Regional School District is making significant advancements in student engagement and staff development, thanks to funding from the Barr Foundation and enthusiastic commitment from students and staff. These funds are being used to support a variety of initiatives that align with the district's instructional vision, emphasizing real-world learning, collaboration, and innovation.

At Gateway Regional, a comprehensive plan has been developed for grades 6-12 to help students prepare for life beyond high school. This plan includes tailored learning experiences for each grade level, such as team-building activities for sixth graders, community exploration in seventh grade, and visits to community colleges for eighth graders. Ninth-grade students will engage in career exploration workshops led by industry experts, while tenth graders will visit four-year colleges. Eleventh-grade students will attend a local college fair and participate in life skills workshops, and seniors will celebrate their achievements with a banquet and lead activities for younger students. While some of these initiatives will be piloted this year, others will launch in the next school year, ensuring students are equipped with knowledge and skills for future success. The high school offers two Chapter 74 programs for students interested in welding and early childhood education. Graduates of these programs will complete a full comprehensive internship and be equipped to enter the workforce with the skills obtained.


Littleville Elementary is incorporating the Barr Foundation funds into engaging, hands-on projects and school-wide events. For example, students in grades three through five recently attended the Hartford Wolf Pack School Learning Day, where they applied physical science concepts like force and motion to a live hockey game. Kindergarten students participated in a String Instrument Workshop led by members of the Springfield Orchestra, while all grade levels are eagerly anticipating an interactive "Author's Experience" with writer Daryl Cobb in March.

Plans are in the works to create a Schoolyard Habitat for Monarch butterflies and other pollinators. Littleville is also planning a mentoring program that will pair high school students with elementary students for long-term support. The school recently hosted a successful Holiday Craft Fair, showcasing student-made goods and fostering creativity.

At Chester Elementary, the focus is on sustainability, creativity, and environmental awareness. For the third year in a row, students are engaged with hydroponic agriculture, growing healthy food for their own school lunches and community. Students are participating in the Teaching with Trout program, where they raise brook trout from eggs to adulthood while learning about ecology and conservation. A composting initiative led by fifth graders is teaching students how to sort waste and reduce their environmental impact. The Student Media Club provides third graders with opportunities to develop and produce their own videos, promoting teamwork and innovation. Chester is also preparing for a school-wide production of Willy Wonka Jr., with fifth graders in lead roles and younger students in supporting roles. Additionally, an in-school field trip featured the Whalemobile, a life-sized inflatable whale that taught students about marine biology and conservation.


District-wide, the Barr Foundation funds are also being used to enhance staff development and collaboration. Teachers are participating in study tours to locations such as Kentucky, Maine, Providence, Boston, and New York City to explore innovative educational practices. An internal instructional vision board encourages staff members to share ideas for projects that utilize the funds to further educational transformation.

Through these initiatives, the Gateway Regional School District is fostering creativity, collaboration, and real-world learning for students while empowering educators with new ideas and strategies. These efforts are preparing students for success both in school and beyond while creating a culture of innovation and engagement throughout the district.




### GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT INVITES YOU TO JOIN US!

[WWW.GRSD.ORG](http://WWW.GRSD.ORG)



Nestled in the foothills of the Berkshires, Gateway Regional School District offers a caring and supportive small school environment. With support from the Barr Foundation, Gateway is engaging in transformative work to reinvent the school experience to make learning joyful for every student. Each GRSD school has a focus that aligns with the district's vision of emphasizing real-world learning, collaboration, and innovation.

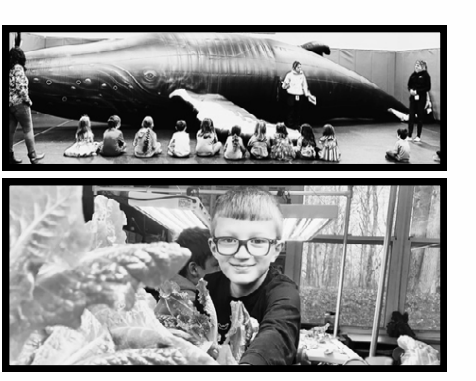


**Littleville Elementary School** incorporates engaging, hands-on projects and events:

- Hartford Wolf Pack School Learning Day
- Springfield Symphony Orchestra string instrument workshop
- Holiday Craft fair
- Interactive "Author's Experience" with writer Daryl Cobb.


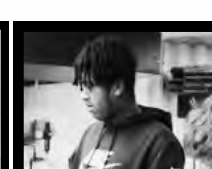


**Gateway Regional School's** (grades 6-12) pilot program will equip student for success after high school through:

- Fun team-building activities
- College tours
- Career exploration with experts
- Life-skills workshops
- Community projects



**Chester Elementary School** focuses on sustainability, creativity, and environmental awareness:

- Teaching with Trout (raising brook trout from eggs to adulthood)
- School-wide composting initiative
- Student Media Club
- School-wide production of Willy Wonka Jr.
- Visit from the Whalemobile

**WE ARE EXCITED TO MEET YOU!**



# CAREER Education

## Come and see what's new at St. Joan of Arc School

Physical Education Teacher Larry Moore and SJA students are enjoying a new basketball hoop funded by generous donations from our Annual Campaign.

A schoolyard basketball hoop is so important in creating not only a healthy environment, but helps with critical thinking, resilience, perseverance & teamwork.

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation recently awarded St. Joan of Arc School a \$500 grant to support its youth literacy program. A Book Club was formed for third and fourth grade students to encourage reading and literacy at a young age. This Book Club helps our students gain a deeper understanding of their reading, of other people through conversations, and provides an opportunity to safely fail and celebrate success. The club meets monthly to discuss the book, work on a fun activity, and share their findings.

The school will be holding an Open House on Saturday, Jan. 25 from 9 a.m. to noon (no appointment needed). Appointment only tours for families will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 28 and Thursday, Jan. 30 from 3 to 7 p.m. Please call Chris or Janine in the Business Office at 413-276-4608 for registration information or to make an appointment.

St. Joan of Arc School is a welcoming, safe & secure school community providing social, physical, spiritual & intellectual wellness for students in Pre-K 3 to Grade 8. SJA has innovative offerings that include affordable tuition and extended care, free breakfast and lunch, extracurricular programs, technology, music, library, and Duolingo language classes. Easy access to I391 & I90. Financial Aid and tuition assistance is available. To learn more visit [www.sjachicopee.org](http://www.sjachicopee.org).

We look forward to meeting you!

## HCC gearing up for spring semester

Registration is open for spring 2025 semester classes at Holyoke Community College.

The HCC spring 2025 semester begins Tuesday, Jan. 21, for full 15-week spring semester classes begin. HCC will also be running three accelerated spring flex start sessions: Flex Start I classes begin Jan. 21 and run for seven weeks. Flex Start II classes begin Monday, Feb. 3, and run for 12 weeks; Flex Start III classes begin Monday, March 24, and run for seven weeks.

Thanks to the state-funded MassEducate program, a community college education is now free for all Massachusetts residents who have yet to earn a bachelor's degree.

"MassEducate provides an exciting opportunity for eligible students to attend college without the concern or weight of how to pay for it," said Mark Hudgik, HCC dean of strategic recruitment initiatives, admissions, and financial aid. "There has never been a better time to enroll.

Eligible students who want to earn a certificate or degree need only to complete the standard HCC application, complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) for the 2024-2025 school year, and register for at least six credits (typically two classes).

"Our admissions counselors, academic advisers, and financial aid staff are available to make sure prospective students get all the assistance they need," said Hudgik.

Class schedules and information about MassEducate can be found on the HCC website: [hcc.edu](http://hcc.edu). Enroll today [hcc.edu/admissions](http://hcc.edu/admissions).

## A New Year a New Career

A new year is upon us and as we declare resolutions, a new job might be in order. The first 5 years of a child's life are so important and since 1965, HCS Head Start has helped thousands of children and families prepare for school and life. We know that it takes a big heart to help shape growing minds and if you want to work with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in your community, Head Start might be the place for you.

The Head Start approach offers both

families and their children, birth to five, an extraordinary school readiness experience. Educators who decide to teach in a comprehensive early learning setting have the opportunity to work collaboratively with other specialty areas like health, nutrition, mental health, and family and community engagement, that are designed to prepare vulnerable children for future educational success.

Data shows that when children are enrolled in a high-quality Head Start

program they are better prepared for kindergarten and beyond. Staff and parents work together, learning from one another, to create the best early educational experience both at home and at preschool. This is possible because when parents are involved and engaged in their child's education, children have better outcomes.

In addition to teaching, Head Start also has various career opportunities in the areas of health, nutrition, human services, administration, mental health, and

special education. Professional development opportunities and career ladders are built within the Head Start model to promote growth and advancement.

Holyoke Chicopee Springfield Head Start, Inc. offers programs in several cities and towns in Western Massachusetts working with over 1,000 children each year. If you are interested in a rewarding Head Start career please visit [www.hcsheadstart.org/employment/](http://www.hcsheadstart.org/employment/) or call 413-788-6522.

### St. Joan of Arc School ~ Pre-K to Grade 8

587 Grattan Street, Chicopee ~ 533-1475 ~ [sjachicopee.org](http://sjachicopee.org)

*Learning Rooted in Christian Values*

### OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, Jan 25th 9am-12 noon ~ No Appointment Needed  
Jan 28th & Jan 30th 3pm-7pm ~ By Appointment Only



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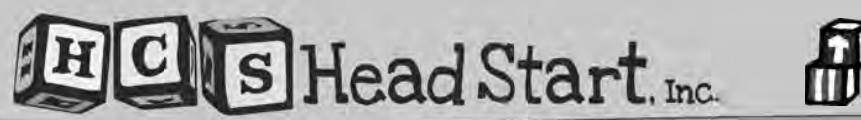
## HCS Head Start is Hiring

Help give a child a *Head Start* in school and in life

**BUILD**  
a WINDOW of  
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with HCS  
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START!**



Check out job postings at  
<https://hcsheadstart.org/employment/>



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413-283-8393

# Public notices

More public notices on page 16

## LEGAL NOTICE MONSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 131 §40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at 7:00 PM** in the Large Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main St. Under consideration is a **Notice of Intent** for redevelopment within Riverfront Area for building expansion and stormwater improvements and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **11:00 A.M. on Friday, February 14, 2025**, upon the premises described in said mortgage, namely 95 Upper Palmer Road, Monson, Hampden County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain tract of land lying on the Easterly side of the highway leading from Monson to Palmer known as Margaret Street, in the Town of Monson, Hampden County, Massachusetts, and bounded and described as follows:

## NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by John M. Arooth a/k/a John M. Arooth, Sr. to Monson Savings Bank, said mortgage being dated

April 25, 2019, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 22658, Page 118, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **11:00 A.M. on Friday, February 14, 2025**, upon the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

Beginning at a pipe set in the intersection of stone walls at the Northwest corner of land now or formerly of John S. Arooth et ux. and tract to be conveyed and at the Southwest corner of land now or formerly of one Rindge; thence running Along Margaret Street, and a stone retaining wall

South 18° 35' 20" West 150.03 feet to a drill hole in a rock; thence running

Along land of said John S. Arooth et ux., South 74° 26' 40" East 152.65 feet to a pipe; thence running

Along land of said John S. Arooth et ux., passing through the center of a large rock, North 18° 35' 20" East 150.03 feet to an iron pipe set in the stone wall at land now or formerly of said Rindge; thence running

Along land now or formerly of said Rindge and a stone wall, North 74° 26' 40" West 152.65 feet to the point of beginning.

Containing about 22,800 square feet.

Being the same property conveyed to John M. Arooth and Deborah Lynne Arooth, Husband and Wife, as tenants by the entirety, and not as tenants in common by Deed from John M. Arooth, Married recorded 01/07/1976 in Deed Book 4220 Page 358, in the Registry of Deeds Plan for Hampden County, MA.

Said premises will be sold subject to and/or with the benefit of any and all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, improvements,

covenants, outstanding tax title, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens, rights of parties in possession, and existing encumbrances of record created prior to the mortgage, if any there be, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the Deed.

No representations, express or implied, are made with respect to any matter concerning the premises which will be sold "as is". The successful high bidder will be responsible for paying the Massachusetts State Documentary Tax Stamps, all closing costs and all recording fees.

## TERMS OF SALE:

The highest bidder in the sale shall be required to deposit cash, bank treasurer's check or certified check in the amount of **TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00)** at the time and the place of the sale of the premises to qualify as a bidder (the present holder of the mortgage is exempt from this requirement) to be held by the Mortgagee. The successful bidder will also be

required to deposit an additional sum equal to ten percent (10%) of the amount bid less the \$10,000.00 deposit (but no less than \$10,000) with the Mortgagee's auctioneer, Aaron Posnik & Co., Inc., 31 Capital Drive, West Springfield, Massachusetts 01089 or the Mortgagee's attorney as may be directed within five (5) days of the date of the sale to be held by the Mortgagee, and the balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified or bank treasurer's check at the closing which shall occur within thirty (30) days after the date of foreclosure sale, time being of the essence, unless the Mortgagee agrees otherwise. The successful bidder at the sale shall be required to sign a Memorandum of Terms of Sale containing the above terms at the auction sale.

In the event that the successful bidder at the public auction shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Mortgagee's Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the public auction, the Mortgagee reserves the right, at its elec-

tion, to sell the property to the second highest bidder at the public auction provided that Mortgagee, in its discretion, may require (1) said second highest bidder to deposit the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within three (3) business days after written notice to the second highest bidder of the default of the previous highest bidder, (2) the second highest bidder to execute a Memorandum of Sale, and (3) the closing to occur within twenty (20) days of said written notice, time being of the essence unless the Mortgagee agrees otherwise. The Mortgagee reserves the right to sell any parcel or any portion thereof separately, or in any order that Mortgagee may choose and/or to postpone this sale to a later time or date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone any adjourned sale date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the time and place of the sale.

The description for the premises contained in said

mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

MONSON SAVINGS BANK,  
Present Holder of said Mortgage

By:  
David A. Lavenburg, Its Attorney BACON WILSON, P.C.  
33 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
413-781-0560  
01/16, 01/23, 01/30/2025

## Town of Palmer, Massachusetts ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for construction of the Maple Street and Maple Terrace Improvement Project for the Town of Palmer will be received at the Community Development Department office, Palmer Town Hall, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, Massachusetts, 01069, **until 1:00 p.m., prevailing time, on February 13, 2025** at which time said bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The Base Bid scope of work includes installation of 1,260 linear feet of 8-inch ductile iron water main, 1,520 linear feet of 12-inch HDPE drain pipe, 17 drainage structures, 340 linear feet of 8-inch PVC sanitary sewer, 7,750 square feet of concrete sidewalk, 2,300 linear feet of curbing, 3,820 square yards of road reconstruction, two duplex low pressure pumping stations, and other associated work.

The estimated project cost for the Base Bid is **\$1,600,000**.

This project is subject to Build America, Buy America (BABA) requirements. A memorandum documenting BABA compliance shall be provided within 30-days of the Notice to Proceed.

Bid Security in the form of a bid bond, cash, certified check, treasurer's or cashier's check payable to the Owner, is required in the amount of five percent of the bid, in accordance with Section 00 21 13, INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS.

The Instructions to Bidders, Form of General Bid, Agreement, Plans, Specifications, Performance and Payment Bond, and other Contract Documents may be examined at the following locations during normal business hours:

Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc., 712 Brook Street Suite 103, Rocky Hill, Ct 06067

Beginning January 15, 2025, Contract Documents may be viewed electronically at [www.biddocs.com](http://www.biddocs.com) and hard copies requested at Nashoba Blue, Inc., 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749 (978-568-1167). There is a refundable deposit of \$50.00 per set payable to BidDocs Online, Inc. Deposits may be electronically paid or must be a certified or cashier's check. Bidders requesting Contract Documents to be mailed to them shall include a separate check for \$40.00 per set for UPS Ground (or \$65.00 per set for UPS overnight), payable to the BidDocs Online, Inc., to cover mailing costs.

The award will be to the lowest, responsible, and eligible bidder. The selected contractor shall furnish a performance bond and a payment bond in an amount at least equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price as stipulated in Section 00 52 00, AGREEMENT, of these specifications.

Prevailing Wage Rates as determined by the Director of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development under the provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 149, Section 26 to 27H, as amended, or by the Davis Bacon Wage Rates, whichever hourly rate pays more, apply to this project. It is the responsibility of the Bidder, before bid opening, to request if necessary, any additional information on Minimum Wage Rates for those trades people who may be employed for the pro-

posed work under this contract.

Bidders on this project will be required to comply with all provisions of Executive Order No. 11246 (requirements for Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity), Massachusetts Wage Rates, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Anti-Kickback Act, the Contract Work Hours Standards Act, Section 3, regulations promulgated under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, and other applicable laws.

By submission of a bid, the Bidder agrees that this bid shall be good and may not be withdrawn for a period of 60 days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded after the opening of bids.

This project is subject to Title VI of Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, and Equal Employment Opportunity.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities in bids and to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if it is in the best interests of the Town.

TOWN OF PALMER,  
MASSACHUSETTS  
01/16/2025

## PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 11 M.G.L., the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, January 27, 2025, at 7:00 PM** in the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, Camp Ramah in New England, is seeking a Site Plan Approval as allowed under section 171.29 to construct a health center building for medical treatment of camp attendants on the property located at 39 Bennett Street, Palmer. This parcel is also known as Assessor's Map 36, Lot 70.

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

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

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

Michael Marciniac,  
Chairman  
01/09, 01/16/2025

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and  
Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758**

**Docket No. HD25C0007CA  
In the matter of:  
Kai Avery Louis Pierce  
CITATION ON PETITION  
TO CHANGE NAME**

A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by Kai Avery Louis Pierce of Bondsville, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Kai Avery Louis Lobdell**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/07/2025.**

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: January 09, 2025  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
01/16/2025



## The MacDuffie School more than just a school, a community

At The MacDuffie School, we believe education is more than academics—it's the foundation for a lifetime of achievement. Our vibrant community fosters creativity, leadership, and excellence while instilling respect and integrity in everything we do.

At MacDuffie, you're not just a student—you're part of a community that celebrates your individuality and supports your growth. Our small class sizes and dedicated teachers ensure you're seen, heard, and challenged to reach

your full potential. Here, students don't just prepare for college—they prepare for life.

Choosing the right school is a big decision. That's why we invite you to learn more about MacDuffie and how it can shape your future. Visit our website, schedule a tour, or attend our April 5th open house to see for yourself what makes us different.

Your journey starts here. Define your future at MacDuffie—apply today! [admissions@macduffie.org](mailto:admissions@macduffie.org)

## Join us at PVPA for an open house to see what we can offer your child

Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School (PVPA) has a 25+ year history of providing an excellent, arts-focused, college-prep education to students in Grades 7-12.

PVPA students thrive in a creative, challenging learning environment that offers them a broad exposure to the performing arts. Our students consistently show that incorporating the arts into education creates, not just better artists, but better students who are equipped to be active participants in their future.

With an extensive Course Catalog of over 65 Arts Classes across Music, Dance, Theatre, Visual Arts and Technical Theater, students have access to both introductory courses and audition level courses, with multiple performance opportunities, offered alongside their core academics.

Join PVPA for an Open House and see why we are consistently voted one of the Best Charter Schools in the Valley! Now accepting applications for the



2025/2026 school year for Grades 7-12 at [pvpa.org/admissions](http://pvpa.org/admissions).

### Explore Your Passions. Be a Leader. Choose MacDuffie.

## OPEN HOUSE

**Saturday, April 5, 2025 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

The MacDuffie School is a special place, and it all begins with our mission:  
*To foster in all students the intellectual habits of mind, high ethical standards, and respect for diversity required for becoming effective individuals in their personal and work lives, and moral and responsible participants in the world beyond.*

*There's no better way to get a feel for The MacDuffie School than spending time with us!*

Please register for our Open House at [www.macduffie.org](http://www.macduffie.org) or contact the Admissions Office at (413) 255-0000 to reserve your spot.

**Come Be A Part Of Our Community!**

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Granby, Massachusetts

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in Grades 6 through 12

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Grades 7-12  
Application Deadline Feb 23, 2025

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Instrumental and Vocal Music,  
Visual Arts, Technical Theater and Film

photo credit: Julian Parker-Burns

**Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School**  
[www.pvpa.org/admissions](http://www.pvpa.org/admissions)

Visit us to learn more!  
To register for Open House, and TO APPLY:  
[www.pvpa.org/admissions](http://www.pvpa.org/admissions) or  
QR Code below

**OPEN HOUSE**  
Weds, Jan 15 4-6pm  
Sat, Jan 25 & Feb 1 10am-12pm  
Tues, Feb 18 10am-12pm

15 Mulligan Drive, South Hadley, MA [www.pvpa.org/admissions](http://www.pvpa.org/admissions) 413.552.1580

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### SERVICES

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The Town of Blandford is seeking a qualified individual for the position of Highway Superintendent. Salary range starting at \$75,000-\$80,000+ negotiable based on experience/skills. Please visit our website [TownOfBlandford.com](http://TownOfBlandford.com) or email [Administrator@TownOfBlandford.com](mailto:Administrator@TownOfBlandford.com) for more information.

### HELP WANTED

### TOWN OF WILBRAHAM

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT BUILDING & CONSERVATION P/T EMERGENCY DISPATCHER

The Town of Wilbraham is looking to fill multiple vacancies.  
Application deadline 1/27/25.  
For application and more information please visit [www.wilbraham-ma.gov](http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov). EOE

### TOWN OF WILBRAHAM

### POLICE OFFICER

For application and more information please visit [www.wilbraham-ma.gov](http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov). Review of applications begins immediately. Open until filled. EOE

**WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH** is hiring a sexton three evenings. 7-10 hours per week, \$16 per hour. Additional compensation for hours needed for weddings and funerals. Please send resume to [admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)  
More information found at [www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/about-us-2/](http://www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/about-us-2/)

### REAL ESTATE

### FOR RENT



### EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

**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, or 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.

**GREEN STREET, PALMER** Newly renovated 1 bedroom apt. porch, off-street parking, coin-op laundry, \$1,500/ mo includes heat. No Pets. Call Tom 413-896-1555



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### 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 advertised 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.

Find archives of this local newspaper at [www.newspapers.turley.com](http://www.newspapers.turley.com)

# Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

## FULL TIME POLICE OFFICER

The Warren Police Department is accepting applications for the position of full time Police Officer. Applicants are preferred to be academy trained and must be willing to work weekends, nights and holidays.

Responsibilities include responding to emergency and non-emergency calls for Police, Fire and Ambulance services. It is preferred that applicants currently possess valid certification as a Police Officer. Candidates must have strong interpersonal, verbal, and written communication skills. Preferences include an associate degree or higher in criminal justice, serve in the US military, or experience as a Police Officer.

The Patrolmen's contract provides an education incentive and a candidate with prior experience may also be considered to start at a higher step rate of pay.

Resumes and cover letters must be returned no later than **Thursday, January 30th, 2025**, to the attention of Lt. Kyle Whitcomb, **WPD PO Box 606, Warren, MA 01083** or [Whitcomb@warren-ma.gov](mailto:Whitcomb@warren-ma.gov).  
*The Town of Warren is an EOE.*

# Job Connection

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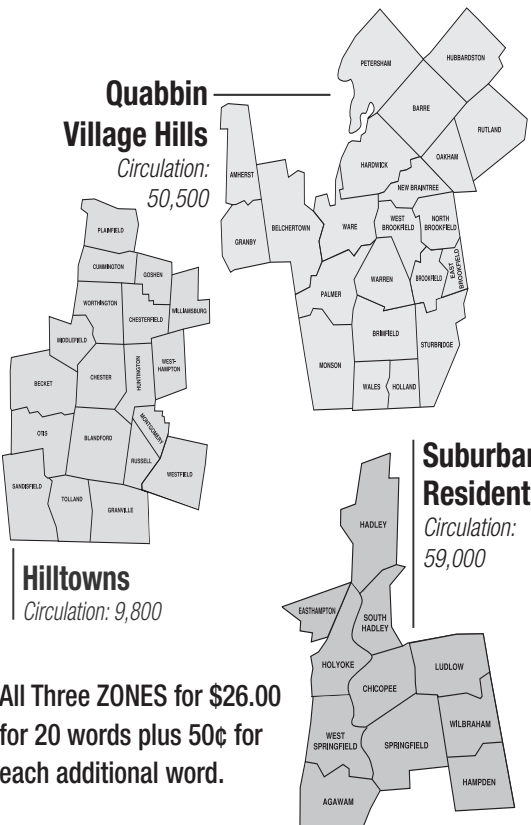
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33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

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: \_\_\_\_\_



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# Public notices

## Historical Society presents program about 1927 road trip

STURBRIDGE – On Thursday, Jan. 23, at 7 p.m. at the Publick House, the Sturbridge Historical Society is presenting a program by Sturbridge photographer Bob Arnold called “Road Trip 1927 - 18,000 miles in a Model T Ford.”

Almost a century ago, in 1927, Carey and Maud Melville, Arnold’s grandparents, made an epic, eight-month-long, 18,000-mile road trip with their three children.

Packing everyone into a Ford Model T Touring Car named Hubhub with attached trailer, the Melvilles left their Worcester home in January, with the objective of traveling the entire periphery of the United States and, as Mrs. Melville noted in one of her many journals, “...finding out-of-the-way places and experiencing the natural wonders the country had to offer.”

The issues these travelers encountered stand in sharp contrast to what we find when we set out on a road trip today. Many roads were unpaved and unnamed, often little more than trails that were muddy in the rain and dusty the rest of the time.

The business of providing travel and roadside amenities from gas to food was in its infancy, often with op-

tions few and far between.

Carey Melville had taken a sabbatical from his teaching position at Clark University, which provided the time for the road trip. He was an accomplished amateur photographer and more than a hundred of his photographs from the trip will be featured in the program, illustrating both the joys and the trials of cross country travel in 1927.

Arnold is a freelance photographer, amateur historian and avid collector of all things Sturbridge. In addition to serving clients throughout New England, Bob has been documenting life in the community since he and his family moved here in 1970.

His work over the past 50 plus years has yielded a unique perspective on the commercial, cultural, and environmental changes in the community and his ongoing program of digital preservation of documents and photographic images assures that future generations will have access to the visual record of our past.

Arnold lives in town with his wife, Susan, their dog, Jesse and thousands of images.

The program begins at 7 p.m. and is generously hosted by the Publick House.

### NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 65 Laurel Road, Palmer, MA 01069

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Scott K Logsdon and Lynn A Logsdon to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Countrywide Home Loans, Inc., and now held by U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust, said mortgage dated April 12, 2005 and filed in the Hampden County Registry District of the Land Court as Document No.: 162133 and noted on Certificate of Title No.: 24904, as affected by a Loan Modification dated February 18, 2015 and filed as Document No.: 203346 and noted on Certificate of Title No.: 24904; said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to Bank of America, N.A. successor by merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing LP f/k/a Countrywide Home Loans Servicing LP by assignment dated August 3, 2011 and filed with Hampden County Registry District of the Land Court as Document No.: 188896 and noted on Certificate of Title No.: 24904; said mortgage was assigned from Bank of America, N.A. to Green Tree Servicing LLC by assignment dated June 6, 2013 and filed with Hampden County Registry District of the Land Court as Document No.: 198599 and noted on Certificate of Title No.: 24904; said mortgage was assigned from Ditech Financial LLC f/k/a Green Tree Servicing LLC to DLJ Mortgage Capital, Inc. by assignment dated February 8, 2019 and filed with Hampden County Registry District of the Land Court as Document No.: 217304 and noted on Certificate of Title No.: 24904; said mortgage was assigned from DLJ Mortgage Capital, Inc. to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust by assignment dated August 20, 2024 and filed with Hampden County Registry District of the Land Court as Document No.: 237525 and noted on Certificate of Title No.: 24904; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on February 13, 2025 at 01:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

two hundred one and 48/100 (201.48) feet; Southeasterly by other land now or Estates Development Corporation sixty-nine and 58/100 (69.58) feet; and Westerly again by land now or formerly of Estates Development Corporation two hundred (200) feet.

Said land is shown as lot 39 on plan hereinafter mentioned. All of said boundaries are determined by the court to be located as shown upon subdivision plan numbered 30086-D, the same being compiled from a plan drawn by Durkee, White, Towne and Chapdelaine, Surveyors, dated May 15, 1964, and additional data on file in the Land Registration Office, all as modified and approved by the Court, a copy of a portion of which is filed with Certificate of Title No. 11942.

Together with the right to use the ways as laid out on the aforementioned plan in common with others lawfully entitled thereto for all purposes for which public streets are commonly used.

Also another parcel of land situated in said Palmer bounded and described as follows:

Northerly by the curved line forming the junction of Laurel Road and Juniper Drive fifteen and 00/100 (15.) feet;

Easterly by Lot 95 as shown on plan hereinafter mentioned one hundred seventy-five and 70/100 (175.70) feet;

Southerly by land now or formerly of Tempo Development Corp., fifteen and 10/100 (15.10) feet; and

Westerly by Lot 39 as shown on Plan No. 30086-D, Sheet 2, filed with Ctf. No. 11942, one hundred seventy-eight and 08/100 (178.08) feet.

Said land is shown as Lot 94 on plan hereinafter mentioned. All of said boundaries are determined by the court to be located as shown upon subdivision plan No. 30086-G, drawn by Albert E. Nichols & Assoc., Inc. Surveyors, dated April 1969, and additional data on file in the Land Registration Office, all as modified and approved by the Court, a copy of a portion of which is filed with Certificate of Title No. 14656.

See Certificate of Title No. 17016, Document No. 51437 for title reference.

Also, that certain parcel of land situate in Palmer, in the County of Hampden and said Commonwealth, bounded and described as follows:

Northwesterly by Laurel Road, twenty (20) feet;

Northeasterly by Lot 39, Plan No. 30086-D sheet 2 Cert. No. 11942, two hundred (200) feet;

Northwesterly by said Lot 39, sixty-nine and 58/100 (69.58);

Northeasterly by Lot 121, as shown on said hereinafter plan, two hundred thirty-five and 86/100 (235.86) feet;

Southerly by Lot 124, as shown on said hereinafter mentioned plan, eighty (80) feet; and

Southwesterly by Lot 123, as shown on said hereinafter mentioned plan, one hundred

eighty-four and 81/100 (184.81) feet and continuing along Lot 40 shown on plan No. 30086-D sheet 2 Cert. No. 11942, two hundred (200) feet.

Said land is shown as Lot 122 on said hereinafter mentioned plan.

All of said boundaries are determined by the court to be located as shown upon subdivision plan numbered 30086-N drawn by Kenneth C. Sherman, Surveyor, dated February 14, 1983, as modified and approved by the court, filed in the Land Registration Office, a copy of a portion of which is filed with certificate or Title No. 21144.

So much of said Lots 4 and 2 as is included within the area marked ‘Worcester County Electric Company’ Easement’ fifty (50) feet wide, approximately shown on said plan, is subject to easements as set forth in two grants made by Timothy F. Sweetman et ux to the Worcester County Electric Company, one dated July 25, 1952, duly recorded in Book 2191, Page 197, and the other dated September 4, 1952, duly recorded in Book 2198, Page 167.

A portion of said Lots 4, 5 and 6 as shown on said plan is subject to an easement of undetermined width as set forth in a grant made by Benjamin B. Green et al to American Telephone and Telegraph Company of Massachusetts, dated May 22, 1928, and duly recorded in Book 1411, Page 79, the center line of which is located as shown on said plan.

See Certificate or Title No. 21160, Document No. 68778 for title reference.

Being the same property as conveyed to Scott K. Logsdon and Lynn A. Logsdon by deed from Daniel J. Podgurski, JR aka Daniel J. Podgurski and Debra A. Podgurski aka Debra Ann Podgurski by deed date 10/18/1990 and recorded with instrument number 094259 in Hampden County Records.

Current Certificate of Title is 24904.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagee's Title see deed dated October 18, 1990 and registered with the Hampden County Registry District of the Land Court as Document No.: 94259 and noted on Certificate of Title No.: 24904.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale. Brock & Scott, PLLC

23 Messenger Street 2nd Floor Plainville, MA 02762 Attorney for U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701 01/16, 01/23, 01/30/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD24P2674EA Estate of: Carol A Mastalerz Date of Death: 07/08/2024 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

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

The Petitioner requests that: Linda Satkowski of Surprise, AZ be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/28/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court. Date: December 31, 2024 Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 01/16/2025

The Town of Palmer NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NATIONAL GRID/VERIZON JANUARY 28, 2025 11:30 A.M.

In accordance with the provisions of Sections 22 Chapter 16 of the Massachusetts General Laws, you are hereby notified that a public hearing will be held at the Palmer Town Administration Building 4417 Main St. Palmer, MA on the 28th of January, 2025 at 11:30 A.M. on the petition of National Grid/Verizon-Thompson Street-National Grid proposes to install 1 JO pole approximately 2040 feet Northwest of the centerline of the intersection of Beaugard Drive and Thompson Street, Palmer, MA. Also, for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes. Brad Brothers, Town Manager 01/16/2025

The Town of Monson Zoning Board of Appeals LEGAL NOTICE In accordance with the Monson Zoning Bylaws, the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing Thursday January 23, 2025, at 7:00 P.M. at the Monson Town Hall 110 Main St. Monson, MA 01057, on the application of Sunset View Farm Camping Area, Inc for a Preliminary Plan Review as provided by Section 6.11.2.4 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The applicant seeks a Preliminary Plan review to establish a new commercial recreation development located at 57 Town Farm Road, Map 148 and Parcel 001A, Map 148 and Parcel 005, Map 148 and Parcel 007A. The property is zoned Commercial Recreation. A copy of the application is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, the Zoning Board of Appeals Office, and is available for viewing during regular office hours. Ronald Fussell, Chairman 01/09, 01/16/2025

More public notices on page 14

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.


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