**COMMUNITY****Pet of the week:
meet Pudge**

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**SPORTS****Pioneers continue
to impress**

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**BUSINESS****New in town
Riverbend Laundry**

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The Journal Register

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SELECT BOARD

Resident files open meeting law complaint

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – A resident has filed a complaint against the Select Board for violating the Open Meeting Law. The matter was brought up at last week's Select Board meeting.

Open Meeting Law Complaint
The final item on the agenda was for the board to review, consider, and vote on a complaint against the board.

The complaint came from Roxanne Gunther, a resident who alleged that the board was violating Open Meeting Laws. The complaint alleged that, in its Dec. 10 meeting, the board did not list every license eligible for annual renewal on the agenda, and that this is a possible violation.

The four-page list is on file with the Town Clerk. Select Board Member Pat Oney read from a draft sent to the board from Town Counsel Ryan Clemens and Kate Federov.

"Adding this list to the agenda was impractical, and so the board kept the list on file at the Town Clerk's office, consistent with the DOG's guidance," Oney read. "A reasonable member of the public could not only read New Business Item #6 and understand that the board would discuss Annual License Renewals, that reasonable member of the public could also understand that the full list was available at the Town Clerk's office."

"The notice therefore provided a sufficiently specific and practical list of topics that was reasonably anticipated to be discussed at the board's meeting," Oney read.

Counsel concluded that the board did not violate Open Meeting Law, and the board respectfully requested that the matter be resolved without further action.

Committee Appointment
The Jan. 14 meeting began with the appointment of Rebecca Morse to the Tax Assistance Committee.

"Right now there are four members of the of the Tax Assistance Committee, and under the statute there are five members that can be on it," said Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz. "There is one opening, and the other positions are resident-filled and Rebecca is a resident of the town, and she also does work in the Collector's Office."

After thanking Morse for volunteering, the board voted unanimously to appoint her to the position.

Regional Animal Shelter
Wolowicz also provided an update about the Regional Animal Shelter.

"In December, I received an update from the Director of Health who oversees the operation, and she was providing some providing some updates on current projects that they're working on," Wolowicz said.

The shelter has completed testing for asbestos and lead, which

SELECT BOARD | page 3



Bill Midwood (center) gestures as he talks about the importance of supporting our nation's veterans.

COMING SOON
NEW LOOK
Same Local News.
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Turkey photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Appreciation Dinner for veterans

*Held at AMVETS Post 74 in Three Rivers***By Ryan Drago**
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

PALMER – An appreciation dinner for veterans was held at the AMVETS Post 74 in Three Rivers this past weekend.

The dinner was organized and put together by We the People Cornhole offers friendly competition

Over 150 guests preregistered and over 175 meals were made. The dinner featured steak

APPRECIATION | page 5



Veterans and civilians alike sat together to enjoy the festivities, (from left) Dave Prescott, George Robichaud, John Kivior, John Dzedzic of the U.S. Air Force, and Dave Coderre.

COMMUNITY

St. Stan's offering indoor concerts

By Marcelo Gusmão
Editor
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – The St. Stanislaus Polish Lyceum held a Holiday Hangover celebration with live music this past weekend.

"We know the post holiday season can leave you feeling like you've got the blues," read the online announcement, "so come out and have a fun night with us."

Residents and music-lovers gathered at the St. Stan's on Friday, Jan. 17, for a live performance by Brookfield Rhythm, a local cover band that performed various classic rock hits throughout the evening.

"We've been having shows here since the parks closed," said

Sara Labier, a club member and bar manager at St. Stanislaus.

Throughout the fall, St. Stan's would have as many as two concerts a month, dropping to one per month through the winter. Labier said the park expects to hold one more concert in April before park season opens up in May.

"We're looking for stuff that can become a staple around here, not just to drive business for us, but for the local businesses," said Club President Josh Hoy. "When people come into town, they have to stop at a gas station, or grab something to eat if they haven't eaten here or we're not serving food."

During park season, the

ST. STANS | page 3

EDUCATION

PHS students awarded Adams Scholarship

By Marcelo Gusmão
Editor
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – The Jan. 15 School Committee meeting saw the presentation of the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship to 19 students, as well as a heartfelt thank you to the district from the parent of a recent graduate.

"I am so excited to be presenting 19 students the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship," said High

PHS | page 3



Submitted photo

Some of the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship winners that were recognized earlier this month.

PALMER

Tax increase for FY 2025

*Town Manager shares how to understand your Tax Bill***By Marcelo Gusmão**
Editor
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – When residents were surprised to see their taxes increase this year, the Town Manager reached out to share how the town sets its tax rate.

Valuations in town have continued to significantly increase, which Town Manager Brad Brothers said is a common theme throughout the Commonwealth.

Brothers reported that the average home value in town went from \$183,814 in fiscal year 2020, when the average tax bill was \$3,901, to \$296,062 in fiscal year 2025 with an average tax bill of \$4,879.

"This often causes confusion, as the increased value leads to a lower tax rate but not a lower bill, as many may assume," Brothers said.

"Our municipal budget, which includes the schools, general government, insurance, etc., relies on the town levy, the amount raised from property taxes, to fund our annual budget in addition to state aid and local receipts," Brothers explained. "If the town were to lower the levy amount raised by dropping the rate, we would have to have significant staffing reductions."

To help residents better understand the many moving parts to property tax assessments, Proposition 2.5 and general municipal finance, the town has posted multiple links for information on its website under the Assessors page,

TAXES | page 2

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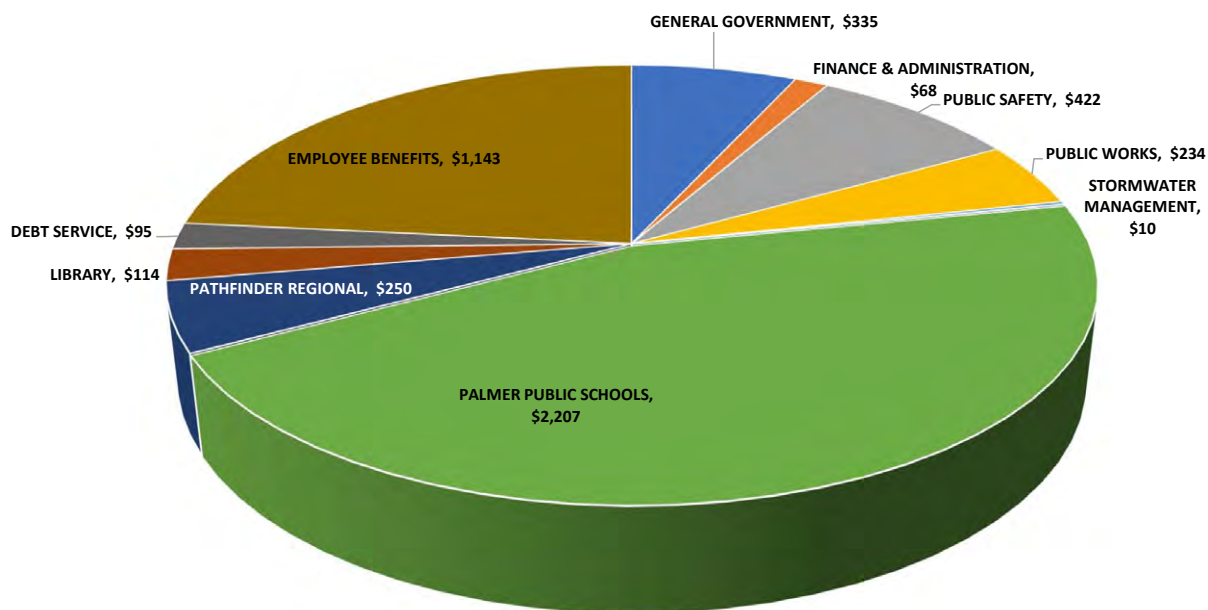


PUDGE

This is Pudge, who lives with his family on Fairfield Drive in Palmer. Pudge is a one-year-old Mini-Dachshund with lots of love and energy. 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.

WHERE DO YOUR TAX DOLLARS GO?

Tax Rate = \$16.48 per \$1,000 of AV
Assessed Value of Average Home = \$296,062
Average Residential Tax Bill = \$4,879



TAXES | from page 1

in addition to the town's Facebook account.

The abatement process is available to anyone who wishes to have their home assessment reviewed. Abatement applications for the Fiscal Year are accepted until the due date of the first actual tax payment for the fiscal year, which is Feb. 2

for FY25.

"Assessors are required by the state general laws to assess all real and personal property at its fair cash value, the price a willing buyer and a willing seller would settle upon in an open market transaction, as of Jan. 1 each year," Brothers said. "The general rule of thumb should be to file an abatement application

if you feel your home would sell below its assessed value."

To see the information, you can visit TownOfPalmer.com/Assessor and click on the "Understanding Your Bill" link.

If you have any further questions, you can contact the Town Manager's office at 413-283-2645.

Celebrate Valentine's Day and National Heart Month by Donating Blood

PALMER —The community is invited to celebrate Valentine's Day and National Heart Month by giving the gift of life by donating blood at the Baystate Health blood drive held on Wednesday, Feb. 12, at Baystate Wing Hospital from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Additionally, blood drives will be held every other month on Wednesday throughout the year in 2025, on April 16, June 11, August 13, October 15, and December 17.

"There continues to be an urgent need for blood! When you donate blood to Baystate Health, your precious gift remains in our local communities," said Nicole VanZandt, MLT III, Supervisor, BRL Blood Donor Services. "Please help us to ensure a safe and adequate blood supply is available by donating blood with the Baystate Health Blood Donor Program.

"There is no substitute for human blood," said VanZandt. "Blood donations take approximately one hour to complete, including the interview, donation, and refreshments. To donate blood, you must be at least 17 years old; weigh at least 110 pounds, have a photo ID; be in good health (no colds, or sore throat); and have not donated blood within the past eight weeks."

Blood drives will be held at Baystate Wing Hospital, 40 Wright Street, Palmer, in Snow Conference Room C. In appreciation, all eligible donors will receive a \$10 gift card. For more information or to book an appointment to donate blood, please call the Blood Donor Center at 413-794-4600. Please be sure to note the Baystate Health hospital location where you would like to make your donation when you make your appointment.

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.

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 or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.

Free Girl Scout event in Palmer

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 Angiee at Arodriguez@gscwm.org or call 413-584-2602 x4028.

St. Paul's present illusions and humor

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.

Artists needed for Women's History Month

REGION—All submissions must be submitted by Feb. 7. Wistariahurst Museum is seeking artist submissions for the Third Annual Women's History Month juried art showcase for the month of March.

This year, the theme is Love, in all forms. Love, in all forms, aims for artists to consider how love impacts lives. Love can be painful, a process, joyful, romantic, platonic, a feeling, an object, a memory; love, in all its forms, is beautiful.

Any medium for submission is encouraged. Submissions are open to anyone who identifies as a woman and non-binary artists of any age.

Submissions should include 3 to 4 quality images with information (title, date, medium, and size), an artist statement (approximately 300 words about your art and its relationship to the theme), and an artist bio (approximately 150 words about you as an artist) in one PDF.

Wistariahurst is an artist-friendly space that encourages creativity and supports the growth of this region's artists. All questions are welcome and encouraged.

Five artists will be selected and awarded a \$100 stipend. Submissions are due Feb. 7, please send them to info@wistariahurst.org.

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Relay for Life looking for participants

BELCHERTOWN—Quaboag Valley Relay for Life is looking for more teams to join our Relay on May 31 on the Belchertown Common from 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Everyone has been affected by cancer so now is the time to form a few friends and family so you can fundraise and spread awareness of this dreaded disease.

You do not have to have a large team or lots of money collected.

A few new teams getting in some donations is a big help to the American Cancer Society.

After we are done doing all our fundraising, the Relay is a way to unwind and celebrate our accomplishments.

The teams can be in honor or in memory of a loved one or friend. Any questions please feel free to email ctellie@juno.com

A Kick-Off event will be held on Feb. 23 at Hope Church on Main Street in Belchertown from 1 to 3 p.m. This is an informative and fun event. Come and learn what Relay is all about.

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

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

Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.

Corrections

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

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Appreciation Dinner for veterans



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago
The crew of We the People Cornhole made over 150 meals for veterans during an appreciation dinner at AMVETS Post 74. The entire crew all together in the AMVETS kitchen.



A basket raffle took place at the dinner, with dozens of prizes generously donated.



The appreciation dinner had a successful turnout as guests honored their veterans and active military members at AMVETS Post 74 in Three Rivers.



The crew was busy prepping the steak tip dinners for all the veterans and guests at the appreciation dinner.



Karyann oversaw checking people in as We the People Cornhole served over 175 meals.



All the veterans stood up and received a round of applause from the gallery during the appreciation dinner.

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 6

APPRECIATION | from page 1

tips, roasted potatoes, green beans, salad and a dinner roll. For dessert there were cupcakes and apple crisp.

This was the first dinner being hosted by We the People Cornhole and it had a sensational turnout. What started off as a plan to buy drinks for veterans began to blossom into the idea of offering a delicious meal.

We the People are planning to offer a quarterly event, including a BBQ in the spring.

We the People Cornhole run cornhole every Wednesday at the AMVETS and every other Friday. The non-profit receives a lot of donations from that activity and its nothing but friendly competition taking place in honor of our veterans.

In addition to the steak tip dinner, the event also featured a 50/50 raffle and a basket raffle. Amanda Meli of Amanda Meli music attended the dinner and provided the music for the occasion.

Many of the prizes that were part of the basket raffle were generously donated by local businesses, supporters and the sponsors of the event.

Braden Peyman and Chris Santaniello are the co-presidents of We the People Cornhole and are proud to offer this dinner for the veterans and active military members. Santaniello was happy to see a great turnout for this dinner and it expressed a lot of "overwhelming love and support."

Peyman said, "seeing all these people together is unimaginable" and he hopes to see more people at the next dinner.

Cassie Peyman of We the People Cornhole was grateful to see a great turnout for the first dinner they ever hosted. In their eyes, the amount of support from the community has been nothing but positive.

"It's nice to see the veterans arrive and being honored," she said.

Sponsors for the event include Timothy and Cynthia Dugas, owners of the Clam Box and Howard's Drive In; Canna Retreat Dispensary; B'Leaf Wellness Centre; A Eagle Gutters; and Amanda Meli Music.

Veteran Ron LaBarre of Palmer attended the appreciation dinner and expressed his gratitude for the dinner and for the veteran support bags that were put together by J Stolar Insurance Agency, Inc and various businesses and donors. LaBarre grabbed two support bags for his two friends who are also veterans.

LaBarre is also a member of the AMVETS Post and said he "appreciates this event very much."

Members of We the People Cornhole worked hard to put the meals together and made about 200 meals. The Peymans along with Santaniello mentioned they served over 175 meals in an hour.

Braden Peyman went up to the stage in the dining hall for an announcement and began by expressing We the People Cornhole's gratitude for all the support they got in making this dinner a success.

Peyman also thanked the AMVETS for giving them the space to host the appreciation dinner. His speech then expressed the gratitude the community has for all the veterans who have served and continue to serve our country.

Peyman's speech would end by asking all the veterans in attendance to stand proudly as the whole venue gave them a round of applause. After dinner, the winners of the 50/50 raffle and basket raffles were announced.

Amanda Meli of Amanda Meli Music was in charge of providing patriotic music during the steak tip dinner that veterans got to enjoy this past weekend.



Chris Santaniello (left) and Braden and Cassie Peyman arranged the Veterans Appreciation Dinner this weekend.



Volunteers (from left) Karyann Peyman, Jenisa Breeland, and Kimber Peyman helped to run this weekend's appreciation dinner.



The banquet hall at AMVETS Post 74 was full as many veterans enjoyed a free meal and guests came to enjoy the meal and honor them for their service.



The diners listened to the acknowledgments from We the People Cornhole for the sponsors that made the evening possible.

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Appreciation Dinner for veterans



Friends dined together to support the troops, (from left) Paul Santaniello, Ian McLean, Ryan Gamache, and John Weinle.



Keith Karrmann, Jr. sat with Keith Karrmann, Sr. to enjoy the dinner at the AmVets Post in Three Rivers.



Chris Santaniello won a sweatshirt in the raffle provided by We the People Cornhole.



Turkey photos by Marcelo Gusmão
We the People Cornhole coordinated the appreciation dinner and raffle for the community's veterans.



Sitting in front of the American flag, (from left) Linda and Ron Paul and Dave Coty.



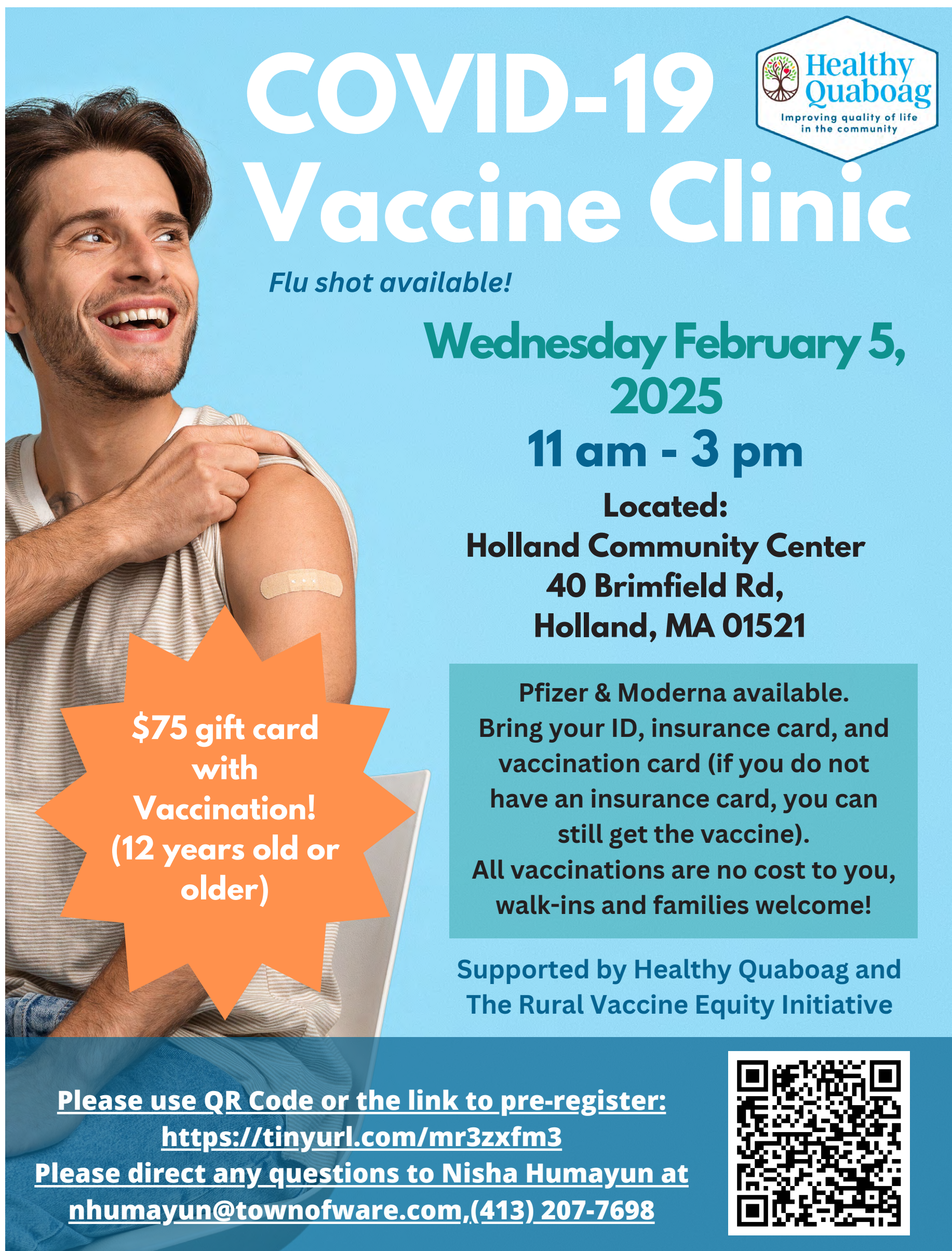
Veterans were asked to stand during the ceremony's acknowledgments.



Councillor Mark Caci (left) and volunteer Jenisa Bree-land checked out the table with the raffle prizes.



Bill Midwood spoke for a few minutes about the importance of honoring veterans.



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Please direct any questions to Nisha Humayun at nhumayun@townofware.com, (413) 207-7698

BUSINESS

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

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

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

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BASKETBALL



Cali Zielinski rushes down the court.



Olivia Chrzan takes a shot under pressure.

Despite late run, Mustangs fall to Comp



Lylia Ellis looks for an open teammate.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Olivia Chrzan shoots over the defense.

MONSON – Last Wednesday night, Chicopee Comprehensive girls basketball defeated host Monson 65-46. Monson had a tough time getting the offense going while Comp was consistent throughout the entire game. Monson charged back with a 25-point run in the fourth quarter, but the deficit was much too great to overcome. Comp was led by Taryn Cariveau with 23 points. Sheyenne Santiago had 10 points. Comp is 7-3 this season. Monson was led by Olivia Chrzan, who led all scorers with 28 points. Cali Zielinski had nine points, all on treys, for the Mustangs. Monson is 3-6 this season.

Pioneers suffer road loss at Ludlow

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW— Because his basketball team has had the tendency to get off to a slow start this season, Ludlow boys' varsity coach C.W. Zimmer held a shoot-around prior to last Friday night's game against Pathfinder Tech.

The strategy didn't end up working out very well as Ludlow trailed by as many as six points in the first quarter.

However, the Lions outscored the Pioneers, 49-18, during the final three quarters of the Tri-County crossover game leading to a 58-30 victory before a large crowd at Mullins Gymnasium.

"We held a shootaround for the first time this season hoping that we would get off to a faster start in the first quarter," Zimmer said. "Once again, we fell behind early in the game, but we were able to make a comeback this time. We made a few 3-pointers and played very well defensively."

Overall, the Lions made a total of eleven 3-pointers in their second home victory of the regular season.

Ludlow junior co-captain Jackson Mateus made a total of six 3-pointers leading to his game-high 23 points. Junior Cameron Lyman added three 3-pointers in the second quarter for his nine points.

"We knew that Ludlow had a couple of very good shooters, but our game plan was to stop their fastbreak offense," said first-year Pathfinder head coach Ethan Ortyl. "They did hit some 3-pointers, and we tried to adjust our defense."

A year ago, the Pioneers (1-8) celebrated a 70-48 home win against the Lions.

Zimmer certainly didn't want to see a repeat performance in this year's meeting between the two squads, especially since it was



Brody Wetnicka makes his way down the court.



Grayson Griswold tries to maneuver around his opponent.

Ludlow's fourth annual Youth Basketball Appreciation Night.

A large group of youth basketball players cheered on the Lions players from the bleachers behind the home bench.

"The youth basketball players were very energetic, and they really helped us win tonight's game," Zimmer said. "I hope they



Dustyn Cook takes a free throw.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

had a great time watching us play. We're hoping they would like to become a part of our basketball program in a few years when they get to high school. There are 180 kids playing basketball in the youth program this year, which is the most that we've ever had. We're very excited and we want to see that program keep growing."

The 18-point victory evened Ludlow's overall record at 5-5. Because they're not currently ranked in the top 32 in the MIAA power rankings, the Lions will need to win at least five more games this season to qualify for the Division 3 state tournament.

Mateus is the only remaining

PIONEERS | page 8

PATHFINDER



Taylor Allen is pressured near the arc.

Pioneers continue to impress with 8-1 record

PALMER – Last week, Pathfinder girls basketball scored two more wins and are now 8-1 on the season. Last Monday night, the Pioneers defeated Sci-Tech 49-38. Greenly Lagimoniere had 14 points to lead the team. She was followed by Taylor Allen with 13 points, and Megan Clark with 11 points. The Pioneers would then defeat Westfield Tech 50-17 last Thursday. Coming up, the Pioneers will face Smith Academy Jan. 23 at 6 p.m.



Ciara Green sends a pass toward the corner.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Addison Doktor tries to keep the ball from going out of bounds.



Megan Clark takes the long jump shot.

PALMER BOYS



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Dylan Doherty looks for an open teammate.



Matt Santos contemplates his next move after receiving a pass.

Panthers suffer loss at home to Granby

PALMER – Last Tuesday evening, Granby boys basketball jumped out to a lead and was able to hold onto it as they defeated Palmer 52-33 for its ninth win of the season. Granby is now qualified for the Division 5 state tournament. Gavier Fernandez had a big game with 16 points while

Cody White turned in 10 for the Rams, who are now 9-2. Palmer was led by Stephen Fredette, who scored 11 points for the Panthers. Palmer is 5-4 so far this season.

Stephen Fredette receives a pass from outside the arc.



Gavin Smola sends a pass away.



Jordan Jones goes for the long three-point attempt.



DEATH NOTICES

Jane Anne (Yakum) Auby
Died Jan. 18, 2025
Services Jan. 22, 2025
Beers & Story Funeral Home

Edward W. Kumpulanian
Died Jan. 19, 2025
Services Jan. 27, 2025
Beers & Story Funeral Home

Kathleen M. O'Dell
Died Jan. 3, 2025
No services

Diane St. Amand
Services Jan. 24, 2025
Kapinos-Mazur Funeral Home

O B I T U A R I E S

Jane Anne (Yakum) Auby

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Jane Anne (Yakum) Auby at the age of 81, who departed this life on Jan. 18, 2025, in Palmer, Massachusetts. Born on Oct. 6, 1943, in Putnam, Connecticut, Jane was the beloved daughter of the late Peter and Sophia (Kuzniar) Yakum.

Throughout her life, Jane was a remarkable woman of grace, kindness and compassion, known for her entrepreneurial spirit and artistic flair. She brought beauty and charm through her antique shop in Springfield where she lovingly sold jewelry pieces. She also enjoyed moving the business to the internet with eBay. Alongside her husband, Thomas G. "Tom" Auby, she also operated the popular establishment Hungry Hound.

Jane was a dedicated and active communicant of St. Thomas Church in Palmer, where her nurturing presence and unwavering faith were felt by all who knew her. Jane was an avid poker player and loved spending time with her poker family. She enjoyed feeding and watching the birds in her yard. She also loved her cat "John".

She was predeceased by her parents, and her cherished son, Thomas "TJ" Auby, and leaves behind her loving husband, Thomas G. "Tom" Auby of Palmer. Jane is also survived by her devoted daughters; Kathy Piscitelli (Lance) of Florida, and Karen Scheurer (James) of W. Brookfield and Lianne Aze-



vedo (Gary Pieffer) of Ludlow. She also leaves 17 precious grandchildren, 1 step grandson and 34 great grandchildren. She loved family above all.

To honor Jane's life, calling hours will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 22 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home. A Funeral Mass will be held on Thursday at 11 a.m. at St. Thomas Church. Please meet directly at the church. Her burial will be private and at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to (Pre-born, www.preborn.com).

Edward W. Kumpulanian, 86,

BELCHERTOWN—Edward W. Kumpulanian, 86, passed away Jan. 19, 2025. Edward was born on April 15, 1938 in Fitchburg, MA to the late John and Hilda (Legere) Kumpulanian. He was raised in Palmer and graduated from Palmer High School. Edward worked at Diamond International as a Production Supervisor from 1956-1986 and served on the Board of Directors. He went on to work as a facilities manager and purchasing agent at Ludlow Savings before retiring in 1991.

Edward also dedicated his time as an umpire for Palmer Little League baseball and coached the Palmer Cowboys

football team. After relocating to Belchertown in 2004 from Three Rivers, Edward served on the Board of Directors and as President at Pine Valley Plantation Co-op and was active at the Belchertown Senior Center for many years.

Besides his parents, Edward was preceded in death by his beloved wife Jewel (Albert) Kumpulanian in 2013, and their son Derek Kumpulanian in 2015. He will be dearly missed by his children, Scott Kumpulanian and wife Charlene, Kevin Kumpulanian and wife Pam, Laurie DeMaio and husband David, and daughter-in-law Kerry

Kumpulanian. He also leaves his eight grandchildren, Justin and wife Laura, Amber and husband Kyle, Sarah, James, Matthew, Jesse and wife Elizabeth, Michael and wife Kate, and Danielle, and eight great-grandchildren, Edward, Lukka, Andrew, Adam, Everly, John, Llewyn and Matilda.

Visitation will be held on Monday, Jan. 27, 2025 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. with a service to begin at 11:30am at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home. Burial will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the D'Amour Cancer Center, 3350 Main St., Springfield, MA 01199.

O B I T U A R I E S

Kathleen Marie O'Dell ~ 9/13/1966- 01/03/2025

Kathleen M. O'Dell, 58, of Palmer, passed away peacefully on Friday, Jan. 3, 2025. Born September 13, 1966 in Springfield, MA to the late William Webb and Frances Lunden. Kathy is survived by her son Matthew (Kate) O'Dell, as well as grandchildren, Miles and Lily. Kathy also leaves behind her sisters Patricia LaMountain and Diane Abare from Bondsville, and Holly Riopel from Thorn-

dike. She will also be missed by her lifelong best friend Sonda Lou Roberts.

Kathy was a graduate of Pathfinder Regional High School, and went on to receive her Bachelors degree from Bay Path University. Kathy owned and operated a home day-care for many years, as well as



teaching a spin cycle class for Asylum in Palmer.

There are no pending services. In lieu of flowers contributions can be made to Dakin Humane Society, 171 Union Street, Springfield, MA 01105.

Diane St. Amand ~ 1942-2025

Longtime Ludlow resident Diane St. Amand, who for over three decades owned and operated Diane and Company, one of the most beloved hair salons in the Palmer area, passed away on Tuesday, surrounded by her loving family. She was 82 years old. Born in New Bedford, Massachusetts, on Sept. 18, 1942, Diane was the daughter of the late Pete and Anita Tetrault. She was preceded in death by her husband, J. Roger St. Amand, with whom she shared 38 years of marriage, on Jan. 19, 2023.

Diane was an only child, and while she often expressed a wish for siblings, being an only child helped shape her into a social, outgoing person who genuinely enjoyed the company of others. She loved chatting with friends and family over coffee, traveling the world, and being an active member of both the Palmer and Ludlow Senior Centers.

Elegantly stylish, Diane took after her mother and grandmother. She was known for her impeccable sense of fashion, always accessorizing with shoes and jewelry that perfectly complemented her outfits. A lifelong stylist, Diane's hair and makeup were always flawless, and she never missed an opportunity to make herself and others look their best.

Diane's passion for beauty and self-care led her to the hair industry, where she began her career as a stylist in 1977. In 1985, she opened Diane and Company on Bridge Street in Three Rivers, later moving the business in 1995

to a new space on North Main Street in Palmer. The salon became a gathering place for clients and friends, where they could try new hairstyles, prepare for special events, and enjoy friendly conversation over coffee and doughnuts. Her family often hung out there after work and school, creating a welcoming and homey atmosphere that was beloved by all.

Diane was a devoted mother to her children: Mark Bisnette (Sue), Lorraine Diane Dziedzic (John) of Three Rivers, MA, James Bisnette (Linda) of Wilbraham, MA, and stepmother to Michelle St. Amand Gunschel of Mattapoisett, MA. She cherished her role as a mother, often saying, "It was easy, even during challenging moments," and that she "loved every minute of it."

She is also remembered fondly by her grandchildren: Jason Bisnette (Stacey) of Lenox, MI, Erin Dziedzic (David)



of Athens, NY, Robin Dziedzic (Bridget) of Bellingham, MA, Stephanie Bisnette of Wilbraham, MA, and Jaymison, Keegan, and Lillian Gunschel of Mattapoisett, MA. Diane adored her grandchildren, and each one has special memories of sleepovers, shopping trips, and the loving time she spent with them.

She also treasured her time with her great-grandchildren: Kaitlyn, Cameron, and Noelle.

Visiting hours will be held on Friday, Jan. 24, 2025, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Kapinos-Mazur Funeral Home, 64 Sewall St., Ludlow, MA. A Liturgy of Christian Burial will take place on Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025, at 10 a.m. at St. Elizabeth's Parish, Hubbard St., Ludlow, MA. Please meet directly at the church. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Diane's memory to Dakin Humane Society, 171 Union Street, Springfield, MA 01105, or to Shriners Hospitals for Children, 516 Carew St., Springfield, MA 01104. For more information please go to www.kapinosmazurfh.com.

Police/Fire

POLICE LOGS

Palmer Police Department

The Palmer Police Department reported 354 incidents on its logs from Jan. 7 through Jan 13.

Jan. 7

At 9:34 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on State Street.

At 12:34 p.m. police gave summons to Jason C. Lachance, 47, of 3003 Spring St., Bondsville, for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration and uninsured motor vehicle.

Jan. 8

At 2:22 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Sykes Street.

Jan. 9

At 6:41 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on the corner of Sykes

Street and Bourne Street.

At 8:29 a.m. police arrested Luis Jose Rodriguez, 23, of 410 Walnut St., Springfield, on two warrants.

At 9:18 a.m. police responded to a hit and run accident on Palmer Road.

Jan. 10

At 11:34 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Thorndike Street.

At 9:04 p.m. police arrested Damien Micheal Gouvin, 30, of 1476 N. Main St., Palmer on a warrant.

At 10:52 p.m. police responded to an accident with personal injury on Ware Street.

Jan. 11

At 2:23 p.m. police responded to a hit and run accident on Charles Street.

Jan. 12

At 2:04 p.m. police arrested Tyler Colby White, 31, of 16 Holbrook St., Palmer, for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration, uninsured motor vehicle, no inspection sticker, possession of a class B drug (crack pipe with residue) and possession of a class B drug. Richard M. Hicks, 31, of 269 Hovey Road, Monson, for possession of a class B drug (cocaine) and possession of a class B drug (crack pipe with residue).

At 8:31 p.m. police arrested Austin Bickel, 18, of 155 Beacon Dr., Palmer, for vandalizing property.

At 9:53 p.m. police responded to an accident with personal injury on the Mass Turnpike west bound.

Jan. 13

At 4:35 p.m. police responded to a hit and run accident on Thorndike Street.

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to be published in the Journal Register

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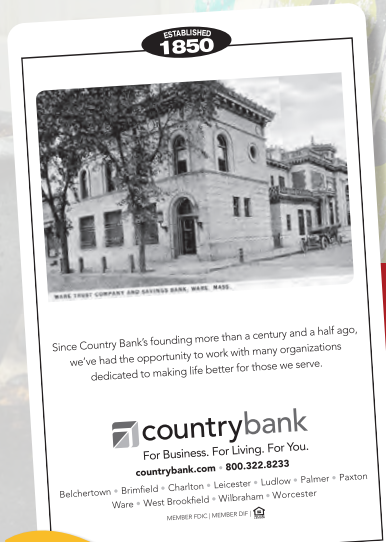
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Business

Country Bank announces promotions

PALMER— Mary McGovern, President and CEO of Country Bank, is delighted to announce Melissa Mann's promotion to Vice President of Customer Experience and Michael Dias to Product Marketing and Business Insights Officer.

Mann offers a unique blend of skills, including completing New England School for Financial Studies through Massachusetts Bankers in 2019. She is currently working on completing her Project Management Certification through the Project Management Institute which shows her ongoing commitment to professional development and has prepared her well for this role. She will continue to lead and manage the Bank's Sales and Customer Experience programs and strategies, showcasing her dedication and leadership.

Dias has been promoted to Product Marketing & Business Insights Officer. Michael has been a driving force in integrating data analytics into the Bank's marketing strategies. With an MBA in Data Analytics from Western New England University and his recent cer-

tification as a Certified Financial Marketing Professional from the American Bankers Association, Dias's strategic mindset and forward-thinking approach have been key in integrating data analytics into the Bank's marketing strategies.

"We are excited to announce the well-deserved promotions of Melissa and Michael," said Miriam Siegel, chief culture and development officer at Country Bank. "Their hard work, dedication, and contributions have been instrumental to the Bank's success. We take great pride in supporting our team members' commitment to continuous professional and personal growth, empowering them to explore the many rewarding career paths in community banking."

These promotions are a testament to the dedication, innovation, and leadership that drive Country Bank forward. They underscore the significant impact that Melissa and Michael have had on their teams, colleagues, and the Bank, demonstrating their ability to inspire and lead.

Riverbend Laundry: a business dedicated to cleanliness and convenience

By Emilia Alves
Correspondent

THREE RIVERS — A new business has opened its doors this past September in town: Riverbend Laundry.

Riverbend Laundry is a laundromat dedicated to providing a "much-needed service to our community while contributing to the revitalization of Main Street," according to owner Justin Dias.

Riverbend Laundry's owner Justin Dias and his team have experience "operating apartments" which has "given us insight into the importance of providing quality amenities like laundry facilities." Along with this experience, his team and him did "extensive research on the laundromat industry," visited other successful local laundromats, and consulted with experts.

These necessary steps gave Dias and his team the knowledge and experience to open their own successful laundromat.

Dias believes that this laundromat was needed and necessary for the Three Rivers community, saying, "As local residents and property owners, we saw a real need for a clean, reliable laundromat in our community."

This led him and his team to purchase a space, convert said space into a laundromat, and open Riverbend, to give the community its much needed laundromat.

With a goal to make "the laundromat as convenient and user-friendly as possible," Dias and his team implemented automation whenever possible, to create the most easily accessible environment possible. This goal manifested itself in a few features

that make Riverbend very easy to navigate.

A special aspect of Riverbend Laundry that you won't find anywhere else, is their laundry card system which, according to Dias, provides "seamless payments, eliminating the hassle of quarters." Customers can load money onto the card via cash, credit, debit, Apple Pay, or EBT.

Another cool feature unique to Riverbend is their Laundrycat app. This app is used to make the hassle of laundry a whole lot easier by allowing patrons to "pay for and start your laundry with just a tap of your phone."

Every wash is also sanitized using the Sanowash system which ensures "clothes are always fresh and clean." This gives each customer the guarantee of perfectly clean and sanitized clothing, a majorly important quality of a laundromat, displaying Riverbend's commitment to its customers.

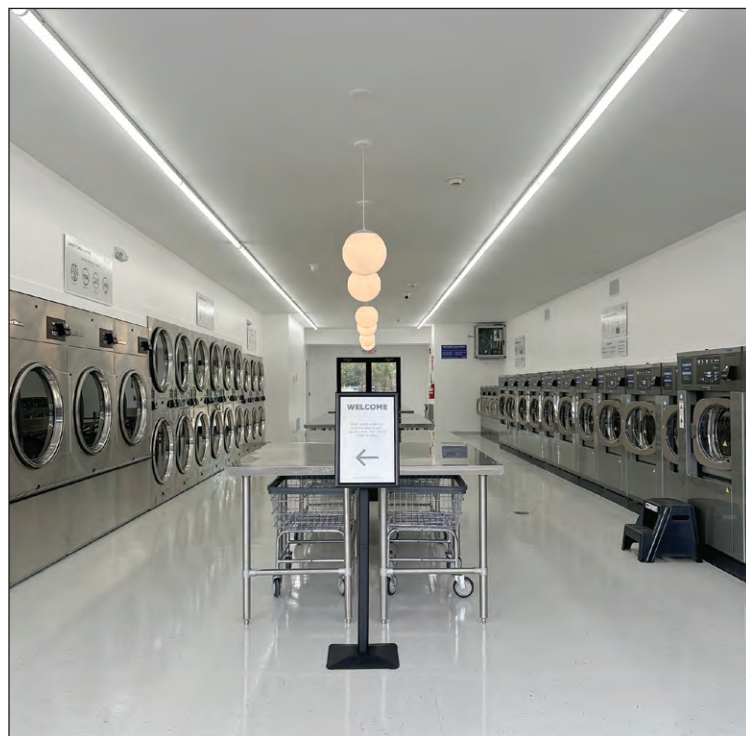
The community response to the business has been nothing but positive, many highlighting the clean and simple environment of Riverbend. One customer said that her "laundry is clean, sanitized and has that nice, fresh and clean laundry smell and I owe it all to Riverbend."

Dias remarked that the community response "validated our belief in the need for a laundromat in this area" and they are "thrilled to provide a space that serves our neighbors while helping bring business back to the heart of Three Rivers."

The laundromat is located on 2024 Main Street in Three Rivers, Palmer and is open to the public from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. every single day.



Submitted photos
Riverbend Laundry has opened a location at 2024 Main Street in Palmer.



Riverbend Laundry has rows of laundry machines ready to help residents wash their clothes.

NOROVIRUS | from page 4

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DCR | from page 10

ravel 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 pre-

sentation 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.

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.

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