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COMMUNITY

Snow and cold temps did not deter local girl scouts

By Harrison Giza
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PALMER—The snow was everywhere this weekend, but it would take more than a nor'easter to stop Haiden Chabot from selling cookies to her Palmer community.

The 8 year old Girl Scout, alongside the friendly faces of local residents Jillian Jamilowski and Patrick Sullivan, was out in the blistering cold on North Main Street, selling boxes of flavorful goodies near the front entrance of Capitol Cleaners & Launderers.

"We've have been here since 3PM. There was one other group before us," Patrick Sullivan said. "The Girl Scouts kind of work us in shifts. It has been a fairly steady rate here."



Turley photo by Harrison Giza

The friendly faces of Jillian Jamilowski, Patrick Sullivan, and Girl Scout, Haiden Chabot were out selling cookies in the wintery weather recently.

GIRL SCOUTS | page 6



Girl Scouts Ellie Payant and Brynn Lagioniere set up their drive thru cookie booth in the parking lot of Rondeau's Dairy Bar on Route 32 in Palmer.



Submitted photos

Daisy Girl Scout Scarlett Bluteau outside the gas station at four corners in Three Rivers.

COMMUNITY



Turley photo by Harrison Giza

Happy Palmer native, Theresa Strobel, flexing her win after a busy round.

St. Thomas Parish Bingo Night continues to grow

By Harrison Giza
Staff Writer
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PALMER – St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church has been a Palmer mainstay for almost two centuries with both the faithful and the bingo-savvy.

The parish's blessed bingo

event this past Friday started at 6:30 p.m. and had over 70 people in attendance. The local Catholic staple was packed to the brim with contestants on Friday night, but Father Rick and his loyal church crew were well prepared.

"This game has been going on since the early 1970's," said Father Rick. "It was only closed during the pandemic for about a year and a half. The atmosphere is considered



BINGO | page 6

SCHOOLS

Supt. presents plan for Opportunity Act funds

By Marcelo Gusmão
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PALMER – At last week's School Committee meeting, Superintendent Matthew Francis made a presentation about the Student Opportunity Act, in which he highlighted the priorities the schools will focus on in the next year.

SOA was enacted in 2019, when the state recognized that schools were being underfunded by Chapter 70 and introduced a new formula to rework the funding. This called for school districts to develop a three-year plan to look at data disparities in student learning and opportunities. Francis described specific evidence-based practices that would be highlighted for SOA funding.

"At the time when they enacted SOA, there were four areas by which these evidence-based programs were to come from," Francis said, listing them as Enhanced Core Instruction, Targeted Student Supports, Talent Development and Conditions for Student Success.

Francis described 21 individual EBPs that fall within these four categories.

"In 2020, the Palmer Public

Schools chose these three EBPs," listed Francis. "Supporting educators to implement high-quality aligned curriculum; inclusion and co-teaching for students with disabilities and English learners; and developing effective family/school partnerships."

Francis also had data describing how much money was put into these programs since the SOA. Some of these were met through combination with Chapter 70 funding, federal grants, and ESSER funding.

"The individual who was doing the report allocated roughly \$18,000 was spent towards that first EVP, high-quality curriculum," Francis said. "Just over \$535,000 went to inclusion and co-teaching, and then \$62,000 was dedicated to family/school partnerships EBP, which gave roughly \$615,139 in total."

Francis said that of that total, \$539,000 came from chapter 70 funds. The following year, one of the EBPs was dropped, so it was estimated that roughly \$545,823 went to providing a high-quality curriculum, and just a little over \$226,973 went to inclusion and co-teaching, resulting in a grand total of \$772,796.

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MONSON



Turley photo by Harrison Giza

Board of Health member Kathy Nothe listening to the concerns of a meeting member.

BOH holds passionate Opioid Settlement Fund discussion

By Harrison Giza
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MONSON – The Monson Board of Health held their first Opioid Settlement Fund Listening Session this past Sunday at St. Patrick Rectory's Columbia Hall.

Board of Health Member Kathy Nothe was there to lead the discussion, which quickly became an impassioned conversation with almost every attendee in the room speaking their mind.

Local Western Massachusetts resident, Mary Hull, was at the center of the talk.

"When we can get to the root of the problem, when I went all the way back and I grasped all the things that happened in my childhood that changed my world, and I was able to do that and accept it, it changed everything for me," Hull said.

She then shared some ideas about improving the condition of drug and substance abuse stigma in the town of Monson.

"With enough love and talk, the community as a whole can be a recovery team," Hull said.

One brave woman came forward next, talking about her recent milestone of being 11 years sober off opiates. She voiced a few per-

sonal concerns for the Monson community after the hall applauded her courageous story.

"I did not get sober in Monson, and I have lived here almost all my life," she said. "I got a lot of my recovery education and resources up in Franklin County, and people in recovery up there recover loudly."

The woman expanded upon her prior statement.

"They have spaces to go and have spaces to find resources. One word I have not heard today is 'relapse,' and we need relapse prevention because the one thing about being an addict is that there are going to be relapses from people, much like me, who have 11 years of sobriety."

She continued, noting that even though she could speak about the issue she still struggles finding support.

"People need to have a safe place to go and be able to feel comfortable being themselves," she said.

Dodie Carpentier, vice president of Human Resources at Monson Savings, began to lay out the prior roadblocks of the opioid fund debacle.

"The town had approved for us to have a dedicated staff person for

MONSON | page 12

SCHOOLS



Turley Publications photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Georgia Bousquet, Mackenzie Peterson, Addison Doktor, and Julianna Lovejoy couldn't help but take a picture with Scout in the halls.

Pathfinder's new puppy chases the blues away

Introducing Scout, the new puppy adopted by Pathfinder Tech.

By Marcelo Gusmão
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PALMER – Pathfinder Technical Vocational School is excited to introduce Scout, the English Golden Retriever who is promoting men-

tal health among students and staff alike.

Scout was adopted by the school through support of the School Committee and a healthcare grant from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association. This grant paid for the purchase of the dog, as well as training, veterinary services and supplies like toys and a cage.

"What we're finding is it's a nice icebreaker for those students

PATHFINDER | page 5

Pet of the Week



KAGIN & BAILEY

These two are best friends. The kitty is Kagin (pronounced like "Cajun"), and Bailey is the hamster. 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 mharrison@turley.com.

Winter's a Worrisome Time

By Charles Barnes

Play your dirge, O'January and on...
For the slow solemn days that are
And clouds scudding by, are no fair bloom
To call it a thaw in the weather.
Soon as it's cold, the fiddles out of tune
So for warmth, we'll keep on gabbing:

No neighbors to join in, since New Year's
When enough a last dance with the ladies?
Someone once saw the world, under a Carolina
moon

And looking to get back and see.
An' this nice wool scarf bright as a tanager
(Whatever comes of it, will be:)
The Royal Stuart wrap all around;
Or raise on high, one good hour!
But let the winds come throw it off
We wait out our discontent til it's over.



Valerie Wlodyka and Laura Asson poured tea and served cookies at the House of Art.



Valerie and Laura have been running this program together for five years.



Valerie Wlodyka is a Library media Specialist at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School.

18th Century Tea Party at House of Art

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
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MONSON – At the House of Art this past weekend, there was a delightful display arranged by two local teachers to help students learn about American history.

Laura Asson, a history teacher at Pathfinder Vocational Technical School, and Valerie Wlodyka, the library media specialist at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School, have been holding 18th century tea parties for about five years.

The program was envisioned to help students learn about the styles and culture of the time period through a fun and delicious activity.

Asson and Wlodyka pour tea and provide a variety of cookies based on recipes from the time period, all while dressed in classic period clothing.

Pathfinder's culinary students baked the cookies that were handed out during

the event, while the costumes worn by Asson and Wlodyka were hand-crafted by Asson herself.

"Asson enjoys creating artwork and historical clothing in her free time," said the press release advertising the event. "Her research has led to comprehensive demonstrations on historical art techniques from the 18th century, and she is currently developing programs on 19th century art for future events."

The teachers said that they enjoy collaborating and have applied for a grant to expand the program.

"We complement each other," Wlodyka said. "She's the yin to my yang."

The program is held thanks to collaboration with the Monson Arts Council and the Monson Museum of Art volunteers.

If you'd like to learn about upcoming events at the House of Art, or to schedule one yourself, you can call them at 413-267-9764 or send an email to info@monsonartscouncil.org.



Laura Asson handcrafted the 18th century costumes she and Wlodyka wore for the tea party.

Saint Cecilia Women's Club February meeting

WILBRAHAM – The St. Cecilia Women's Club February meeting takes place on Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 6 p.m. at 42 Main St. Join us for a fun filled night of games, prized and delicious treats. Kim Lawler will provide her excellent party skills to make this a memorable "Fat Tuesday"!

Please bring a nutritious snack to this meeting for adults and children in need. Thank you!

Fundraiser at Country Club on Jan. 28 to benefit Baystate Health Foundation

Event to celebrate Jack Godin's first birthday

WILBRAHAM – On Jan. 28, from 1 – 4 p.m., a fundraiser will occur at the Country Club of Wilbraham at 859 Stony Hill Road to celebrate Jack Godin's first birthday and raise money for the Baystate Health Foundation.

Jack, of Wilbraham, is 11 months old. When he was eight days old, he was diagnosed with Vi-

ral Meningoencephalitis from a rare virus called Parechovirus and hospitalized and admitted to the PICU at Baystate due to seizure activity. The seizures were causing him to have apneic episodes, which means he stopped breathing, and he was eventually intubated due to this. His symptoms slowly improved and after several days of being intubated, he was able to be extubated and eventually downgraded to the regular children's floor where he was discharged home a few days later.

Jack's parents, Cody and Liz,

thank the entire medical team at Baystate Children's Hospital for saving their son, who has had weekly physical therapy and occupational therapy sessions with early intervention services through CHD. Jack has seen many specialists in his young life but has been doing great so far and his parents are very hopeful and thankful.

Jan. 28 will be Jack's first birthday, and Cody and Liz invite the community to attend the fundraising event that day.

There will be food, door prizes (which will be raffled off), activities for children, raffle baskets, music, cake (of course) and lots of fun!

Tickets for this event will be sold for \$20 per person. Children 12 years and younger are free. You can purchase tickets at the door or ahead of time through: Venmo: @elizabethgodin CashApp: @lizawarner PayPal: @mamamadedcrafting Make sure to include your first name, last name and phone number.

Raffle items, baskets, or gift cards will be greatly appreciated. Monetary donations can be made by going to <https://givebutler.com/h7RnBT>, mailed (contact us for address) or in person at the event. If you'd like to have a children's activity there for your group or business please contact egodin23@gmail.com or gjwarner0410@gmail.com for more information.

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USDA INSP. STORE MADE BOURBON MARINATED BEEF BLADE STEAKS.....	\$6.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB BAG	67¢ lb
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The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

DEADLINE

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

MassDOT recommends Palmer as future West-East Rail stop

PALMER – After years of advocating for the inclusion of a Palmer stop in the plans for the West-East Rail Project (now titled Compass Rail), state Sen. Jake Oliveira (Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District) was delighted and relieved to see the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) officially recommend the town as a future stop on the upcoming West-East Rail.

The announcement was made on Jan. 17 during the MassDOT Board of Directors Meeting. Rail and Transit Administrator Meredith Slesinger was on hand to make the announcement.

"I'm grateful for the commitment made by the Governor and the administration for this pivotal development for not only the West-East Rail but for Palmer and Western Mass," Oliveira said in a press release. "The West-East Rail represents a monumental infrastructure project that will connect the greater Commonwealth, bridging the geographical and economic gaps between Western Mass and Boston. The promise of this railway network is immense, with the potential to catalyze economic growth, promote regional development, and bolster social cohesion. I'm thrilled to see MassDOT take the next step in this generational project, and I'm glad they realized what we've known for some time. Palmer is the ideal location as a gateway to Western Mass."

MassDOT came to the decision to recommend Palmer for a future stop on the rail following studies they conducted last year and will be allocating \$4 million for Planning and Design through their Capital Investment Program.

Consulting firm RTD was selected in December for Planning and Conceptual Design. This will include key components such as public outreach, site selection, identification of station amenities and access, conceptual design, and environmental scoping.

The project is expected to follow an estimated 18-month schedule.

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.



Turley photo by Harrison Giza

Dawn Brown holds up her sign thanking a kind neighbor for clearing her snow.

Snow shoveling hero lends helping hand

By Harrison Giza
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PALMER – If you are looking for kindness in the cold heart of Western Massachusetts, just turn down Maple Street in Palmer.

An anonymous "secret helper" has been plowing for the neighborhood of the cozy side street for the past couple of years. Palmer native, Dawn Brown, and her adorable dog Jack have recently put an orange sign up in her window to show their mutual appreciation.

"I just want to say thank you to that person," Brown said. "I don't know his name or anything, but I put a sign up in my window. It's the best that I can do."

Brown is currently in the midst of redesigning her house when she isn't working, leaving little time to go out and shovel her snowy home. This one consistent act of kindness has inspired her for the past week, making it the second time this secret shoveler has catered to the neighborhood.

"I have to say it is so nice that people do something so kind like that around here," Brown said. "I saw him for the first time the other day and just waved, but by the time I turned around, he was like, gone!"

The unnamed hero has decided to keep his snow-shoveling identity a se-

cret, though that hasn't stopped Brown from trying to show her sincere gratitude as much as she possibly can.

"I have an idea of who it is, and my neighbor says she might know the guy. I'm hoping she is right because on the weekend I am definitely going to bake for him. Either way, I just want him to know how much his help means to me."

Known for her delicious Italian cookies, especially her sugar-coated pizzelle, Brown wants to give back to her unnamed local hero.

"I can't thank him enough. I was just thinking that I should bake him some bread or something," she said.

When asked what type of bread she would make for her the shoveling hero, Brown paused for a moment, then said, "I think I would do a banana bread. I make a great one."

Besides her terrific bread making skills, Brown wanted to make one more thing clear.

"I think it is so nice that he does both sides of the street. He goes up and does the sidewalks for everybody in our neighborhood. A lot of us are older on this block, and to me, this is the best thing ever."

Whether young or old, this is the stuff small towns are made of. Due to this one act of sheer kindness, Dawn has been living much more comfortably; Jack The Dog included.

PALMER | from page 1

"We've reached the end of our three-year plan," Francis said, adding that he will make a full presentation about the next year's plan in March.

"We can keep our EBPs or we can choose new EBPs," Francis said.

Francis explained that in addition to updating some of the terminology, the state expanded their programs from 21 to 30.

"I am proposing these three evidence-based program practices," Francis said. "Number one, expanded access to full-day high-quality pre-kindergarten

for our four year olds. Number two, inclusion and co-teaching for students with disabilities and English learners... And number three, increasing opportunities for all students to engage in arts, enrichment, world languages, athletics and elective courses."

Francis said that he believes this is an opportunity to foster students to become well-rounded individuals.

The School Committee was supportive of Francis's plan and praised his presentation.

Monson School Committee discusses local events with special student speakers

By Harrison Giza
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MONSON – The Monson School Committee held its regular business meeting at Quarry Hill Community School this past week to much success.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Cheryl Clarke began the meeting with a few shout outs regarding local Monson events happening over the next few days. These ranged from a Board of Health Listening Event involving opioid Settlement Funds to raising money for the Monson High School Girls Varsity Soccer team on Banner Night during halftime of the Girls Basketball game.

Lisa Stebbins and Caden Gonzalez, two sixth-grade Granite Valley Middle School students, spoke next, providing details of their Winter Concert.

"It was well attended," Gonzalez said. "Students played and sang several holiday songs in front of a packed auditorium. Thank you to Ms. Martin and all who attended." Gonzalez also expressed grateful enthusiasm for Principal Mr. Trivisonno, who allowed his fifth-grade students to bury the school leader in the snow.

Stebbins then broke down several ins and outs happening at Granite Valley, from origami workshops, special reading events, cafeteria yoga, library boardgames and gym basketball tournaments between grades.

"These choices are always a hit with students," Stebbins said.

She went on to detail each teacher involved with the activities before kindly adding, "Thank you for having us tonight."

Vice President of Monson High School Caitlin Walker began to break down updates for the committee with their ongoing plans for their Walt Disney World Trip.

"We have done a lot of awesome things and are very excited," Walker exclaimed, after passing out packets for each member to review.

"Our trip is next week, we fly down to Florida on Thursday, and we have six students who are eligible to go."

She added that the selected students have all exhibited good behavior as well as maintained passing grades alongside their parent guardian trip payments.

"Not one of our students paid over \$1,000 for this trip. We even had one student reduce her ticket price down to zero, so she is basically going down for free."

While each member smiled with enthusiasm, Clarke was glowing and said "Thank you for making this trip possible for those students!"

The rest of the meeting detailed setting future dates for Monson High School's 2024 graduation, a review of action items and a discussion of impending strategies for collective bargaining and litigating positions of the public-school body.

The mission of the Monson School Committee is to maximize learning by adhering to a high standard of academic achievement. The committee hopes and strives for all students to become responsible, productive, global citizens. All matters listed at the event were prepared by the chair, which will continue to maintain an open forum for all Monson residents interested in sharing their voice and improving local education.

Habitat introduces 'Hearts and Homes' challenge, fundraiser

Every \$20 donation made to Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity by end-of-day Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024, will be entered for a chance to win a Spa Renewal Day gift card for two people at the exclusive Canyon Ranch in Lenox.

The winner will be drawn at our Valentine's Day dedication, celebrating the completion of our newest home in Holyoke. Participants don't have to be present to win.

"We are very appreciative of Canyon Ranch for partnering with us on this fundraiser. Stable affordable housing plays a key role in a family's well-being and Canyon Ranch wants our donors to have a chance at increasing their well-being by supporting our programs," said Aimee Giroux, GSH-FH executive director. "What a fantastic way for us to celebrate the completion of a home on Chestnut Street in Holyoke that will be dedicated and

sold to the Santos family on Valentine's Day."

To donate, visit [habitatspringfield.org/donate](https://bit.ly/3lq36g0); <https://bit.ly/3lq36g0>; or text "BUILD413" to 44-321 and follow the prompts.

GSHFH is dedicated to strengthening communities by empowering low-income families to change their lives and the lives of future generations through homeownership and home preservation opportunities. Since 1987, Greater Springfield Habitat has built or repaired 129 homes in Hampden County. This project represents the first home to utilize ICFs, which will further reduce long-term costs for the future homeowners.

For more information, contact Brandy O'Brien, Marketing and Communications manager, at obrien@habitatspringfield.org or (413) 739-5503 x1005.



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Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

How can I get details about my Social Security payment?

Dear Rusty

How do I find the actual breakdown of the Medicare insurance that I have auto deducted and my actual Social Security payment?

I was just looking at a video which explained the 3% Cost of Living Adjustment we will be receiving this year and it compared the current payout to the new payout. There seems to be a big difference in what I am getting and what they said in the video. Currently my Social Security payments are \$1,431. My Medicare insurance is supposed to be \$165, which means my total Social Security is about \$1,596. On the video it said all retired workers are getting \$1,848 with the new increase to take it to \$1,938. There are a couple hundred dollars there that I seem to be missing out on. Can you help me understand that difference?

Signed: Confused Senior

Dear Confused Senior

What you're asking for is an itemized breakout of your gross Social Security benefit, any deductions being taken therefrom (e.g., your Medicare Part B premium), the amount of your COLA increase and your net Social Security payment for 2024. If that is the case, the best way to get this detail is in your personal "my Social Security" online account, which provides all the information mentioned.

You can access your online account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount, and if you don't already have that online account set up, you'll need to first establish your online access credentials. Instructions for how to do that will be at that website.

I'm not sure which video you watched, but "all retired workers" do not get \$1,848 or \$1,938. Everyone's Social Security benefit is different, based on their lifetime earnings record and the age at which they claimed benefits. The numbers you heard in the video were likely average Social Security payments, not the actual amount you should personally be receiving. Here's how it works:

Your personal benefit is based on your Primary Insurance Amount, which is the amount you get if you claim for your benefits to start at your Full Retirement Age, which is somewhere between 66 and 67 depending on the year you were born. Claim before your FRA your benefit is permanently reduced; claim after your FRA it is higher.

Your personal maximum benefit is achieved if you claim at age 70. The Medicare Part B premium (for outpatient healthcare services) is automatically deducted from your Social Security payment. Although the standard 2023 Part B premium was \$164.90, the standard 2024 Part B premium is \$174.70.

You may also have other things, e.g. income tax, withheld from your monthly Social Security payment.

The annual Cost of Living Adjustment for 2024 is 3.2%. That means your gross Social Security benefit goes up by that percentage starting in 2024.

But there was also a \$9.80 increase in your Medicare Part B premium starting in 2024, which means that you won't see all of the COLA increase in your Social Security payment. Since your Medicare premium is deducted from your Social Security, that Medicare increase will also be taken from your SS payment, so you won't see the full 3.2% COLA increase in your 2024 Social Security payment.

To see all of this detail for you personally, I suggest you access your online "my Social Security" account as described above. As an alternative, you can also call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 and request a Benefit Verification Letter which will include all the information you seek about your Social Security payment.

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

SIGNS THAT YOU MAY HAVE FROZEN PLUMBING ...



Crazy for carrots

I used the last of my home grown carrots in soup today.

Growing enough carrots to last into the winter months is a huge accomplishment for me. You see, I've never been the best carrot grower.

In the past, either the seeds didn't germinate well, or if they did, bugs ate the seedlings when they were just an inch tall. One year I got past that only to have the roots taste so bitter at harvest that I ended up throwing them all out.

All that work for nothing!

After a good carrot growing experience last year, however, things are looking up, and I'm planning for an even better harvest this summer. I've been slow to inventory my seeds this year, but in preparation, I did some research on carrot varieties and culture.

My great-flavored carrots were due in part to the variety.

I don't remember the exact name, but I know for certain they were a Nantes type. The sausage shape and blunt end is a give-away. They were crisp and sweet and about six-seven inches long.

If you aim to grow the kind of standard carrots that are typically sold in the grocery store, Imperator types are what you should look for. Because they can grow very long, be sure you have loose, deep soil.

Some experts say that although they can top off at nine-10 inches long, they are not always flavorful.

Chantenay types are a good choice for shallow soils.

These carrots have wide shoulders but are extremely tapered, growing only five-six inches long. They are typically crisp and sweet, and like most carrots, taste even sweeter after a few frosts.

Another good choice for shallow or dense soils are the Danvers types. Originating in Danvers, Massachusetts, this heirloom six-eight inch carrot tapers to a point.

Typically, they store well and are good for cooking.

In addition to these types, there are hybrids of the above types and specialties beyond that. Once they all have in common is their culture.

Growing carrots is not hard if you follow a few hard and fast rules.

Ideally soil should be deep, loose and free of stones. Carrots grow well in raised beds for this reason.

Regular garden beds should have the soil loosened to about a foot deep. Be wary of using fresh manure or other sources of fertilizer that are super high in nitrogen.

While it's true that carrots like some nitrogen, having ultra rich soil will make for fibrous, hairy roots. Last year, I sowed my carrot seeds immediately after harvesting my garlic in July.

I did not amend the soil at all in preparation of the planting. Experts say that if you are going to amend it should be done the fall prior.

It can take a long time for carrot seeds to sprout. Gardeners have tried all sorts of extraneous measures to get them to germinate more quickly and with greater consistency.

Here are some things I have read about and some I have tried.

The old radish trick – try sowing

radish seed interspersed among your carrot seed. The radishes will sprout first, marking the row and providing some shade for the developing carrot seedlings.

Some people pre-sprout. Place seed in a moist paper towel and set it in a warm spot in the house and it will sprout. Immediately after sprouting it is sown in place in the garden.

The rows are kept moist and ideally the seedlings take hold. Sadly, I have read that sometimes this causes roots that end up misshapen.

Sometimes gardeners use wood, shade cloth or burlap to keep the seedbed moist. If you miss when the seeds sprout, they could be smothered under these coverings or worse yet, get tangled up in the fabric.

Check daily and remove coverings on the first notice of germination. Continue to keep the bed watered or seedlings will perish.

My success this past summer was due in part to when I sowed. In mid-July, soil temperatures were optimum (around 75 degrees) and seedlings germinated in a week.

I kept the plot watered until they were up and growing. Although carrot seed can germinate in early spring – even when soil temperatures are below 50 degrees, it will definitely require some patience, and work, on our part, to keep the seedbed from drying out.

Another concern gardeners have, has to do with sowing the tiny seeds and/or thinning the seedlings. Carrots mature to the right size when given at least two inches between plants.

I usually try to sow my seed a half-inch apart and then thin to two inches. Thinning is a pain to do, especially in bigger plantings, but it can be done.

In order not to damage nearby seedlings, I often use a tiny pair of scissors to cut away the crowding seedlings. A thumb and index finger can also be used to pinch away the excess plants right at the soil line.

Sometimes gardeners mix carrot seed with sand or dry coffee grounds to make sowing the small seed easier; using seed tape or pelletized seed are other, albeit expensive options to insure more equidistant seedlings. Regular carrot seeds are viable for two-three years whereas pelletized seed is viable for a year.

Plan accordingly by not ordering more than you need. Tape and coated seed do still need to be kept as moist as regular sowings – maybe even more so, due to the additional layers.

I am excited to grow carrots again this year. Hopefully a bigger harvest will enable soup-making well into spring.

Tackling what types of carrots to grow and ensuring good germination and a healthy stand of seedlings will mean I am well on my way to achieving that goal!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

Comments on CONGRESS

By Lee Hamilton



Courtesy of the Wells Library Lee Hamilton Photo Collection
Rep. Lee H. Hamilton and others are shown with Vice-Premier Deng Xiaoping in June 1979 during the first official visit to the U.S. by top Communist Chinese leadership. Among the others are Paul Findley in the far left back and Michael Barnes to Hamilton's left.

HAMILTON ON FOREIGN POLICY

Bashing China is easy but not always helpful

Here's one thing we can count on in the upcoming election year: American politicians will find ways to criticize China, even if they're running for jobs that have little to do with U.S. foreign policy.

China-bashing is a tried-and-true way to appeal for votes.

It's politically safe: China has few defenders anywhere in the United States. Politicians can take shots at China without worrying that they will offend anyone or lose support and, certainly, China often deserves criticism.

But there is a downside to reflexive anti-China rhetoric. With the world's second-largest population and its second-largest economy, China is a force in world affairs.

We need to push back when it threatens our interests, but we also need to engage with China when appropriate.

It's understandable that China would be a target for attacks. We live in a bipolar world, with the U.S. and China competing for global influence.

Under President Xi Jinping, China has positioned itself as our chief rival and China's actions often call for pushback. It engages in unfair trade practices, disregards intellectual property rules and tramples on human rights.

It has been accused of genocide against the Uyghur population in its Xinjiang province. It threatens Taiwan and antagonizes its neighbors over the South China Sea.

To many Americans, China can seem foreign and far away. Its people look different and speak different languages. Its autocratic system of government is very different from our democratic system.

A recent Pew Research Center survey found half of Americans consider China to be the biggest threat we face; that's three times as many as view Russia as our biggest threat. In another survey, more than 80% of Americans had negative views of China.

Some of China's actions do call for strong responses. We should expect candidates for relevant government offices to adopt clear positions toward China.

But China-bashing can go too far.

In Indiana, where I live, one candidate for governor has made "combating China" a centerpiece of his campaign. He and his rivals say they will confront China overentanyl imports, online theft of personal information, and other matters.

The next governor of Indiana will have a lot of important issues to address, but getting tough with China won't be high on the list.

Demonizing China also has a long and sometimes ugly history in the United States. Chinese immigrants in the 1800s did hard and dangerous jobs, working in mines and building railroads, but faced discrimination in housing, employment and education.

Anti-Chinese bias led Congress to pass the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, barring further Chinese immigration. Sensationalistic newspapers fanned fears of a "Yellow Peril" that threatened native-born Americans.

A 1924 law further restricted Asian immigration.

Some of those old prejudices can resurface today. One recent poll found that voters linked politicians' anti-Chinese rhetoric to a spike in violence against Asian Americans.

With election campaigns getting underway, some experts predict a rise in hate incidents.

At the end of the day, U.S. officials will have to lay aside the rhetoric and engage with China. That means standing firm when China threatens our interests and those of our allies, but it also means finding ways to work together.

We can, and should, cooperate on addressing climate change, combating terrorism, deterring drug smuggling, promoting free and fair trade, and other issues.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

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

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

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

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

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Locals AmVets and Ladies Auxiliary Donate to Veterans



Jennavieve Josephson stopped to pick up Scout on her way through the halls.

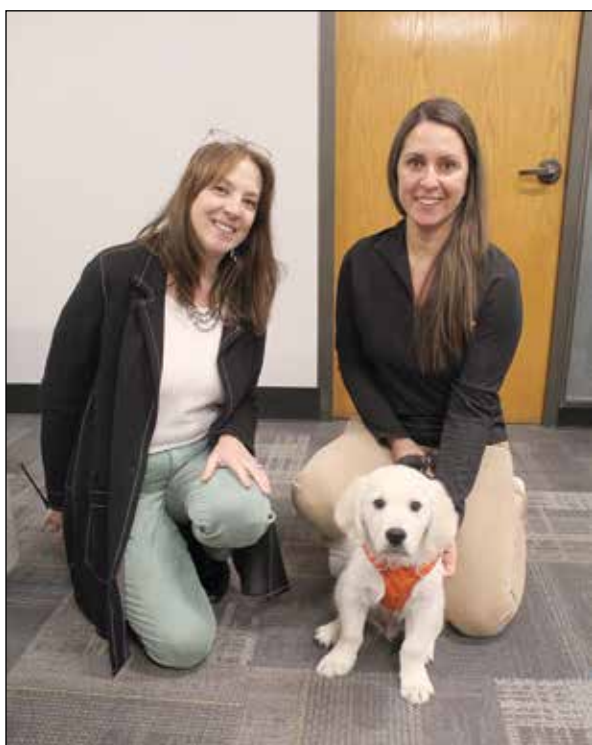


Shirley Eliason, Keith Paro, James Ziemba, and Raymond Beaudette.



Shirley Eliason, Keith Paro, James Ziemba, and Andrea Sullivan.

Submitted photos



Turley Publications photos by Marcelo Gusmão
Scout posed for a picture with Principal Brenda Turner and Marina Latourelle.



The Sons of Amvets, the Ladies Auxiliary of AMVets Post 74 members (l to r) Jacqui Wahlers, Kristine Lefebvre, Tammy Aniolowski, Andrea Sullivan, Tammy Foster and Shirley Eliason filled bags for Veterans.

PATHFINDER | from page 1

that have a hard time expressing their feelings and talking about what's going on," said Principal Brenda Turner. "If he's in the room, it breaks down a lot of barriers."

Turner said that in addition to improving students' mental health, Scout will also serve to address the absenteeism that has increased at many schools and workplaces since the pandemic.

Director of Student Services, Marina Latourelle, has been charged with taking care of Scout after the school is closed, a responsibility that the rest of the staff has lined up to share, should Latourelle be unavailable.

"The recommendation was that he comes to work right away," Latourelle said. "So he puts his little harness on and he comes to work, and he loves it."

A poll was held to name the puppy, with Scout beating out the suggestions of Petey (for PT) or Techie.

Superintendent Eric Duda said the adoption of Scout as one of his proudest accomplishments of the year, along with introducing the Yonder pouches to help cut down on phone use.

"This was done through a unanimous vote from our School Committee to adopt a new school policy," said Duda. "It allowed us to move forward with the dog."

Duda said that in the first week, Scout had already been called on to help students with various mental health challenges.

"You can have the best school psychologists and three guidance counselors and two adjustment counselors, a powerful admin team and a wonderful teaching staff, and we can all work to do something to help this student," Duda said. "I saw this firsthand: you may or may not get there quickly, but with a puppy, you get there immediately."

Walking through the halls with Scout, students would immediately light up as soon as they saw him. Turner said that the staff coordinates a schedule for Scout to visit different classrooms at different times of day, in between his training and daily care.

"The positive impact that he's already had has blown everyone's mind," Duda said. "By the end of the first day, you can't walk throughout this building without having smiles and interactions."

"We brought the puppy to our School Committee meeting last week," Duda said. "We introduced the dog in public session, and everybody smiled, and people pet the dog, and everything else. The whole tone changes from there, you can feel the positive energy."

Duda said he believes that Pathfinder is the first school out of the nine towns it services to have a dog on-campus and said that he hopes other towns will follow their example.

"Myself and the team are happy to work with anyone who's interested in doing what we're doing," Duda said, mentioning that police and fire departments could also benefit from a dog onsite.



Items that were gifted to the Veterans were made possible through proceeds from a fundraiser.

In partnership with The Sons of AmVets, the Ladies Auxiliary of AmVets Post 74 in Three Rivers used some of the proceeds from the St. Mary's Lyceum arm chair race benefit and was able to double the amount of personal items that was purchased for the Soldier On Veterans at Leeds. We were able to purchase enough items for 40 men and 10 women Veterans.

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SOUP COOK OFF

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LIGHT UP PALMER would like to ask for your support of Tailgate Tavern's Soup Cook Off

Spend a few hours together at the tavern, have a chance to win door prizes, and vote for your favorite soup... Prizes are awarded for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. Stop by the Tavern now and ask the Tailgate bartender for the sign-up sheet to enter a soup. Come, enjoy the fun! Soup, Prizes and Monetary Donations are accepted.

Proceeds from the Soup Off will go toward additions and maintenance of Light Up Palmer's community programs; including the Purple Heart banner, American flag and flower display on Main Street, Depot Village, as well as the Xmas holiday decorations and event. LUP thanks the Tailgate Tavern, their employees, and patrons for their continued support of our efforts to honor resident Veterans who have received the Purple Heart medal. If you, or someone you know is a recipient and does not currently have a banner recognition, please see the Town of Palmer's Veterans agent (Tina Brohman) to have their name added.

With Sincere Thanks to the Tailgate Tavern
Palmer Business Partnership Inc.
LIGHT UP PALMER COMMITTEE
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NEWS & FEATURES

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

For more information on news or community features for The Journal Register, please email journalregister@turley.com.

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Senate passes new legislation

BOSTON — The Massachusetts Senate passed S.2548, an act to provide for competitiveness and infrastructure investment in Massachusetts, an economic development bill that takes advantage of the interest accrued from the commonwealth's stabilization fund and leverages that interest to ensure the state receives the maximum possible share of federal funds. The commonwealth's stabilization fund currently has a historic balance of \$8.2 billion.

It is estimated Massachusetts currently has the opportunity to receive up to \$17.5 billion through historic, once-in-a-generation federal funding opportunities.

"Thanks to the judicious planning of the Senate, we find ourselves in a near-unprecedented position to serve the commonwealth. Now, I'm excited for what's next. We have an incredible opportunity to unlock these additional federal funds for ambitious projects like the West-East Rail and imperative water and sewer infrastructure improvements that will create a positive impact that will be felt for generations," said Oliveira. "I thank the Administration, Senate President Spilka, Chair Rodrigues, and my dedicated colleagues in the Senate for where we find ourselves today, and I look forward to continuing to work together to maximize these funds for the residents of Massachusetts."

This smart financial accounting initia-

tion will require the Comptroller to transfer interest from the stabilization fund to the Commonwealth Federal Matching and Debt Reduction Fund on a quarterly basis if the stabilization balance is of a healthy amount. The Secretary of Administration and Finance would then pursue federal funding opportunities available thanks to the historic availability of federal funds for infrastructure, resiliency and economic development projects.

Over the coming years, this bill is expected to unlock more than \$800 million in funds that will be used to fund the state or municipal match requirement for federal competitive grant opportunities, as well as planning work that will help municipalities with the process of preparing applications for federal grants. Once federal grant opportunities expire, money in this fund will go toward reducing the commonwealth's long-term liabilities.

Through three pieces of federal legislation: the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors Act, over \$2 trillion in spending is being made available to states through competitive grant programs and formula allocations. With this bill the commonwealth will be maximizing its position to capitalize on these substantial federal funding opportunities.

Second Chance achieves milestone

EAST BROOKFIELD— Second Chance Animal Services announces its remarkable accomplishment in 2023, breaking all previous records by assisting 49,036 pets in living healthier lives. As the nonprofit organization commemorates its 25th anniversary this year, it expresses gratitude to its dedicated team of volunteers, supporters, and staff who have demonstrated exceptional resilience in a year marked by challenges, rising to address the growing needs of pets within the community.

Second Chance Animal Services is unwavering in its commitment to preserving the bond between pets and their owners, striving to keep pets in their homes whenever possible. This commitment is realized through accessible and affordable full-service veterinary care, a pet food pantry program ensuring no pet goes hungry, and adoption services for homeless pets.

Sheryl Blancato, CEO, and founder of Second Chance, expresses her heartfelt appreciation for the organization's accomplishments and acknowledges the collective effort that made them possible. "In a year of widespread challenges, the demand for assistance has been significant. Through innovative programs and strategic partnerships, we actively address the root causes of pet surrender and homelessness."

Blancato highlights the organi-

zation's focus on providing access to quality veterinary services for all pet owners, supporting those struggling to provide for their pets during difficult times, and fostering stronger bonds between families and their beloved animal companions. Blancato notes that Second Chance veterinary hospitals provided assistance to more pets at subsidized rates than ever before, and the pet food pantry program saw record distributions to meet requests from local human food pantries.

Looking ahead, Blancato emphasizes Second Chance's commitment to expanding services to meet the rising needs. "We are actively hiring at all our hospital locations to extend our reach and assist more pets in need."

Additionally, Second Chance serves as an emergency partner for various agencies, responding to natural disasters and aiding pets rescued from unimaginable living conditions.

Blancato said "Our mission to advocate for pets in need is ongoing. We must continue to fight for their well-being."

For those looking to contribute to Second Chance's vital work, donations can be made online at www.secondchanceanimals.org/help or by mail to Second Chance, PO Box 136, East Brookfield, MA 01515.



Submitted photos

Cadette Girl Scout Willow Laboy luring in customers holding sign outside Capital Cleaners in Palmer.



Daisy Girl Scout Bailey Dipietro stayed warm inside Tables Restaurant in Palmer Saturday morning.



Smiling Karen Brown took home the first round prize BINGO | from page 1



Attendee Elissa Splaine hitting it big after a successful Bingo round.



Turley photo by Harrison Giza

St. Thomas packed to the pious brim with diehard bingo players.

to be, by many people, safe, and they feel it is a very comfortable place."

Father Rick is all about keeping churchgoers comfortable, and with the amount of people that go to the much-anticipated game, it is an impressive feat.

"I would say we average between 80 to 95 people every week. Last event was exactly 91 attendees," he said.

Carolyn Gibbs, the bingo manager at the parish, concurred with Father Rick's attendance count. "Last week was 91, but it definitely varies. When a big progressive hits, we can get well over 120 people," she said.

Gibbs added that their prizes are a big reason for massive turnouts.

"As far as total prizes it is in the vicinity of \$2300, and sometimes on those big nights, we reach up to \$3,400," she said.

It should be noted that these figures

represent the complete sum of money dished out to players, not just what can be won in single round.

"Our regular games are \$50 each, but we have \$100 dollar games, and we have \$200 games," Gibbs remarked. "We have two progressives, one is \$1,199 and other is \$400, but they have to win in a certain number of calls. If nobody gets them, there are \$200 consolation prizes, and many people come back to try and get the large amounts at the next game."

Then, Gibbs got down to the nitty gritty, explaining exactly why St. Thomas bingo night continues to ramp up their success.

"We run a pretty tight ship and we do not allow the shenanigans that go on at other bingos," she said.

When asked about said shenanigans, Gibbs spilled the tea and told the truth. "There was a bingo in Ludlow for instance that was prone to, shall we say,

not quite legal activities. It was not because of the bingo staff, but it was due to the patrons coming in and running side hustles, which is totally illegal. We stay on the proper side of the Massachusetts State Gaming Commission."

Gibbs is a hard worker and was quick to celebrate the dedicated St. Thomas staff.

"Everyone that works for us on bingo night is wonderful, and we try our best to follow the rules," she said. "This is a nonprofit organization, and I think we are still growing. There is an influx of new people and existing patrons every week and numbers have been pretty consistent... but we would always like to see them grow."

"This parish has been in existence for over 140 years," Father Rick said. "We keep moving forward in a faithful effective way, and hopefully, we continue to do that in the future with God's help."



Kind fellow Father Rick stopping to take a picture before the first round begins.

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church is located at 1076 Thorndike St., Palmer and regularly holds their Friday night bingo events at 6:30 p.m.

GIRL SCOUTS | from page 1

As the snow fell harder and the wind grew colder, more and more cars pulled up to their table of highly sugared products. It was a sight to behold and a real treat for anyone who took the time out of their day to pick up a delicious batch of cookies.

"We braved the snow," said Jamilowski. "It was a decent turn out too. Palmer residents were amazing and supportive!"

Though a young woman of few words, Chabot's smile and bundled scarf gave her the appearance of a Norman Rockwell illustration. She remarked that her favorite kind of cookies were the beloved Adventurefuls, an indulgent brownie-inspired caramel flavored cookie with crème and a hint of sea salt.

The Girl Scouts sold cookies from January 19th to 21st in both Palmer and Ware. The organization strives to serve their respective towns while making the world a better place to live in.



Cici Reed, Cadette Girl Scout braving the cold outside Walmart in Chicopee.



Turley photo by Harrison Giza

Haiden Chabot, 8, holding her favorite flavor of Girl Scout Cookies, Adventurefuls.

and Beyond!

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Our Mission

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

Why Join Us?

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

A Legacy of Achievement

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

Events that Sparkle

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

Network that Expands

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

An Investment in Success

For just \$120 per year, you're securing your spot in our thriving business ecosystem.

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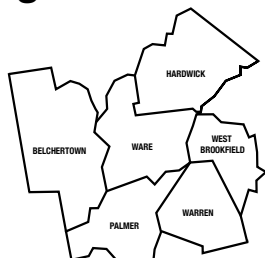
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BASKETBALL



Dylan Doherty looks to pass his way out of tight coverage.



Gavin Smola tries to shoot over two Granby players.



Shawn Troche looks left to pass as he heads down the court.



Taydem Haley dekes then drives toward the hoop.



Andrew Menard goes for the layup.

Panthers come up short after leading early

GRANBY – Last Friday night, fast-paced action eventually went in favor of Granby boys basketball 60-56 over Palmer. Both teams played

an up-tempo game throughout, but Granby prevailed despite trailing at halftime. Colin Murdock had 19 points to lead all scorers while

Gavier Fernandez added 17 points. Palmer was led by Andrew Menard with 14 points while Stephen Frette had 10 points. Granby im-

proved to 9-2 on the season while Palmer dropped to 6-4.

BASKETBALL

Panthers scoot above .500 with win over Orioles



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Vanessa Baer makes her way toward the hoop.

PALMER – Last Friday night, Palmer got a fast start and 21 points from Vanessa Baer to cruise to a 54-28 win over Belchertown. Charlotte Theriault and Jayda Pardo had 14 points each as Palmer's defense was consistent throughout

the entire first half, and their defense held the Orioles down for most of the game. Palmer is now 5-4 and are currently ranked fifth in the state in Division 5 in the Jan. 19 power rankings.

BASKETBALL

Pair of losses does not hurt Monson girls

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Olivia Chrzan shoots over a pair of defenders.



Aniah Myrie looks to pass inside the paint.



Emily Provost goes after the tipoff.



Sedona Arbour takes a free throw.

MONSON – During the past week, Monson girls basketball suffered losses against Wahconah Regional and on Jan. 12 at South

Hadley. The losses dipped the Mustangs well below .500 at 3-7, but their strength of schedule has them well in the playoff hunt in Division

5. The Mustangs play many teams in divisions above them. Currently, Monson is ranked 13th in Division 5. The top 32 teams qualify for the

tournament. Monson hopes to rebound on Jan. 25 at Taconic High School.



Jayda Pardo signals a play as she heads downcourt.



Charlotte Theriault sends a shot away.

ICE HOCKEY

Hurricanes right ship in win

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

HOLYOKE—After losing four of their previous five games, the Amherst hockey team entered the second meeting of the regular season with Fay Division rival Chicopee looking for a much-needed victory.

The Hurricanes got the job done by posting a 6-0 victory over the Pacers at the Fitzpatrick Skating Rink in Holyoke, last Saturday. It was also their first shutout of the season.

"We've lost four out of our last five games and we really needed this win," said Amherst sophomore defenseman Ethan Mooney. "We came out very strong in the first period and we're hoping to build off this victory."

Mooney and senior forward Ethan Nompoggi-Hawk, who's an

assistant captain, are the only two players listed on the Amherst varsity hockey roster that attend Pathfinder Tech. The two high schools have co-op during the past couple of years.

"Ethan and I both attend Pathfinder Tech, so it's cool being teammates with him on the Amherst hockey team. I'm very glad that I'm not the only player from my school on this team," said Mooney, who's a first-year member of the Amherst hockey team. "I really wish that we had a few more hockey players from Pathfinder on our team. It has been a great experience so far."

Amherst head coach Michael Rousseau is looking forward to having Mooney play for his hockey team during the next couple of years.

"Ethan is a great kid and he's



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Ethan Nompoggi looks to pass.



Aubrey Boucher looks to pass as she cross midcourt.



Madison Rathbone goes after a rebound.

Please see **HOCKEY**, page 8

Pioneers sweep PVCA



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Adrien Moskowitz heads off-balance down the court after intercepting a pass.



Adrien Moskowitz makes a pass around the perimeter.



Hunter Griswold gets ready to drive into the paint.

Adam Slonka attempts a shot while Seth Mitchell signals he's open for a pass.



PALMER – Last Thursday night, Pathfinder boys basketball picked a win over Pioneer Valley Christian School 68-65. The Pioneers beat PVCA for the second time this season, sweeping the season series with their league rivals. Hunter Griswold had a huge game with nearly half the team's points. He led all scorers with 32 points while Adrien Moskowitz had 16 points. Pathfinder is now 5-2 on the season.

Seth Mitchell makes his way down the court.

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Athlete of the Week

Hunter Griswold
Pathfinder



Griswold turned in a 32-point performance, scoring nearly half his team's points in a win over PVCA last Thursday night.

To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

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Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Thursday Night Mixed League

PALMER – The Thursday Night Mixed League has a new team leading in first place during round two of the 2023-2024 season.

Team Four consisting of Nick Maslon, Brittany Earle, John Havens Sr. and Cindy Restaino are in first place with a record of 10-2. Right behind Team Four, there is a three-way tie for second place consisting of Team Three, Team Five and Team One who all have a 6-6 record.

Team Two is in fifth place with a 4-8 record and Team Six is at 4-8. In one match, Team Three

bowled against Team Five. In game one, Team Five won the first game 419-403. Joe Danek of Team Five started off the evening bowling a 103.

In game two, Team Five won again by a score of 385-377. In game three, Team Five won for the full sweep by taking the last game 395-389.

Team Five won total pinfall by a final score of 1199-1169.

Another match was between Team Four, who is in first place, and Team One who is tied for second place with two other teams. In game one, Team One was the winner by a score of 430-425. Kris Rickson of Team One started off the evening by bowling a 125.

In game two, Team One was the winner by a score of 439-416. Sean

Comerford of Team One led his team in game two with a 114 game. In game three, Team One held on to a short lead to take the last game 405-400.

Team One defeated Team Four in total pinfall by a final score of 1274-1241.

Team Two bowled against Team Six. In game one, Team Six won the first game of the evening by a score of 388-377. In game two, Team Six won again by a score of 404-395. In game three, Team Two won the last game by a score of 397-394.

Team Six won total pinfall by a final score of 1186-1169.

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

T-Birds drop decision to Amerks

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (18-15-3-2) could not keep pace with the potent offense of the Rochester Americans (19-13-3-1), falling 7-3 on Saturday night at Blue Cross Arena in Rochester.

The home team came out with firepower from the onset, and after a bad defensive zone turnover, Linus Weissbach cashed in with a wrist past Vadim Zherenko to make it a 1-0 game just 3:24 into the action. The Amerks were not finished, either, as Graham Slaggert found himself available for a deflection outside of Zherenko's crease, and he did just that at 6:07, tipping it by the Springfield goalie to make it a 2-0 Rochester lead.

In need of a positive shift in morale, the T-Birds got just that when Calle Rosen crept up into a play at the offensive blue line, stepping into the high slot to receive a one-touch pass from MacKenzie MacEachern. With a lane available to shoot, Rosen did just that, snapping it past Devon Levi's blocker just 39 seconds after the Slaggert goal to cut the Rochester lead down to 2-1 at 6:46.

Springfield's special teams stepped into the spotlight meaningfully after that, killing off a pair of Amerks power plays thanks to a stabilized effort by Zherenko and his defense.

When the T-Birds received their first power play in the closing minutes of the period, they took full advantage to erase the two-goal hole before a full period was even completed. In his first game as a T-Bird, recent ECHL call-up Tanner Dickinson made his presence known, beating Levi with a snapper from the left circle to even the score, 2-2, at 17:17. Rosen picked up the primary assist in accounting for both Springfield goals in the opening frame.

After 20 minutes, Zherenko exited the game with an apparent injury, so former Amerk Malcolm Subban was thrust into duty. Even with

the goalie swap, history repeated itself to begin the second period as Rochester got to the scoreboard first. Kale Clague slipped down the far side of the ice, undetected, and tapped home a perfect centering pass from Brandon Biro to make it a 3-2 game. Lukas Rousek also assisted, extending his point streak to an AHL-best 13 straight games.

3:30 later, another turnover reared its ugly head on the T-Birds, as Brett Murray intercepted a drop pass, weaved to the right side, and beat Subban with a wrist shot to make it 4-2.

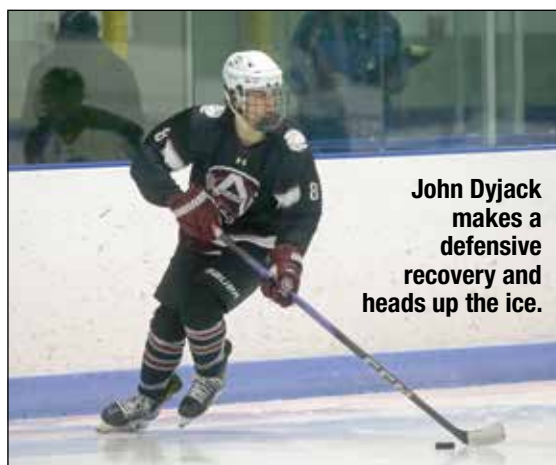
With Springfield jumping on a power play with a chance to cut the lead in half, Rochester handed Springfield a bitter gut-punch as Isak Rosen stormed in on a break-away and chipped a forehand over Subban's glove to make it 5-2 at 11:42. It was just the second short-handed goal allowed all year by the T-Birds.

The T-Birds stopped the Amerks' run at the 14:47 mark when Jakub Vrana marched over the right-wing side on a 2-on-1 before flipping a perfect saucer pass to Mikhail Abramov, who one-timed it through Levi to make it a 5-3 game.

However, on this night, the T-Birds did not have the third-period magic, as Rochester held Springfield to just three attempts on goal in the final 20 minutes. Subban was forced to hold the 5-3 margin with a penalty shot save on Mason Jobst, but the Amerks persisted anyway, getting back-to-back goals from Viktor Neuchev and Weissbach separated by just 2:07 to finish the scoring.



Ethan Mooney fights for possession of the puck.



John Dyjack makes a defensive recovery and heads up the ice.



Liam Flynn meanders toward the goal.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

HOCKEY from page 7

very coachable," Rousseau said. "He's still young and he just needs to fine tune a few things."

Pathfinder Tech also co-ops with the Monson boys' lacrosse team. Mooney, who lives in Palmer, plays for that squad in the springtime.

The Hurricanes, who won their first seven games, including a 6-1 home win over Chicopee on December 18, had a 9-4 overall record following last Saturday's shutout victory.

"I was a little bit nervous before the start of today's game," Rousseau said. "Even though Chicopee hasn't had very much success this season, they're still a very dangerous hockey team. Their players played very hard in the two games that we played against them this season. This is a very good win for us, and we now only need one more victory to clinch a berth in the Division 3 state tournament."

The only positive result so far this season for the Pacers (0-13-1), who co-ops with four high schools, was a 4-4 home tie against Taconic on Jan. 15.

Another sophomore listed on the Amherst hockey roster is goalie Jason Kim, who started his first varsity game against Chicopee.

Kim only had to make a handful of saves in the shutout victory.

Junior Spencer McDonald was the Hurricanes starting goalie in the first twelve games of the regular season.

"Spencer has played every game and I thought it was a good time for Jason to make his first varsity start," Rousseau added. "He only made a couple of saves and I'm very pleased with his effort."

It took the Hurricanes a minute and two seconds to get on the scoreboard for the first time.

"Scoring a quick goal in the first period was huge for us," Rousseau said. "We were able to keep the momentum for the entire game."

After receiving a pass from senior Ben Remensnyder, senior Cooper Beckwith blasted a laser shot from the blueline into the net past Chicopee junior goalie Damian Loinaz.

The Pacers did have three power play opportunities during the first 15 minutes of the contest, but the score was still 1-0 entering the second period.

If the Chicopee players had any dreams of upsetting Amherst, they came to an end in the second period.

The Hurricanes scored three goals in that period giving them a comfortable 4-0 advantage.

The scoring spree began with sophomore Graham Arquin knocking home a rebound shot at 1:45 of the second period. The junior duo of Brach Applegate and Eric Chen were credited with the assists.

Five minutes later, Remensnyder fired a one-timer into the net from the right circle after receiving a nice pass from senior Liam Flynn for a power play goal, which gave the Hurricanes a 3-0 lead.

With four minutes left in the second period, Amherst took a 4-0 lead following a goal by junior Jack Dyjack. Flynn and senior Josh Goodhind were given the assists.

Loinaz was replaced in goal by senior Devin Carlton at the start of the third period.

Just like they did in the first two periods of the game, Amherst scored a goal in the first two minutes of the final period.

Senior Yuuki Ishida added his name to the scoring column 42 seconds into the third period.

Flynn closed out the scoring with a power-play goal with eight minutes remaining in regulation.

At that point, the scoreboard clock was kept running for the rest of the game.

Chicopee senior Connor McDonnell and junior Chris Walczak had a couple of scoring chances late in the game.

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DEATH NOTICES

Daniel James MacKenzie, 55
Died Jan. 13, 2024
Services private
Beers and Story
Funeral Home

The Journal Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

Baystate Wing Auxiliary selling lotto calendars

PALMER — The Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary is currently selling their 2024 Lotto Calendars through Jan. 31. The one-month calendar, which costs \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Drawings will begin on Feb. 1.

The calendars will be on sale and can be purchased at the Baystate Wing Hospital gift shop. Funds raised by the annual Lotto Calendars support the Auxiliary's scholarship program and their philanthropic efforts that benefit Bay-

state Wing Hospital. For more information about the Lotto Calendar visit the Baystate Wing Hospital Gift Shop Monday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Friday 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. or call 413-370-8169.

O B I T U A R I E S

Daniel James MacKenzie

PALMER — Daniel James MacKenzie, 55, of Palmer, MA passed away Jan. 13, 2024, at his home surrounded by his family. He was born on July 31, 1968, in Palmer, the son of John and Julia (Grabowski) MacKenzie. Daniel was raised in Wilbraham, moved to Springfield, but proudly lived most of his life in Palmer. When he was younger, he enjoyed being part of the Boy Scouts and playing baseball. Daniel was a fan of many things; NASCAR, fishing and rooting for his favorite Boston teams, especially the Bruins and the Patriots. He also absolutely loved animals.

He is survived by his mother, Julia MacKenzie of Palmer, his father, John MacKenzie and his step-mother, Toni MacKenzie of Three Rivers and his wife, Denise Monette of Palmer. Daniel will also be missed by his daughter, Kaylee Ann MacKenzie and his brother, John MacKenzie, IV, both of Palmer. He also leaves his step-brother, Thomas O' Conner and his wife, Michelle, and his step-sister, Colleen Peritz and her husband, Robert. Daniel will be mourn-



ed by his best friend, John Weagraff, along with the best brother-in-law, Billy Ryan and his wife, Pam. He is also survived by many brother and sister-in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins & many friends.

Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations in Daniel's name can be made to the MSPCA by visiting: <https://www.mspca.org/donate-now>. Please visit www.beersandstory.com to extend online condolences.

Construction of the Winsor Dam



This marker is located at one end of the Winsor Dam, which spans 2,640 feet and is 170 feet high. This dam is the primary impoundment structure for the Quabbin Reservoir.



A roadway passes over the top of Winsor Dam. Although it is no longer open to public vehicles, walkers and bicyclists are welcome to explore the massive structure.



The lower spillway creates a waterfall, and only releases water when the Quabbin Reservoir is at or near capacity.

DCR explores creation of Quabbin Reservoir's impoundments

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN — This past weekend, the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Interpretive Services Supervisor at the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, Maria Beiter-Tucker, led the first of this year's Sunday presentations, continuing a long tradition of providing informative and educational programs about the Quabbin Reservoir and its watershed.

With the visitor center located at one end of the 2,640 foot Winsor Dam, the main impoundment structure of the Quabbin Reservoir, this earthen structure and its secondary impoundment structure, the Goodnough Dike, were the focus of Beiter-Tucker's presentation.

The creation of the dam and the dike in the Swift River Valley was an engineering feat accomplished solely by brainpower, paper and pencil, Beiter-Tucker said, at the time construction started in 1927.

"This valley has remarkable topography," Beiter-Tucker said, something that appealed to engineers.

The Swift River Valley had been considered an ideal location to construct a reservoir in order to meet Boston's drinking water needs; dating as far back as 1895 when it was noted in a Board of Health report. But it wasn't until 1926/1927 that legislature passed the Ware River and Swift River acts, and work began to create the 412 billion gallon reservoir.

With the Ware River Watershed and the Wachusett Reservoir, the Quabbin Reservoir provides the drinking water supply for 43% of people in the commonwealth.

Quabbin Reservoir is the largest piece of the water supply system, Beiter-Tucker said.

"It was a massive construction, and an 'earthquake,' you might say for this area," she said, with the disincorporation of four towns: Enfield, Greenfield, Dana and Prescott.

Beiter-Tucker said it took 11 years to move residents out of the valley, and relocate 7,000 known graves (which are now interred in the Quabbin Park Cemetery).

"It was a long slow process,"



There are 40 caissons buried under this impoundment.

she said.

Structures were also removed, leaving only stone walls, foundations and roads behind. In total, the construction of the Quabbin Reservoir cleared about 80,000 acres.

Creating the impoundments

To create the reservoir itself, the engineers wanted to close off where the Swift River exited the valley, Beiter-Tucker said. The plan was to build two large earthen structures, which was done near the end of the project.

Winsor Dam is the main structure, and it impounds the Swift River and the Goodnough Dike is the secondary structure, impounding Beaver Brook. Construction of both took place between 1935-1939. The dam and the dike are located three miles apart from each other.

At 295 feet above bedrock, the dam is named for Frank Winsor, who died before the project was done. At the time of his death, he was being sued by the state of Rhode Island, and during questioning at a hearing he had a heart attack and died.

The core wall of the Winsor Dam was built with 40 caissons, ranging from 30-125 feet tall, with an average height of 100 feet. The caissons were sealed to the bedrock, then sealed with concrete and hydraulic soil which was gathered from the valley.

"They spent a lot of time investigating the best soil throughout the valley," Beiter-Tucker said. "They apparently found a lot of it."

Hydraulic soil was taken from "borrow pits" and is also known as "rock flour," as it compacts densely together when water is removed.

The soil would be kept in a dry box, brought uphill to a hog box

where it was mixed with water, then fed down sluice lines. A pump barge would reuse water, pumping it back up to the hog box.

"The sluice lines never worked out really well, they clogged a lot," Beiter-Tucker said, causing engineers to eventually open them fully. Laborers then used batter boards to push the soil and water out to spread it evenly.

Before it went into the dry box, soil was sifted through metal grates known as "grizzlies," which were repurposed from Rabbit Run railroad tracks.

To start the dam's construction, engineers first had to divert the Swift River using a coffer dam. Once that was completed, a 2,700 foot long trench that was 30 feet deep was dug to lay the caissons.

The caissons were built piece by piece, with the first piece placed being a metal shoe. On top of the shoe was the work chamber, which was reinforced with steel.

The weight of the concrete gradually pushed against the shoe's sharp edge and worked the entire structure down until it reached bedrock, where it would eventually be sealed. Workers would remove dirt as the shoe and chamber were forced down through the earth.

Beiter-Tucker said compressed air was pumped into the work chambers to provide oxygen for the workers and they were limited to two, 40-minute shifts a day inside the work chamber.

"The workers were inside those work chambers while it was being forced down," Beiter-Tucker said. "They were lowered down into chamber with bucket."

After completing their shift, the workers would go into a decom-

pression chamber before spending the rest of their work day completing other work on the project, above ground.

Beiter-Tucker said it was hard work, and men were paid 50-60 cents an hour (about \$8 in current money). Construction of the Quabbin Reservoir took place almost entirely during The Great Depression, she said, and there were lines of men to get these jobs and work 12-hour shifts.

"It was hard work," Beiter-Tucker said.

In 1937 the construction of the Quabbin Reservoir moved to a 24-hour project. Large lights used during night work cast shadows, which resulted in a lot of injuries and deaths.

"26 men were killed out of thousands on the entire project," Beiter-Tucker said.

Once the caissons were sealed to the bedrock, soil was applied to both sides to build the base of dam, and compacted with a sheep's foot roller.

After the caisson wall was completed, soil was stripped away from either end to seal with concrete blankets to prevent leaking. That was the first stage of construction.

Beiter-Tucker said the Goodnough Dike was constructed in almost completely the same way, just on a small scale. The dike measures 2,140 feet long and is 264 feet above bedrock.

It was named for Henry Goodnough, an engineer who lived in Sudbury and liked to come out to the Swift River Valley to fish.

She said the major difference between the dam and the dike is that the dam has an outlet for water, while the dike blocks only.

After construction of the dam and dike was completed, it took seven years to fill the Quabbin Reservoir.

Chicopee Valley Aqueduct

"It was decided the Swift Tiver would not be cut off completely so it could flow to Three Rivers," Beiter-Tucker said, as it's part of Connecticut's water supply as well. The design of

the dam included diversion for the Swift Tiver, releasing below the Winsor Dam down to Chicopee and the Connecticut River.

A tunnel was built under the dam and the upper intake structure is the only one in use. The lower intake structure was blocked.

The upper intake structure continues to be in use today, releasing about 20 million gallons of water a day.

The Chicopee Valley Aqueduct outlet building was eventually constructed (known by many as the "power station," as for many years it did create a small amount of hydroelectric power for DCR buildings).

In 1950, towns were invited to join the system, but only Chicopee, Wilbraham and South Hadley Fire District No. 1 joined the system. They have their own treatment plant located on Route 9.

Spillway

Reservoirs are designed to hold a certain amount of water and the spillway is located at the east end to release water when the reservoir is at capacity or close to capacity.

The spillway was blasted out of rock, and the channel goes under a bridge and creates a waterfall on the other side.

"It's not always active," Beit-

er-Tucker said, only when the reservoir is at a certain level.

In 76 years, the reservoir has reached its capacity 33 times.

"We are probably going to reach capacity this spring unless weather changes," Beiter-Tucker said.

In June of 1946, the lower spillway was opened for the first time, and a dedication ceremony was held for the waterfall it created.

"A lot of people focus on the history of the lost towns," Beiter-Tucker said. "I'm always fascinated by the actual construction of the reservoir itself. The engineers were able to envision this and transform the valley into this reservoir. It's a pretty fascinating story."

Upcoming events

For more information about other programs hosted by DCR's Les and Terry Campbell Visitor Center, visit www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir.

Programs are held in the visitor center located at 100 Winsor Dam Road, and via Zoom. Registration is required.

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Docket No. HD24P0022EA
Estate of:
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Also Known As:
Sally B. Smith
Date of Death: 1/15/2021
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Mary E. Smith of Fiskdale, MA.**

Mary E. Smith of Fiskdale, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regard-

ing the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

01/25/2024

Public Notice
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Wetlands and Waterways
MassDEP Boston Office
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114
 Pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1341 and M.G.L. c. 21 §§ 26-53, notice is given of a Section 401 Water Quality

Certification application for the **Wales Bridge Replacement Project** located approximately 280 east of the Main Street (Route 19)/Holland Road intersection within the Town of Wales, Massachusetts, by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division, 10 Park Plaza, Suite 4260, Boston, MA, 02116. MassDOT is recertifying this permit with MassDEP in light of the Army Corps of Engineers 2018 General Permit Expiration. The project proposes to replace the existing bridge that spans Wales Brook. Replacing the bridge is required for the current operations and usage to continue.

Additional information may be obtained from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation - Highway Division at the above address, attention Stephanie Regan or by emailing stephanie.m.regan@dot.state.ma.us. Written comments should be sent to Heidi Davis, MassDEP Wetlands

Program, 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston MA 02114 or heidi.davis@mass.gov within 21 days of this notice.

Any group of ten persons, any aggrieved person, or any governmental body or private organization with a mandate to protect the environment who submits written comments may appeal the Department's Certification. Failure to submit written comments before the end of the public comment period may result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing.

01/25/2024

TOWN OF PALMER, MASSACHUSETTS ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed Bids for the construction of the "Town of Palmer, Palmer WPCF Boiler Replacement" will be received at the Town Hall, 4417 Main Street, Palmer MA 01069 until 3:00 p.m.

local time on Monday, March 11, 2024, at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read. Sealed

Bids must have an outer envelope marked as "Town of Palmer, Palmer WPCF Boiler Replacement." Sealed Bids from Filed Subcontractors, addressed as referenced above, will be received at the Town Hall, 4417 Main Street, Palmer MA 01069 until 3:00 p.m. local time on Monday, March 4, 2024, at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read. Sub-Bids with the required Bid deposit will be received for the following items of work:

Subtrades
ELECTRICAL WORK

The work consists of the replacement of the boilers and hot water pumps. The work also includes associated HVAC, structural, and electrical work. Bids shall be on a lump sum price basis, with additive alternate bid items as indicated in the Bid Form. All Bids for this project

are subject to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 149, Section 44A - 44J inclusive as amended.

In accordance with Section 44D of Chapter 149 of the General Laws of Massachusetts as amended, the prospective General Bidders and Filed Sub-Bidders must submit with their Bid, a certificate of eligibility issued by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM), showing that the Bidder has been approved to bid on projects of the size and nature as advertised herein. Prospective General Bidders and Filed Sub-Bidders must also submit an updated statement summarizing their record for the period between the latest DCAMM certificate and the date of the Bid submittal. The DCAMM certificate of eligibility to be submitted by the General Bidder shall be for the category of work defined as "HVAC". The DCAMM certificate of eligibility to be

submitted by the Filed Sub-Bidders shall be for the category of work for which they are submitting a Bid.

Bidding Documents may be obtained electronically from the Tighe & Bond website at: http://www.tighebond.com/Projects_Out_to_Bid.php

Prospective bidders must complete a one-time registration process on the web site in order to receive log-in credentials. Bidders must log in to the web site to download bidding documents for the project. Bidders will be added to the "planholders" or prospective bidders list upon downloading the bidding documents for the project.

A bid deposit shall be furnished in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

The time period for holding Bids is 30 days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, after opening of Bids.

Minimum Wage Rates as determined by the Commissioner of Department of Workforce Development under the pro-

visions of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 149, Section 26 to 27D, as amended, apply to this project. It is the responsibility of the Contractor, before Bid opening, to request if necessary, any additional information on Minimum Wage Rates for those trades people who may be employed for the proposed Work under this Contract.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the WPCF at 1 Norbell Street, Palmer, MA on February 6, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. local time. Attendance at the pre-Bid conference is optional.

TOWN OF PALMER, MASSACHUSETTS
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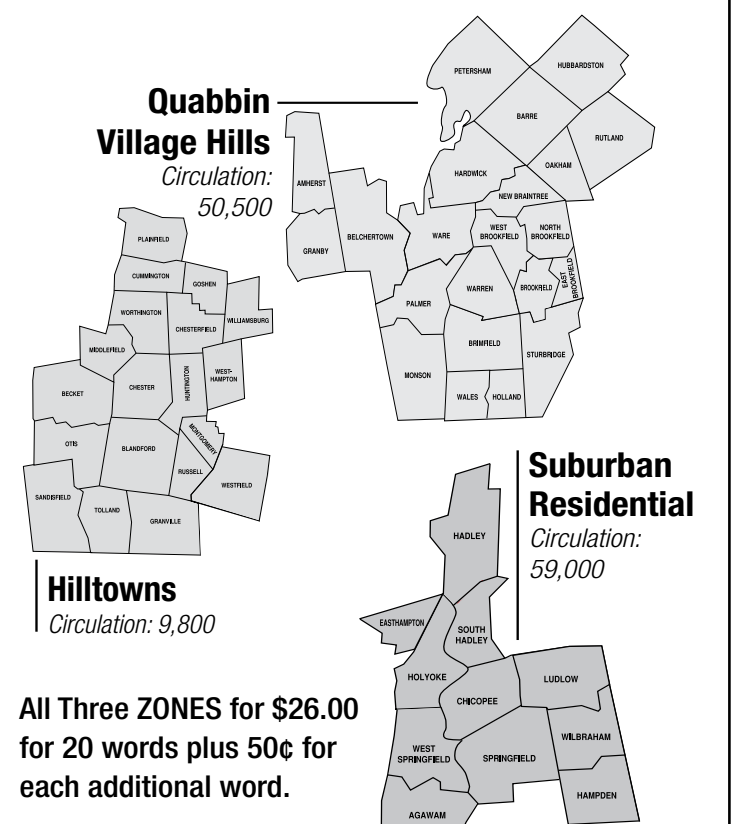
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Public Notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24P0131EA

Estate of:
Edward M. Baiardi

Also known as:
Edward Baiardi
Date of Death: 12/20/2023

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 **Heather J Bennet of Warren, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Heather J Bennet of Warren, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
 You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/20/2024.**

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: January 22, 2024

Rosemary A. Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 01/25/2024

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Laurie A. Bessette to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., dated September 26, 2019 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 22874, Page 307, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., its successors and assigns to Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc., recorded on October 3, 2023, in Book No. 25179, at Page 8 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the

purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **4:00 PM on February 14, 2024**, on the mortgaged premises located at 1026 Chestnut Street, Palmer, Hampden County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, TO WIT:

A certain parcel of land on the southeasterly side of Chestnut Street, Palmer, Hampden County, Massachusetts bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin at the intersection of the southeasterly side of said Chestnut Street and the southwesterly side of Arch Street;

thence S 69° 12' 00" W along said Chestnut Street, 178.86 feet to an iron pin at land now or formerly of J. S. Holden;

thence S 19° 02' 00" E along last named land, 69.03 feet to a point at Parcel 50-A as shown on plan at Book of Plans 284, Page 69;

thence N 69° 12' 00" E along last named land, 120.99 feet to a point;

thence S 20° 48' 00" E along last named land, 6.82 feet to an iron pin at Lot 30B as shown on plan at Book of Plans 272, Page 93;

thence N 67° 05' 45" E along last named land, 60.04 feet to an iron pin in the southwesterly line of Arch Street;

thence N 20° 48' 00" W along said Arch Street to the iron pin at the point of beginning.

Meaning and intending to describe and convey as a single parcel, Lot 30A on said plan at Book of Plans 272, Page 93 and Parcel 50 on said plan at Book of Plans 284, Page 69. Said Lot 30A being a portion of premises described in deed recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds Book 7493, Page 335 and said Parcel 50 being the same premises described in deed at Hampden County Registry of Deeds Book 8381, Page 14. For mortgagor's(s)' title see deed recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 22874, Page 304.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC
F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC
F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS INC.

Present holder of said mortgage
 By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
 150 California St.
 Newton, MA 02458
 (617)558-0500
 24512
 01/11, 01/18, 01/25/2024

Public Notice Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Division of Wetlands and Waterways MassDEP Boston Office 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900 Boston, MA 02114

Pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1341 and M.G.L. c. 21 §§ 26 - 53, notice is given of a 401 Dredge/Fill Water Quality Certification application for Replacement of US-20 Bridge over the Quaboag River (Bridge No. M-27-022=P-01-033) by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation-Highway Division, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA, 02116, on Boston Road East/Park Street in Monson/Palmer, for a footprint replacement of the existing bridge structure, including the proposed riprap stabilization and central pier removal. MassDOT is recertifying this permit with MassDEP in light of the Army Corps of Engineers 2018 General Permit Expiration. Additional information may be obtained from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation - Highway Division at the above address, attention Stephanie Regan or by emailing stephanie.m.regan@dot.state.ma.us. Written comments should be sent to Heidi Davis, MassDEP Wetlands Program, 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston MA 02114 or heidi.davis@mass.gov within 21 days of this notice. Any group of ten persons, any aggrieved person, or any governmental body or private organization with a mandate to protect the environment who submits written comments may appeal the Department's Certification Failure to submit written comments before the end of the public comment period may result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: January 17, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 01/25/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD24P0099EA Estate of: Janet Elizabeth Cheesey Date of Death: 12/30/2023

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 **Ronald P Patrissi of Providence, RI** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Ronald P Patrissi of Providence, RI** 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 02/14/2024.**

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: January 17, 2024

Rosemary A. Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 01/25/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD24P0114EA Estate of: Anita D Clifford Also known as:

Anita Dorothy Clifford Date of Death: 10/28/2023 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 **Lisa Duolos of Stafford Springs, CT** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Lisa Duolos of Stafford Springs, CT** 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 02/16/2024.**

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Rosemary A. Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 01/25/2024

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 4 Stewart Avenue, Monson, MA 01057
 By virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Norma M. Germain to Financial

Freedom Senior Funding Corporation, A Subsidiary of IndyMac Bank, F.S.B., and now held by **Longbridge Financial, LLC**, said mortgage dated January 18, 2007 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 16462, Page 218, said mortgage was assigned from Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Financial Freedom Acquisition LLC by assignment dated September 29, 2009 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 18009, Page 593; said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Financial Freedom Acquisition LLC to Reverse Mortgage Funding LLC by assignment dated April 3, 2019 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 22632, Page 35; said mortgage was assigned from Reverse Mortgage Funding LLC to Longbridge Financial, LLC by assignment dated August 18, 2023 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 25145, Page 44; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction on March 7, 2024 at 02:00 PM** Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

4 STEWART AVENUE, MONSON, MASSACHUSETTS
 Certain real estate situated in Monson, Hampden County, Massachusetts on the Northerly side of Stewart Avenue, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a point in the Northerly line of Stewart Avenue at the Southeast corner of land of one Davey and running thence **NORTHERLY** along said Davey land 5 rods to a corner; thence turning and running **EASTERLY** and in a line parallel with the North line of Stewart Avenue 275 feet more or less to Wayne Road; thence turning and running **SOUTHERLY** along the Westerly line of Wayne Road 5 rods to Stewart Avenue; thence turning and running **WESTERLY** along the Northerly line of Stewart Avenue 275 feet more or less to the first mentioned point. The Southerly portion of the within described tract does not include any of the land over which a right of way was established by one Hynes as referred to in Book 1408, Page 298.

For Grantor's title see

Deed recorded in Book 2779, Page 497.

The mortgagor(s) expressly reserve my/our rights of Homestead and do not wish to terminate my/our Homestead by granting the within conveyance notwithstanding my/our waiver of such Homestead in Paragraph 24 of the within mortgage.

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

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated November 16, 1960 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 2779, Page 497.

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
Longbridge Financial, LLC
 Present Holder of the Mortgage
 (401) 217-8701
 01/18, 01/25, 02/01/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD22P2205EA Estate of:

Debra Ann Lavallee Date of Death: 08/26/2022

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

To all interested persons:
 A Petition has been filed by: **Neil J Packard** of Zebulon NC requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order that Neil

J Packard of Zebulon NC be appointed as Successor Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

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 02/01/2024.**

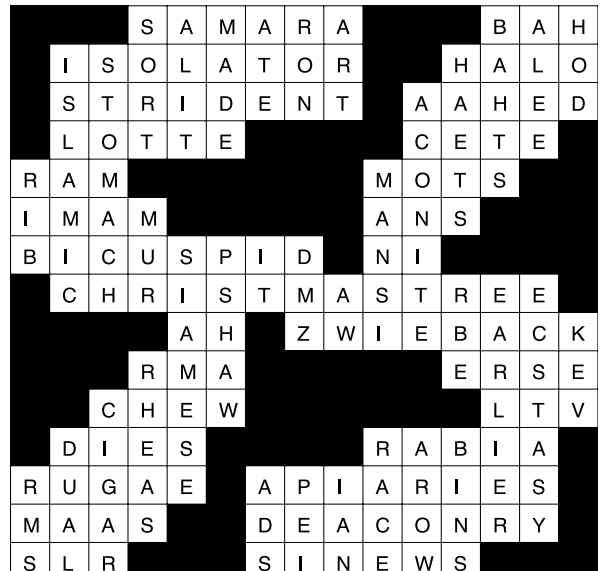
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without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

The estate is being administered under formal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but recipients are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: January 04, 2024

Rosemary A. Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 01/25/2024

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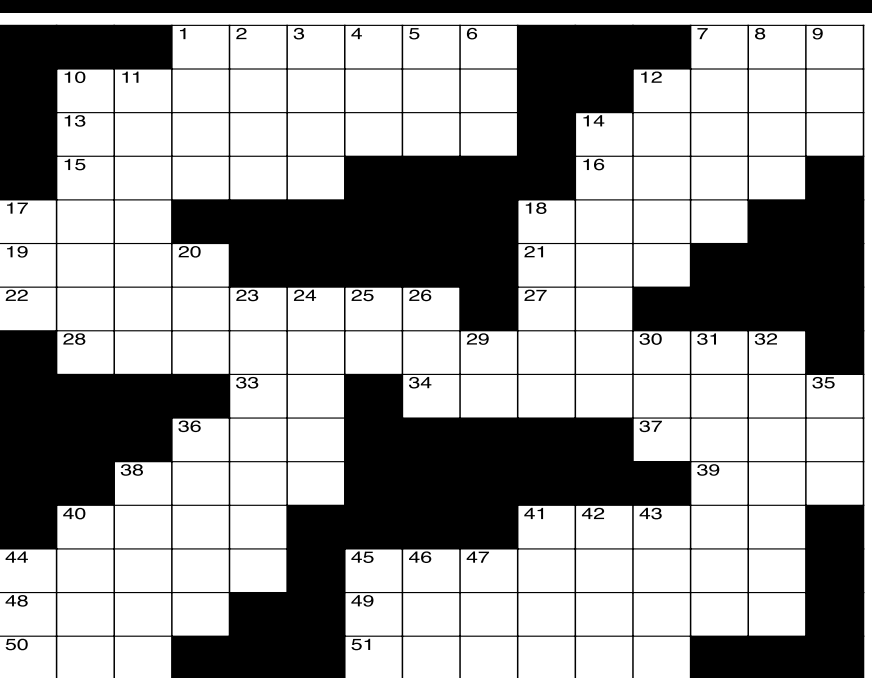
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E-mail items to pressreleases@turley.com or mail to Calendar Editor, Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, for receipt by Monday of week for publication.

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

Trail maps can be found in the parking lot. The Phillips Sculpture Garden is open year-round (handouts in box on one of the signposts). For more information call 413-267-4137, email khm@keephomesteadmuseum.org or visit keephomesteadmuseum.org.

INTERESTS

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

KEEP HOMESTEAD MUSEUM: Located at 35 Ely Rd., Monson, nature trails are open daily until dusk for hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

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

ONGOING

BINGO IS BACK at Amvets Post 74, 2150 Main St., Three Rivers, on Mondays. The kitchen opens at 4:30 p.m. Early Bird starts at 6:25 p.m. Call the Post at 413-283-4518 for further information.

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

GAME NIGHT: 6-7:45 p.m. the second Tuesday of every month at Top Floor Learning (third floor of the Palmer Library at 1455 N. Main St.). Free and open to the public. Play available board

and card games or bring your own. Must be 16 or older unless accompanied by an adult. No Registration Required - just show up! Questions? Call 283-2329, or 283-3691, or email palewis19@yahoo.com.

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

QI GONG: 6 p.m., every Tuesday night at Memorial Hall with Randy Emerson. Free, no registration. Presented by Monson Parks & Rec and the Monson Free Library.

Watch Antiques Roadshow filmed at OSV

Beginning Monday, Jan. 29 on your local PBS station

STURBRIDGE - Last June, Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) had the distinct and potentially once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to host the popular WGBH-produced *Antiques Roadshow* on the property. Three 1-hour episodes will air on local PBS stations beginning Monday, January 29. Some of the highlighted treasures found at OSV and noted by PBS are "... a 1954 Marilyn Monroe tissue with a soldier's letter, Paul Revere pottery vases, and a 1942 Ted Williams game-worn Red Sox jersey."

Antiques Roadshow first contacted Old Sturbridge Village in early 2022 as a potential site for filming in their 28th season of the show. "The pairing is a logical fit all around. Both businesses are based in Massachusetts and are institutions of history and education on their own. It was special to join our missions for this event," says Christine Freitas, Director of Communications and Content at Old Sturbridge Village.

Antiques Roadshow was filmed at Old Sturbridge Village on June 13, 2023. The production was spectacular in its execution, setting up a one-day filming event for 3, 1-hour episodes to air at the beginning of their 28th season.

Chris Tieri, Chief Marketing Officer at Old Sturbridge Village says, "It was an honor and a true pleasure to work with the *Antiques Roadshow* team from the early planning stages throughout the long day of filming in June of 2023. They are a well-oiled machine and extremely professional - we greatly appreciate the care and respect they brought to the Village and were incredible collaborators with our team throughout the entire production."

Over 4,000 guests of *Antiques Roadshow* were determined, good-spirited, and hopeful as they carried, wheeled, and dragged in all sorts of artifacts for assessment from professionals and specialists from all over the country.

Watch *Antiques Roadshow's* three Sturbridge episodes premiere Monday, Jan. 29, Feb. 5, and Feb. 12 at 8 p.m. on PBS.



LET'S GO OUT!

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CHARLIE BONGIOVI Friday, Feb. 23	PETER NEWLAND (of FAT) Saturday, Feb. 17	
FLOYD PATTERSON Friday, Feb. 2	BRAD SHEPARD Saturday, Feb. 10	

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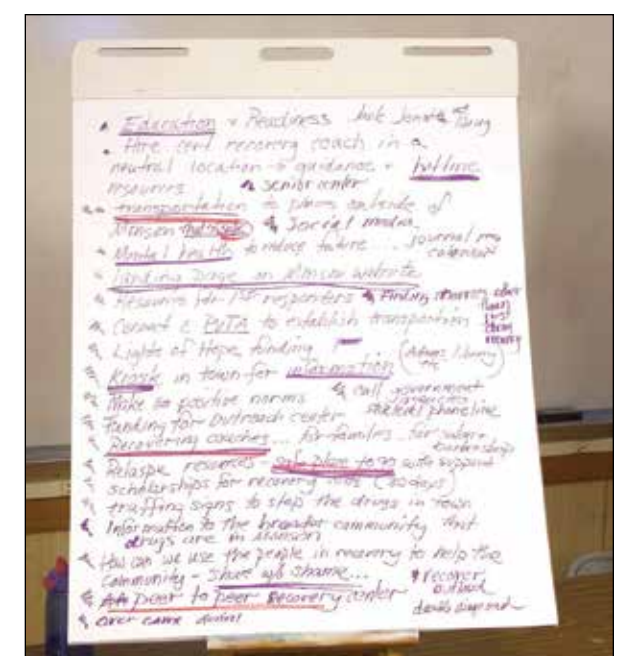
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An overwhelming amount of ideas were voiced and put onto a large notepad for Monson residents to look at.

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Ask About Our Customer Loyalty Program!
JOIN US
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WE'LL HAVE SWEET dinner specials and LIVE music!
(NO RESERVATIONS REQUIRED)



A few of the final members of the Listening Session taking a look at the plans discussed after a near two hour meeting.

MONSON | from page 1

that position, and it was going to be housed at the library because we felt at that time it was the most neutral location where people would not feel stigmatized going in there," Carpentier said. "We had a job description and an advertisement ready to go when, BOOM, the pandemic hit. Then, there was a change of the administration in the town, and it all fell apart."

Attendees quickly questioned Carpentier, asking if that now meant that the town would have to start from square one.

"The Monson substance abuse partnership stopped meeting during the pandemic," Carpentier said. "Then, last summer, there were a few of us who went to the town administration, and it was made clear that while they fully support our efforts, we are no longer a town administration committee. We are separate and our own grass roots organization."

After a rise of conversational energy and communal input, Town Moderator Peter Matrow spoke with careful words.

"My wife and I had a quick adventure to Colorado, and we walked into a hotel with a kiosk that had pamphlets for many, many businesses," he said.

Matrow continued speaking as his voice gained more emotional traction.

"We noticed the same thing - a map of where you could buy medicinal or recreation pot anywhere in Colorado," he said. "So, if we take that concept, not where you can buy it, but take the concept, and use some of this money to produce a pamphlet or trifold, with information of hotline numbers or resources... I can't think of a business or an organization or a church or any other place where people go, who would refuse you to put that kind of material in their place. Flood the town."

A few smiling attendees responded, repeating "flood the town" in Matrow's tambour.

He finished by saying, "I can't believe that you can't have these resources in school lobbies in the guidance office, for crying out loud."

Valentine's Day
Wednesday, February 14th
We will be serving special Valentine dishes & cocktails!
Make your reservations today!

We will be closed Sunday, February 11th

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LIVE MUSIC!!!
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